



## MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 1

March 2018

### “DIARY PAGE”



#### MENTMORE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* at *8pm* on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April**. The Annual Meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**.

There will be a Village Hall Committee meeting on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March** in the *Village Hall (small room)*.

Agendas for the Council meetings are published on the website and posted on noticeboards prior to each meeting. All parishioners are welcome to attend and the agenda includes a period at the beginning of each meeting for questions. Please see the website [www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org) for full details of all minutes.

To contact the parish council, email [clerk@mentmore.org](mailto:clerk@mentmore.org)



#### VILLAGE PLANT SALE

We are very pleased to welcome **Hannah Wrathall** as our new organiser-in-chief.

Come and join Hannah and her helpers for another classic Mentmore event on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 12-4pm**. Entrance costs £1 which includes entry into the Prize Draw.

A variety of plant nurseries will be tempting you with lovely displays of healthy plants for your garden and dispensing advice if needed.

As usual we will have our own village stall selling donated plants and garden paraphernalia. We would be very pleased to receive any offers of help and donations of surplus plants from your garden (labelled if possible) as well as unwanted garden tools, ornaments, produce or anything else garden-centred. Heavy or awkward items can be collected.

Tea, home-made cakes and a barbecue will be on offer to sustain you. We will need cakes and help on the day, especially with setting up and clearing away.

If you would like to help or provide items for the plant stall or cake stall, please contact either Hannah [hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk) or Jonathan [jonathanlangley707@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanlangley707@gmail.com).



#### MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Mentmore Arts Festival is back for its eighth year. The Festival takes place on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 11.00 am to 5.00 pm** in *St. Mary's Church*, the *Village Hall* and on the *Village Green*. Admission is £2 per adult (including a catalogue) while children (under 16) attend free of charge.

For more information visit [www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk)

# UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION



The Mentmore Parish History with photographs and stories continues to be a subject of interest for a great many people. Since the Exhibition in the Village Hall last September, when over 400 people visited, 172 members have joined the Facebook page, which continues to generate interesting conversations and postings. These stories and pictures reveal the history of local families and places, rekindle memories of significant events, including a Royal visit, and help to expand on stories and events already in the archives. Many of the questions posted have been answered and people have been able to get in touch with lost contacts and friends.

One posting concerned the head gardener of Mentmore circa 1900 and his family and was supplied by his great grandson who lives in Australia. Another was about the station master at Cheddington, who lost his job due to a mistake, and included a copy of a letter of appeal to Lord Rosebery asking him to help save the man's job. There have also been sad stories about children dying in accidents or from childhood disease, explaining their graves in the local graveyard. We have also had appeals for more recent information about families and friends and who lived where in the various parish properties.

The community has responded to these appeals for information and a great deal more. However, the team is still undertaking research and interviews and archiving materials, so if you have any pictures or local information you would like to share with us, please get in touch using one of the following methods:

Call: Mike Armson on 07860 910034 or Karen Thomas on 01296 661509

e-mail: [mentmorehistory@gmail.com](mailto:mentmorehistory@gmail.com) or [karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com)

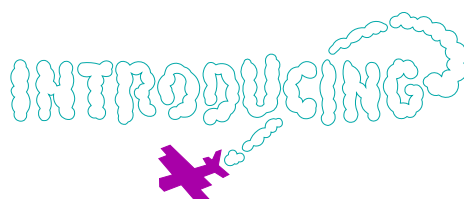
Facebook: Mentmore Parish History with Photographs & Stories

## POPPY APPEAL

I'm very pleased to report that I collected an amount of £118.45 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017 during my house-to-house collection in Mentmore. It is much appreciated. The total for Cheddington and Mentmore was £2,498.56.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**Keith Malcolm.**  
**Poppy Appeal Organiser,**  
**Cheddington. Code EBA06**



If you have a new baby in the family, or know anyone in the parish who has, we would be delighted to welcome the new arrival.

