



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 30, Issue 2

June 2023

“DIARY PAGE”



PARISH COUNCIL

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is currently set to take place on **Wednesday 2nd August**, at **7.30 pm** in the **Village Hall**.

Village Hall Committee meetings are generally held about a week before the parish council meeting.

Agendas for both meetings are posted on the noticeboards. Members of the public are welcome to attend both the Parish Council meetings and the Village Hall meetings.

Please check the web site www.mentmore.org for further details.



WINGRAVE AND CRAFTON OPEN GARDENS

There will be a combined open gardens weekend in Wingrave and Crafton over the weekend of **24th and 25th June**. A total of 15 gardens will be open from **1 to 6pm** on both days, and in addition there will be art exhibitions in Wingrave and teas in both villages.

Look out for the posters and signposting over the weekend. Tickets (including a map) will be £6 each and can be purchased in advance from Wingrave shop or from the gardens.



MENTMORE VILLAGE FÊTE

We are looking forward to a good, traditional, afternoon fête to raise money for the charities we have chosen, with plenty of fun on the way. Please come and join in, on **Saturday 8th July**, whether you are new to the community or an old hand. Come along and, if you are not already, be a part of this wonderful community!



MENTMORE FÊTE 2023

Saturday 8th July

1 – 5 pm



There will be fun and games, music, colourful plant stalls, teas and cakes, a bar and a barbecue, bric-a-brac and pre-loved clothing, terrier racing and tombola, vintage cars and a raffle. Above all, there will be people freely relaxing and enjoying themselves.

As a community, we aim to raise funds for local causes which we feel are particularly relevant.

We do need your help, as well as your presence on the day, so please don't wait to be asked. Volunteers are needed for helping to set up, take down and man the various stalls and activities. Any time you can spare is valuable - please contact Caroline (07761 199520).

We are also looking for the following contributions:

- **Produce** (Liz - 07968 419322): home produce of all kinds, including cakes, quiches, crumbles jams, chutneys, plants, flowers, decorative items - anything that you have made or crafted.
- **Teas** (Caroline - 07761 199520): a good variety of cakes, scones, tray bakes and small, savoury snacks - anything that goes well with a cup of tea or coffee!
- **Tombola** (Lee - 07342 352322): we are delighted to accept any unwanted gifts, spare jars/tins/bottles in the back of your cupboards, unused toiletries, candles, cleaning products or toys. In fact, anything goes! Provided they are unused (and in date for food items) they will be gratefully received for the tombola. Please drop off at Lygon House or we are happy to collect.
- **Bric-a-brac** (Jane - 07840 489543): Anything somebody else might need, or take a fancy to, anything that is clean and in good condition, (no children's toys) will be gratefully received by me at School House. Bring your contributions along as soon as you like. Collection can be arranged.
- **Second-hand Clothing** (Steph - 07919 562414): If you are you thinking of doing a wardrobe refresh, please consider donating any good quality clothes that you have finished with to our stall. If you have any queries, please call me.

Donations of **Pre-loved Clothing** and **Bric-a-Brac** can be brought to the Village Hall at any time on Sunday 2nd July between 10am and 2pm.

- **Raffle Prizes** (Jane Wigley - 07957 146860)
- **Photographic Competition** (Mike and Diane Armson - 07745 928698): This year's competition is on the theme of Local Rural Life. To enter, submit two photographs; one on the theme we have chosen and one of your own choice, both to be taken between 20th Sept 2022 and 30th June 2023 – all entries must be submitted by 30th June. Entries (£2 on submission) will be on display and judged by public vote at the fête on Saturday 8th July. If providing hard copies email for details of drop off.

Don't forget the **Dog Show** – entries on the day and a 'must see event'!

We hope to have enough helpers to establish a rota to spread the load, so that everyone has a chance to have a good time. Don't hang back! It's a great opportunity to get to know your neighbours!



