



## MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 24, Issue 2

June 2017

### “DIARY PAGE”



#### PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council is currently set to take place on *Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August*, at **8.00 pm** in the Village Hall.

Please check the web site [www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org) for further details.

#### PARISH PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Can you help? Were you born in the Parish? Do you know who lived in your house when it was built in the 1800's and 1900's and have any pictures or drawings of this? Do you have any photographs of the major celebrations that took place locally, happy or sad events? Interesting stories, facts even figures. Do you know something that many people locally would not realise took place here?

We are currently researching and gathering information and photographs to make an exhibition about the parish and its people.

It has been proposed that the parish photographic exhibition should be held in the Village Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> of September and the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. On display will be photographs, with relevant stories, which we hope will bring to life many of the historic events and above all the residents of Mentmore, Ledburn and Crafton from the early days of the Rosebery's right up to the present day.

There is already a lot of material to sort through, but if you have anything which you think is relevant, please contact us or, even better, come along to the next meeting at the *Village Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00 pm.*

If you have anything of interest, or would like to get involved please contact Mike Armson: 01296 661141 or 07860 910034.

# Thanks Thanks Thanks



## PLANT SALE – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

We were blessed with perfect weather for the Plant Sale on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. In contrast to last year when we froze amid wintry showers, we were lightly warmed in balmy spring sunshine for much of the time, not fierce enough to frazzle the flowers and cause widespread wilt. As in previous years, the event was well-attended and we were kept busy throughout the afternoon. Then, just as soon as it had begun, it was over, the green was cleared and everything was back to normal.

Thanks to everyone who donated plants and garden paraphernalia to the Mentmore stall and cakes for the teas, and thanks also to all helpers, including the muscles who set it all up and took it all down again afterwards.

We made over £1,700 to be spent on village projects (to be announced). Sadly, we are losing our organiser-in-chief, Sue Stovell who plans to move away. Can we carry on without her? We shall have to see. See Steve Thomas's photo record on the parish website.

## Winners of Draw

Champagne – Barry Cato (Slapton)

Tea – Mr Champkin (Cheddington)



## MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL – 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May

We held the 9<sup>th</sup> Mentmore Arts Festival over the late May Bank holiday weekend and what a wonderful weekend it was! We had fabulous weather on Friday evening for the preview night, all day Saturday and Sunday and even the clouds and showers on Monday couldn't dampen the spirits of the artists, visitors and volunteers.

We welcomed back many artists who are regulars every year and also lots of new faces who together transformed St. Mary's Church and the Village Hall into wonderful displays of their talent. This year we were treated to paintings and drawings, photography, glasswork, ceramics, textile work and jewellery.

The warm weather encouraged even more people than usual into the garden to enjoy the delicious savoury food and cakes, not to mention the local beer and Pimms at the bar.

Early analysis of funds raised, indicates that we will once again be able to donate sizeable sums to our chosen charities – Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Young Carers Bucks – as well as the usual donation to the church.

The committee are very aware that we couldn't run such a successful event year after year without the help and support of the villagers and other volunteers. We had help with setting up and taking down the displays, selling the artwork and providing and serving the refreshments. There were so many willing volunteers this year and we would like to extend our thanks to you all. Thanks must also go to our talented artists and of course, to all the visitors for making this another extremely successful festival.

**Stephanie**  
Arts Festival Committee

# YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



## NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

We are looking forward very much to the Mentmore Arts Festival again this year; it is a fabulous event and one which I am so glad to see the church used for! (And I am pleased to say my sister is exhibiting this year – see if you can spot her!) As last year, we are hoping to build upon this cultural event by holding a Christian Creative Arts Retreat - dates are yet to be confirmed.

You may have noticed that the churchyard has been tidied up and some of the shrubs pruned; after many years of neglect it was becoming urgent, and I am grateful to the small team of volunteers, some from Cheddington, who gave their time and energy to the task.

Services continue to be at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, alternate weeks (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>) and I can assure you of a friendly welcome should you come along.

I recently met with the Bishop of Buckingham and during our conversation he showed me a photo of a church in Finchley, London, which has been adapted with children's play area and a cafe. It is quite a "high" church and yet they have accommodated the needs of the local community within its walls for use mid-week. I would love St Mary's to be used regularly to serve the needs of the village. It doesn't have a toilet, or running water, and parking is difficult – but these obstacles can be overcome. It may be that a shop, or post office, a gallery, or exchange of home produce, or something like that, could be set up – making a little money whilst not limiting the building as a functioning, worshipping, church. Do you have any ideas? Email me at [gillrowell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gillrowell@tiscali.co.uk) or give me a call on 01296 708680 if you'd like to share ideas. I'd love to hear from you.

Revd Gill Rowell, Team Vicar, Cheddington with Mentmore

## **MENTforMORE** – the fundraising initiative for St. Mary's Church

To help support your parish church and raise funds for St Mary's why not join our Mentmore Club 200. For only £24 per year, per ticket you could win over £1000 per annum! You can have as many tickets as you like and the prizes range from £10 to £300.

