

February 2026 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Spring into Action

This edition of the newsletter comes at an important time for Mortimer, as our village continues to respond to the proposed development of 350 houses that would have a significant and lasting impact on the community. More about our campaigning activities inside.

Alongside this, MVP continues to play an important role in bringing the community together. Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place on **10th March**. Anyone with an interest in Mortimer and the work of the Partnership is very welcome to attend (information on time and location will be on the MVP website and Facebook page nearer the time.)

Throughout 2026, we are keen to build on the success of our recent social events. Following the introduction of the *Pour My Bluff* wine evening last September (which we hope to run again later this year), we are also exploring hosting a comedy night featuring three excellent comedians and are bringing you a new theatre production **All For Your Delight** in March, more info on that inside, too.

These events not only provide enjoyable evenings for residents, but also help strengthen the sense of community that is so important to village life. Wherever possible, we aim to price our events to be as affordable as we can, so that as many people as possible are able to take part.

If you would like to hear first about future events and early ticket releases, we would love you to join our events email list. Please email chair@mortimervillage.org.uk to be added.

As ever, thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, energy and support over recent months, all of which helps to enrich village life in Mortimer.

Doug Overett

MVP Chair



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

All this and more available here: www.mortimervillage.org.uk

Mortimer Spring Clean

Let's give our village a fresh spring sparkle! MVP is organising the **Mortimer Spring Clean** on **Saturday 21st March from 1pm to 4pm** and we need you to join in.

Meet on the Fairground, opposite the Horse and Groom where we'll provide litter pickers, bags, and hi-vis vests — including smaller sizes for children, so the whole family can take part. Simply **turn up on the day** and we'll allocate a route for you. It's a fun way to meet neighbours, help our community shine, and enjoy some fresh air together. Let's make Mortimer look its best this spring!

Mortimer Lunch Club

Mortimer Lunch Club meets on the **second and last Thursday every month** at Mortimer Community Centre for a two course, hot meal and a chance to catch up with old friends or meet up with new ones. If you would like to join us please call Rebecca Barker on 07515775474 or email bbbarkerdg11@gmail.com. Handybus transport is also available.

Visiting Theatres

MVP are delighted to be bringing the latest show from award-winning Farnham Maltings to Mortimer. **'All for Your Delight'** is a sparkling production, brimming with heart and humanity, that explores what it really takes to put on a proper good night out.

Danny, Jojo, and Yaz are on tour, bringing their marvellous variety show to audiences across the country. But behind the sequins and spotlights, something deeper is unfolding. When an unexpected character emerges, the Brightcoats must battle to keep their show on the road as hidden secrets start rising to the surface. With the Brightcoats forced to confront what it means to live a life dedicated to performance, will our talented company have what it takes to ensure the show goes on?



St Johns Hall, Friday 27th March

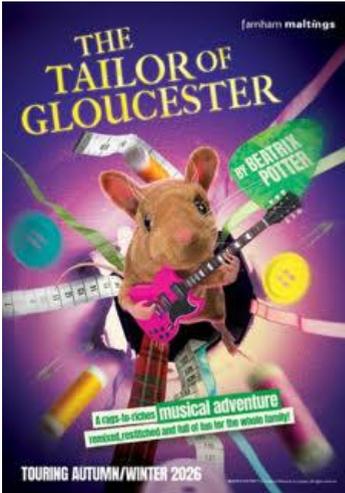
7:30pm (doors open at 7)

Tickets £15 (+50p booking fee)

Age 7+

Licensed Bar

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/mortimervillagepartnership>



And a new adventure for Christmas - Save the Date **Saturday 5th December 2pm.**

The Tailor of Gloucester, a brand-new adaptation of the beloved Beatrix Potter story is coming to Mortimer in time for Christmas!

Set in the modern day, three mice living in a tailor's shop catch a break when the new Mayor commissions a spectacular outfit. Using the leftover fabric, they stitch and sew, craft something unique and quickly rise to fame. But just as their success is skyrocketing, the tailor faces a moral dilemma that threatens to unravel everything. Featuring original songs, puppetry and magic, this is a musical adventure for all the

family - particularly our youngest audiences! Tickets available later this year.

Scarecrow Trail



The theme of the 2026 Mortimer Scarecrow Trail this year will be '**Game On!**', running as usual over the autumn half term; **Saturday 24th to Sunday 31st October.**

We're looking for all things playful! Anything connected to games and the playing of them will likely be accepted: sports, toys, board, card or computer games... We would love to get your early ideas and to encourage both our regular and new scarecrow makers to start musing about exciting creations. There will be the usual array of prizes, including for

the funniest, the environmentally friendliest, and for the best newcomer. So, nudge your neighbours, pop your kit on, and start rolling the dice!

