

Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

February 2018

All this and more available on our
website www.mortimervillage.org.uk



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

What Is The MVP?

In October last year the Mortimer Community Survey set out to determine the level of knowledge and interest residents have in village life, which included seeing if people knew what the MVP and many other hard-working local organisations were doing.

Despite the growing population of Mortimer, estimated at over 4000, and with over 3000 people subscribed to the MVP Facebook page, many of whom are usually more than happy to provide constructive criticism, disappointingly few people took the trouble to provide feedback in the form of survey responses. Notwithstanding the low returns, as we analyse the results we will certainly get some useful data, which we hope will help to inform the MVP committee, the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council and other local groups.

Without giving the long answer to the headline question, the Mortimer Village Partnership is an umbrella group working with the community to fulfil its objective of "enriching village life" through a range of enjoyable and worthwhile activities, such as the Fun Day, the annual spring clean and so many other events focused on supporting people in our community who need a helping hand. You will find lots of information about many of these in this edition of our Newsletter.

What most people don't realise is that the MVP Committee is a group of only around a dozen people, which is approximately 0.3% of the village population, so we could very much use some extra regular help if you'd like to volunteer.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Doug Overett
MVP Chairman

MVP Affiliate Groups Contact List

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Explorer unit	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com	07867 800 335
1st Mortimer Baden Powell Scout Group	neilpjohnson@btinternet.com	933 2147
1st Mortimer Brownies	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk	933 3153
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	cathryn@uftonscouts.com	07793 196 863
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk	
Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders	davidgregory2000@gmail.com	
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	pichurch@btinternet.com	983 3694
Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Drivers	dereksewardbhhh3@gmail.com	983 3341 07947 687 462
Burghfield Camera Club	davehucker@hotmail.com	
Churches Together	deaconjohn@spring-lane.co.uk	327 4120
Friday Afternoon club	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com	
Made In Mortimer	wellandemma@hotmail.com	
MML	info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk	07779 939 495
Mortimer & District Branch of the RNLI	j.r.bull@btinternet.com	933 3741
Mortimer 2012 WI	malelkin@aol.com	933 1331
Mortimer Bell Ringers	petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com	933 2200
Mortimer Cricket Club	adrsmith@gmail.com	
Mortimer Dramatic Society	tshorrock@mrmrmerlin.com	07785 333 321
Mortimer FC	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com	07786 631 027
Mortimer Film Club	pete.blagden@btinternet.com	933 2546
Mortimer Garden Club	angiephilips@btinternet.com	
Mortimer Life	nickcarter1@gmail.com	07446 239 239
Mortimer Local History Group	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk	933 1310
Mortimer Methodist Church	amfoymusic@gmail.com	933 3689
Mortimer Netball Club	sjkape@hotmail.co.uk	
Mortimer Surgery PPG	grobinsom.email@btinternet.com	983 2377
Mortimer Tennis Club	jean.l.thomas@btinternet.com	
Mortimer Toddler Group	mortimertoddlers@gmail.com	933 2620
Mortimer West End Produce Show	melonybennet93@gmail.com	933 1792
Mortimer West End Village Hall	mwevh@outlook.com.	970 0001
Santas of Burghfield	glyn.townsend@hpe.com	07824 623 583
South Berks Concert Band	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com	07785 311 856
St Mary's Junior School PTA	mortstmarys@gmail.com	07712 776 555
Sulhamstead & Ufton Events (SUN-E)	pisumcorporum@btinternet.com	983 2491
The Hurst Singers	mariatseasons@aol.com	933 2805 07882 404 337
Together in Mission	info@togetherinmission.org.uk	933 2569
West Berkshire Walking 4 Health	g.bedford414@btinternet.com	07943 840 414 933 2082
Willink PTA	pta@willink.w-berks.sch.uk	

MVP Affiliate News

West Berkshire Walking for Health (www.westberks.gov.uk/wfh)

In July we had a stand at the Mortimer Fun Day for the first time to promote the benefits of walking to improve your health and fitness. There was a lot of interest and as a result two new walks were introduced, one on a Monday evening and one on a Tuesday morning. On Tuesdays there are always three walks led by trained experienced walk leaders, commencing from the community centre car park opposite the Horse & Groom public house.

