

## MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Issue 2

June 2018

### “DIARY PAGE”



#### PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council is currently set to take place on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August**, at **8.00 pm** in the Village Hall.

Village Hall Committee meetings are generally held about a week before the parish council meeting and the next one is on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July** at **6.30pm** in the Village Hall.

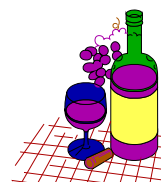
Agendas for both meetings are on the noticeboards. Members of the public are welcome to attend both the Parish Council meetings and the Village Hall meetings.

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



#### VILLAGE EVENT

Sadly, there will not be a fete or barn dance this year. However, please do keep **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August** free as there are exciting plans afoot for an event. Everyone from the three villages will be invited and food and drink will be involved and possibly music. A promising start!



#### BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE & STRIDE

Ride & Stride is an event like no other! Why not take part this year and find out for yourself what extraordinary things lie quietly behind the churchyard gates and creaking doors of Buckinghamshire's many churches and chapels. The aim of the day is to raise money (by being sponsored for every participating church one visits) for the repair and restoration of churches and chapels of any Christian denomination in Buckinghamshire. Half the money raised goes to the church or chapel of the participant's choice - we hope St. Mary's, Mentmore - and the other half is added to a general fund which is administered by the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust. Churches are open between 10am and 6pm. Many of the churches that participate provide delicious refreshments for the riders who visit, as well as a friendly face and someone to talk to! This year's ride takes place on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. Please contact Penny (01296 660416) for sponsor forms and more information.

**RAF HALTON – NATIONAL HERITAGE OPEN DAY:** Those of you who visited the Officers' Mess at Halton earlier this year will already be aware of this event. For those of you who missed our outing, or who wish to look again, you now have another chance to look around the Officers' Mess.

The House, both Museums and the Trenches will be open from **10am to 4pm** on **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September**. A coach will be provided between the various venues. The dining room provides snacks and drinks.



**BRIDGE REPAIR:** As I am sure everyone will have noticed by now, the Brownlow Bridge sustained damage from a driver who unfortunately drove into the side of the bridge in the middle of the night in May. While the Canal and River Trust are responsible for the repair, Transport for Bucks (TfB) will be upgrading the traffic lights while the bridge is being repaired and hopefully all work will be completed by the end of the school holidays if not before.

## **Thanks Thanks Thanks**



### **PLANT SALE – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

Thanks to all involved with the Plant Sale on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Special thanks to Hannah who directed the proceedings. Over 500 people attended, resulting in a net profit of £1,814 and some very positive feedback. Thanks also to Sue Sutton and her tea team, not forgetting John Sutton who went on to run the London marathon in good time the following day, and of course Jonathan.

The raffle prize of Wyevale Garden Centre Vouchers, bought with a donation from Sue Scott, was won by a resident of Wendover.



### **MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL – 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May**

The 10th Mentmore Arts Festival was held over the late May Bank Holiday weekend. Fortunately all the forecast thunder storms occurred during the nights and the weather was warm and dry throughout the three days.

As usual, the village came out in support and the Festival Committee were delighted and extremely grateful for all the help provided with refreshments, sales and behind the scenes with setting up and taking everything down again at the end of the weekend.

The atmosphere throughout the weekend was happy and excited, with interest shown in previous and first-time exhibitors alike. As always the church and village hall looked amazing with the wonderful displays from our talented artists. Our takings on our Friday preview night were the best since the festival began and that set the scene for the rest of the weekend. The three benefiting charities, National Autistic Society, Lindengate and SeeAbility, provided information about their work with representatives chatting to visitors and answering questions. The Village Hall garden seemed constantly full of people lunching or enjoying tea and cake and glasses of Pimm's.

While final figures aren't yet available, we can report that we expect a record year with sales of art, refreshments and raffle tickets all exceeding previous years. We look forward to announcing, as soon as possible, the donations to our charities and St Mary's Church.

The Festival Committee would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, every volunteer, all the visitors and, of course, all of the artists.

**Stephanie  
Arts Festival Committee**

# YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



## NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The Interregnum which we have now entered will continue for some months as the process for appointing a new priest is a long one. However, services will continue as normal.

For all queries, would you please contact the Team Rector, Philip Derbyshire (01525 240287) or Parish Churchwardens, Lin Knappitt (01296 668568) and Christopher Shephard (01296 661849). Thank you.