Please send your ideas to scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk As ever, we will try to help avoid duplicated ideas, favouring the first to come up with a concept. More information will follow on social media and the MVP website.

Supporting Our Community

You can't have missed the signs around the village, or the meetings and social media updates about the Basingstoke and Deane proposed 350-home development on our border. At times like these, the Mortimer Village Partnership's core purpose of *enriching village life - by bringing people together* feels more important than ever. A great deal of work has been undertaken by the Parish Council Steering Group to scrutinise the proposals, coordinate objections and guide the overall response on behalf of residents, and our

Chairman—who sits on both that group and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group—wishes to acknowledge the enormous effort of the dozen or so people involved.

In doing so, the Steering Group has made effective use of the MVP-run Facebook group to share information quickly and widely, publicise consultation events and rallies, explain how residents could object and encourage participation. All of which has helped to turn individual concerns into a strong, visible community response in which as many voices as possible were heard.

MVP Newsletter Sponsorship

As many of you will have noticed, this newsletter is published three times a year and is always filled with news from MVP and our affiliated groups, rather than pages of commercial advertising like so many other publications.

This has been made possible by the remarkable generosity of our sponsors, **Protect & Invest** and **BatesWilcox**, who have supported us for over four years. During that time the newsletter has grown and evolved, and while production costs have increased, the cost of printing has always been covered without hesitation.

As an organisation, MVP generally avoids promoting individual businesses over others. However, on this occasion we feel it is right to pause and recognise the genuine support that has been given to our community, and to encourage others to acknowledge it too.

While we are sorry to say that BatesWilcox are no longer able to continue their support, we are delighted that Protect & Invest will be continuing with their contribution. We offer them our heartfelt thanks for their ongoing commitment and generosity in supporting this valued newsletter.

MVP Affiliate News

Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

The months September to December have been very busy and challenging for the Bureau and its drivers. During the period we received 476 requests for transport to take clients from Burghfield, Mortimer and the 13 surrounding Parishes to their medical appointments which includes Doctors, Hospitals, Dentist, Opticians etc. During October we took a client on 25 consecutive week days to the Great Western Hospital in Swindon. We have also been to Frimley Park, Slough, Wokingham, Henley, Basingstoke, Thatcham, John Radcliff, Nuffield and Churchill Hospitals in Oxford



and all the hospitals and clinics in Reading. During this period the two busiest days were in November and December with 10 drives on each day. We had 19 new clients register with the Bureau during the period making a total of 356 at the end of December.

To meet the growing demand, we are always in need of more drivers. If you can help and have a car, some spare time 4-6 hours a week, enjoy meeting people and would like to make a difference in your local community by helping the elderly and infirm who otherwise might have difficulty getting to their medical appointments then please contact us. An allowance of 50p per mile is available to drivers starting from Home to cover motoring expenses. This is a flexible way to volunteer and help your community, organised around your availability and preferences.

If you can help, please call us on 01189 831 814 or email bureauorganiser@gmail.com for further information.

Mortimer Tennis Club

We are lucky to have access to two excellent courts on the Mortimer Fairground. These courts are maintained to a very high standard by the Parish Council.

The club has negotiated an arrangement with Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council, which could be beneficial to anyone playing tennis regularly. Club members can now book the tennis courts at a discounted fee of £3.00 per hour per court - at any time. The price for non-tennis club members is £6.00 per hour! So, if you do play tennis regularly on the Mortimer Fairground Courts and don't belong to the Tennis Club, you might like to consider joining to take advantage of this discounted price. We are a friendly, sociable club with players of mixed abilities. However, you can join the club solely to get the discounted fee of £3 per hour and not attend club sessions and activities – although we will always welcome new tennis players.

Our most popular session is on Monday from 10am to 11am but the club does have other slots to choose from on summer Tuesday evenings, some Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

To contact us, please email info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk or call Simon on 07768 743197.



Mortimer Local History Group

We have had a busy few months since our last newsletter article, attendance has been very good, and we have welcomed several new members since the

summer. Our September meeting was based around the Mortimer W.I. Scrapbook of 1965, and if that doesn't seem very long ago for some of us, we were delighted to see photos of the village and its environs, and lively discussion ensued about the changes in the last 60 years. A speaker from the Berkshire Family History Society gave a Halloween flavour to our October meeting, as she took us on a stroll through Berkshire's graveyards. They are full of stories about the individuals who are buried there, the communities in which they lived and the prevailing burial customs and superstitions, revealing local industry and commerce and the impact of both local and national events.

