

October 2026 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Looking ahead to an exciting year for MVP!

As we look ahead to 2027, our minds have already turned to planning for a 2027 MVP Fun Day and I wanted to share some personal news as well as highlight some of the exciting events in the coming months.

After organising many MVP Fun Days over the years, as well as the Coronation Celebration, I have decided that the time is right for me to step down and hand over to others. It has been a tremendous privilege to be involved in an event that has become the highlight of Mortimer's calendar and has brought so many people together. I have thoroughly enjoyed the planning, the challenges and, most importantly, seeing everyone enjoying themselves on the day – more information on how we take this forward inside this issue.

There is plenty happening before then too. We are delighted to introduce a brand-new MVP event as we bring the full **Comedy Club** experience to Mortimer on **Friday 13th November**. This is strictly an Over 18's evening, so get ready for a night of grown-up comedy and entertainment!

For our younger audiences, keep an eye out for our somewhat quirky production of **Jack & The Beanstalk**, which promises to be a wonderful festive treat for CBeebies fans.

And, of course, we hope you enjoy this year's **Scarecrow Trail** during the Autumn half term. With this year's theme being **"Game On"**, see how many of the characters you can spot along the trail!

There is certainly plenty to look forward to, and I hope you will continue to support all our events and, most importantly, enjoy being part of the MVP community.

Doug Overett
MVP Chair

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



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Christmas Show

MVP is delighted to bring a Christmas show with a difference to Mortimer this December. Half Moon Presents a Kid Carpet & The Noisy Animals production: **JACK & THE BEANSTALK (SORT OF)** for ages 3-10.

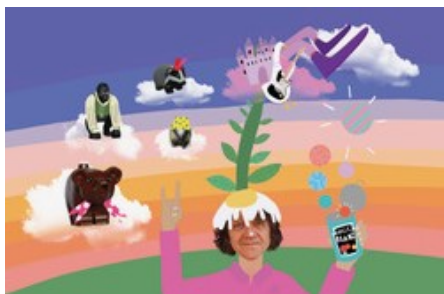
Kid Carpet hates panto. The Noisy Animals absolutely love it. So guess what they're doing? Yep. A panto. Now there's a beanstalk in the middle of everything and nobody's quite sure what's going on. Featuring Bear, Gorilla, Badger and Hedgehog, this is Jack & the Beanstalk like it's been thrown in a blender with a drum machine and dodgy celebrity lookalikes. Part air guitar workshop, part magical mess, this lo-fi, hi-tech, big-beat bonkers panto is stuffed with songs, silliness and surprise grannies. It's loud, proud and completely off its bean(stalk)!

Saturday 5th December at 2pm (50 min show)

Tickets: £10 adults and £7.00 children (Under 18s) – plus 50p booking fee.

2 years and under free if sitting on adults lap.

Follow QR code to Ticketsource to purchase tickets:



Scarecrow Trail

GAME ON! Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Returns for October Half-Term

Mortimer is getting ready to play as the hugely popular Mortimer Village Partnership Scarecrow Trail returns from **Saturday 24th Oct to Sunday 1st Nov.**

This year's trail will bring the world of games to life across the village, with scarecrows inspired by board games, video games, playground favourites and classic family entertainment.

Visitors can expect a wonderfully varied line-up. Among the planned creations are Super Mario Bros, Monopoly, Battleships, Kerplunk, Plants vs Zombies, Cluedo, and Snakes & Ladders. Video-game fans will also be able to look out for Minecraft-inspired entries including Sulfur Cube and The Blockbuster, while other creations range from Boxing Robots and Dobble to Marble Run Man.

The Mortimer Scarecrow Trail has



become one of the village's most popular annual events, attracting families and visitors who follow the route through Mortimer searching for the scarecrows, voting for their favourites and enjoying the ingenuity, humour and creativity on display. There is a £50 cash prize for one lucky winner completing the quiz that comes with the map.

The trail offers a perfect half-term activity for all ages, whether you're determined to find every scarecrow or simply want to enjoy a leisurely walk around the village.

This year promises to be one of the most colourful and playful trails yet. So, gather the family, pick up a trail map from one of the local shops or library, and see how many familiar games you can spot.