### Schedule of Services for St Mary's Church

| Date          | Service        | Priest         |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| June 3rd      | Holy Communion | David Holloway |
| June 17th     | Holy Communion | David Holloway |
| July 1st      | Holy Communion | Ian Ogilvie    |
| July 15th     | Holy Communion | David Holloway |
| August 5th    | Holy Communion | Ian Ogilvie    |
| August 19th   | Holy Communion | David Holloway |
| September 2nd | Holy Communion | Ian Ogilvie    |

### **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 up to a maximum of 10 tickets 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     Sally Glover  
2nd prize of £10.00     Sally Smith of Mentmore

#### **April winners:**

1st prize of £100.00     Sally Smith of Mentmore  
2nd prize of £10.00     Diane Cull of Whitchurch

#### **May winners:**

1st prize of £30.00     John Lowen of Mentmore  
2nd prize of £10.00     Sue Sutton of Mentmore

#### **June winners:**

1st prize of £200.00     Sonia Pidelski of Mentmore  
2nd prize of £10.00     Martin Gates of Mentmore

## **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE!**

The church gutters are in need of cleaning to protect the walls from damp. This is not a large job, though a willingness to climb ladders is needed. A team of two or three people would be ideal. Refreshments will be provided. Please contact Carol Cox on 07920 140740.



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

## **Your Parish Councillors 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, 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.



## **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION**

It is about nineteen years since Mentmore last entered the “Best Kept Village” competition, but did you know that we have entered again this year? Mentmore has won this competition in the past (see the plaques in the village hall), so come on all you conscientious villagers, let’s see if we can do it again, it doesn’t take much effort if we all pitch in together!

Judging will take place between **June** and **July** with winners announced by the end of **July**. So now’s the time to blitz the weeds, trim those hedges, mow those lawns and plant up your hanging baskets and window boxes to help make our village a worthy entrant to this competition. Marks are also awarded for the appearance of pubs, telephone kiosks, noticeboards, war memorials, conservation areas and for evidence of community effort.

Any time now, you may see a group of tight-lipped officials with clipboards who may not be willing to enter into a conversation. They will be wandering around, taking notes. These are the judges. Who knows what may happen?

## **VILLAGE HALL**



## **BOOK SALES**

Second hand books are on sale in the village hall most weekends when the hall is not in use. Sales have been brisk, supplies are low, therefore donations of your surplus (good quality) books are particularly welcome at the moment. They can be collected or given to Liz at 34 The Green (01296 661309). Thank you.

# 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 with patio.  
Wi-Fi Internet is available

**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)

The Village Hall Committee is delighted to report that the new kitchen was well tested with no problems over the weekend of the Arts Festival. There is a new path leading to the back door, patio area and proposed replacement shed. A planning application has gone in for the siting of a new shed. Plans are afoot to refurbish the floors and redecorate inside.

The hall was left clean and tidy following the Arts Festival, however we are still looking for volunteers who can spare a little time to go on the cleaning rota. At the moment, this amounts to a monthly commitment of about half an hour a week for a month, every fourth month, which would clearly be less if we had more people.

## **Are you missing a plate?**

A number of items such as cake tins, plates etc were left behind after the event and are in the village hall. Please contact Liz on 01296 661309 if you would like to go into the hall and collect.



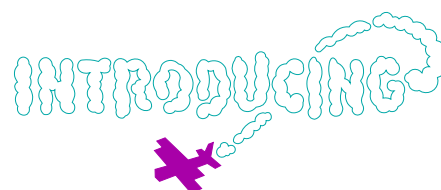
## **LITTER PICKING – in our parish**

I hope to organise a litter pick in early autumn when the undergrowth has died down, and will make contact with people who have kindly offered their help nearer the time. Please do continue to report fly tipping.

AVDC has contractors who should make regular rounds to pick up litter. They are a rare sight, so it would be good to know if anyone sees any signs of their activity.

We have contacted McDonalds to try and enlist some support from such an influential global corporation, noting that a proportion of the litter we find comes from McDonalds outlets and have been met with resounding indifference. We will keep trying.

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



Congratulations to Hannah and Ciaran of The Green, Mentmore  
on the birth of  
Aidán Samuel Wrathall-Delapp



## VISIT TO RAF HALTON: Halton House (Officers' Mess), the Trenchard Museum and the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April, members of Mentmore, Ledburn & Crafton Historical Group, Mentmore Table Tennis Club & Mentmore Book Club made up a party of 25 that visited RAF Halton, exactly nineteen years and two months to the day since members of the Mentmore Society last visited Halton.

