

# Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

October 2016

All this and more available on our  
website [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

## Enriching Village Life & Protecting It

I always think the MVP year starts in September; after all the work to put on the Fun Day we take July and August off and enjoy the summer holidays, but now we look forward to a busy year ahead.

We hope that people have been using the sunny days and long summer evenings busily constructing their scarecrow masterpieces, which every autumn attract visitors from surrounding areas to walk the Scarecrow Trail. Read more about it in this issue. You will also see lots of other activities and events planned for the coming months, which of course include all of our Christmas celebrations, along with a visiting theatre troupe and the ever popular West End theatre trips.

You will see above the MVP strap line is "Enriching Village Life" and we try to widen this scope beyond just events. Recently, to compliment the very popular Heart Start courses, we were delighted to sponsor a first aid class with specific emphasis on babies and children. With all the young families in Mortimer, we hope this is something that can be a regular item in our calendar.

Still with a focus on first aid, you may recall we announced at the AGM that the MVP would sponsor a defibrillator for the village. We are delighted that, after further research and negotiation, MVP and the Tadley Community First Responders have joined forces to increase this to 3 units distributed around the village, ensuring that wherever you live there will be a defibrillator close by in the event of an emergency.

We hope this is the one piece of work done by the MVP that you will never need, but it is reassuring to know they are there.

**Doug Overett**  
MVP Chairman

# MVP Affiliate News



## **Mortimer Dramatic Society** ([www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org))

Award winning theatre right here in Mortimer: Mortimer Dramatic Society (MDS) is in its 65th year and still going strong.

**MDS Nominated for a Gong:** The society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) who, at their annual general meetings, give awards to the UK's top amateur societies. Each of the 11 regions nominates its winners to the general committee for consideration for the national award. This year two of MDS's productions were nominated at the national level. This is a fantastic achievement which we believe recognises the high standards MDS consistently achieves and puts us in the top rank of amateur dramatic societies nationwide.

**Our Next Production:** We'd like to invite you to come and see our next production, which is a thriller, "The Small Hours" by Francis Durbridge (creator of the fictional detective Paul Temple). Performances are on Friday and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October in St John's Hall. Doors (and the bar) open at 7:15pm and curtain up is at 7:45pm, Tickets are £10 and you can book online at [www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org).

**Come and Get Involved:** We are always open for new members to come and join us. We meet for a social get-together on the second Friday of each month and of course we put on three productions a year. It's not all acting either; we really need help backstage with things like costumes, hair and makeup, props, set decorating and dressing and set-building. So if you're handy with a drill, a wallpaper brush, a hairbrush or a lipstick then we would love to hear from you. Visit our website and email us at: [info@mortimer-dramatic.org](mailto:info@mortimer-dramatic.org) to find out more.

## **Hurst Singers**

Do you enjoy singing? Why not join a choir? Singing in a choir is more than just a bit of fun. It's been scientifically proven that it is good for your health: from getting more oxygen into the blood, to increasing the flow of feel-good hormones and improving mental health. So, what are you waiting for?



The Hurst Singers are a mixed voice SATB choir (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) whose main aim is to have fun singing and making a good sound together. We practice on Thursdays at 7:30pm at St John's Hall in Mortimer and will be working on a varied programme for our Christmas Concert (provisional date 10<sup>th</sup> December). New members with any kind of singing experience are welcome. No audition is needed, just plenty of enthusiasm, commitment and a passion for singing and entertaining others with our music.

If you are interested, please come along to our rehearsals. For more information please contact Mari (933 2805) or Cath ([cathcooper48@gmail.com](mailto:cathcooper48@gmail.com)).

## **Mortimer West End Village Hall** ([www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall))

Mortimer West End Village Hall held its annual Woodland Walk and Treasure Trail in July, which this year ended with a tasty barbecue and a prize draw for the wonderful carved owl donated by Nick Speakman of [www.3dwood.co.uk](http://www.3dwood.co.uk). Our car boot sale in August was also a success, so we have many more events lined up:

### **CAR BOOT SALE - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 8:00am – 12:00pm**

Thanks to all those who came along on the first Sunday in August. Your next chance to grab yourself some bargains will be on the first Sunday in October. Entry is free and pitches are £5 from [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com) or 970 0001.