The walks are free of charge and are as follows: 09:45 - a long walk of approximately 5¹/₄ miles lasting 1³/₄ hrs to 2 hrs, 10:00 - a medium walk of approximately 3¹/₂ miles taking around 1¹/₂ hrs, and at 10:30 - a short gentle walk mainly on flat terrain of approximately 1¹/₂ to 2 miles which lasts about 1 hr. This walk is especially for people who are inactive or do little physical activity but would like to start walking, perhaps returning from illness or injury. Proof that walking helps is that 3 people from the short walk at 10:30 upgraded to the medium walk after 2 months.

The walks are very well supported and average between 50-60 people each week, coming from the surrounding local villages including Basingstoke, Newbury & Tilehurst. At the end of the walk why not join us for coffee and chat in the Horse & Groom pub.

The Monday evening walk was very popular and attracted people from the surrounding villages too. We had to cease this walk at the beginning of October due to reduced daylight hours. However, the walk will commence again approximately mid-April as soon as the evening light improves.

Our walks are friendly, welcoming and empowering. They are a great opportunity to explore the outdoors, discover new places and meet new people. We welcome new walkers of all abilities, so if you are interested in one of our free of charge walks, just arrive 15 minutes before the walk starts and make yourself known to one of the walk leaders wearing a fluorescent jacket. Visit our website above for more information.



Mortimer Methodist Church

Bric-a-brac sales and coffee mornings take place on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month throughout the year at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall from 10:00 'til noon. Why not come along and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits whilst catching up with friends, or even making new ones? There are delicious home-made cakes on the 1st Saturday of the month too.

Browse the many pre-loved items at the bric-a-brac sale; you never know what you may find! All proceeds go to charitable causes. A warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Mortimer Film Club

All screenings of the Mortimer Film Club take place in the Mortimer Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom pub, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Doors open at 19:30 and the film starts at 20:00. Guests are charged £5 per film. Hot drinks and cakes are available before the screening. Our coming attractions are:

- 21st February – Viceroy's House
- 21st March – Murder By Death
- 18th April – Hidden Figures
- 16th May – Sully
- 20th June – The Bicycle Thieves



Burghfield Camera Club (www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk)



The Camera Club's 2017/18 programme is well underway with several new members joining at the beginning of the season. We have had interesting and informative external speakers presenting on topics such as Eccentric London and Live Music Photography, plus internal workshops on topics including Taking Control of Your Camera, Portraiture and Preparing for Competitions. In addition, we have had four internal competitions and participate in external competitions against other clubs.

If you're interested in photography, regardless of skill level, come and join us for an evening with a view to joining. Full details can be found on the website above.

Mortimer Dramatic Society (www.mortimer-dramatic.org)

The Mortimer Dramatic Society Club Nights are social events and take the form of quizzes, games nights, film singalongs etc. MDS meets regularly on the second Friday of each month in St. Johns Hall for our Club Nights.



Everyone is welcome to come along to get to know the group and find out what we do. Contact us via our website (above) or email: info@mortimer-dramatic.org.

Mortimer & District Branch of the RNLI



There will be a books & bric-a-brac spring clearance sale in support of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution at St John's Hall on Saturday 17th March from 09:00 to 13:00.

Mortimer Tennis Club (www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk)



Mortimer Tennis Club not only offers social tennis for members on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday evenings but also competes in the Basingstoke and District Tennis League, playing teams as far afield as Andover and Winchester. We arrange various social events and friendly club tournaments each season, which runs from April to September. It won't be long now before our new season is upon us, so if you are looking to get yourself fitter in 2018 and combine it with meeting new people, why not consider joining our friendly club?

The club's WhatsApp group is such a simple but immediate way to check who's likely to be available to play before setting off to the courts. It might be raining in Burghfield but still dry enough to play in Mortimer. Unfortunately, it's not just the rain that has been a problem on the courts. There are some in the village that think it fun to throw glass bottles onto the courts and watch them break. This anti-social behaviour is not only time consuming to clear up but quite a hazard to anyone using the courts. If anyone sees it happen, please report it to the authorities.

We are hoping to continue with our Tuesday evening coaching sessions run by Lauren, an experienced LTA coach who has also been running sessions for youngsters from 3 years of age after school finishes and prior to our club night. Anyone interested in tennis coaching or kids' activities should contact her on: laurenwbtennis@hotmail.co.uk

It's been a mixed year for our teams playing in the Basingstoke league. We were sad to say goodbye to some long-standing members, but we wish them well and hope they are still enjoying their tennis wherever they play. Even with a healthy number of new members, not all want to compete in league matches so we've struggled to enter as many teams in the League. Only one Mixed, one Men's and one Ladies team were entered for the Summer and Winter leagues. Home matches are played on Saturday or Sunday mornings and away matches can be weekday evenings or on the weekends.