Mortimer Comedy Club is Coming

For the first time ever, MVP is bringing the full **Comedy Club** experience to Mortimer — and we're doing it in association with leading Comedy Club agents, **Laughter Craft**.



Get ready for a night of proper stand-up comedy, featuring some seriously funny talent.

Headlining the laughs is **Matt Bragg**, who recently supported Ricky Gervais on his arena tour, alongside **Jason Patterson**, as seen on Comedy Central, plus a fantastic supporting act.

 Doors & Bar: 7:00pm

 Friday 13th November

 Strictly over 18s only

 Show starts: 8:00pm

 St John's Hall

This is proper comedy club stuff — expect big laughs, sharp jokes and the occasional moment where you'll wonder if they really just said that...



Mortimer Fun Day

An event such as the Fun Day is never the work of one person. It relies on the enthusiasm, generosity and support of so many people, and we would like to sincerely thank everyone who has helped over the years.

MVP is delighted that **Archie Bourne** has stepped forward to take on the organisation of the 2027 Fun Day. Archie demonstrated his energy, enthusiasm and organisational skills when he took a leading role in this year's highly successful Transport Through the Ages event. We hope everyone will give Archie the same fantastic support for the 2027 event.

We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers to ensure we run a successful day. If you've got a particular skill, interest, or just some time you'd

like to offer - whether that's planning, logistics, sponsorship, marketing, social media, design, community engagement, practical setup, or something else entirely, we'd love to hear from you. Just contact any of the team on the back page of this newsletter or use the "contact us" button on the MVP website.

Lunch Club

Lunch Club meets in the Fairground Hall on the second and last Thursday of every month. This is an opportunity for our more senior residents to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Guests are welcomed from 12 noon and stay until about 1:20 ish.

We provide a two-course hot meal plus tea or coffee for £10 (this includes a contribution to the cost of the hall hire).

Handybus transport is available for people who live in Burghfield or Mortimer. This is a separate cost of £2 which is collected on the bus.

Contact details for lunch club are either Rebecca Barker on 07515775464 or Louise Overett 07974128087.

If you would like to join us, then please call either Rebecca or Louise, so we know to include you in our numbers. We can also organise your Handybus transport should you need it.

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer Methodist Church

Mortimer Methodist Church is delighted to share an exciting step forward for our community. Our village now hosts its very first twin fast electric vehicle charging point — a practical upgrade that supports visitors, residents, and our shared commitment to greener living.

Conveniently situated in the church car park, two dedicated charging bays await you, just on the right as you enter. The chargers provide 22 kW of power and are priced at a competitive 50p per kWh, offering an easy and affordable way to stay charged on the go.

Simply bring your Type 2 cable, scan the QR code on the unit, and follow the on-screen instructions. You can also connect through your Monta app for an even smoother experience.

This small but meaningful improvement helps keep Mortimer connected, modern, and moving forward. It's another step in making the most of our green energy as part of our ECO Church initiative.

Mortimer Local History Group

Our last four meetings have been very varied and enjoyable, starting in June with a talk on Transport Through the Ages in West Berkshire, to tie in with the village event later in the month, at which we held a large stall with several displays and a great deal of interest. We had almost 40 people for our village walk in July, a beautiful evening to learn about different aspects of our village centred around St John's and King Street, and why Mortimer is the shape that it is! Our August meeting took the form, as always, of an afternoon party, generously hosted once again by Carolyn and Bob, and we enjoyed a variety of food provided by members, and drink provided by MLHG itself. In September we learnt about local names, and how King Henry 1 of France, The Devil, Roman horses, French weavers and Goodboys are connected with the history of Mortimer...fascinating stuff! We continue to grow, and are always welcoming new members, as well as any suggestions for future topics at meetings.

Mortimer Table Tennis Club

Table tennis is great because anyone can have a go. It gets people out, having fun, moving and meeting new people. We're a very friendly bunch and are glad to have new players, including beginners. It's not for profit; we just get together and play (and laugh!). It's at **Mortimer Methodist Hall** every **Tuesday afternoon**.