### **QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm**

With a trophy at stake, pit your wits against the best in the village at the annual quiz night. Tickets £8.50 (to include a ploughman's supper) are available from [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com) or 970 0001. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

### **PHOTO SESSION - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 10:00am**

Wondering what to give the grandparents for Christmas? How about a beautiful photograph of the family? Come down to Mortimer West End Village Hall for a photographic session. Full details will be available nearer the time on [www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall) and [www.facebook.com/groups/Mortimervillagepartnership](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Mortimervillagepartnership).

For further information about any of these events please call 970 0001 or email [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com). If you would like to be added to our list of "friends" and receive updates about Mortimer West End events, please let us know on [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com).

## **Mortimer 2012 W.I.**

In October we will be celebrating our 4th birthday; how time flies!

During this time we have enjoyed a diverse selection of speakers. We have learnt about the origin of Madame Tussauds, listened to tales from the opera in song, and discovered the Secret of the Box; intriguing. More recently, Malcolm Nelson told us about his 40 years of catching smugglers at Heathrow. This was an open meeting and we were pleased to welcome many visitors who enjoyed it as much as we did.

Our next open meeting will be on 4<sup>th</sup> January when Andrew Port will talk about his life with the elite of sport. After such a successful Olympic & Paralympic Games this promises to be very interesting, so do come along and join us at 7:30pm in the Community Centre. Everyone is welcome.

Details of all our forthcoming meetings can be found on the MVP Calendar and on the village notice boards prior to each monthly meeting.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

## South Berks Concert Band ([www.southberksmusic.org.uk](http://www.southberksmusic.org.uk))

South Berks Concert Band wishes to welcome music lovers to the third of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert Series. The programme of music for the evening will be made up from pieces which have been voted for by the band, hence the aptly named title "Our Favourite Music". The concert will include Folk Song Suite by Vaughan Williams, Moment for Morricone, MacArthur Park and Pirates of the Caribbean, as well as the piece written especially for us to celebrate 40 years of bringing music to the community, Highdays & Holidays – The Mortimer Revel, by the world famous composer Philip Sparke.

I'm sure some of you will have seen us this year at the Queen's Birthday celebrations and you may have joined us in the marquee in July, but this will be the first time we have had the opportunity to play for you in the wonderful St John's C of E church. We are also pleased to announce that the band will be led for this concert by Rob Wiffin OBE, ex-Director of Music for the Royal Air Force. On leaving the RAF, Rob spent much of his time conducting orchestras, wind ensembles and many of the country's finest brass bands and is presently Professor of Conducting at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Visiting Professor of Conducting for the Royal Air Force, and he also teaches postgraduates conducting, composition and arranging.

As well as the wonderful programme of music, you will also have the opportunity to view and buy paintings by Ann Proctor and photographs taken by Sue Totham. We have been fortunate to be joined throughout the year by Sue as she makes a photographic record of our anniversary celebrations and we are pleased that she will be showcasing some of her other subjects at our event.

We are really looking forward to putting on this concert with our special guest conductor but what will be even more special is if you can join us to make it a truly wonderful evening, so please check out the details below and purchase your tickets NOW!!!!

**Concert date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30pm @ St John's C of E Church, Victoria Rd, Mortimer Common, RG7 3SY.**

Tickets available from Dads Shop, just £8.00 in advance (£10.00 on the door) per adult, free for accompanied children under 16. Alternatively call the Box Office on: 07775 988798 or email: [southberksconcertband@yahoo.com](mailto:southberksconcertband@yahoo.com).

Follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband](http://www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband) or on Twitter @SBCBMusic.



## **Mortimer Tennis Club** ([www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk](http://www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk))



Mortimer Tennis Club not only offers social tennis for members on Tuesday and Thursday evenings but also competes in the Basingstoke and District Tennis League, playing teams as far afield as Andover and Winchester. We also arrange various social events and friendly club tournaments over our season, which runs from April to September.

This year MTC has entered four teams into the League: two Mixed, one Men's and one Ladies. Home matches are played on a Saturday or Sunday morning (our thanks to anybody that picks up the wayward balls and throws them back!), and away matches are weekday evenings. We have had mixed results this year (probably not our best year to be honest) but some great tennis has been played and enjoyed by our members.