## LITTER - ACTION EXTRA!

Massed ranks of litter pickers set off from the Village Hall on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January and blitzed large parts of the parish, purging it of litter which was collected by Aylesbury Vale District Council. This photo is the evidence, and there was even more than that. Graham Scott tackled the section beyond the railway bridge in Ledburn (technically not in Mentmore Parish) which was beginning to resemble a landfill site.



The majority of the debris consisted of car parts, bottles, cans, crisp packets and fast food containers. Much was unreachable beneath hedges but our intrepid pickers climbed into ditches, waded in mud and left no stone unturned. There was fly tipping too (reported to Bucks C.C.) In a year, we could probably collect enough material to build a car and equip a house.

A sincere thank you to all involved. We convened for tea and cakes afterwards and several people commented that the work though not pleasant is rewarding. So if you are reading this and would like to

join in sometimes and could spare an hour and a half from time to time to help stem the tide, you are welcome. Contact Liz on [elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com)

Aylesbury Vale will be supporting the Great British Spring Clean which takes place during the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> March as part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. However, if you intend to do any litter-picking this weekend please take care and be mindful of the weather conditions. You will find more information on their website – [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org).

FYI: the Parish Council has decided to enter Mentmore for the Best Kept Village Competition this year. Details to follow later in the year.

Liz Dack

## YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



[www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org)

### Your Parish Councillors are:

Parish Clerk:	Bridget Knight	clerk@mentmore.org
Chairman:	Peter Brazier (Mentmore)	
Vice Chairman:	Jonathan Langley (Mentmore)	
Councillors:	Liz Dack (Mentmore)	
	Rob Fletcher (Crafton)	
	Iain Butler (Ledburn)	

### VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Good news! The kitchen is to be refurbished over the Easter period, in time for the Arts Festival. The committee hope to make it an outstanding facility which will stand the test of time, as well as hygiene and safety regulations and practical use. We also plan to build a path and barbecue/patio area in the garden.



## **MENTMORE VILLAGE HALL CLEANERS NEEDED**



We are short of volunteers for the Village Hall cleaning rota.  
Could you help as one of a pair for a month at a time?  
Approximately 2 hours a month two or three times a year.

Call Diane on 661141 or email [dchmja@gmail.com](mailto:dchmja@gmail.com)



Book sales in the hall continue on the weekends when the hall is not in use. Please do come and browse. Very reasonable price, currently £1 for 3 books!

### **WALKING THE PARISH FOOTPATHS: FOOTPATHS MEN/7/1, CHD/8/1, 7/1, 7/2**

Mentmore to Cheddington Station and back up Mentmore Straight.

This circular walk will take approximately one hour. The start is just below Rosebery Mews in Mentmore at the footpath sign. Go over the stile on the left and walk straight ahead. Continue in the same direction diagonally across the field towards Park Farm. This section of the footpath is well-defined though can be muddy. On reaching the far side, carry on with the garden fence on your right. The path shortly becomes a farm track with a tall well-kept hedge on the left. Follow the track for about a mile along the hedge and beyond, along the line of telegraph poles to the railway line. At this point, a bridleway sign indicates either left or right.

Should you wish to go to the station, turn left and in a few yards, go through the opening and there it is! You can ignore the opening and continue on a little further and still a little further to a bridge and another bridge under the railway line, leading to the village of Horton. The footpath officially stops at this point. Alternatively, turn right at the bridleway sign and follow the edge of the field. Continue in the same direction, leaving the field behind and following a rough, fenced track between woodland and farmland along the old railway to arrive at the Cheddington/Mentmore road.

Cross the road and make for the bridleway sign on the other side. The path runs up the verge of the 'Mentmore Straight'. Keep to the left of the shallow ditch and walk up as far as the entrance to Mentmore Golf Club where the path dives to the left behind brambles to emerge at the gate. Continue as far as the bend and Thatched Lodge where the path ends.

Here, cross the road (with care!) and finish by walking along the verge to the starting point. You will most certainly have achieved 10,000 steps, if that is your target!