1pm: Setting up the tables (you are welcome to help – but not obliged to).

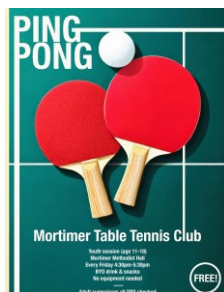
1:15pm: Games commence. This session is just for fun. There's a tea break in the middle.

3pm: It gets a bit more competitive, for those who like a challenge. Finish about 4:15pm and pack away.

You can turn up whenever suits you. The first time is free, after that it's £4pp per visit (covers hall hire, plus equipment wear & tear). You must wear sensible, supportive shoes, with non-marking soles. Adults only.

We also run an **after-school session** for kids age 11-18. This is FREE and is manned by adult volunteers who are all DBS-checked.

- Mortimer Methodist Hall - Friday 4:30-5:30pm
- Term-time only (based on Willink dates).
- Must wear sensible, supportive shoes, with non-marking soles.



Burghfield Produce Show

On 8th August, the Methodist Church in Burghfield Common hosted the fourth Produce Show. Exhibits were displayed in the Hall and the Produce marquee, (hired from Dean Shaw) and there were Plant and Bric-a-Brac stalls. Drinks and cake were served and the sunny afternoon was enjoyed by many visitors who admired the exhibits, bought raffle tickets and appreciated the social occasion.

Many thanks must be given to the volunteers who toiled tirelessly setting up the gazebos, carrying tables and chairs both before the exhibitors arrived and after the show finished. Thanks also go to the ladies serving drinks, the judges and stewards as well as the people selling Plants and Bric-a-Brac.

The 263 exhibits, (up from 223 last year), were of excellent quality and competition fierce with 53 people displaying their produce. As well as vegetables and flowers, there were exhibits of cakes, jams, savoury items, crafts and photographs.



We were very grateful for the support of the Parish Council whose grant enabled us to hire the marquee. Support from local businesses was invaluable and they contributed with raffle prizes and financial help.

Next year's show: 7th August, 2pm at the Methodist Church Hall.

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

The new **Mortimer Village Market** launches at the Fairground Hall on Sunday 18th October, from 11:00am to 2:30pm. With around 40 stalls offering locally produced, handmade and homemade goods, there will be plenty to browse and enjoy. The market will then take place on the third Sunday of each month.

Work on the final section of the Mortimer–Burghfield path is expected to be completed during October, creating a continuous route between the villages for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Some areas of the path will be further compacted once we have received sufficient rain.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has decided to restart its Local Plan process. This means the proposed allocation of around 350 homes at West End Farm will not progress under the existing timetable. However, the site could be submitted again through the new process, and the Parish Council will continue to monitor developments closely and keep residents informed.

Finally, are you organising a Christmas event in Mortimer? Please let the Parish Council know so that it can be included in our forthcoming Christmas in Mortimer events calendar.

Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club

The new season is well underway with an impressive display of images taken throughout the summer as part of our challenge series. You can view these on our social-media platforms and see what members have been creating.

With a new committee and a refreshed program, we are excited about the year ahead. The schedule is packed with workshops, showcases, judged competitions, and social events including relaxed weekend walks for those who enjoy getting out with their cameras.

You don't need an expensive DSLR to join us – if you'd just like to take images on your phone, you're very welcome. BMPC is for everyone with an interest in photography. Our online members- only platforms make it easy to stay connected, share images, ask for guidance and chat about photography even if the weather is not on our side.



Summer Rain - © David Belcher

We meet alternate Thursday evenings at **St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Lane, Burghfield, RG30 3TG.** (What Three Words: noise.dream.film)

Come and join us for some lively banter and the opportunity to learn new skills.

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

Mortimer Walking Group

Walking regularly is good for all sorts of reasons, not just trying to get fitter – it provides opportunities for social contact, improves self-esteem, relieves symptoms of depression and anxiety, and improves mood.

Every Tuesday, rain or shine, we run three Wellbeing Walks (a programme sponsored by West Berkshire Council with walks led by trained volunteers), all of them 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!). We will also be holding social events at Christmas.