Thanks Thanks Thanks



LITTER PICK

Thank you once again to all those intrepid souls who participated in this spring's litter pick round the parish. Between us, we tackled the majority of roads where it is worst. Special thanks this time to Jonathan and Peter who between them cooked up a cunning plan to remove a large quantity of vodka bottles and other detritus from the very deep ditches at Mentmore crossroads, using a home-made, extra-long picker. That was real devotion! Apart from that, the resulting heap contained the usual depressing tally of bottles, cans, discarded food containers and car parts. We are grateful to Bucks Council who were as usual very responsive to the request to take the collection away.

If you see flytipping, go to fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk to report it. We will have another litter pick in the autumn once the grass has died back to some extent. If you would like to play a part, please contact me - elizadack@outlook.com

Elizabeth Dack



MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL 2023

Our festival is over for another year and, once again, we had a wonderful weekend with the sunny weather attracting huge numbers of visitors to view and buy the art and enjoy refreshments in the garden.

We had painters, photographers, ceramicists, textile artists and jewellers, all displaying their wonderful work in the church and Village Hall. Our early calculations suggest another bumper year in terms of funds raised for our charities this year - Leighton Buzzard Mencap and Bucks Mind and St Mary's Church.

We are a small committee and so we are very dependent on the help of volunteers and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously gave us their time and energy over the weekend - we couldn't do it without you. Thanks must also go to our wonderful artists and, of course, the visitors, for helping to make this such a successful event.

THE HYGIENE BANK

The Hygiene Bank (THB) is a grassroots, people-powered charity that started in 2018. The idea formed in response to the injustice that people may be unable to participate fully in society due to hygiene poverty.

People in poverty find themselves having to choose between heating their home, paying rent, buying food or keeping clean. Hygiene poverty can be shaming, humiliating and excluding and can result in social isolation. I have been volunteering for THB for 3 years now and collect and distribute donated hygiene products to a number of community partners locally, including schools, youth clubs, food banks, women's refuges and other charitable organisations.

Need is greater than ever recently, so please do think whether you are able to donate. Simple basics are most useful - shampoo, conditioner, body wash, antiperspirants, toothpaste and toothbrushes, sanitary products. Maybe take advantage of the 'buy 2, get 1 free' sort of offers and donate the 3rd. I have a collection box located at the Village Hall in Mentmore, which can be accessed at weekends and Bank Holidays when the second-hand books are on sale. I am also happy to receive donations directly so do ring/message me on 07919 562414.

If you are interested in helping as a volunteer then do let me know and have a look at the charity website www.thehygienebank.com

Stephanie Johnston

YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



www.mentmore.org

Your Parish Councillors are:

Clerk to the Council: Bridget Knight clerk@mentmore.org
Chairman: Rob Fletcher (Crafton)
Vice Chairman: Jonathan Langley (Mentmore)
Councillors: Peter Brazier (Mentmore)
Iain Butler (Ledburn)
Hannah Wrathall (Mentmore)
Tracey Mundy (Ledburn)
Caroline Horgan (Crafton)

The Parish Council has secured a grant, from the Ivinghoe and Wing Community Board, to plant three trees to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. These trees will be planted in Crafton, we'll know more about the variety once they've been chosen.

 We know that speed through our villages is a major concern for many of our residents. The Parish Council is continuously assessing ways to help slow passing traffic. Alongside our Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs), we're pleased to announce the installation of white wooden gates at the entrances to Mentmore, Crafton and Ledburn. Research suggests that on seeing these gates and welcome signs, drivers consider that they are moving from a high-speed country lane into a residential setting and adjust their speed. They also make for a pretty addition to the village landscape. Installation is planned for late summer 2023.



As always, please do join our Parish Council meetings if you have any questions or want to raise anything for consideration.

The Parish website has minutes and agendas for meetings, planning applications, upcoming events and wildlife reports, contact details for AVDC and BCC, a booking service for the village hall and much more. If you have an issue you would like to see on the agenda please contact the parish clerk.