For some, the social aspect of playing in a team is often more important than the winning - others have higher expectations, and in previous years we have had teams playing in Division one. This means the Club offers something for all abilities. The Club does not have the resources to cater for juniors, but junior coaching is available from our local coach who also runs regular club drill sessions for those interested in improving their game and fitness.

It would be great to have more members, so whether you just want to improve your fitness and play socially or help us get back up there in the League, make a note to come along next April, whatever standard you are. Adult membership is only £40, £70 for a couple or just £75 for a family. Why not watch what's happening on Facebook, check us out at [www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk](http://www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk), or just come along to the courts to have a chat.

## **Burghfield Camera Club** ([www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk))

Our Mission Statement is: "Through a friendly and varied programme of development activities, we inspire our members to continuously improve their photographic skills."



The 2016/17 programme started on 1<sup>st</sup> September with our Chairman's Evening which reviewed the forthcoming programme and featured a talk by a member on travel photography. The initial workshops have focussed on moving off automatic, preparing for competitions and editing. Full details of the club's programme can be found at [www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk).

We are always looking for new members, so why not join Burghfield Camera Club to learn how to improve your skills, or come along and share your knowledge.

We are a friendly group who normally meet on Thursday evenings (7:45pm) at St Oswald's Church Hall, Abbey Park, Burghfield Common, RG7 3HQ.

We look forward to seeing you.

## Together In Mission



We are delighted that the Parish Council invited Café B to provide refreshments at the Pavilion on Burghfield Common Recreation Ground again this year. A selection of drinks and tasty snacks will be served at the Pavilion on Fridays 11:30am - 4:30pm, with take-away or outdoor seating available.

On the second Monday of each month between 9am and 1pm, the Advice Club at Café B in Burghfield Methodist Church Hall is a 'one stop shop' of advice, information and support for the whole community with Gemma from the Emotional Health Academy.

Burghfield and Area School Pastors have recently welcomed a new Coordinator, Libby Hawkness-Smith. School Pastors continue their presence at The Willink during Tuesday lunchtimes in term-time and plan to add another day at the School in the autumn term.

Burghfield Silver Sunday is an annual event on the first Sunday in October (12pm-3pm) organised by TiM at the Burghfield CSA. There will be a roast lunch followed by some wonderful entertainment. If you are reading this **before** Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and would like to join us, please call the TiM Friends coordinator, Bev French, **immediately** to check for last minute availability on 07748 686 615.

A monthly get-together for gentlemen only, our Gentlemen's Lunch Club, held at the Six Bells in Burghfield, is organised by two of our volunteers, Alan and Steve. Lifts can be organised.

For more information on TiM services [contact admin@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:admin@togetherinmission.org.uk).

## St John's Infant School PFA



The Parents and Friends Association at Mortimer St John's Infant School has been keeping busy with successful fundraising events this summer, including the May Fair, Exercise Day, Kids on the Catwalk and a Splat the Rat stall at the awesome Mortimer Fun Day.

Dates to put in your diary this autumn/winter include:

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – Pamper Night 6pm-11pm.** There will be beauticians offering mini-treatments including massage, facials, nails, toes, holistic treatments, make up and much more, plus stalls selling a variety of goodies. There will also be wine and soft drinks available.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016 – Mortimer Bonfire Night & Firework Display.** This year our bonfire night will actually be taking place on the very night the Gunpowder Plot was foiled! This is always a wonderful event with a licensed bar, food and family entertainment, kindly sponsored by King Street Garage and Parkers Estate Agents. Held on Drury Lane, the gates by Summerlug will open at 5pm, with tickets on sale soon from Budgens, Dads shop, Weller's, McColl's and The Baobab (ex-Post Office): watch out on social media and notice boards for more details.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Christmas Fair & Second Hand Sale.** Lots of lovely stalls, face painting and much more to get you into the festive spirit.

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – Exercise Day.** Burn off all the excess calories from December by taking part in our Exercise day. Run by a qualified fitness instructor this class is suitable for men and women of all ages and abilities.

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 – Band Night with The Vibe.** Back by popular demand, this promises to be a brilliant night out in Mortimer. The Vibe play a variety of well-known songs from across the decades, so get your dancing shoes ready and prepare to boogie.

Further details of all these events will appear on the MVP Facebook page and posters around the village. All events, bar the Fireworks Display, will take place at Mortimer St John's infant school, so please come along and support a local school.