November was 'noisy', as we had a talk about coaches and coach horns, from the Golden Age of coaching to the present day, with our speaker in colourful costume who demonstrated the different kinds of coach horn.



In December, we were delighted to invite members to 'show and tell' a little bit about their personal histories, and how they came to live in Mortimer, and it's always a pleasure to hear from members of the group who invariably confirm to us how lucky we are to be living in such a 'together' community. New members are always welcome to our meetings, and we very much appreciate your comments and photos on the MVP FB page about people and places associated with Mortimer.

Mortimer Walking Group

We operate 'Wellbeing Walks' locally - a programme sponsored by West Berkshire Council with walks led by trained volunteers. The routes are designed for people of all abilities (hence the differing lengths and start times), offering you an opportunity to meet new people and explore the beautiful countryside around the village. The walks are extremely popular and, as well as locals, we regularly attract people from as far afield as Basingstoke, Bramley, Thatcham, Baughurst and Tilehurst, as well as the closer villages.

Every Tuesday we run three walks, all starting from the Fairground car park opposite the Horse & Groom:

- 09:45 – the long walk - around 5 miles taking about 1¾ hours
- 10:00 – the regular walk - around 3½ miles lasting about 1½ hours
- 10:30 – an hour's gentle walk.

The aim is for all three walks to arrive back at about 11:30, and many of us then repair to the Horse & Groom, the Baobab or the Bistro for a coffee (or whatever suits!). At Christmas we held two lunches in the H&G and a mulled wine and mince pies event in the Community Centre - in the summer we expect to hold our annual barbeque.



It's easy to start walking with us - just turn up 15 minutes before the start of the walk you want to join and speak to one of the walk leaders (the ones wearing high vis). We are all very friendly and newcomers are soon in conversation with other walkers.

Walking regularly is good for all sorts of reasons, not just trying to get a little fitter – it overcomes a recognised barrier to becoming more active by providing opportunities for social contact, has been shown to improve self-esteem, relieve symptoms of depression and anxiety, and improve mood – we often find that those on a walk have no idea where they have been because they've spent all the time chatting!

Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library



Good grief, here we are already into the second month of 2026. Hope it is not too late to wish everyone a very Happy Healthy 2026.

Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library are looking forward to our second session of the year on **Saturday 28th February**. We meet every fourth Saturday of the month at Mortimer Methodist Church, 9:30am - 11am

and for an annual fee of £20 cash, a member can borrow up to 15 toys per month. Check out our Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mandbtoylibrary>) for further details.

Over the past few years we have struggled with lack of volunteer support but recently our numbers have swollen and here you can see just a few of our helpful volunteers working on our Toy Library record keeping.



Mortimer & West End Cricket Club.

The village's two cricket clubs merged just over a year ago, and the new club had a successful first season: 3 teams regularly playing on Saturdays in the Thames Valley League; a friendly Sunday side, several age-group teams and a mid-week side. With cricket played weekly on both grounds.

During the autumn, the club invested in the cricket squares on both grounds, with its members working to repair the wear and tear inflicted by play and the extremely dry weather. In addition, the club is working to improve the playing areas and will be fund-raising to install a rainwater harvesting system at the West End ground and to upgrade the outfield at The Fairground, which has suffered over the last few years and is in urgent need of renovation.

Winter nets begin this month at Theale Green school. Everyone is welcome, whatever your ability. Plus, the Club is starting a new team to play Walking Cricket, open to anyone over 55, men and women, no experience necessary! Games early in the year will be played indoors, moving outside as the weather warms. The game is played with a soft ball, with a short boundary, at a sedate pace! So, if you used to play and fancy dusting off those skills, or have never played before and just want to give it a go, now's your chance!

If you want to come along to nets, or try out Walking Cricket, the club can be contacted at: www.mandwecc.play-cricket.com

Greening Mortimer

Over the last three months Greening Mortimer has been active in several conservation task days. A small group of us have been digging out the Skunk Cabbage plants along the brook in Lukin's Wood near Brewery Common. Skunk Cabbage is an invasive plant that has escaped from a nearby garden and without our intervention could spread into other waterways along the River Kennet.

We have also been working - with oversight from the Parish Council - on the two ponds on the Fairground, removing willow saplings and managing the brambles and undergrowth around the edges of the pond. We hope that this action will reduce water loss during the summer months.