Mortimer 2012 W.I.

Mortimer 2012 WI celebrated our 5th anniversary in October. We meet in the Community Centre on the first Wednesday of every month at 19:30 and each meeting is advertised on the Parish Noticeboards.



Recently, members have enjoyed a varied programme of events including a talk on the history of John Lewis, a visit to Warings Bakery in Tilehurst and our hugely enjoyable craft evening led by several extremely talented members. We are now looking forward to being entertained by a group of samba drummers on 4th April, and our new programme will also be announced in April.

South Berks Concert Band (www.southberksmusic.org.uk)



Following a very busy 2017 which included a 5-day tour of Germany and several concerts, South Berks Concert Band finished the year securing the top award at the National Concert Band Festival in London at the beginning of December and held our Winter Concert in St John's Church the following weekend. A big thank you to all who supported us and attended our concerts throughout the year. The band was also delighted to partner the Kennet Branch of Save the Children, helping them to raise £1,175.10 over the year.

Looking forward to this year, in February the band will be back in the recording studios at the University of Surrey, giving the Tonmeister students the opportunity to record a 50-piece wind band. On 8th April we will be heading up to Manchester to the Northern College of Music where we will be competing in the National Concert Band Festival finals. Our first concert of 2018 will be on Saturday 21st April at St Mary's Church in Burghfield where we hope you, your friends, family & work colleagues will be able to join us.

We will be in Mortimer on 7th July for the Mortimer Fun Day where you can take the opportunity to try out different brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. We hope to be holding our Summer Concert the following day, 8th July. Do please put these dates in your diary, tell friends, family and work colleagues and we look forward to seeing you all at one of these events.

Tickets for our April concert will be available locally from several outlets very soon and you can also book by email: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com. For more information check out our website (see above), follow us on www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband or on Twitter @SBCBMusic.

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Explorer Unit



Five local scouts from the 1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scout Group have been selected from 230 scouts across the County to represent Berkshire at the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. This is a global gathering in North America where 45,000 scouts from all over the world will get together to have fun, challenge themselves and learn about different cultures and societies.

The five scouts must now raise nearly £4,000 each to pay for their trips and to support the attendance of scouts from Third World countries. They have lots of good ideas, including a garage sale, raffle and a stall at the Mortimer Fun Day. Please support them in their ventures, which will be happening over the next 18 months.

Mortimer Toddler and Baby Group



Since moving to the Methodist Church Hall last September, we have been delighted to welcome lots of new people as well as all the old faces. We meet every Tuesday in term-time from 10:00 - 11:30, so if you are a parent, grandparent, carer or childminder with a baby or preschool child we would love to see you; just turn up.

We have lots of different toys out each week. A healthy snack for the children and tea/coffee for the adults is included, and a different craft activity suitable even for tinies each week, all for just £2 for 1 child, +50p per additional child over 1 year old. We have made lots of changes to the way we run recently, for example Burghfield Library runs alongside us so you can borrow toys to take home. Whether you haven't been for a while or you have never been, come and give us a try; a friendly welcome is guaranteed. Our programme until Easter includes:

- 20th February - Chinese New Year craft theme
- 27th February - Make daffodils for St David's day
- 6th March - Mother's Day craft
- 13th March - green play dough, green snacks, a green recycling activity
- 20th March - active session with bouncy castle
- 27th March - Easter fun

Mortimer Cricket Club (www.mortimercc.hitscricket.com)

Despite a very wet season with many games called off, Mortimer CC won promotion to Division 1 of the Reading Mid-Week League in 2017, while the Saturday XI consolidated their position in the Saturday League but were robbed in the Saturday Cup competition! The Sunday XI ended with a fine victory over local rivals Bradfield. The Club also enjoyed a tour to Minorca and the results were slightly better than previous years.



In 2018 the Club will be fielding sides in the Berkshire Saturday League and the Reading Mid-Week League, as well as the friendly Sunday XI. Players of all standards are catered for and are welcome to come along to nets, which are held in the winter at the Willink School sports hall at 11:00 on Sunday mornings. We don't mind what standard you are, there's always time to learn. The Club also has its own bowling machine so that players can work on their shots.