Please visit the website www.thestag.pub, to make a booking and for details of upcoming events and opening times. Should you need to discuss any aspect of your booking please email hello@thestag.pub or call 01296 534450



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Birds of a feather flock together; that English saying about sticking with those who are just like us. The saying came to mind because the Church has just celebrated the festival of Pentecost. Pentecost means fifty; it came fifty days after the first Easter and the risen Christ kept his promise to send his followers the Holy Spirit. Jesus' followers were gathered in Jerusalem as were people from across the then known world. The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers and they began proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to all around them. There were many different languages spoken amongst those in Jerusalem, but each could hear Jesus' followers in their own, native, language. It was the miracle of Pentecost and why it holds a special place in the church year. It is recorded in Acts chapter two.

The message of Pentecost is that the Gospel of Christ is for the whole world which included us here – we should never forget that Christianity did not begin on our shores, but came later. In the sixth century Pope Gregory sent one Augustine to tell us about Jesus only to find that the story was known already via Celtic Christianity, probably from the second century. And here's the thing, Celtic Christianity began without any formal church structures; no clergy, no synods. The Holy Spirit was out and about.

Pentecost also contains a challenge and quite a subversive challenge at that. As we know, no language translates exactly into another and that's because language, words, are shorthand for ideas, emotions, principles. All of which are culturally based. That may therefore mean that the language of "those people over there" may give them a richer appreciation of some aspect of life, including faith, than our language gives us – whoever "us" happens to be. And therein lies the subversive challenge of Pentecost. The Gospel is not to be owned by one particular group and as Acts unfolds, Paul writes "I now know that God shows no partiality".

In the 1980s there was a sit-com called Birds of a Feather which starred Linda Robson and Pauline Quirk. Two sisters, the irony was that they were completely different. In today's social media world with its many opportunities to register our "likes", Pentecost calls us beyond that, whoever we are, to ascribe greatness to the Lord, our God. Or, in phonetic Urdu, khudar harani chattan caro-y-bayan.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Howard Robson.

Schedule of Services for St Mary's Church

Date	Service	Time
June 4th	Holy Communion	4.00 pm
June 18th	Holy Communion	9.00 am
July 2nd	Holy Communion	4.00 pm
August 6th	Holy Communion	4.00 pm
August 20th	Holy Communion	9.00 am

MENTforMORE – Please help keep our church open.

Local churches have to be self-financing – they get no income from the Diocese! This is hard to achieve in normal circumstances, especially by small parishes. Unfortunately, in recent years, it has become even harder, yet essential services supplied must still be paid for!

By being a member of our 200 club you will be helping to keep St Mary's open. It costs just £24 a year per ticket to be a 200 Club member. Please note, you can purchase more than one ticket which provides more support for St Mary's, and increases the opportunity to win one of the excellent prizes each month shown below:

1st Prize £30.00 in January, March, May, July, September and November
 £100.00 in February, April, August and October
 £200.00 in June
 £300.00 in December

2nd Prize £10.00 each month

Please contact Tracey Mundy on traceymundy@gmail.com

March winners:

1st prize of £30.00 Julie Gaymer of Mentmore
2nd prize of £10.00 Caroline Sargisson of Mentmore

April winners:

1st prize of £100.00 Anita and Richard Parris of Crafton
2nd prize of £10.00 Roger and Linda Martin of Wing

May winners:

1st prize of £30.00 Brian Hibbert of Crafton
2nd prize of £10.00 Peter Thomas

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD – Caring for God's Acre

Earlier this month a number of local individuals helped with the work in the church yard and in preparation for the Mentmore Arts Festival.

The entrance pews were cleaned and oiled and the entrance floor was given a scrub. The outside benches were given a treatment making them look more inviting. The main oak door was given a clean and oiled; the metal wear was given a protective coating. The notice board was given a face lift. All this work was carried out before the regular volunteer group met up for the final blitz in the grounds on May 20th. The grass and weeds had, like everywhere else, grown very quickly, the whole site was given a 'short back and sides' and the gates a scrub which all added to the whole area looking ready for the many visitors over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The churchyard is a lovely place to visit and provides an area for quiet contemplation; the work parties are an opportunity to help maintain the area. Our monthly sessions give everyone the opportunity to help with the many tasks. If you would like to help with the work but cannot make the actual day please let us know. There are plenty of jobs that will help make a difference to this special place and many hands make light work.