Skunk Cabbage spreading along the brook



Heather on the Fairground being out competed by oak and hawthorn

Our latest endeavours have focused on the conservation strip running through the Fairground. Since Christmas our group has cut back oak and hawthorn saplings allowing the existing patches of heather to flourish and pruned back selected gorse bushes to regenerate new growth.

We are planning to continue our task days into the New Year. Our next date is Sunday 15th February, 10am to midday. For more information please contact Greening Mortimer at greeningmortimer@gmail.com

Finally, we have recently been awarded a community grant that has enabled us to buy a trip camera to capture wildlife on film. This camera is available to borrow for two weeks to anyone living in Mortimer. So if you think you have badgers, foxes or hedgehogs visiting your garden please email us to arrange the camera loan.

1st Mortimer Brownies

Volunteers Needed for Local Girlguiding Groups

Local Girlguiding units are looking for volunteers to help support girls in our community; namely in Mortimer and Burghfield. Help is required across all sections- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Our groups meet weekly during term time and provide girls with a safe, fun and inspiring space to build confidence, learn new skills and make friendships.

We welcome volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. You don't need previous experience or to have been a Brownie or Guide yourself – just enthusiasm, reliability and a willingness to get involved. Whether you can help regularly, occasionally, or in a supporting role, there are opportunities to suit everyone.

All Girlguiding volunteers are DBS checked, with full training and ongoing support provided. You'll never be left on your own and will be part of a friendly, supportive team.

Volunteering with Girlguiding is both enjoyable and rewarding. Many volunteers find it boosts their confidence, develops leadership and teamwork skills, and looks great on their CV. Most importantly, you'll be making a real difference to the lives of girls in your local area.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to find out more, please apply via the Girlguiding website using the online form or the contact details provided below.

Even a small amount of time can have a big impact. If you've ever considered volunteering, this could be the perfect opportunity to give something back to your community while having fun along the way.

If you think you can support Mortimer Brownies in any way, please email: firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk.

General or volunteering enquiries for other groups should be directed to www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/register-to-volunteer/

Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group

If you are registered with the Mortimer Surgery the PPG is here to represent you and to try to ensure the Surgery gives you the best possible primary care service that it can. Changes at the Surgery recently include the recruitment of two new female doctors leading to more availability of appointments. In the New Year a new electronic prescription service will be introduced as required by the government, and changes to the website will facilitate greater access via the web portal, although it will still be possible to call or walk into the Surgery to make appointments or discuss issues.

2025 activities included an appearance at the Fun Day, and a most successful public meeting at which Prof. Deepak Ravindran gave a talk on pain and pain management. For 2026 the PPG will try to add weight to the actions being taken by the Parish Council to fight the proposed development at the Western boundary of the village, as the additional 350 houses would impose the burden of about 1,000 new patients without any funding coming to Mortimer.

If you have ideas for how the PPG can help improve patient experience and communication with the surgery please email me directly on johnalanbagshaw@gmail.com. We will be discussing topics to focus on at our next meeting in February, but there may be other ways we can help so do send me your thoughts.

John Bagshaw

Burghfield Bowls Club

Looking for a fun, sociable way to stay active? Burghfield Bowls Club welcomes players of all ages and abilities. Outdoor bowls offers gentle exercise in the fresh air, a friendly social atmosphere, and just the right level of competition to support both physical and mental wellbeing.



Try Bowls for Free – Open Days 2026

We warmly invite you to one of our Open Days, where you can try lawn bowls **free of charge and with no obligation**.

Open Day Dates:

- **Saturday 18 April** | 2:00pm – 5:00pm
- **Monday 25 May** | 2:00pm – 5:00pm

These open sessions are a great opportunity to visit our green on **James Lane** (behind BCSA) and have a go at the game.

What you need:

- Flat-soled shoes
- All equipment and coaching are provided

Can't make an Open Day? No problem — just get in touch and we'll be happy to arrange a visit at another time.

For more information or latest updates:

 www.burghfield.bowls-club.co.uk  Email: burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com

No experience needed — just come along, have a go, and enjoy the game!

Mortimer Crafters

Hi, my name is Ann Stroud and I run Mortimer Crafters and I would like to say a HUGH THANK YOU to the members and friends for their valiant effort this last year. They have knitted squares by the hundred, red hearts quilts, possession bags & beautiful Christmas stockings for the pre-m baby ward at RBH hospital, these were made by one lady thank you so much.