Later in the year the nets will move outdoors to the Fairground. The Club will also be organising Kwik Cricket sessions for youngsters, so keep your eyes peeled. We are always looking for new players, scorers, umpires and supporters, so come along to our first game on 29th April. For details call Ian on 07826 504 425.

Made in Mortimer



Made in Mortimer was created last year for all local artists and crafters who produce handmade goods. We are a friendly group who meet monthly to share ideas, gain inspiration, seek advice and share our passion for making things. We aim to raise the profile of crafters in the village. Our next event is the Made in Mortimer Spring Craft Fair, which will be held on Saturday 31st March, 11:00-15:00 at the Mortimer Methodist church.

In addition to lots of lovely stalls, we will also have tea, coffee and cake for anyone in need of refreshment whilst doing the Mortimer Preschool Easter Egg hunt. All profits raised from the sale of refreshments will be donated to Mortimer Preschool.

Do also keep an eye out for our open craft evenings: come and learn a new skill for free! Each evening, one of our members will demonstrate and teach their craft in a friendly and sociable environment. Please contact Emma Vidal on 933 1623 if you would like to join or have any queries.

Together In Mission



Mortimer's community carol singing took place around the Fairground Christmas tree on 16th December with about 120 people accompanied by the South Berks Concert Band. Our thanks to all who took part, including those who put up the tent. The Horse and Groom supplied mulled wine, which was appreciated by many in the cold.

Our popular café at the Burghfield Methodist Church Hall uses local cooks and the Mortimer Chocolate Company for our hot chocolate. We look forward to continuing to serve the community with a friendly welcome and with good food and drink.

Please join TiM Friends for a finger buffet and concert by local band "Evolution" at Sulhamstead Village Hall on Friday 23rd February 14:00-16:00. One of our befriending volunteers is the lead singer and this will be a wonderful chance to be entertained and get to know other people in the area. Please register your interest with Bev French on 07748 686615 or bev@togetherinmission.org.uk.

In May we will commission the second of our School Pastors. Find out more on the MVP bulletin board or contact Libby (0777 891 1182 / libby@togetherinmission.org.uk), www.twitter.com/TiM_Pastors, or www.facebook.com/TiMSchoolPastors.

Mortimer Life

MORTIMERLIFE

Mortimer Life, formerly MFM (Music for Mortimer), is delighted to promote an exciting project by Mortimer resident Andy Lavery. Midway through 2017 Andy decided to pack in his day job and make more of his music. His goal was to write a few songs about the village and put the results to good use. To that end, he has released a CD to raise

money for St Mary's School. The four songs seek to answer the following burning questions:

- What is it like driving to Mortimer through Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet?
- How does it feel in the last dance at the St Mary's School disco?
- What is the Turner's Arms really like? And finally,
- What would happen if a lorry load of Viagra got into the village's water supply?

The CD is available directly for £4 from Andy or The Baobab, or for £5 via eBay (search for The Mortimer Tapes) with a download available soon. Tasters of the four songs can be heard on <https://tinyurl.com/TheMortimerTapes>. At least £3.30 per copy will go to the school.

BBC Radio Berkshire's Bridgitte Tetteh visited Mortimer just before Christmas to experience the Mortimer Heritage Trail first-hand, which explores the people and places that have shaped the village. Mortimer Life founder, Nick Carter, acted as her guide and Carolyn Owen of the Mortimer Local History Group discussed the old and new settlements. The visit even included a look at the Saxon Tomb inside St Mary's church. You can still hear the programme on <https://tinyurl.com/BBCBerksMortimer> Heritage Trail maps are available to pick up free from the library, the Baobab and the Parish Council website.

Burghfield Santas (www.boxkart.org.uk)

After last year's huge success, we are very excited to announce that the Burghfield Box Kart Bash will be back, bigger and better for 2018. Last year saw 29 teams enter, 80 volunteers keeping everyone safe, fed and watered, 4000+ spectators lining Hermits Hill and a whopping £24,200 raised for good causes.



The second Burghfield Box Kart Bash will be held on Sunday 24th June. The course down Hermits Hill into Burghfield Village, has been improved to test the karts with more obstacles and more jumps, which means lots of fun for those cheering on the teams. With only 30 places available for competing karts, now is the time to sign up!

The Burghfield Box-kart Bash is a family fun day for the benefit of all the local villages. It is at the beginning of the summer to give families, friends and individuals a project through the spring. What will your team come up with? Only one thing is for certain - together we will raise even more money for good causes this year.

