



## MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 Issue 3

September 2019

### “DIARY PAGE”



We are running a Film Night on the *last Saturday of each month* in Mentmore Village Hall. Doors open at **7.30pm** for **8.00pm** start.

Please call either Angela (07725 950995) or Stephanie (07919 562414) for more details and to check it is going ahead.



#### VILLAGE HALL STAG PUB BASH

The Village Hall pub bash has now become a regular event, with excellent attendance creating much of our traditional pub atmosphere. Pub night is open to all parish residents and friends and *takes place on the first Friday evening of every month*, Village Hall doors open at **6.30pm**, closing time is **11pm**.

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Glasses, plates etc will be provided. If the weather shows promise we will get the barbeque out.

NEXT EVENT: **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September.**



#### BUCKS HISTORIC CHURCHES RIDE & STRIDE

Ride & Stride is an event like no other! 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 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 14<sup>th</sup> September*. Please contact Penny Hibbert (01296 660416) for more information.



#### HARVEST FESTIVAL

St. Mary's Harvest Festival Service will take place in the church on *Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September* at **11.30am** and will be followed by a “bring and share” luncheon. All parishioners are welcome, but we ask that if you are intending to bring something to share, or want any suggestions as to what is required please contact Penny Hibbert on 01296 660416.



#### LITTERPICK – Mentmoreons United

The next Community Litter Pick will take place on *Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September* from **10am** based in the Village Hall. Please feel free to contact me if you have not taken part previously and can spare a couple of hours on that day or another day during the week around that time, if it is more convenient. Bagged litter will be piled in the Village Hall garden for collection by AVDC. Equipment will be provided and refreshments will be available. Those who have expressed an interest will be contacted nearer the time.

## MENTMORE CONSERVATION AREA – REVIEW

The long-awaited review of the Conservation Area has now been completed and parishioners will have a chance to view and discuss the findings at meetings to be held in the *Village Hall* on the *evening* of the *30<sup>th</sup> September* and the *afternoon* of *2<sup>nd</sup> October*. Look out for your further details to be delivered through your door soon!



## PARISH COUNCIL

The next ordinary meetings of the Parish Council will be on *Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October* (8pm) and *Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December* (8pm) in the Village Hall.

Agendas are posted on the noticeboards and all are welcome to attend.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

This year's service of Remembrance will be held at St. Mary's Church on *Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November* at *10.00 am*. The collection is to be donated to the "Poppy Fund".

## UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS



## MAGNIFICENT EFFORT BY THE MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL TEAM

The accounts are finalised and we are delighted to announce that we have been able to donate £4500 to Keech Hospice, £2000 to Nest, £2000 to Riding for the Disabled and £2500 towards the upkeep of St. Mary's Church, Mentmore. This brings the total funds donated as a result of the Arts Festival to a staggering £83,000!

Thank you for your generosity and support and for allowing your village to become a hive of activity each May bank holiday.

Arts Festival Committee



## MENTMORE SUMMER FÊTE

Fête day dawned bright and clear and the air was filled with the sights and sounds of marquees being erected, poles being hammered into the ground, bunting being swagged and the setting up of stalls and refreshments, all accompanied by laughter and banter. Such a lot to achieve by so few in such a short space of time.

And what a day! The spectacle of Vintage Cars was a perfect backdrop to the feel of a traditional country fête, complete with coconut shy and tug of war, and who can forget the hilarity of the terrier racing and the variety in the dog show? The Bric-a-Brac, tombola, produce and pre-loved stalls were bountiful and a feast for the eye. Rosie's raffle drew the crowds, a tribute to the generous spirit of the local community. Tantalising smells wafted from the barbecue and the queue for tea and cakes and at the bar and Pimms table seemed endless. A lovely nostalgic reminder of fêtes past was to be seen at the History Society display. Altogether a heart-warming! The sun shone and the fun was enjoyed by all. And the perfect end to a perfect day was the picnic to musical accompaniment in the evening.

Thank you for the enthusiasm and generosity that helped make this happen and to those who worked their socks off before, during and after. £3000 was raised which will be divided between the Epilepsy Society and Wateraid.

N.B. There are still some cake tins/plates which haven't been claimed and they are in the village hall.

Fête committee



## BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2019, GURNEY CUP

Mentmore was again entered for the Gurney Cup (small village section) in the Best Kept Village Competition and the results are now in! Unfortunately, we did not win, but were awarded 86 marks out of a possible 100.