To join one of the walks, just turn up 15 minutes before the start and speak to one of the walk leaders (wearing high vis). We are all very friendly and newcomers you will soon be in conversation with other walkers.

The photo shows our walkers being the first users of the new Englefield Estates permitted path from Tower House Farm to Drury Lane.



South Berks Concert Band



The band has had a great summer, the highlight being our 50th anniversary concert in July at St John's Church in Mortimer. We performed a world premiere – A Deo et Regina, which we commissioned for our 50th anniversary.

Our next concert, "**With Friends**" is at The Link, Tadley on **17th October at 6:30pm.**

Our final concert for 2026 is our **Christmas concert** on the **12th December** at St Mary's Church in Burghfield. More information will be available nearer the time on our website and social media pages. Last year the Christmas concert was sold out, so make sure to get your tickets early.

Throughout this year we are supporting the charity My Cancer, My Choices, who provide holistic support to individuals living with cancer. Donations help cover essential costs and enable the charity to offer vital therapies to people living with cancer in Berkshire.

We are still looking for Trombone and Trumpet players of at least Grade 6 standard, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, then please get in touch! We offer a few weeks' free trial period.

To find out more, see our website www.southberksmusic.org.uk, email: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com, or follow our social media accounts, Instagram: [southberksconcertband](https://www.instagram.com/southberksconcertband), X: [@SBCBMusic](https://twitter.com/SBCBMusic), Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand,

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

The Oaks CIC

The Oaks Pre-School and Wrap-around Clubs

Welcome to our new starters both at school and Mini Oaks Pre-School in Burghfield, we do hope you have had an enjoyable summer and we look forward to getting to know you all.

Last term the Mini Oaks children explored different countries through a variety of activities such as making their own bread, learning new languages, sensory trays, art work and more. Our pre-school team are fantastic and are always looking for new and engaging topics for the children to explore. If you would like to come and see for yourselves please do get in touch and we will be happy to arrange a visit.

Our wrap-around school care provisions: Mortimer, Aldermaston and Priory have also returned and the teams are ready with many more new and enjoyable activities for the children to participate/create.



As well as childcare spaces we do also have staff vacancies across our settings for: Playworkers, Deputies and Playleaders. If you are someone who loves working alongside a great and supportive team, is enthusiastic and cares about every child's care and well-being please do get in touch.

Email: office@theoakschildcare.co.uk

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

Mortimer Tennis Club



We are lucky to have access to two excellent courts on the Mortimer Fairground which are superbly maintained by the Parish Council.

The club has negotiated an arrangement with Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council, and members can book the tennis courts at a discounted fee of £2.50 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 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. We also have a coach available who runs tennis drills on a Friday morning. To contact us, please email info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk or call Simon on 07768 743197.

Burghfield and District Royal British Legion

The Burghfield Branch of the Royal British Legion have a proud history of serving in the Burghfield community and over the past year we have welcomed speakers on The Post Office Scandal, the Intelligence Corps, our local History, Aviation, Engineering and Military Ancestry, to name a few. We are proud to support our local cadets and to lead the annual Burghfield Remembrance Sunday Parade, ensuring that we still find time to relax together for our annual quiz night and highly competitive skittles evening. You do not have to have served in the military to be a member of the RBL.



We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at Burghfield Community Sports Association, James Lane, Burghfield, RG30 3RS at 8pm. Everyone is welcome.

The next dates for our meetings are:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 27 October 2026 | The Battle of Waterloo by a Military Historian & Battlefield Guide |
| 26 January 2027 | "They Don't Take People Like You As Officers in the Navy" |
| 23 February 2027 | Galapagos & the USA Airforce |

Mortimer West End & District Annual Show

A big **Thank You** once again to all those that participated and joined us for this year's show. On the days before, whilst setting up, we were a little trepidatious as the weather forecast was not looking favourable for the day, typical - after all this year's glorious weather (but terrible growing conditions!) However, we were fortunate and only had some light showers on the day. The turnout was still high and we had about 20 new entrants which is great to see – thank you for contributing and of course those visiting in the afternoon had the extra treat of homemade cakes and tea.