The entry fee is £50 per kart for individuals or £100 for a company kart. Company karts can have a banner displayed and will be mentioned many times by the commentator. A company kart is a great team building exercise. To help with fundraising in addition to the entry fee, each team should aim to raise a minimum sponsorship of £200.

The Burghfield Santas recognise that there are so many worthy causes that they have decided the charity prize money can be donated to the charity of choice for each winning team. For rules, tickets & technical design criteria, visit our website above.

Upcoming MVP Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Spring Clean & Annual General Meeting

Time to tidy our village! Sadly, a lot of rubbish accumulates in the verges, on footpaths and on our public spaces each year. 10th March is the date of this year's village Spring Clean. Come to the MVP gazebo in the Horse and Groom garden from 13:30 to collect your hi-viz jackets, bags, etc and sign in before setting off to litter pick at a specific area of the village. Those coming earlier are more likely to get the location of their choice. The more people that take part, the more we can clear.



We aim to have everyone back by 15:30, in time to attend the MVP AGM in the Community Centre.

Heartstart Course

MVP has organised free Heartstart courses over the last few years. The next one is at 19:00 on Tuesday 10th April in the Methodist Church Hall in West End Rd. If you would like to feel more confident in what to do...

- if you need to use one of the village defibrillators
- if someone collapses
- if you think someone might be having a heart attack or a stroke
- if you need to talk to emergency services until paramedics arrive, or
- if you need to do CPR on someone



...then book a place on this free course by emailing your full name and contact details to mvp@morsley.me.uk or phone 933 2620. You will get a very clear and interesting explanation from the Tadley First Responders tutor and plenty of time to practice resuscitation on a dummy.

Think what a difference you could make to someone by having these skills. If you have attended before, you may book again for a refresher if you last attended more than 18 months ago.

Theatre Trips

The MVP runs coach trips throughout the year to major West End shows without the hassle of finding your own way to & from London. With the power of group bookings and an eye for a bargain there are substantial savings. For this coming round of bookings we are considering The King and I, TriOperas, The Grinning Man, Chicago, Phantom of the Opera - plus we're open to any suggestions. All seats are 'best possible' and we usually (traffic permitting) have time for a quick meal before the show. Please email Rebecca on bbarkerdg11@gmail.com if you would like to go on the mailing list.

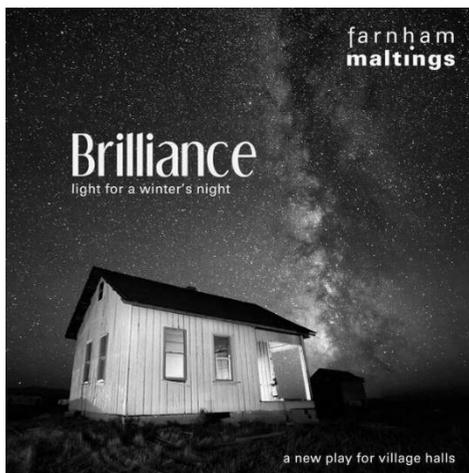


MVP Presents: Brilliance

Lightning has struck the hall roof. Mrs Atkinson has called the repairman, a man who can fix a creaking door, chimneys that smoked. And in he comes with his daughter, bright blue eyes full of brilliance, like an animal in from the woods.

Long after its arrival in the city, the slow process of rural electrification is starting to illuminate every corner and crevice of village life. As the dark evenings hold us in, 240 volts of alternating current and the humble electric light bulb allows us to gather and sing long into the night.

Brilliance is a 90-minute celebration of our ability to connect and find the light in a bright new world. From the company that brought you *It's A Wonderful Life*, *The Iranian Feast* and *Yørgjin Oxo*, Farnham Maltings now brings you *Brilliance*, a show with music made especially for village halls. Saturday 8th December at 19:30, St John's Hall. Tickets on sale this summer.



MVP Fun Day 2018

The 9th MVP Fun Day will be on Saturday 7th July and plans are being put into place by volunteers for it to be as brilliant event as ever. Come along to a day of entertainment and activities, from spectacular arena events to fun on the inflatables, with lots of interesting stalls to browse around and activities to try out. This is the best opportunity to meet with friends and family, and to enjoy all our community has to offer.

Details about the event will be in the next MVP Newsletter and there will be ongoing updates on the MVP website. Why not follow the link on the website and find out how we are progressing with organising the day, and perhaps YOU can be part of it too.