## Music For Mortimer



Kingsclere Guitar Society, an 8-piece classical guitar group brings its new concert programme to Mortimer for one night only on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November at St John's Hall from 7:45pm (doors & licensed bar open at 7:15pm).

They'll play a diverse range of music from Gershwin and Mancini to The Beatles. Planned special guests include teenage soprano Juliette Ashman performing Purcell's haunting "Fairest Isle".

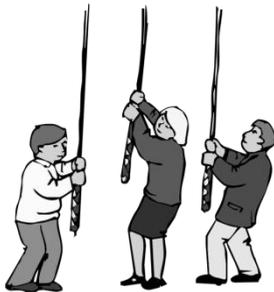
Entry is free, but there will be a collection for St Michael's Hospice in memory of the Society's former leader, Tim Gilson, who performed in Mortimer in 2013 at the music festival and at Spratley's, but who sadly died in 2015.

Please arrive promptly to ensure a seat because a capacity turnout is expected. For more information visit [www.MFM.LIFE](http://www.MFM.LIFE) or call 07446 239239.

## Mortimer Film Club

Our new 10-film season includes Bridge of Spies, Suffragette and Fargo, shown monthly in the Community Centre with doors open from 19:30 for a 20:00 screening. Entry is £5 per film or only £35 for annual membership. For dates and other details visit the MVP website or contact Pete Blagden on 0118 933 2546.

# Mortimer Bellringers



We are a group of enthusiastic ringers of varying ages and skill levels, with responsibility for the 6 bells at St John's, the 8 bells at St Mary's and the 6 bells at Padworth. We ring every Sunday before the church service at St John's, though many of us are not members of the church, and we practise on a Monday, either at St John's or St Mary's. We ring for weddings and to commemorate national events, be it the opening of the London Olympics, the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday or the centenary of the death of a village soldier in World War I.

The bells and the ringing chambers are maintained by the ringers, though occasionally the bells, which are over 100 years old, need specialist maintenance; you may have seen on the MVP Facebook page or on the local news information about all the work that has recently been completed on the frame and bells at St John's.

Bell ringing is a real team activity and offers both an intellectual and physical challenge, the latter being a challenge of co-ordination rather than physical effort. The Christmas card interpretation of ringers hanging from the end of a bell rope is wildly exaggerated!

So why not come and see for yourself. Visitors and potential new ringers are always welcome and we would be happy to teach anybody who would like to learn to ring.

For more information please contact Penny Wallace, [j.pennywallace@gmail.com](mailto:j.pennywallace@gmail.com) or Peter MacNaughtan, [petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com](mailto:petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com).

## Mortimer Music Live ([www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk](http://www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk))

Straight after the Mortimer Fun Day, once again Mortimer Music Live (MML) transformed the marquee from a Market Row into a top class concert venue supported by 500 locals.

State 51, a band formed at Willink School, kicked the event off in tremendous style. They performed a fantastic mix of original and cover songs to the crowd, and were preceded by local solo artist Charlotte Pattenden.

This set the stage for 'Rule the World', the only Take That and Robbie tribute band that have appeared with, and are approved by, Gary Barlow and the original Take That. They performed many of their classics, gave a fantastic performance that involved the crowd, and had close to 500 people dancing and singing along with them. The atmosphere was electric from start to finish.

MML put up an excellent and very professional sound and lighting set that enhanced the performance of the bands and the overall event. Thanks go to all of our volunteers and team members who helped to make this such a good event. We know they have even better plans for 2017, so keep your eyes peeled for when tickets go on sale next year.

# MVP Support for Local Groups



Affiliated groups and contact details for 2016 are:

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts and Tao Explorer Unit	<a href="mailto:burghfieldgsl@outlook.com">burghfieldgsl@outlook.com</a>	
1st Mortimer Brownies	<a href="mailto:firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk">firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk</a>	933 3153
1st Mortimer Scouts	<a href="mailto:neilpjohnson@btinternet.com">neilpjohnson@btinternet.com</a>	933 2147
1st Ufton Nernet Scouts	<a href="mailto:cathryn@uftonscouts.com">cathryn@uftonscouts.com</a>	07793 196863
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	<a href="mailto:trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk">trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk</a>	
Berkshire Music & Arts	<a href="mailto:hazel@berksmusicandarts.org.uk">hazel@berksmusicandarts.org.uk</a>	07802 447546
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	<a href="mailto:pichurch@btinternet.com">pichurch@btinternet.com</a>	983 6611
Burghfield Camera Club	<a href="mailto:burghfieldcc@gmail.com">burghfieldcc@gmail.com</a>	
Friday Afternoon Club	<a href="mailto:d.stroud2010@btinternet.com">d.stroud2010@btinternet.com</a>	933 1419
Mortimer Music Live (MML)	<a href="mailto:jaqsgrant@btinternet.com">jaqsgrant@btinternet.com</a>	933 3408
Mortimer & District branch of the RNLI	<a href="mailto:j.r.bull@btinternet.com">j.r.bull@btinternet.com</a>	933 3741
Mortimer 2012 W.I	<a href="mailto:malekin@aol.com">malekin@aol.com</a>	933 1331
Mortimer Bellringers	<a href="mailto:petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com">petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com</a>	933 2200
Mortimer Cricket Club	<a href="mailto:adrsmith@gmail.com">adrsmith@gmail.com</a>	
Mortimer Dramatic Society	<a href="mailto:tshorrock@mrmerlin.com">tshorrock@mrmerlin.com</a>	07785 333321
Mortimer Film Club	<a href="mailto:pete.blagden@btinternet.com">pete.blagden@btinternet.com</a>	933 2546
Mortimer Gardening Club	<a href="mailto:johncregan714@yahoo.com">johncregan714@yahoo.com</a>	933 3040
Mortimer Local History Club	<a href="mailto:munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk">munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk</a>	933 1310
Mortimer Netball Club	<a href="mailto:joannesparrow@btinternet.com">joannesparrow@btinternet.com</a>	933 1301
Mortimer St John's PFA	<a href="mailto:katrina.thomas@hotmail.co.uk">katrina.thomas@hotmail.co.uk</a>	07788 281535
Mortimer St Mary's PTA	<a href="mailto:mortstmarys@gmail.com">mortstmarys@gmail.com</a>	
Mortimer Tennis Club	<a href="mailto:info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk">info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk</a>	
Mortimer Toddler Group	<a href="mailto:louise_mugridge@sky.com">louise_mugridge@sky.com</a>	07875 091066
Mortimer West End Annual Show	<a href="mailto:melonybennett93@gmail.com">melonybennett93@gmail.com</a>	07963 129223
Mortimer West End Village Hall	<a href="mailto:mwevh@outlook.com">mwevh@outlook.com</a>	933 2155
Music for Mortimer	<a href="mailto:nickcarter1@gmail.com">nickcarter1@gmail.com</a>	07446 239 239
Santas of Burghfield	<a href="mailto:glyn.townsend@hpe.com">glyn.townsend@hpe.com</a>	07824 623 583
South Berks Concert Band	<a href="mailto:southberksconcertband@yahoo.com">southberksconcertband@yahoo.com</a>	07759 967474
St Mary's, Sulhamstead Abbots	<a href="mailto:pisumcorporum@btinternet.com">pisumcorporum@btinternet.com</a>	983 2491
The Hurst Singers	<a href="mailto:mariatseasons@aol.com">mariatseasons@aol.com</a>	933 2805
Together in Mission (TiM)	<a href="mailto:info@togtherinmission.org.uk">info@togtherinmission.org.uk</a>	933 2569
West Berkshire Walking for Health	<a href="mailto:gb@atpps.com">gb@atpps.com</a>	933 1707
Willink School PTA	<a href="mailto:WPTA@willink.w-berks.sch.uk">WPTA@willink.w-berks.sch.uk</a>	

## Upcoming MVP Events

### **Scarecrow Trail – Thank You For The Music!**

Put on your walking shoes, jump on your bikes and hop on your skateboards as the Scarecrow Trail returns with this year's autumn half-term holiday. Running from Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October inclusive, the scarecrows will be on show daily from 9am to dusk. The trail finishes at 4:00pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>.



This year's theme, Thank You For The Music, is based around any character with a musical link, be it pop stars, opera singers, a favourite children's song, songs from musicals, football anthems... the list goes on! It will be an excellent way of keeping the kids – both small and not so small – entertained during the half term week. Trail followers will be able to vote for their choice of scarecrow in three categories and have the chance to win £50 in the trail competition. The “Just For Fun” quiz will be about the characters and their musical links - make sure you are armed with paper and pen.