Overall Show Winner	Carmelita Watts
Runner up	Heather Frew
Best WME resident	Christina Chater-Lea

The overall show winners
winners were:

Senior Citizen

Christina Chater-Lea

(all winners listed here: [www.facebook.com /mweshow](https://www.facebook.com/mweshow))

We very much look forward to seeing you next year – **28th August 2027**

Friends of Mortimer Library

The Friends of Mortimer Library have had a busy few months, with group meetings, games and speakers at the library. We aim to promote our library and to encourage the use of it by local people and groups.

AN EVENING OF POETRY - We are pleased to let you know that our Poetry Appreciation Group will be hosting their first 'Open Mic Invitation' evening. If you are a keen poet, or a lover of poetry, come and enjoy an evening with a group of like-minded and local poets and share your poetry or the poems that you love. It will be held at the Mortimer Library, 27 Victoria Road on **Monday, 30th November**, starting at 7:30pm, with arrival from 7pm. You can pop your name in the hat on a First-come-First-served basis and we welcome poets to read no more than 2 minutes of their favourite work. We look forward to hosting the Poetry Group and everyone is welcome.



Mortimer West End Village Hall

Mortimer West End Village Hall now has a lovely new oak floor. The original floor was laid in 1912 and was starting to rot. We were lucky enough to secure a grant from Basingstoke and Deane for some of the cost, and the new floor was laid in July and early August, just in time for the Mortimer West End and District Annual Show. We now need to prove to Basingstoke and Deane that it was money well spent, and that our hall is in regular use. So please do consider our hall for parties, get-togethers, meetings, classes, courses, rehearsals etc. The large hall only costs £10 an hour during the day and £12 an hour in the evening, and we also offer special party rates.

Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group

We have had a fantastic start to this Autumn term, 3 weeks in and we have already welcomed 7 new local families. Proof that the group is still as popular and relevant as ever. In terms of



numbers, we have replaced our summer leavers, but still have capacity for some new faces. We have a dedicated team of volunteers and we're so pleased to have a new member who is preparing craft activities each week, to match with the week's theme. So far this term, Sea Creatures, Autumn Leaves, Bugs and Beasts & Farm Fun.

If you'd like to come and give us a try, just turn up, no requirement to book. Term time **Tuesdays, 10-11:30, Mortimer Methodist Church Hall**. Enjoy a hot drink and a natter whilst you watch your babies and toddlers have fun playing, snacking and singing!

Mortimer Benefice

Christmas is fast approaching, and these are the details of the upcoming services and events being hosted by the Mortimer Benefice. If you need any further details please contact The Benefice Office, St. John's Church - tel: 01189 333704 or admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk

Saturday 21st November 10 am to 1 pm - Christmas Bazaar at St. John's church

Sunday 29th November 6 pm - Advent Procession at St. John's church.

Sunday 20th December 4 pm - The Carol Service at St. Mary's church.

Tuesday 22nd December 9:45 am - Advent Workshop at St. John's church

Christmas Eve 3 pm and 5 pm - Christingle services at St. John's church (and 4 pm at St. Saviour's, Mortimer West End)

Christmas Eve 11:30 pm - Midnight Mass at St. John's church

Christmas Day 10 am - Sung Eucharist at St. John's church



Mortimer Pre-School

We are back to Pre School after a nice summer break, and it's been lovely to welcome new children and their families into the Pre School community, as well as welcoming back our returning children. The summer term ended with saying goodbye to our children who started school in September; we

hope you are settling in well at school; we know you will be great!

This term we have lots of exciting plans and we have been having fun learning about each other with our 'All About Me' topic. We are looking forward to starting weekly sessions with Pass and Move which will focus on teamwork, coordination, being active and, most importantly, having fun through different sports and games.

We are looking forward to lots of autumnal activities, and it won't be long until we start planning our Christmas festivities!