WANTED: Are you looking to add something special to your skills, to make an employer sit up and take notice of your achievement or share an existing skill for the benefit of our community? Why not think about shadowing the Fun Day Project Managers as they organise the 2018 Fun Day? Doug and Rebecca are looking for a third person who would be able to commit themselves to overseeing the Fun Day ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS, sharing the role on rotation. No experience is needed, just someone who is interested in keeping a village event going, who has good organisational and communication skills and can find their way around emails. If you want to learn more then please email Rebecca Barker: bbarkerdg11@gmail.com.

Recent MVP Events



Mortimer Community Survey

Good news... and bad news! Whilst we are still in the early stages of analysing the survey results, we already have a sense of some of the trends which will inform the decisions that the MVP and other local organisations will make in the future.

A theme that comes through strongly is that people were surprised at the number of activities, events and clubs there are, which of course challenges how they could be better advertised or promoted. As with any survey data we must be cautious in interpreting the data, which can be skewed by the demographic of such a small number of respondents.

The data suggest that more than 50% of the community are aware of most events and activities in Mortimer, which we would say is a good result. Curiously, this figure is about the same for our biggest village events: the Fun Day and the Scarecrow Trail. It is very difficult to believe that half of the village does not know that these events happen!

Once the analysis is complete, the output will be shared via the MVP Website for all to see. In the meantime, many thanks to those people who took the time to complete the survey and well done to the lucky prize-winners.

Mortimer Scarecrow Trail

The Autumn Half Term saw another successful scarecrow trail, with people braving the elements to see the characters based around the theme of "One of a Pair", but did you know:

- Assuming 4 people per map, the distance walked by trail followers was further than to Sydney and back.
- Over the week, Wacky Races was played 2999 times by 7198 contestants who pushed the buttons 303,879 times.
- For the 4th time in its 8-year history we featured on TV/radio, this year as the destination of the final clue in Radio Berkshire's Peach Quest.



The winners of the Scarecrow Trail prizes, as voted for by the trail followers, are:

	Adults' Favourite	Children's Favourite	Funniest
1st Prize	Fred Flintstone: Lambert family	R2D2: 1 st Mortimer Cubs & Scouts	Muttley: Hannawin family
2nd Prize	Wallace: Cairns family	Toothless: Milne family	Marge: The Wallers
3rd Prize	Lady: Mortimer-Go- Walkies	Batman: Spratley's	Ice-cream: Locke/Harmsworth family

The MVP Chair's Honorary Award deservedly went to newcomer "Oliver" and the Trail Competition Prize was won by A. Pickford - the correct answer being Olaf. Pictures of all 8 Scarecrow Trails can be found on the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page, and this year's trail video is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qUAZjNiz4k>

Sincere thanks go to those without whom this event would be a non-entity; the scarecrow makers: Blue Array Ltd, Budgens, Dads Shop, Parkers, Spratley's, Mortimer Library, pictureseverywhere.com, the village pubs and café and the trail followers.

Look out for details of Mortimer Scarecrow Trail 2018. There are some interesting changes afoot. Yabba dabba doo!

Lunch Club



The ladies and gents who attend the MVP Lunch Club twice a month have had a wonderful year thanks to the generous support of so many individuals and businesses, including Budgens and the volunteers from our community. The lovely children of St Johns School come along once a month to read and to chat with the lunch guests, and also entertained us recently with Christmas carols. Our thanks go to Craig at the Horse and Groom who stepped into the breach to make soup for us when Helen Baines, who had been with us for 7 years, moved to pastures new. We were sad to see her go.

However, we were thrilled to receive an invitation for Christmas lunch for 30 of our guests at DeVere Estates, and the staff at BMW also gave their time to pick up our lunch guests from their homes. Julie Adams of DJ Travel generously provided the transport to pick up our lunch guests for their second Christmas lunch, which helped the volunteers immensely, allowing more time to set up for the party. Our grateful thanks go to the Buy Nothing Mortimer collective who provided Christmas gifts for every Lunch Club attendee, and to Siân Nelson (AKA Santa) for coordinating the wrapping and distribution of presents.

Generous donations from BT and Cindy and Sally's Coffee Mornings, combined with money raised through raffles, funded an entertainer for both our Christmas and Silver Sunday events, and even stretched to taking everyone on an outing to Millets Farm, also with the benevolent support of TK Travel. An auction of the special bottles of wine kindly donated to lunch club, plus other donations, raised £250 which will go towards this year's summer outing, possibly lunch on the Bluebell Railway.