Costing just £1, trail maps will be available from Budgens and Dads Shop from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Budgens is once again kindly providing a voucher with each trail map purchased that can be exchanged for selected products in the shop (terms and conditions apply).

If you wish to be amongst the first to know the winners of this year's trail, then come along to the Community Centre on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October from 6pm - 6:30pm.

Our thanks go to the scarecrow makers, sponsors and supporters, all of whom help to make the Scarecrow Trail an enjoyable, viable and affordable community event.

For further information, email [scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook.

**Go on, follow the Scarecrow Trail and join in the fun!**

### **Theatre Group**

Our next sell out trip is on 15<sup>th</sup> November to see Thriller, followed in December by a trip to the Royal Albert Hall for the annual Christmas Carols. If you are interested in joining the mailing list to be advised of future trips please email Rebecca on: [bbarkerdg11@gmail.com](mailto:bbarkerdg11@gmail.com).



## Defibrillators

Three publicly accessible defibrillators will be installed in Mortimer around the time you read this article. Two have been funded by Mortimer Village Partnership and the third by Tadley Community First Responders, who are also kindly taking on the maintenance of all three.

They will be installed in highly visible, secure, metal cabinets at the following locations:

- On the outside of the Sansome & George office on West End Road
- On the outside of The Horse & Groom on The Street
- On the outside of Mortimer Surgery on Victoria Road

These locations provide reasonable coverage of the most built up part of the village. Thank you to these three businesses for agreeing to provide sites for the boxes; this also involves providing electricity to keep the boxes at an even temperature.



If you call the emergency services with a relevant medical emergency you may be directed to go and collect the nearest defibrillator. You will be given the code to open the box in order to gain access to the defibrillator. You don't need any training to use the defibrillator – all the instructions are included. You can help save someone's life, so don't hesitate if directed to do so by the emergency services.

## Santa's Grotto & Mini Christmas Market

Santa is very busy in his workshop making lots of Christmas presents with all his elves, but he has agreed to make a special visit to Mortimer on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in St John's Hall from 12pm until 5pm, as he has heard that the children in Mortimer have been particularly good this year.

Tickets will be £4 per child and go on sale after the Scarecrow Trail has finished, so look out on our Facebook page and noticeboards for further information. Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day. In addition there will be a lovely mini Christmas market with a variety of craft stalls so you can purchase your Christmas gifts whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine or a lovely cup of tea.



## MVP AGM & Mortimer Spring Clean

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING**

An early date for your diary is 11<sup>th</sup> March 2017 when we will be running the annual Spring Clean and hosting the MVP AGM afterwards. More details will come in the February Newsletter.

## Lunch Club

Lunch Club meets twice a month for a light lunch and the chance for the older people in our community to socialise. It is run entirely by volunteers, so we are always looking for people who can make a regular commitment to the club – it doesn't have to be both lunches in the month. In particular we are looking for people who can spare twenty minutes of their time to collect people from their homes, bring them to Lunch Club and take them home afterwards. All our lunch guests come from either Mortimer or Burghfield, so no extensive driving is required.

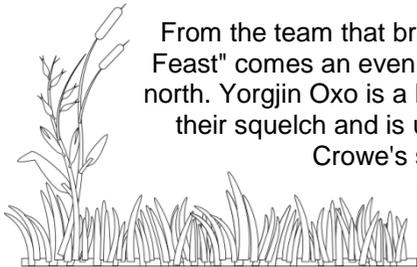
If you think you might be able to help out please email Rebecca for more details ([bbarkerdg11@gmail.com](mailto:bbarkerdg11@gmail.com)). If you are interested in joining Lunch Club or if you know of someone who may benefit from a little company then please call Cindy on 0118 988 2676.



## Silver Sunday

Some of you may remember the Government initiative of some years ago to acknowledge and appreciate the contribution that the older generation bring to our communities. Well, for Mortimer this is the third Silver Sunday we will be holding. Plans are well underway to provide a hot lunch plus entertainment for 40-50 people. This is organised entirely by volunteers with the generosity of businesses and everyday people in our community, so if you see large trays of shepherd's pie and apple crumble converging on the Methodist Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, you will know just what it is all about!