Next work party **Saturday 17th June 10am to 13.00** - hope you can join us.

Diane & Mike: dchmja@gmail.com or call 01296 661141

MENTMORE PARISH HISTORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES

In 2021, we put on a display of our Mentmore Parish Archives at the Fête, to allow visitors to peruse some of the array of articles and photographs contained in the current archives. We hope to do this again this year.



The task we have undertaken over the past few years was first to find a home for the archives and then to organise them so that all the accumulated information could be used to help people research their family and social history, or local research projects.

The archives now have a home in Mentmore Village Hall and we are within a gnat's whisker of achieving our goal of having the archives collated. Of course, the task can never be complete, as more information and material is constantly added.

If you have any stories, photographs or interesting tales to share then please come and visit our stall at the Mentmore Village Fete on Saturday 8th July, or just come for a chat with members of the archiving team.

Diane Armson, Karen & Steve Thomas, Steve Powell and June Wiggins

Contact: email mentmorehistory@gmail.com

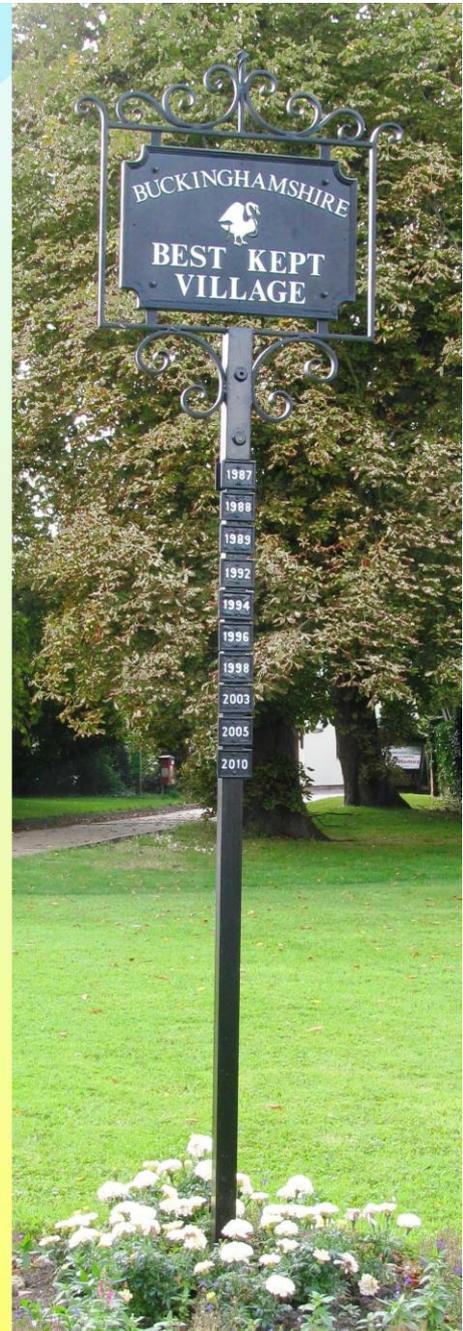
We have entered the Best Kept Village Competition

Please help to keep our village tidy

Judging takes place in June & July

The Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

www.bucksbkv.co.uk



Competition Sponsors— Buckinghamshire Council : Milton Keynes Council:

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**WINGRAVE
AND CRAFTON
OPEN GARDENS**

24th and 25th June
1 to 6pm



15 GARDENS
TWO VILLAGES
ART EXHIBITIONS
TEAS

Tickets (including a map) £6 each from
Wingrave shop in advance
or from the gardens
over the weekend



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If you have an item which you would like included in the next Newsletter (September, October & November) please contact either Liz (Tel 661309 /email elizadack@outlook.com) or Karen (Tel 661509 / email karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com)
Newsletter deadline: 15th August 2023

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