**Liz Dack**



## NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

### **IT'S BYE-BYE FROM ME AND BYE- BYE FROM HER**

When I moved into this Parish in the July of 2013, I really thought I would be here until retirement – and even beyond! But life – and God – is full of surprises!

The Easter Sunday service this year (9.00 am) will be my last service in St Mary's church. I shall be moving to Tilehurst, Reading, to take up a full-time (and unlike this post, salaried!) role as vicar of St Catherine's Church and Cornwell Community Church, (a church plant from St Catherine's).

I feel very strongly that God is in this appointment, for all sorts of reasons, and I am excited and looking forward to the new challenges ahead.

I shall be taking lots of happy memories with me, and am so glad to have had the experience and privilege of serving the Parish, and meeting many of you in the village. And big thanks to each and every one of you who have helped St Mary's in any way; and cared for me personally too. I have always been aware that there was more to do - but in a way that is the nature of the role. If you are free - please do pop in to say goodbye to me at my leaving do (see separate advert) - come when you can and leave when you have to.

This is not the only important news I have to share. After 11 years of serving the church as church warden, Penny Hibbert has understandably made the decision not to stand for re-election this year at the Annual Parish Church Meeting (which will be at St Giles on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 11.45 – all welcome to attend). Had someone been found to share the role with her, she would have stayed on another year, but that has not been possible. Penny has been very faithful, in what is often a thankless task, preparing the church for services, co-ordinating and liaising with those who help keep the church going (those who do the church cleaning, flower arranging), and is also the one responsible for churchyard and building maintenance. Penny also regularly leaflets the parish when special services are coming up and does so much more than we see. Her role carries with it legal responsibilities and I for one want to say a public and huge thanks for all that she has done for St Mary's over the years. This would not be such important news (in none-rural churches, churchwardens stand down every year) if it wasn't for the fact that, at the time of writing, there is nobody else in our little congregation who feels able to step up to the role. So with me going and no churchwarden, change is inevitably afoot for St Mary's. What that change will look like I cannot say at this moment in time.

During this season of Lent I am reminded that the Christian gospel is full of paradox: for any statement I can make when preaching, another can usually be made which is still true but opposite. We have a God who has entered our world in the person of Jesus – and yet is also everywhere at the same time. We have a God who knows what suffering is – ironically crucified for being the “king of the Jews” – and yet is the author of all life. Jesus did no wrong, knew no sin, was totally innocent – his death was an utter scandal – and yet through it we can know God and know abundant life. And we have a God who rose again – conquering death - even though he died! Easter captures the whole range of human experience and emotions; but more than that – Jesus puts us right with God. What is more - because of the Easter story, our past does not have to dictate our future; every day is a new day. Life is not a dress rehearsal; we only have one life to live – and the resurrection calls us to live our lives in the light of God's goodness, to live boldly, and courageously, with bright hope for today and tomorrow. May you know the blessings of God in your life.

**Gill Rowell, Team Vicar, Cheddington with Mentmore**

**Fundraising:** To help support your parish church and raise funds for St Mary's would you consider joining our Mentmore Club 200? For only £24 per year, per ticket, you could win over £1,000 per annum! You can have as many tickets as you like and the top prizes are £300 in December, £200 in June, £100 in February, April, August and October, and £30 for other months with a second prize of £10 every month.

e-mail: [carolcox48@gmail.com](mailto:carolcox48@gmail.com) or call 07920 140 740.

December winners:

The 1st prize of £300 went to – Mrs P Newton of Leighton Buzzard.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Sarah Miles of Cheddington.

January winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Denise Redding of Wing.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Steve & Elaine Powell of Ledburn.

February winners:

The 1st prize of £100.00 went to – Penny Hibbert of Crafton.

The 2nd prize of £10.00 went to – John & Penny Roberts of Mentmore.

# MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

## ARTS FESTIVAL APPEAL FOR HELPERS



to make the Arts Festival buzz!

- help set up in the church (Sunday 20th May)
- help set up in the village hall (Thursday 24th May)
- make cakes/donate raffle prizes for the event
- volunteer some time over the three days to man the refreshments/bar
- general volunteers

We would love to hear from you as soon as possible, so that we can plan ahead.