This year's visit and itinerary were organised with the help of Trixie Brabner, the archivist and tour coordinator for Halton House and museums.

The day began with a visit to the Trenchard Museum, where the curator, Francis Hanford, gave us a short introductory talk before the group was split into two. Half of us remained at the Trenchard Museum where we were able to check out the many wonderful exhibits and display items, while the other half went across to the James McCudden Flight Heritage Centre. The flight centre houses several working flight simulators, including a D4 Link Trainer manufactured in Aylesbury in 1951. Bill McGrath provided a brief history and demonstrations of the flight simulators – one or two of our party even got to try the simulators out for themselves. After about 45 minutes the groups swapped locations, so that no-one missed out.



Following on from our visit to the museums we went to one of the modern mess halls where we had lunch before being taken, by Trixie, across to Halton House for our guided tour. During the tour we learned of the house's history and gained some insights into the famous Rothchild family and Alfred Freiherr de Rothschild, who had the house built as his country residence, using it in the late 1800's and early 1900s to host some amazing week-long parties and extravagant entertainment for the rich and famous. We learned that Halton's link to the armed forces began back in 1913, when Alfred invited the army to use his land for summer manoeuvres. This link was strengthened at the outbreak of WWI, when he offered the estate to Lord Kitchener for training and during the war years Halton became the main training unit for aircraft mechanics of the Royal Flying Corps. Following Alfred's death the estate was sold, in 1919, to the War Office/RAF for £112,000 - who knows what it is worth now in 2018! The estate is still home to the RAF, whose primary role is to train military and civilian personnel for military operations, while the house's main function now is as the Officers' Mess. It is often hired out for use as a set to the film and TV industry – you may have seen it in such things as *Evita*, *The Queen*, *The King's Speech*, *Poirot*, *Endeavour* and *Downton Abbey*.

Although the house and estate are still owned by the RAF, the future is uncertain, so visits such as this may soon become a thing of the past!

If you would like to visit Halton House & Museums the next event day is The Heritage Open Day on **Sunday September 16th 2018** (see the Diary Page item).

This type of visit provides something for everyone; children would enjoy the interactive nature of the museums and the grounds of the house on a warm day.

For more information about RAF Halton, the museums and the story behind them please look up:

[www.trenchardmuseum.org.uk/about](http://www.trenchardmuseum.org.uk/about).

[www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-halton](http://www.raf.mod.uk/our-organisation/stations/raf-halton).

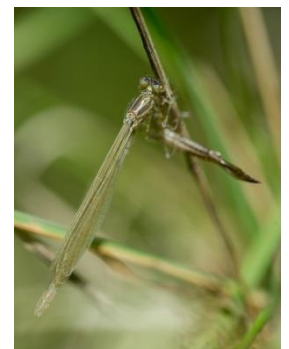
It's been a really funny year so far, with unseasonal weather at unexpected times of the year affecting many of our local wildlife species. However, it is finally beginning to look as though most of them are now back on track and making the most of the warmer and dryer conditions.

As a BORG volunteer I am now spending my time monitoring our boxes for occupants and signs of breeding. The year got off to a slow start with many of our Tawny Owls failing to breed, or having only small clutches. However, despite a late start, we are finally beginning to find Barn Owls on eggs, or in a few cases very small chicks, so fingers crossed for a successful outcome later in the year when we return to try and ring the chicks before they depart the nest.



It has been a delight to see an increase, albeit be it small, in the number of hares around the parish – something I hope will continue as weather, food and control of hare coursing improves. Game birds are also plentiful, with several parishioners having their own “tame” birds, mostly red-legged partridge and pheasants, coming into their gardens on a regular basis for their daily feed.

This year for the first time Steve and I have seen large red and southern damselflies emerging from our garden pond. An amazing thing to see, although one does need a couple of hours to spare if you want to watch the emergence from beginning to end! In the past we have been able to watch the same event for the larger dragonflies, but this year we have seen not a single one emerging from our pond – we have yet to determine why!



Still on the subject of damselflies, we had another first yesterday while out for an afternoon walk in the parish – several pairs of banded demoiselles. The colours of this species are absolutely amazing; the male being a deep, metallic blue with banded wings, while the female is a vibrant, deep green and no banding on the wings.

We will continue to watch and enjoy the local wildlife and hope that you too get the chance to see these, and many other, fantastic species. If you want to share your experiences with others please do get in touch and we will publish your observations in the next newsletter.