We have a lovely lady called Pam who crochets the squares together and has made approx. 100 blankets which went to West Berks community hospital along with 15 quilts several hundred red hearts, many, many possession bag for patients to use (instead of plastic bags).

We also made quilts for Project Linus which go to children in Berkshire. Everybody who receives them are very grateful. So again I say thank you all very much please keep it up.

If you would like to join in and knit squares, please contact me on 01189331419

Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club

The cold dark winter months can be restrictive for photographers however club members made the most of the darker evenings by holding a light painting evening in the car park of the church with a mini-Halloween layout to add a spooky element. Club member Graham was very accommodating and donned a large hat and coat for silhouette images while other members enjoyed hot chocolate and biscuits during the evening.



Club member Vernon demonstrated the process of sharpening tools, allowing the group to capture some unusual and interesting shots:

For the season ahead, we have local historian Thomas Macey coming along to give a talk on Jacksons of Reading, the iconic department store. Thomas will be bringing photographs and artifacts from his

personal collection. Sadie from Feathers and Fur will be bringing along some beautiful birds of prey to photograph.

We will be holding informative workshops covering subjects like the three aspects of taking photographs, how to improve your photography for competitions, practical nights looking at lighting glass for effective images, portrait and pet photography.

We also have some outdoor photo events planned and a BBQ later in the season.



Want to join us? We meet alternate Thursday evenings at St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Lane, Burghfield, RG30 3TG. WhatThree Words: noise.dream.film

Any Questions? Please email the club secretary: burghfieldccsec@gmail.com or visit the new website: <https://bmphotoclub.uk>

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Stay in Touch with SMPC

You may have noticed that you did not have anything from the Parish Council delivered alongside this MVP newsletter. This is because we have changed from providing a paper newsletter 3 times per year to providing much more up-to-date news every month by email – the Parish Council ebulletin. If you haven't signed up for it, please do now. You can do it by going to <https://mailchi.mp/stratfield-mortimer/signup-v2> or emailing the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk



We are delivering printed copies to GlenApp Grange, Heathfield and Badgers Croft and you can see a copy of the bulletin in the library or on the village noticeboards. But the best way to stay in touch with what is happening is to get the monthly emails.

It has been a very busy time for the Parish Council recently with the proposal from Basingstoke & Deane for 350 new houses, 3 new councillors appointed, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk both becoming fully qualified and exciting news about the cycleway to Burghfield. No room here to tell you about all about those, so please sign up for much more regular updates!

Mortimer Mother, Baby and Toddler Group

Although our group's name is "Mother, Baby and Toddler group" it doesn't accurately reflect our families. The world has moved on.

Mothers, fathers, grannies, grandads, nannies and childminders all come along. But that wouldn't roll off the tongue so well! Many of our volunteers (who also happen to be grannies) came to this group with our young children, and made life-long friendships. A couple of our current Mums came when they were small and now bring their little ones. It's a village institution and a valuable social space for adults and children alike. It's been held at various village locations over the years, but currently at the Methodist Church Hall.

A couple of quotes:

"I come as much for myself, as my granddaughter"

"The first time I came, I was so encouraged to see other grandparents here, and I have always felt very welcome"

If you'd like to come and give us a try, just turn up, no requirement to book.

Term time Tuesdays, 10-11:30. Enjoy a hot drink and a natter whilst you watch your babies and toddlers have fun playing, snacking and singing.



The Oaks CIC



The Oaks CIC is a local, **not-for-profit childcare organisation** offering **high-quality** breakfast, after-school and holiday clubs across St Mary's and St John's in Mortimer, Aldermaston, and The Priory. Our fantastic team at each setting brings their own unique talents to **create a fun, safe and engaging environment** for every child. Children enjoy a wide range of activities including arts and crafts, sports, baking, Lego tournaments and much more.

We also host special annual events such as movie nights, our end-of-year water party, and festive breakfasts—complete with Santa pancakes!

We are also proud to run **Mini Oaks Preschool**, based at The Parish Centre, Burghfield St Mary's Church. Welcoming children aged 2 and above, we are open every weekday from 8:30am to 4pm during term time. Mini Oaks is **full of creativity, laughter and learning**, with themed activities inspired by the children's interests—most recently an exciting project linked to the popular story *Supertato*.



Whether you're looking for childcare or exploring a new and rewarding career, we would love to hear from you. At The Oaks, we **welcome** a range of abilities and experiences and pride ourselves on being a friendly, family-orientated team that truly values each of our staff members and families.