Silver Sunday has moved over to the Community Centre and with the generosity of DeVere Estates, plus our tireless volunteers, we are able to provide a two-course hot lunch for 40 older people from our community. With lots of laughter and dancing, we were able to celebrate the contribution that the older people make to our community.

It is lovely that the older people in our community are valued, as loneliness and isolation are terrible things. There may be some we cannot yet reach, so if you know of anyone who would benefit from our club, please call Cindy on 07946 585 935, or email Rebecca on bbarkerdg11@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer. We are particularly looking for drivers - just 15 minutes of your time could make a huge difference.

Other Local News

Thrive

At Trunkwell Gardens in Beech Hill, each month we welcome people who would like to see what volunteering with Thrive would mean to them.

If you would like to find out more about helping for just a few hours a week, then come along to one of our Volunteer Taster Sessions on the first working day of each month between 10:00 and noon. Please book first to confirm your place on 988 5688 or email: Trunkwell@thrive.org.uk.



Save The Children: Kennet Branch



Save the Children

It's Save the Children Kennet Branch's 50th anniversary this year. Whilst none of the original members are still on the committee, many have been supporting the charity for over 40 years. We are as busy as ever fundraising to save children and transform futures. We'd love to hear from anyone who has supported us over the years to share recollections and to invite you to a special Anniversary event. Please email rachel@gorst.me to get in touch.

The ever-popular Save the Children 'check out' Jumble Sale returns 10:30 on Saturday 24th February and again on Saturday 28th April at St. Johns Hall, West End Road. All items are 40p or 3 for £1. There will be bargains. Tea and coffee available and donations welcome from 09:00, so please have a clear out.

Save the Children will be providing the refreshments for Whitchurch Art Café on Saturday 24th March, 10:00 – 12:30. The Art Café at The Old Rectory Stables, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7DF brings together emerging and local artists with charity and community fundraisers to offer a mix of art and crafts in the relaxing atmosphere of a Saturday morning outing to the coffee shop.

Save the Children's Summer Jazz Evening is a chance to enjoy live music and entertainment in the beautiful setting of Little Manor, Burghfield. This year's event is on Saturday 23rd June from 18:30, so put it in your calendars now.

Bag2School

Bag2School collections for the coming year are as follows:

Village Collection	School Collection
5 th March	6 th March
25 th June	26 th June
15 th October	16 th October

We accept the following good quality items for re-use: men's, ladies' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), handbags, hats, bags, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels, bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers.

We cannot accept duvets and blankets, pillows and cushions, carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats), soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms with or without logo, corporate clothing and workwear, textile off-cuts, yarns or threaded material.

In the nine years we have been running Bag2School we have raised a total of £17,000 and ensured that 38 tonnes of unwanted clothes were sent for re-use rather than finding their way into landfill. Thank you everyone for your support. The money raised is a very welcome addition to St Johns, St Marys and Willink school finances.

We could not run this venture without the help of willing volunteers so if you are able to give an hour of your time a couple of times a year to help distribute and collect bags we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email traceyofmarlow@hotmail.com if you want more details or can help us.

Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt



The fundraising Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the Fairground on Easter Saturday, 31 March 2018 between 10:00 and 16:00. Maps for the Easter trail will be on sale for the four weeks prior in Budgens, Baobab Cafe and Dad's Shop as well as EEH HQ (Mortimer Community Centre) on the day. There will also be a golden egg hunt in the park which offers you the chance to win a boxed egg. The Easter chick will be making a guest appearance too!

Refreshments will be available in the Community Centre and parking will be on the fairground, so come along and bring your family and friends. All profits go to help improve learning equipment at Mortimer Preschool. Check our Facebook page at facebook.com/MortimerEasterEggHunt/

Pre-school places are still available from September 2018 for children aged 2 and over. Visit www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk for an application form and to find out more about this Ofsted-rated outstanding pre-school.



MVP Contact Details

Chairman	Doug Overett	doug.overett@gmail.com	933 3285
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Secretary	Lynn Hannawin	lynn@i-next.co.uk	933 2577
Treasurer	Ali Richardson		
Affiliates Secretary	Julie Carter	juliecarter396@btinternet.com	933 2265

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 meet at 19:30 at the Methodist Hall, West End Road on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (except August & December). 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

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