## MVP Presents: Yorgjin Oxo – A Winter's Saga of Courage and Love



From the team that brought you "It's a Wonderful Life" and "The Iranian Feast" comes an evening of story and song from the lands of the far, far north. Yorgjin Oxo is a Marshlander who can tell a person by the sound of their squelch and is unlike any hero we might actually meet. Thomas Crowe's script fizzles with humour, larger than life characters and explores a place quite unlike our own. Join us for a tale of soggy nights, brave mice and the joys of being alive.

This wonderful play will be presented in St John's Hall on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February at 7:30pm. Tickets are £15 per person and are on sale later this year, so look out on social media and on notice boards for more information.

# Christmas Pantomime

Get ready; it's almost time to book your Panto tickets! Oh yes it is!



MVP is proud to announce Gary Starr Touring Productions will bring Dick Whittington to St Johns Hall, Mortimer on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Join Dick on his adventure to the great city of London, where legend said the streets were paved with gold! Along the way he will meet a cast of exciting characters including the mischievous cat Tommy, Mr. Fitzwarren and his daughter Alice, and Sarah, the not-so-nice cook!

Due to demand, there will again be 3 shows at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm, each running for 90 mins including a 15 minute interval. The box office will open Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October with a special Early Bird offer: book in the first 7 days and enjoy discounted tickets. Tickets start from just £8 for children (Under 17yrs) and £11 for adults when you book before midnight 15<sup>th</sup> October. After then prices will rise to £9.50 for children & £12.50 for adults.

For more information and details on how to book, see posters around the village or visit [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk). Alternatively, join our Panto VIP Club to get the inside line on how you can bag your tickets to this magical family pantomime: simply email [boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk) and ask to join.

This traditional Christmas Pantomime will have you feeling festive and is guaranteed to have you joining in with all the “*he’s behind you*”s! A magical pantomime suitable for the whole family - not to be missed!

We are also looking for volunteers to help for a couple of hours on 11<sup>th</sup> December. We need assistance with set up, running the bar and tuckshop, managing door admissions and clear up for each show. For more information, or if you can offer your time, please email Julia at [volunteer@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@mortimervillage.org.uk).

## Recent MVP Events

### Mortimer Fun Day - Rain didn't stop play!



The 12 o'clock deluge didn't dampen the spirits of the thousands of people who joined together for this summer's Mortimer Fun Day and, after shaking off the effects of a 5-minute monsoon, we were all rewarded with a beautiful day.

This year's headline arena event, the 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team put on a thrilling display as well as teaching the youngsters (and not so young) a few tricks in their “have a try” sessions. The All Stars

Theatre Academy, Virtue School of Gymnastics, Starmaker Theatre Company and our friends from Mortimer Fire Brigade kept everyone entertained all afternoon, and The Reading Scottish Pipe Band once again brought the day to a magnificent finale.

We were delighted to have so many local organisations running a diverse range of activities from the always popular welly wanging and coconut shy to Calor's own creation of giant gas bottle hoopla. The Fun Day is a major fund raising opportunity for so many organisations including the Women's Institute, local youth groups, sports clubs as well as charities that are close to all of our hearts, including The Guide Dogs and Air Ambulance.

The Market Row was busier than ever with a wide range of arts & crafts, fashion items, food stalls, etc. It was a much nicer shopping experience than Reading town centre!

We must highlight the contributions from our sponsors, who not only make the day possible financially, but who also join in with activities and stalls. Sadly, after an enormous amount of work, the Spratley's & Village Eye hot air balloon was not able to operate due to unsafe windy conditions. Budgens, with particular help from Bramley Bakery, brought us a fantastic MVP Refreshment Tent and Dads Shop celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year with a great display of outdoor furniture. Triangle Travel, the Post Office, McColl's, David Cliff, Calor, Unique Outdoors, J Mould, CTS, Westbuild Homes, Davis Tate and Dara Portraits were all fantastic in their generosity. A big THANK YOU to all.

Many people will have noticed that we have invested in new marquees and gazebos to replace tired and damaged equipment. Our stores are now full with equipment for future Fun Days; all we need now is some fresh volunteers to replace a few exhausted ones taking a well-deserved rest so that we can look forward to another successful Fun Day in 2017. If you can help please email [doug.overett@gmail.com](mailto:doug.overett@gmail.com).