£24 per annum OR £2 per month, per ticket (Max 10 tickets) - YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

£300 in December, £200 in June

£100 in Feb, April, Aug and Oct

All other months £30

PLUS an extra prize of £10 per month

If you would like to support our village church by purchasing a 200 Club ticket, please contact Carol Cox on 07920 140740 or email [carolcox48@gmail.com](mailto:carolcox48@gmail.com). Thank you.

### **March winners:**

1st prize of £30.00	Kay Mccauseland
2nd prize of £10.00	Elizabeth Dack of Mentmore

### **April winners:**

1st prize of £100.00	Adam and Diane Cull of Whitchurch
2nd prize of £10.00	Richard Gem & Corry Cashman of Mentmore

### **May winners:**

1st prize of £30.00	Richard and Sue Foster of Cheddington
2nd prize of £10.00	Sally Smith of Mentmore

**CAN'T WAIT FOR...**

**ALL THE FUN OF THE FETE!**

**FETE**  
on the  
**VILLAGE GREEN**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 1-4pm**

**Raffle\*Tombola\*Bric-a-brac\*Tug'oWar\***  
**Bail Tossing\*Welly Wanging\*Coconut Shy\***  
**Terrier Racing\*Dog Show\*Tombola\*Raffle\***  
**Cakes/Produce\*Teas\*Barbecue\*Bar\***  
**Competitions\*Children's Area**

**FOLLOWED BY:**

**BARN DANCE**  
on the  
**VILLAGE GREEN**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 7pm**  
**HOG ROAST**  
**Tickets in advance only**

All proceeds to **St Mary's Church, Mentmore**  
Hope you can come – offers of help etc. gratefully received – more information later  
Organiser: Caroline Gates  
07761 198520  
[gates\\_caroline@hotmail.com](mailto:gates_caroline@hotmail.com)



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

### Your Parish Councilors are:

Clerk to the Council: Bridget Knight

[clerk@mentmore.org](mailto:clerk@mentmore.org)

Chairman: Peter Brazier  
Vice Chairman: Jonathan Langley  
Councillors: Liz Dack  
Rob Fletcher  
Iain Butler

The Parish website has minutes and agendas for meetings, 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.

**Mentmore Parish Council**

### VILLAGE HALL

## **MENTMORE VILLAGE HALL**

The hall can accommodate up to 50 adults and is ideal for children's parties, family get-togethers and educational or social functions.

Hire includes the use of a fully equipped kitchen, tables & chairs and a garden area.

**Price: main hall - £12 per hour, £10 per hour for parishioners  
and £7 for the small meeting room.**

The small meeting room is available for hire separately as appropriate.

Hall furniture and marquees are available for separate hire, rates on application.

To book and for all hire enquiries please call **07707 218 719**

or book online at [www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org)

### DONATE A GATE

More thanks! This time to those people who made a contribution towards the sturdy new kissing gate now fitted at the top of the field adjacent to Vicarage Cottage in Mentmore. The Parish Council matched the figure donated and the gate has been fitted by volunteers from North Bucks rRipple (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise). The path down towards Ledburn is now much more accessible, and requests are being received to consider the replacement of other stiles elsewhere in the parish.



### **LITTER PICKING – in our parish**

Once again, I'd like to give a huge thank you to the volunteer litter-pickers who toiled away to clear the parish of litter at the end of April. Particular thanks to 12 year old Morgan from Rowden who acted as his Mum's right hand man. There was generally less litter, possibly because we are now only collecting the more recent detritus but the level of cans and bottles and fast food waste never seems to decrease (with accompanying toilet if you know which ditch to search). Also the grass and undergrowth had started to grow up so may have concealed some smaller items. There were also large items which have previously been left on the verge for collection, which had found their way back into the ditch. Despite that, I think everyone agrees that we are making an impact and another date will be fixed in October. Please do not hesitate to volunteer for that!

To report fly-tipping, go to the AVDC website "report-it" section which has been made very straightforward to use. The more people that report the problem, the more it will be seen as an issue to address. There is also a link on the parish website [www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org)

Liz Dack ([elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com))

### **WALKING THE PARISH FOOTPATHS - MEN 15/2, 15/1, 13/2**

The whole of this walk around Crafton will take you about  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour but can be shortened, as described below. There is parking space at the T-junction by the Crafton noticeboard but away from the white gate, which is in use. Walk down the road to the left for about 300 yards. The path (15/2) starts with a kissing gate at the marked public footpath on the right, which you will find shortly after the entrance to a group of barn conversions. Follow it up between the hedgerows for about 400 yards before you arrive at a field. You are requested to keep dogs on leads from this point, to protect crops and wildlife. The field is planted, and as often seems to be the case, it seems logical to skirt round the edge. However, the path goes diagonally across a corner of the field and has been clearly marked with vehicle tracks for your convenience. At the far side of the field, cross over the farm track, with Helsthorpe Farm on your left. Again, it would seem easier here to follow the farm tracks on the other side but bear with it. There is a sign which indicates the way, neither up the track to your left, nor straight on, but diagonally across the field in front of you, towards a line of pylons. The field is planted but the footpath has been marked by a vehicle, as before. Possibly because of historic field boundaries, at a certain point the path suddenly veers to the right towards a nearby pylon in the middle of the field.