Please email Carol Armstrong [carol.art@virgin.net](mailto:carol.art@virgin.net) if you can offer any help.

# MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

We are delighted that this year will be our momentous 10th festival.

The 2018 Mentmore Arts Festival will be held from Saturday 26th to Monday 28th May from 11 am - 5pm in the Village Hall and St. Mary's Church..

Once again we will be welcoming over 60 artists including painters, photographers, jewellers and ceramicists. Many firm favourites will be exhibiting along with new contributors.

2017 was an amazing year and as a consequence we donated £ 5,000 to Thames Valley Air Ambulance and £2,500 each to Young Carers Bucks and St Mary's Church in Mentmore. This brought the grand total of monies raised, since the Arts Festival began, to over £60,000.

This year we will be supporting the National Autistic Society, Lindengate - a charity improving health and well-being through nature and horticulture and SeeAbility - a charity working across the UK to help enrich the lives of people with sight loss and multiple disabilities.

The festival makes a fabulous family day out with lunches, teas, coffees and a bar all available in the Village Hall Garden.

We have so much support every year from so many people and the committee would like to thank everyone for all their help once again.

**Venue:** Mentmore Village Hall and St Mary's Church (LU7 0QF & LU7 0QG)

**Date and Time:** Bank holiday weekend 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm daily

**Admission:** £2per adult (includes catalogue), children under 16 FREE

**Refreshments:** Light lunches, home baking, teas, coffees, Pimms bar and local beer

Have a look at our website for further information... [www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk) ...  
and do come and join us in May.

[www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk)

## WILDLIFE UPDATES



*Bucks Owl & Raptor Group*  
[www.giveahoot.org.uk](http://www.giveahoot.org.uk)



During the winter months BORG's volunteers (myself included) do not get a break from our work as this is the time when we are out checking boxes to see which ones are in need of repair or replacement and which are sound enough to be safely used again the following year. Another of our winter tasks involves new site assessments. These site assessments vary immensely and can include small rural gardens, out-buildings and barns; while others involve larger areas of farmland or local estates where the landowners are keen to get involved in conservation. Whatever the size, these visits are usually very positive and often lead to an increased work load for our winter box builders.

The new boxes are built either at our workshop in Aylesbury, or at home in their own workshops and garages, and once finished are used to replace any old and damaged boxes or are installed at new sites throughout the county. As a result of site assessments carried out this winter by myself and my colleagues we now have approximately 30 – 40 new, or replaced boxes, to add to our 2018 monitoring lists. Quite unrelated to their status as a beneficiary of this year's Arts Festival, one of my site visits this winter was to the Lindengate charity and as a result we are now in the process of helping them make and install several owl and raptor boxes at their site in Wendover.



And now, despite the current weather conditions winter is almost over and I, together with my BORG colleagues, and the owls (particularly Tawny Owls) and raptors, will be continuing with preparations for the forthcoming breeding season. The birds will be confirming their occupation of new and old nest sites and the volunteers will be preparing to undertake the first monitoring visits of the year, starting with Tawny boxes.

If you are interested in our work, would like to sponsor a new nest box, would like our volunteers to give a talk to your group or attend a local event please feel free to contact me at [karen@giveahoot.org.uk](mailto:karen@giveahoot.org.uk) for more information.

**Karen Thomas**

# ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS & BUSINESSES

## Make your Computer Smile!

Laptops, PCs, Tablets, Smartphones, Wifi Internet,  
Repairs & Upgrades, FREE collection & delivery

Experienced Tech Professional will solve all your  
computer/technology related problems.

NO FIX - NO FEE GUARANTEE

Facebook Page:  
@thelittleitc

Website:  
[www.thelittleITcompany.co.uk](http://www.thelittleITcompany.co.uk)



The Little IT Company - based in Cheddington - Call Mark: 07789 304 274

# FOR SALE or FREE-CYCLE ITEMS FROM OUR PARISHIONERS

To try and “do our bit” to help the planet and our environment we will be including a new feature in future editions of the newsletter. It’s not much, but we will be offering a facility at the end of the newsletter whereby our parishioners can offer to others any items they no longer need, either “For Sale” (a small charge will be made for this service) or for free (no charge will be made for this service), to others to “re-use” on a “collect only” basis.