Email: office@theoakschildcare.co.uk

Website: <https://theoakschildcare.co.uk>

Belle Canto Trio

We enjoyed singing our Christmas programme at a number of different venues in December, and we are now looking forward to transporting our audiences from an English winter to an Italian summer, with a selection of sunny songs to get your toes tapping. Our first performance of this programme will be at **Shinfield St Mary's at**



midday on Saturday 7th February. Check out our Facebook page for dates and venues of other performances - www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio

Friends of Mortimer Library

The Friends of Mortimer continue with our programme of speakers. We were delighted to welcome Mel Donnelly who spoke on ancestry and held her audience, entranced with her research into a selection of heroes from the First World War.

For our February event, we shall be delighted to welcome Dr. Stuart Eves to talk on the Mysteries of the Solar System. Other speakers for 2026 include Peter Driver, speaking on local Ornithology on 27th April, and Dr. Gwen Adshead, an eminent Forensic Psychiatrist, on the 2nd July - so much to look forward to.

As we start thinking about holidays, did you know the library has OS maps from around Britain available to borrow, as well as a splendid selection of travel guides?

And, if you are researching your family background, Ancestry and Find My Past software is available free to use on library PC's during opening hours. Why not pop in, get acquainted, and see what skeletons you can find in your closet!

Other library resources includes the Borrow Box app which gives free access to eBooks and eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers. Further information may be found on West Berkshire Council's website or from our very own library.

Finally, if you enjoy Jigsaws, Mortimer Library has a fantastic selection to borrow. Call in and see what's on offer - it's your library and there is always a warm welcome and so much to discover.

For further information or to keep up to date with all our events, follow us on Facebook or join our mailing list by emailing info@mortimerlibraryfriends.org.

Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

Come rain, hail, high winds and snow the Handybus shopping trips get through! These past few months have seen a mixed bag of weather, but we have still managed to make our regular shopping trips for our elderly and less-abled members of the community. Throw in some trips to Garden Centres, nearby Christmas Markets and Christmas lunches to local pubs and we have been as busy as ever. All done while we have been getting acquainted with our newly acquired minibuss which has been given the thumbs up for ease to drive and passenger comfort.

Our regular shopping trips, where we offer a pickup and drop off from home addresses and with a volunteer escort to manage user's shopping bags from the supermarket trolley to their front door, are proving very popular. However we currently have some limited availability on some of our Sainsbury's shopping

trips to Tadley and Calcot. If you would like to join us for any of the above trips please contact us, details below.

Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers, and we are always in need of more volunteers to ensure the service continues. In particular we are in urgent need of someone who could provide some assistance with the administration tasks of the Charity. If you could help and would like to join a small band of friendly local volunteers we would like to hear from you.

Contact details: Tel. 0118 983 6611

email: thehandybus@gmail.com

Mortimer West End & District Annual Show

If this grey weather is bringing you down, just look back to last summer and our fantastic Annual show – and now get thinking about what you might grow, make or create this year. The committee is already planning for this year's event and will have the schedule ready for you later in Spring.



Of course many hands make light work and if you think you could help on the day or would like to be involved by joining our committee please get in touch (contact details at the end of this newsletter).

Put **Saturday 29th August** in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then.

Mortimer Bell Ringers

What are these 'practices' I keep hearing?

Ding, dong, the peace of Monday evening is shattered by the bells, what are these bellringers doing? Oh, it's practice night – fortunately rotating round the three churches.

It takes six people to ring at any of the churches, and up to eight at St Marys. This means we need a pool of experienced ringers available for services, weddings etc. It takes quite a long time to learn to ring in a band of six, so part of the practice session is to help members of the band to perfect ringing together. It's a bit like learning to play a musical instrument, first you have to master the basic technique of producing music from it, then take the plunge of playing along within a group. The difference is that an instrument can produce beautiful music on its own, a bell cannot!

Just as an orchestra will develop and take on the challenges of more complex pieces, so we attempt to ring more complex methods. We practice them on a Monday, then ring them on a Sunday.

Occasionally we will have a practice through the day when we are supported by expert ringers from the area which helps us develop our skills. There is a limit to how much a group can tackle new challenges on its own as opposed to being supported by experts.

So that is what is going on at a practice session, we learn and we have fun doing so.



South Berks Concert Band



After a very successful 2025, the band is looking forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its founding in 1976. We have a series of exciting events lined up throughout the year.

Our next event is our Spring Concert back **at St Mary's in Burghfield on 28th March**. We will have some fantastic music to share with you. More information is added regularly

on our website and social media pages. We hope to see many of you there – tickets will be available from The Baobab, Weller's Fruit Shop in Burghfield, or via TicketSource (url below).