If you are interested in a place for your child at Mortimer Pre-School, please do get in touch with us administration@mortimerpreschool.org.uk or visit our website www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk

You may not realise but the Pre-School relies on charitable donations and support from the community. If you would like to help support us, we are registered with Easyfundraising, which is completely free to sign up to and shop online and this in return raises donations for us. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. You can find our Easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mortimer-pre-school/>

Belle Canto Trio



Belle Canto will be performing our new "Christmas Cheer" programme at **Shinfield St Mary's on Saturday 12th Dec** at 3:00 pm. The programme includes many much-loved songs, such as White Christmas, The Shepherd's Farewell, Silent Night and Walking in the Air, as well as a selection of festive sing-alongs. A delicious festive tea will also be provided. Full details will be available later at www.facebook.com/stmarysshinfield and www.facebook.com/bellocantotrio

Mortimer 2012 WI

Once again Mortimer 2012 WI took part in the Transport Through the Ages Day selling our homemade cakes. This year we shared our stand with local charity Thrive selling plants as well. Thrive is our chosen Charity of the year and we donated a percentage of our profits to them.



This year we will be taking part in the village Remembrance Parade, laying our own wreath in memory of members who have served in our armed forces. Watch out for our next Post Box Topper honouring all servicemen and women who gave their lives in past wars and conflicts.

If you would like to join us, we meet at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Fairground Hall. Or you can contact us on Mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Mortimer Dramatic Society

Mortimer Dramatic Society Presents '**Outside Edge**' - A hilarious cricket comedy by Richard Harris. Set around an amateur cricket match, this wonderfully British comedy follows a colourful group of players, friends and partners as tensions rise both on and off the pitch. Expect plenty of laughs, rivalry, romance and cricketing chaos!

Whether you're a cricket enthusiast or simply enjoy a great comedy, *Outside Edge* promises an entertaining and enjoyable experience for everyone.



Tickets are £20 each — including Full Cricket Tea to your table (sandwiches, savoury snacks, cake etc).

So come along, enjoy the performance, and tuck into some traditional refreshments as part of the occasion. Dates: **23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st October**. Doors open 7:00pm, food served at 7:30 pm.

How to Book: <https://www.mortimer-dramatic.org/shows/outside-edge>

Come and join Mortimer Dramatic Society for an entertaining evening of cricket, comedy and cake! We look forward to seeing you

Mortimer & West End Cricket Club

The Club has just completed its second season as a merged entity and a very busy and enjoyable one it has been. Three teams competed in the Thames Valley League on Saturdays, along with a Sunday team playing friendly fixtures. The U9, U11, U13, and U15 youth teams received weekly professional coaching and competed in the Berkshire Youth League. For the 5-8 year olds we again ran All Stars with support from the ECB.

For the over 55's (mixed - ladies and men), Walking Cricket was successfully launched and we played several competitive fixtures. A soft ball is used so no protective equipment is required and the matches are completed inside 2 hours. Over the winter we will be arranging some indoor Walking Cricket games, so if this appeals to any lapsed cricketers out there of any ability, or you'd just

like to know more, contact the club via our website: www.mandwecc.play-cricket.com

Both our grounds were fully utilised over the season and after two successive hot summers, Club volunteers will be doing quite a bit of remedial work. Improving the outfield at the Fairground is a key objective for us. The Club is investing in an automatic irrigation system for the West End square supplemented with rainwater harvesting. This was made possible by our fundraising activities and support from the Greenham Trust, and included a very enjoyable, Italian-themed wine-tasting evening held at the Fairground Hall. This is an event we expect to repeat in 2027, so do look out for further details.

1st Mortimer Scout Group

What a busy and hectic time we have had since the fire back in April. Whilst all of our sections have carried on Scouting making the most of the fantastic Summer with lots of outdoor activities, our Rover section have been travelling all over Europe attending Scouting workshop, General Assemblies and Rover Moots.

The work to rebuild our HQ has been continuing at pace. We now have a new roof, boiler and heating system, ceilings and first fix for the lighting. But perhaps one of the most exciting things is the installation of solar panels (see photo) which will not only give us free electricity but hopefully generate some much-needed income.



This was only possible thanks to the incredible generosity of our local community MVP, Mortimer Parish Council, West Berks District Council, Greenham Common Trust and the generosity of OVO Energy supplier for supplying all the panels and related equipment at hugely discounted prices, and of course, the support of the wonderful residents of our village of Mortimer and the general public, far and wide, who have so generously contributed to our fund raising.

