



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

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“DIARY PAGE”

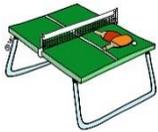


TABLE TENNIS

The table tennis group meets in the *Village Hall* every *Tuesday* at *6.30 – 8pm*. It is a great way to keep fit and get to know people at the same time. Abilities vary as much as the people who are there and we all aim to improve. Fees are **£2 per person per session** (bats and balls are supplied if you don't have your own).



MENTMORE PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on *Wednesday 6th April* in the *Village Hall* and will start at *8.00pm*. Confirmation of the date and the agenda will be published on the noticeboards prior to the meeting, as well as on the parish website.

Minutes of the meeting which took place on 3rd February can be read on the website, www.mentmore.org



MENTMORE'S SECOND BIG TIDY-UP

Six months on from our last concentrated litter-pick, the debris is building up again and Liz is appealing to anyone who helped before, either on the dedicated afternoon in the autumn or independently, to consider another session.

The Village Hall is booked for *Sunday 10th April* as a base for a team effort and the hi-viz jackets and litter-picking tools will be available on the day or can be borrowed at any time to suit you.

Please could you let Liz (know either in person or via e-mail to elizadack@outlook.com) if you are willing to pick up the baton, and anything else that has been flung on the verges of our parish, whether or not you were part of the original team.

EXTENSION TO THE VILLAGE HALL

Plans for an extension to the village hall have been submitted to, and subsequently approved by, the planning department at AVDC. You are cordially invited to come along and view the plans which will be on display in the *Village Hall* on *Sunday 10th April* between *10am and 4pm*. The Parish Council can be contacted by email to answer any questions you might have (clerk@mentmore.org).



VILLAGE PLANT SALE

This now annual event will take place from *12 noon to 4.00pm* on the *Village Green* on *Saturday 16th April*. There will be stalls from professional and amateur growers, supplying a wide variety and choice of plants. There will also be a local, Mentmore, stall so if you have any excess cuttings or seedlings for potting up, unwanted plants, pots, compost or gardening tools, why not donate them to our parish stall – all donations gratefully received.

There will be tea & cakes (all delicious and home-made), plus the usual barbecue, with excellent local sausages and burgers.

For more information call: 07707 218719 or check out the parish web site www.mentmore.org



MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Mentmore Arts Festival is back for its eighth year. The Festival takes place on *Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th and Monday 30th 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 or contact: Deborah Hall: 07831 707023 deborahhall58@yahoo.co.uk

UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

The Village Hall was packed on December 6th with lovely people intent on proving how knowledgeable they are - or should we say wanting to support this St. Mary's fundraising event!!

Dee Lewis, the quizmaster, set challenging questions and we saw everyone's competitive side emerge. A variety of generously donated prizes were raffled off and, boosted by the sales of the bar, an impressive £750 was raised.



ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St. Mary's Church looked absolutely beautiful on the weekend of the Nine Lessons and Carols, lit up with 24 stunning and imaginative trees, all designed and decorated on the theme of Christmas music by local clubs, companies and parishioners.

Though the attendance of visitors was not huge, those that came and enjoyed the festival boosted the total amount raised from these two events for St. Mary's to just over £1,000.

Many thanks to all those people who supported, contributed and helped with these fun events.

YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



www.mentmore.org

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chairman: Peter Brazier
Vice Chairman: Jonathan Langley
Councillor: Liz Dack
Faye Morley-Medlar
Iain Butler

Our clerk, Deborah Martin, left us at the end of December, but we are fortunate to have an experienced replacement, Maxine Hayes.

Clerk to the Council: Martine Hayes

clerk@mentmore.org

ROAD CLOSURE: STATION ROAD, CHEDDINGTON

Temporary prohibition of through traffic in Station Road, Cheddington, comprising the railway bridge and the length of carriageway 30 metres either side of the bridge.

The alternative route for vehicles affected by the closure will be via Station Road, Horton Road, Leighton Road, A4146, Leighton Road, Park Gate, Mentmore and Station Road.