A few weeks later, on 12th April, we will be taking part in the NCBF National Final, at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. This follows on from the platinum award that we received at the NCBF regional event we performed at in November.

We have a number of outdoor events lined up for the summer already, in Bradfield, Alton, and Newbury, and more indoor concerts will be happening throughout the year.

We are still looking for new alto saxophone, trumpet and trombone players, and are keen to recruit local musicians, so if you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the band, then please get in touch! We offer a few weeks' free trial period.

In the meantime if you wish to find out more, do follow us on social media, look at our website or make contact with us via email.

email: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com

Website: www.southberksmusic.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand

X: [@SBCBMusic](https://twitter.com/SBCBMusic)

TicketSource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/south-berks-concert-band

Mortimer Community Centre

The community centre on the Fairground in the centre of the village has seen several updates in recent months, including redecoration of the main hall and brand new tables, and will shortly have new, low energy lighting installed to brighten the main hall, while reducing the electricity costs. But a bigger change is coming in the next few months, when the hall will be re-named! Its new name will be **The Fairground Hall**, which will indicate its exact location in the village. The change in name will also avoid any confusion with a similarly named community centre in the north of England, whose users try to book our village hall by mistake!

Along with the new name, the hall will also have its own website, which will feature the hall facilities, but will also be a window for the hall users to showcase their activities. The hall remains popular and has a wide range for regular users: ballet, cricket, yoga, pilates and keep fit are all carried out in the hall, alongside WI meetings, Lunch Club and children's breakfast club. The hall is also hired out for parties and anniversaries and other events.

The hall is run by an independent committee of volunteers and is paid for and maintained solely by the hire fees paid by its users. Improvements are on-going, enhancing the facilities for the benefit of the community. The new name and website will shortly be up and running. Watch this space!

Transport Through The Ages Rolls Back This 27th June!

Following the fantastic success of 2024's Transport Through The Ages event in Mortimer, this much-loved celebration of vehicles, music and community spirit returns on 27th June — and it promises to be bigger, brighter and just as memorable.

This year's event will once again support a very worthy cause. The main beneficiary of this event will be to help raise awareness and vital funds for prostate cancer research, support and treatment. Further details of our chosen charity will be revealed soon.

Transport Through The Ages gives you the chance to explore an impressive and varied collection of vehicles that tell the story of transport through the decades. From lovingly restored vintage cars and motorcycles to classic commercial vehicles, tractors and modern favourites, there is plenty to discover. One of the highlights will be a parade of historic vehicles through Mortimer, giving you the chance to see these amazing machines out on the road before they return to the main event on Mortimer Fairground.

Live entertainment will keep the day buzzing - with thanks to Mortimer Music Live for lending the stage equipment. A lively programme of local bands and

performers will provide the soundtrack to the celebrations, with some acts featuring talented students from The Willink School. This mix of home-grown talent and live music helps create the relaxed, festival-style feel that proved so popular in 2024.

There will also be plenty more to enjoy, with activities much the same as before. You can look forward to a variety of stalls, a dog show, a bar, and attractions to keep younger attendees entertained. Local companies will provide food and refreshments, so whether you fancy a quick snack or a leisurely lunch, there's something for everyone.

One of the things that makes Transport Through The Ages so special is its friendly, community-focused atmosphere. Vehicle owners, families, local residents and those visiting from further afield are all warmly invited to take part. More details, including confirmed bands, timings, sponsorship opportunities and final plans for the day, will be announced closer to the event. Please do get in touch to take advantage of a fantastic sponsorship opportunity via markb@francisconstruction.co.uk

For now, save the date, spread the word and get ready for a fantastic day out as **Transport Through The Ages rolls back into Mortimer on 27th June.**



MVP Affiliate Directory

The aim of MVP Affiliated group membership is to promote community cooperation and cohesion as well as providing local groups with a number of practical benefits such as: borrowing MVP equipment, laminating & photocopying, communications through use of the village website, this newsletter and Facebook and use of our prominent noticeboard outside Co-op.