Just past this point, you can turn sharp right and shorten your walk by following the path (13/2) over towards the top end of Crafton. As you reach the edge of the field, you will see a stile on the other side of the track. Climb over this (dogs can easily go underneath) and cross another smaller field heading to the left of the houses on the other side of the field. At the time of writing, this path had not yet been marked this year. Walk to the left of the houses, and over a second stile, again easily negotiated by dogs. You are now in Crafton and a short walk down to the bottom of the village will bring you back to your starting point.

Should you wish to go further (15/1), continue on past the pylon in a straight line, going gently downhill towards the Wingrave road, visible a few hundred yards ahead. Halfway there, the path becomes a farm track which brings you right to the road. If you do not wish to walk along the road, there is no alternative but to go back the way you came!

### **OVER-HEIGHT VEHICLES – LEDBURN**

We are currently looking at possible solutions to better prevent over-height vehicles approaching the bridge and having to reverse back to Ledburn.

In order to gather data on the scope of the problem, can anyone who sees such vehicles please make a simple note of date, time and type of vehicle and send it to [clerk@mentmore.org](mailto:clerk@mentmore.org). This will allow us to build a better case should we need to determine the effectiveness of any changes made or if we request better signage.



Our work began in the early part of the year with repairs and, in some cases complete replacement, of damaged boxes in readiness for this year's breeding season. The worst of these was a box that, despite a large hole in the rear panel and roof, had been successfully used by a tawny owl last season. It seems the owls were very lucky, as when we went back to put the new box in place the old one was in pieces on the ground!

While carrying out the repairs we were able to confirm the presence of at least one pair of barn owls in the box they were using last year. We also had another barn owl which flew from its box, but was then found in a second box nearby. This owl was one of last year's chicks, amazingly, as it turned out, ringed by Lynne at a nest in Cholesbury. Unfortunately, some weeks later this bird was handed in to St. Tiggywinkles, slightly malnourished and behaving a little "oddly". I am pleased to report that it is doing well but, due to its "odd" behaviour will probably not be released back into the wild.

Lynne and I began our first round of box checks in early March and had some success regarding box occupation; a tawny owl sitting on two eggs and another box with two resident barn owls, but no eggs. In fact, while bent down beneath the box preparing the ladder, the first of the two owls flew from the box and left a lovely "present" all across the back of my shirt – delightful! We looked at a few other boxes to help get an idea of the timing of this year's breeding season, but given the results took a decision to delay further box checks for several weeks in order to cause as little disturbance as possible to any early nesting birds.

Our second round of box checks were carried out in early May and again we had mixed results. Many of the boxes contained only stock doves and, although not owls, any chicks present were ringed as part of our BTO monitoring. However, on returning to the box in which we had previously found a tawny owl on eggs, we were delighted to find the female with two healthy chicks. We not only ringed the two chicks, but also the adult female (a rarity, as they are difficult to trap, and the first for Lynne in 17 years of ringing!). We had further good news for another of our tawny boxes – a female sitting on two eggs.

Our visits will continue throughout late May and early June to ensure that all boxes and locations are checked. In early to mid-June, weather permitting, we will begin our return visits to those boxes that had adults sitting on eggs – so fingers crossed that we continue to get positive results and healthy chicks.

*Please do remember though, that any unlicensed disturbance of these species at or near their nest sites is illegal and can lead to prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act.*

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 for more information. If you see us while we are out and about please do come and say hello.

Karen Thomas BORG Monitor/Trainee BTO Ringer  
[karen@giveahoot.org.uk](mailto:karen@giveahoot.org.uk)  
East Bucks Region

# ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS & BUSINESSES



## Advertising Costs – June 2017

Copy Size	Boxed Display Rates Commercial Parish	Boxed Display Rates Commercial Non- parish	Boxed Display Rates Charity & Fundraising Parish	Boxed Display Rates Charity & Fundraising Non- parish
Full Page (A4)	£10	£24	Free	Negotiable
½ Page 13 x 18.25cm landscape	£6	£12	Free	Free
¼ Page 6.25 x 18.25cm landscape	£3	£6	Free	Free
¼ Page 8.8 x 13.25cm portrait	£3	£6	Free	Free
Page 8.8 x 7.8cm portrait	£2	£4	Free	Free
⅛ Page 8.8 x 6.25cm landscape	£1	£3	Free	Free
20% discount is given on all commercial advertisements which run for a year (4 issues)				

If you have an item which you would like included in the next Newsletter (September, October & November) please contact either Liz (Tel 661309 /email [crackerdack@aol.com](mailto:crackerdack@aol.com)) or Karen (Tel 661509 / email [karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com))  
Newsletter deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017