The closure will come into operation on 15 February 2016 and will continue for a period not exceeding eighteen months or until the works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. The closure is required whilst bridge structural repair works take place and it is anticipated that they will take approximately 9 weeks to complete.

WALKING THE PARISH FOOTPATHS: MEN/6/1 – Mentmore Cricket Club to Ledburn.

This bridleway is less than 1½ miles long and provides easy walking on flat ground. Start at the entrance to Mentmore Cricket Club at the bottom of the hill as you go out of the village towards Crafton. Following the sign, go through a wooden gate and cross the grassy field diagonally to your left. You will come to a sturdy metal gate leading into an arable field, muddy and waterlogged as it has been this winter. At this time of year, the path across the field has become obliterated. Aim for the telegraph pole on the far side and then walk straight on with the drainage ditch on your left. Where the ditch changes direction, there is a waymarked bridge to take you over the ditch and forward, slightly to the left. Continue without changing your general direction, with the hedge on your left, under the line of pylons. Gaps in the hedge have been filled with ash trees and as you reach the end of this footpath, the hedge becomes a line of young ash trees. Just before you reach the road and the end of this path, the hedge resumes. Keep walking to the right of it to emerge through a marked gap onto the road through Ledburn.

Coming back along the same bridleway, there is a good view up to Mentmore, with Mentmore Towers and the village in silhouette against the skyline.

MENTMORE VILLAGE HALL

The hall has access for the disabled, can accommodate up to 50 adults, and is ideal for children's parties, family get-togethers and educational or social functions, or you could hire the hall for a game or two of table tennis if you're feeling energetic.

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

Price: from £7/hour for parishioners (commercial rates negotiable)

Hall furniture available for separate hire, rates on application

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

EXTENSION TO THE VILLAGE HALL

The approved plans for an extension to the village hall will provide the hall more storage space and greater flexibility to hold different events, as well as a new improved kitchen area. The extension is to the back of the building so will not greatly alter the appearance of the building from the road. It is however likely that the rowan tree in the garden will need to be removed. If that is the case, it is intended to plant a replacement tree in an appropriate location and to use some of the wood from the existing tree in the new building works. The tree was planted by the WI in 1976 to mark the 50th anniversary of the organisation and we hope to commemorate this in some way. The extension is to be largely funded by the Section 106 money, plus additional grants and money already raised in the community for improvements.

We will have a hall to be proud of!



BOOKS

Used books continue to be on sale in the foyer of the Village Hall every weekend when the hall is not in use. A special sale will be held in March when books will be offered at £1 for three books.

Unmissable, you must agree! Please do come and browse. We have a good variety of hardbacks and paperbacks all donated and all of good quality. Money raised goes towards the exciting new Village Hall improvements and extension which are due to commence in June.

VIGILANT DOGGY DILIGENCE

We need to keep our public areas safe, and there have recently been complaints that some owners have allowed pets to foul grassy areas and verges in the parish.

So remember to say 'Poo Poo to Dog Poo' and carry a small plastic bag for removal of evidence and subsequent disposal in the bins provided.



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Congratulations!

All at St. Mary's Church would like to congratulate the Venerable Karen Gorham, who was the Archdeacon of Buckingham for eight years, on becoming the 36th Bishop of Sherborne and the 9th in modern times. The Bishop of Sherborne works in the Diocese of Salisbury with responsibility mainly for parishes in Dorset. Karen's consecration took place on 24 February at Westminster Abbey and she joins the Salisbury Diocese formally in March.

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: mentmorechurch@yahoo.co.uk or phone Deborah on 01296 668114 for a standing order form.

December winners:

The 1st prize of £300 went to - David Morgan of Wingrave.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to - Val Rayner of Ledburn.

January winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to - Stewart Miles of Cheddington.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to - Sue and Richard Foster of Cheddington.

February winners:

The 1st prize of £100.00 went to- Sue and Richard Foster of Cheddington.

The 2nd prize of £10.00 went to – Roger and Lynda Martin of Wing.

MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

The 8th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held from Saturday 28th May to Monday 30th May 2016, open each day from 11am to 5pm.