We are trialling the feature in this issue, but if you have any items you wish to advertise in the next issue please get in touch a.s.a.p. as to begin with we will be limiting the number of “ads” to approximately one page per issue, so space will be very limited.

## For Sale

Following recent refurbishment and building work we have a couple of items which we do not need.



Ceramic Wall Tiles: 3 Boxes of 10

Colour: Beige Piamonte

Tile Size: 26.3 x 38 cm

(Total coverage 3m<sup>2</sup>)

**£40**

Carpet Tiles: Pack of 12

Colour: Carbon/Dark Grey

Tile Size: 50 x 50 cm

(Total coverage 3m<sup>2</sup>)

**£10 o.n.o**



Please call Karen on 01296 661509 for further information

## For Sale

### Velbon DV-6000 Tripod

- Professional Video Tripod
- 51cm min - 156.5cm max height
- 3 Leg Sections
- 4kg Maximum Load Capacity
- Weighs 2.2kg
- It comes with a PH-358 pivoting pan-head



**£60 o.n.o**

Please call Nan on 07584 057525 for further information.



## FREE TOP SOIL



Are you planning a garden make-over this spring and need some top soil?

We'll look no further – following the landscaping and path work being carried out in village hall garden the top soil will be available on “First come first served” basis from the Village Hall Garden in April.

Anyone interested can contact Mike Armson on 07860 910034 for further details.

## *IN MEMORIAM*

It is with sadness that we announce the passing,  
on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017 of Michel Rigal.

**MICHEL RIGAL**  
**23 December 1930 – 16 December 2017**

Michel was born at Christmas, 1930 in central Paris to Jean and Suzanne and was the second of three brothers.

From his father, Michel picked up his easy-going sense of humour, to never take things too seriously, especially one's self. Classical Paris was his playground as a child and in this cultural capital, Michel's mother instilled in him a life-long love of the classical arts, with concerts, theatre and gallery visits.

At 16, Michel found his first job at the most prestigious hotel in the world – The Paris Ritz. Three years training here would shape the rest of his life. He laboured in the kitchens and also worked front of house, excelling in the art of *fine* service, expected by the Ritz clientele.

After two years National Service as a Paratrooper Michel arrived at The Queen's Hotel in Farnborough armed with good looks, an optimistic personality, a spirit of adventure, some basic English and fine French cooking and service skills. From Farnborough, Michel made his way towards Leighton Buzzard, stopping to work for several years in the late 50s and early 60s at The Saracen's Head in Beaconsfield before arriving at The Stag, Mentmore in 1964.

By the 1970s Michel, or 'Froggy', as he was affectionately known to many was well established at The Stag and the reputation of his restaurant was known far and wide. He was a master of his craft, as a chef, front of house and sommelier.

Michel was always ready to support village events and no matter what the locals were doing, he was always a good sport. Michel, being a legend in these parts, was asked to open the Mentmore fete in 2017, which he did with great aplomb.

What a wise man he was, both clever and intellectual, but also, he knew how to initiate and take part in some fun, often with a surly look which masked that twinkle in his eye. Always kindness and generosity in abundance, his gifts were endless. With his humour and work ethic he created something very special, though probably not by design.

Michel is held in deep regard, affection, admiration and respect and will be greatly missed.

*If you have an item which you would like included in the next Newsletter (June, July & August) please contact either Liz (Tel 661309 /email [crackerdack@aim.com](mailto:crackerdack@aim.com)) or Karen (Tel 661509 / email [karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com))*  
**Newsletter deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

To offset costs we are looking for small business advertising. Would you like to sponsor an issue? Your ads could be anything from one liner to more striking boxes and graphics. For more information please contact Liz or Karen.

**This newsletter was sponsored by The Little IT Company.**