## **Baby & Child First Aid Training**

On 21<sup>st</sup> September MVP ran our very first Baby & Child First Aid Training event at St John's Village Hall. The MVP Committee felt it was important for the many families that live in Mortimer to have the benefit of attending this life saving training on their doorstep.

At the time of writing, the training has yet to take place, but it is hoped that there will be a high turnout and many parents, grandparents and carers will enjoy learning from it. The friendly and relaxed first aid class will be taught by Rachel from Ladybird First Aid, a mum of two and a qualified First Aid Instructor. The class will focus purely on treatment for babies and children under 12, and will cover what to do in the following circumstances: CPR / choking / burns / head injuries / seizures / febrile convulsions.



If you were unable to attend this class but would like to register your interest in future classes, please contact [gemmaemelza@gmail.com](mailto:gemmaemelza@gmail.com).

## **Lunch Club**

After being thwarted by the lack of a suitable coach to take the ladies and gents from the MVP Lunch Club on their annual outing, TK Travel came to our rescue and our trip to Beale Park could take place. After weeks of lovely weather, Mother Nature did not look kindly on us and the forecast was not good. However the old folks of this village are made of sterner stuff and, equipped with pack-a-macs and brollies, 22 people descended on the Park. We had the place virtually to ourselves, which allowed us to wander gently around the exhibits and enjoy a leisurely train ride around the grounds. It was a lovely day made possible by a generous donation to the Lunch Club by BT, so a BIG THANK YOU from all of us to both BT and TK Travel.



## **Theatre Group**

44 people from the MVP Theatre Group went to Windsor on 23<sup>rd</sup> August to see the Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company perform The Pirates of Penzance. This was the latest in a series of trips we have made to the Theatre Royal in Windsor and is a favourite venue of many. By leaving Mortimer early, the opportunity to have a leisurely meal on a lovely summer's evening was a bonus. Everyone was able to enjoy themselves without the hassle of driving to the venue and having to abstain from a glass or two, since Stewarts Coaches provided a comfortable, swift and professional service which was appreciated by all.

## **Other Local News**

### **Burghfield, Mortimer & District Food Bank – Summer School Meals Support**

The Burghfield, Mortimer and District Food Bank is one of the many initiatives set up by Churches Together in Burghfield, Sulhamstead and Mortimer to support local people in need. Thanks to the generosity of local residents and local charitable organizations, the Food Bank has been able to assist local families who would normally receive free school meals, and who therefore find it difficult to cope with the increased grocery expense during the holiday period. A range of long-life and fresh products were chosen to ensure children need not go hungry during the day, even if parents have to go to work.

Twenty families registered an interest through the Willink School and were given food vouchers which were exchangeable for two carrier bags of groceries and fresh food on a weekly basis. We were even able to cater for dietary considerations and offer a

limited number of alternatives from one week to the next, such as a choice of jam, marmalade or marmite, a choice of cereals, different types of milk, apples or bananas, different cooked meats, etc. Two volunteers from six churches in Burghfield, Sulhamstead and Mortimer took it in turn to staff the Food Bank & Food Store.



At the end of the six-week period we received some lovely thank you cards and letters. It was very humbling to meet the families and to see their determination to overcome the adversities with which they are currently confronted.

Churches Together would like to thank everyone who makes a regular donation to the Food Bank at the various collection points, the volunteers who worked so hard collecting the goods and packing them, and Sainsbury's, Pound-World and Bugden's, for the generous support and discounts they gave us.

If anyone would like to know more about the Food Bank, would like to donate food or time to this initiative, or would like to know how they can refer a local family in need of support, they should contact the Food Bank on 07770 56 56 25.

### **MVP Contact Details**

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*All MVP meetings are open to participation from anyone; all we ask is that you are interested in making Mortimer a vibrant and fun place to live. We are fortunate to have many who regularly work with MVP on particular projects such as the website, Facebook page, looking after our equipment or helping to organise our annual events.*

*You are most welcome regardless of how much or little time you have to give. **General enquiries** can be made via:*

[www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)

We are very grateful for the continuing support of Greenham Common Trust; they contribute half the cost of printing this newsletter which is delivered free of charge to 2000 households.