Over the last few years this event has become increasingly popular both locally and further afield with over 1,000 visitors and in excess of £16,000 worth of art sold in 2015. The Committee continue to hone their organisational skills to ensure that the Festival delivers an exciting experience with new and fresh art alongside the regular exhibitors who have become firm favourites.

The twin venues of St Mary's Church and Mentmore Village Hall provide attractive settings and with the refreshment marquee next to the Hall, a morning or afternoon can be spent appreciating art and enjoying a coffee, light lunch or perhaps a Pimms or two.

We have over 60 artists exhibiting, displaying a variety of work including paintings, photography, glass work, ceramics and cabinetry.

Not only does the Mentmore Arts Festival promote local art but it also raises money for local charities. To date the impressive total of £41,500 has been donated and everyone who supports the Festival, whether by showing art, buying art or just attending the event, should be proud of this achievement.

The key charity for 2016 is Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

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

Date and Time: Bank holiday weekend 28th – 30th May 2016, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm daily

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

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

Website: www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk

If anyone can help over the weekend we would be grateful for any time you can give. Please contact Deborah on deborahhall58@yahoo.co.uk or any other committee member.

Please visit our website at www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk for further information and a preview of the artists for 2016.



The Stag @ Mentmore

OPENING TIMES:

Monday	Closed all day.
Tuesday – Saturday	12.00 noon to 3.00 pm (last food orders taken at 2.00 pm) 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm (last food orders taken at 9.00 pm)
Sunday	12.00 noon to 5.00 pm (last food orders taken 3.00 pm)

For more information, or to book a table, call Denise on **01296 660602**, or via e-mail: info@stagmentmore.co.uk.
www.stagmentmore.co.uk

WILDLIFE UPDATES



Bucks Owl & Raptor Group
www.giveahoot.org.uk

We are approaching that time of year when our resident tawny owls are finding new homes in readiness for the breeding season (of the species we monitor they are usually the first to nest). Other owls and raptors breed later in the spring, but they too will be assessing boxes and natural nest sites, so our first phase of box checking will take place in a month or so.

As always, it would be helpful to know if there are any owls or other raptors in the area. So, if you see any of the species we're monitoring please do let me know where, and when, you saw them. We have already had regular sightings of buzzard and red kite (although these are not within our remit), with less frequent sightings of barn owl, kestrel, sparrowhawk and little owl.

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, or in sponsoring a new nest box, please feel free to contact me for more information.

Karen Thomas

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IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we report the death,
on 31st December 2015, of Andrew Kent.

Andrew was the son of George & Jenny Kent and grew up with his parents and older brother, Simon, at the lodge in Lower Crafton. He went to school in Wing following which he worked for a time with his father, before becoming an IT engineer.

Andrew lived in Aylesbury with wife, Claire, and their beloved cocker spaniel, Charlie. As for hobbies, he loved holidaying and walking in the Lake District and, as many of you will know, his passion in recent years has been the Le Mans 24 hour race. He would go to France to watch the race and his companionship will be greatly missed by those with whom he used to travel.

Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we remember Ron Rickard, late of this parish, who died at home in Cheddington, on Sunday 6th February 2016.

Ron was born in Mentmore 94 years ago, and was one of a family of twelve living at 33 The Green. He grew up in Mentmore at a time when the estate was still very much a part of local life and had many tales to tell of the amazing times he shared with his friends – fishing in the local ponds, cycling through the floods at Ledburn, collecting milk from the dairy (and spilling it on the way home due to over-zealous games) being just a few. Ron was a member of the Mentmore Cricket Team and regularly played for them, in both friendly and competitive matches. In fact, we believe it may have been he who obtained permission from the Rosebery family to use their racing colours for the cricket club!

Although Ron moved away from Mentmore after his marriage to Eve, if only as far as Cheddington, he still returned to the village on many occasions, most notably for the Remembrance Day services at St. Mary's.

Ron was – a real gentleman, in all meanings of the word, and will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Our thoughts are with them at this sad time.

*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) or Karen (Tel 661509 / email karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com)
Newsletter deadline: 15th May 2016*

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.

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