If you have an interest and would like to start a club, or are part of an existing group and would like to find out more then please contact MVP on affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

| Affiliate | Contact | Email |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Exp. Unit | Dave Burrige & Dean Wilding | glv@1stbands.org |
| 1st Mortimer Brownies | Rachel Ryan | firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk |
| 1st Mortimer Scouts | Neil Johnson | neiljohnson@btinternet.com |
| Age Concern | Tina Tomlinson | tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com |
| Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust | John Hannawin | trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk |
| Bag2School | Peta Clark | petalclark@gmail.com |
| Belle Canto Trio | Heather Sims | info@bellecanto.uk |
| Burghfield & Mortimer Community 1st Responders | Tom Maynard | thomas.maynard@sca-charity.org.uk |
| Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus | Don Harwood | thehandybus@gmail.com |
| Burghfield & Mortimer Photo Club | Sue Totham | burghfieldccsec@gmail.com |
| Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau | Erle Minhinnick | bureauvolunteer@gmail.com erleminhinnick@gmail.com |
| Burghfield Allotment Club | Ruth Allen | r.allen4@btinternet.com |
| Burghfield Bowling Club | Charlie Gray | charlie.gray67@gmail.com |
| Burghfield Bowls Club | Gary Belcher | garybmob@gmail.com |

| Affiliate | Contact | Email |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Burghfield Gardening Club | Brian Uttley | brianuttley@yahoo.co.uk |
| Burghfield Santas | Gareth Green | gareth.green@gmail.com |
| Friends of Mortimer Library | Lynn Hannawin | Lynn@hannawin.com |
| Greening Mortimer | Clare Stafford | greeningmortimer@gmail.com |
| Mortimer 2012 WI | Patricia Boud | mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk |
| Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library | Dorothy Harfleet | dorothy.harfleet@sky.com |
| Mortimer & West End Cricket Club | Adrian Smith | adrsmith@gmail.com |
| Mortimer (St. John's) Village Hall | Brian Thatcher | brianthatcher@btinternet.com |
| Mortimer Baby & Toddler Group | Amanda Lowe | amanda.lowe44@yahoo.co.uk |
| Mortimer Bell Ringers | Nick Munson & Elaine Perkins | mortimerbellringers@gmail.com |
| Mortimer Community Centre | Adrian Smith | adrsmith@gmail.com |
| Mortimer Crafting Group | Ann Stroud | d.stroud2010@btinternet.com |
| Mortimer Dramatic Society | Rob Wilderspin | rob@wilderspin.org |
| Mortimer Football Club | Matthew Gabb | mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com |
| Mortimer Local History Group | Deirdre Burrell | deidreburrell15@gmail.com |
| Mortimer Methodist Church | Daphne Cooney | daphnecooney@gmail.com |
| Mortimer Motorcycle Club | John Dowse | henwick.racing@btopenworld.com |
| Mortimer Music Live CIC | Ryan Saunders | info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk |
| Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee | Nicky Richards | administration@mortimerpreschool.org.uk |

| Affiliate | Contact | Email |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mortimer Rainbows | Toni Smith | mortimer.rainbows@hotmail.com |
| Mortimer Schools PTFA | Sammy Minto | mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com |
| Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group | John Bagshaw | johnalbagshaw@btinternet.com |
| Mortimer Tennis Club | Jean Thomas | info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk |
| Mortimer Theatre Group | Rebecca Barker | |
| Mortimer Walking Group | Graham Bridgman | gb@atpps.com |
| Mortimer West End & District Annual Show | Nick Munson | ngmunson@yahoo.com |
| Mortimer West End Village Hall | Heather Sims | mwevhall@gmail.com |
| Royal British Legion Womens | Tina Tomlinson | tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com |
| Save the Children - Kennet Branch B25 | Clare Downey | jclaredowney@gmail.com |
| South Berks Concert Band | Trevor Holloway | southberksconcertband@yahoo.com |
| Stratfield Mortimer Benefice | Sara Spratt | admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk |
| Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council | Danielle Davis | the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk |
| The Hurst Singers | Mari Fleming | thehurstsingers@gmail.com |
| The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC | Prubie Sahota | office@theoakschildcare.co.uk |
| Together in Mission | Emma Shumsky | info@togetherinmission.org.uk |

More information on our Affiliated groups can be found on the MVP Website:
<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support>

MVP Contact Details

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Chairman | Doug Overett | chair@mortimervillage.org.uk 07738 470870 |
| Vice Chairman | Julia Meadows | vice-chair@mortimervillage.org.uk |
| Secretary | Rachel James | rachel_james34@yahoo.com |
| Treasurer | Ali Richardson | alison.richardson1964@gmail.com |
| Affiliates Secretary | Gael Nicholls | affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk |

MVP committee meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and are open to participation from anyone. We rotate where we meet, so if you would like to join us, use the Contact Us button on the website or contact any of the committee members above and we'll let you know where the next meeting is.

If you have any comments about this newsletter please contact newsletter@mortimervillage.org.uk

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