We hope to be back in our home before Christmas when we plan to hold a big party to celebrate. From us all a big thank you to everyone who has made a contribution, we are truly grateful.

Fairground Hall

The renaming of our Community Centre is now complete, with new signage installed at the car park entrance and on the hall wall. The eagle-eyed among you may have noticed that the word “Hall” was initially missing from the wall sign – but fear not, this should have been put right by the time you read this!

So, if we all get into the habit of calling it **Fairground Hall**, there should be no confusion about where we mean. We’ve already made a number of improvements to the building, but there are plenty more plans in the pipeline to make Fairground Hall an even better facility for the village.

It’s also great to see our regular users making such good use of the hall. We were particularly delighted to hear about the recent success of our friends at **All Stars Theatre Academy**, who competed at the AED National Finals in Eastbourne. They came away as National Champions in the Senior Large Group Global Dance section and were also Runners-Up in the Intermediate Small Group Global Dance section. A fantastic achievement – congratulations to all the dancers, teachers and everyone involved!

Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

BMVB has a new logo with the outline of a car illustrating what we do - taking Mortimer residents to their medical appointments, waiting for them and bringing them back home when they are unable to do so themselves – and showing that we’ve been doing so for over 50 years.



During the first 3 months of 2026 we did 380 drives, serving 355 people. A team of volunteers take phone calls weekdays 9:30 - 11:30am plus the answerphone extends it to cover 24/7. Our volunteer drivers give their time for free and provide their own car. They take people to hospital, local GP, dentist etc. wherever their appointment is, be it as close as Mortimer Surgery or as far as John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The whole of Mortimer is eligible to use this service so, if you have no transport then this means you! Call us on 01189 831814.

Also, if you would like to help Mortimer in this way by joining our volunteer drivers then we look forward to hearing from you – same phone number.

Mortimer Bellringers

The summer has flown by and we've been busy! The weather not only affects the ringers, but also the 120+ year old bell frames. They are wood and support the considerable weight of the bells as they swing. With dry weather, they shrink and the frame becomes loose. We spent several days crawling around the old frames of the three towers, spanners in hand. The amount of tightening needed was considerable, but the effect was that the bells became much easier to ring as they are held rigidly in place.

We rang a quarter peal (45minutes) at Padworth, the first time for our band there for about 25 years. It went really well so we should do this more often. It is good for our technique, concentration and stamina and also sounds great.

Our two learners are coming on fast, and will soon be ringing on a Sunday. It takes time and is very rewarding when one gets the hang of how to ring and be part of producing this lovely traditional sound across the village. We always welcome newcomers, just email me.

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 us:

affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

Affiliate	Contact	Email
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

Affiliate	Contact	Email
Burghfield & District Royal British Legion	Gael Nicholls	gaelnicholls@yahoo.co.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 Produce Show	Ruth Allen	r.allen4@btinternet.com
Burghfield Bowling Club	Charlie Gray	charlie.gray67@gmail.com
Burghfield Bowls Club	Gary Belcher	garybmob@gmail.com
Burghfield Gardening Club	Brian Uttley	brianuttley@yahoo.co.uk
Fairground Hall	Adrian Smith	adrsmith@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 Craft Club	Ann Stroud	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	Rob Wilderspin	info@mortimer-dramatic.org
Mortimer Football Club	Matthew Gabb	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com

Affiliate	Contact	Email
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 Parish Council	Danielle Davis	the.clerk@stratfield- mortimer.gov.uk
Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee	Nicky Richards	administration@ mortimerpreschool.org.uk
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 Table Tennis Club	Jo Thomas	mrsjlthomas@gmail.com
Mortimer Tennis Club	Jean Thomas	info@ mortimertennisclub.co.uk
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
MVP Lunch Club	Rebecca Barker	bbarkerdg11@gmail.com
MVP Theatre Group	Rebecca Barker	mvptheatretrips@gmail.com
Royal British Legion Women's Section Mortimer & District	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

Affiliate	Contact	Email
Stratfield Mortimer Benefice	Sara Spratt	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.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

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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