In the meantime if you are interested in the work of BORG ([www.giveahoot.org.uk](http://www.giveahoot.org.uk)), 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 & Steve Thomas

# ADVERTISING FOR LOCAL EVENTS & BUSINESSES



## 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)

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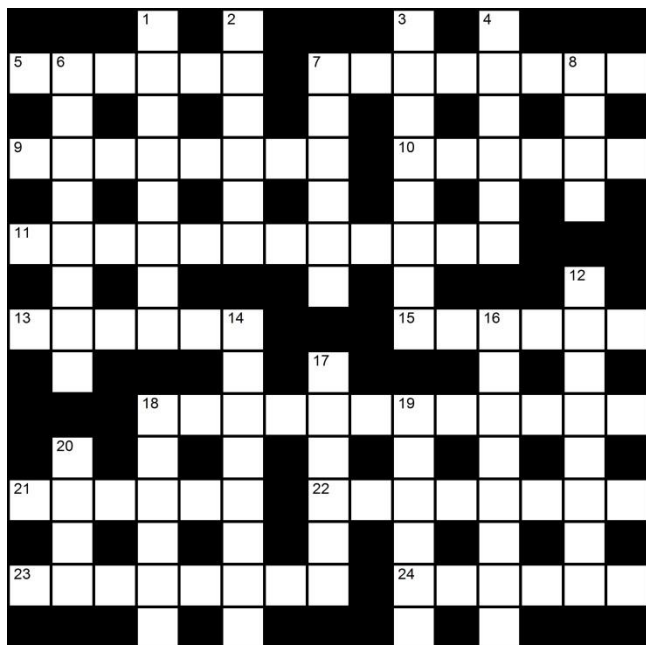
The Little IT Company - based in Cheddington - Call Mark: 07789 304 274



# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRIZE CROSSWORD

To celebrate the 25th year of producing this newsletter, I am pleased to offer this locally-themed cryptic crossword, with a £25 cash prize. *Only current and past residents of the parish are eligible to win the prize.* Entries please by **1st July**, complete with your name & contact details, on paper to myself in person or by e-mail to [steve.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:steve.thomas@dial.pipex.com). If there are multiple correct entries I expect to draw the winner by lot. As they say in all the best publications, the judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. I reserve the right to be arbitrary!

Steve Thomas.



**Submitted by:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Telephone No.:**

**e-mail :**

## Across

- 5 One-time stablemate backs Blue Peter, the English poet? Almost! (6)
- 7 Census to convert Mrs Rosebery (8)
- 9 Smithy occupant once made limb by short-time Queen (8)
- 10 I flail wildly relating to issue (6)
- 11 Army striving to erect church shortly (2,4,6)
- 13 Railway (aluminium) directly descending (6)
- 15 Old comic headgear for the nobs (6)
- 18 Preference given to this neckwear by Mr Gates? (3,6,3)
- 21 Crystal rocks short company poems (6)
- 22 Starchy holes in one's sock (8)
- 23 Possible village hall activity combining chocolate bar and French pens (8)
- 24 Froggy's Switzerland in lime mix? (6)

## Down

- 1 Booze with tellurium replacing astatine for resident of the Manor House, perhaps? (8)
- 2 Fishy bird once seen at College Lake loves its food (6)
- 3 Petty argument seen upstairs at Room No. 9, perhaps? (3-5)
- 4 Hot fruit bread missing fifty ingredients (6)
- 6 Graces companion takes journey from here? (8)
- 7 Sounds like our one-time local councillor's in a depression (6)
- 8 Local male (4)
- 12 Kepi seen worn by one of man's best friends (8)
- 14 Mrs Rosebery's address? (8)
- 16 Mr Rosebery's business? (8)
- 17 Sights copses demolished (6)
- 18 Food forty or sixty stirred at Lee & Jules' place (3,3)
- 19 About the end of service at The Stag, according to schedule (2,4)
- 20 Celebrate Mrs Gates' creation (4)

## Advertising Costs For the Mentmore Newsletter – June 2018

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

**GDPR** – As I am sure you are all aware by now the new European General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May. These new regulations are, in essence, a revised version of the old Data Protection Act, and are designed to give you greater control of how organisations use your personal data.

You receive this newsletter because you have previously given permission, either on paper, or by e-mail, for us to send you the newsletter by e-mail or as a hard copy. You will continue to receive the newsletter, and the occasional related extra-ordinary articles, until such time as you ask us to unsubscribe you from the distribution list.

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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 [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 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.**