The assessors were present at the beginning of July and commented:

“Mentmore’s biggest asset is the beautiful village green with its lime trees. It had been very well mown. The children’s play equipment, in keeping with the location, was all neat and tidy. The village hall is tidy apart from some peeling paint on the window sills. The back-garden area has a nicely planted and watered new hedge. The noticeboard had no Best Kept Village poster! The churchyard had been selectively mown, but it is a shame the area with some of the more recent graves hadn’t been trimmed. The war memorial in the churchyard is good and well kept. Overall the village is very tidy with evidence of community effort.”

## YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



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

### Your Parish Councillors are:

Clerk to the Council    Bridget Knight

[councillors@mentmore.org](mailto:councillors@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 CC, road closures, a booking service for the village hall and more.

If you have an issue you would like to see on the agenda please contact the Parish Clerk ([clerk@mentmore.org](mailto:clerk@mentmore.org)).

### MENTMORE VILLAGE HALL

The hall has disabled access, 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: from £10 per hour for parishioners** (commercial rates negotiable)

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

To book and for all hire enquiries please call **07795 383086**

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



## NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH (PARISH OF CHEDDINGTON WITH MENTMORE)

**HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST UPDATE:** Sadly, our appointed House of Duty priest was not able to accept the position for personal reasons. The post will be re advertised from 1st September for one month. The closing date for applications is the 1<sup>st</sup> October; a shortlist will be decided on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October and interviews will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.

### VACANCIES AT ST. MARY'S

**Churchwarden:** As many of you know, Sally Smith and her husband are moving to Somerset later in the year to be closer to family. This leaves two openings for churchwarden. Anyone wishing to take on the role may contact Sally, on 07769 697696 or [sallysmith@waitrose.com](mailto:sallysmith@waitrose.com), or any member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) if they wish to discuss the duties involved.

**Treasurer:** Do you have a few hours a month spare to help out as Treasurer to our beautiful Village Church? Church accounts are currently prepared using Excel so it would be helpful if the applicant has this facility and can work the basics.

Full support from the current Treasurer will be given, as well as from the Treasurer for St Giles Church, Cheddington. If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Carol Cox on 07920 140740 or [carolcox48@gmail.com](mailto:carolcox48@gmail.com).

**You do not have to be a churchgoer to take on this voluntary role.**

### MENTMORE CLUB 200 - 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 £1,000 per annum! You can have as many tickets as you like and the prizes range from £10 to £300.

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

### July winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £30            Jean Howlett of Ledburn  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £10            Sally Smith of Mentmore

### August winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £100            Sally Smith of Mentmore  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of £10            Robin Morello

### GENERAL SERVICE TIMES

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
St Mary's	9.00 am HC	-	9.00 am HC	-	Combined
St Giles	10.30 am HC	9.00 am BCP  10.30 am Family Service	10.30 am Morning Worship	10.30 am HC	10.30 with Methodists (alternate locations)

HC – Holy Communion; BCP – Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion;

### Detail of St. Mary's Services September to November

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	Holy Communion at 09.00am
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival at 11.30am *
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion at 09.00am
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Holy Communion at 09.00am
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Holy Communion at 09.00am
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Holy Communion with Act of * Remembrance at 10.00am
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Holy Communion at 09.00am
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Team Eucharist at 10.00am *

**\*Please note there is a change of time for these services.**

**CHURCH YARD:** Our new groundsman, Mike, is being extremely generous with his hours and is making a vast improvement in the churchyard. However, it remains the responsibility of the families of those buried there to tend to the individual graves where they consist of more than just grass. In the meantime, Mike will continue to do his best to help make the churchyard a pleasant environment.

For all queries please contact the Team Rector, Philip Derbyshire (01525 240287) or the Churchwarden, Sally Smith (07769 697696). Thank you.



#### ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD – TIDY-UP

This is a picture of The Great Mosque, Djenne in Mali and was featured in a BBC1 programme recently called Sacred Wonders; the story goes that most of the Muslim communities get together every year to coat the mosque in mud before the rains start. Taking part in this process is tough and arduous and very risky. I thoroughly recommend watching the programme on catch-up.

It got me thinking about our efforts as a community to save the churchyard. Thank goodness it does not involve climbing any towers and carrying tons of mud up to the top! It is just a few mornings throughout the autumn and winter season and we should see some results for our efforts to restore the churchyard to a manageable and pleasant place.

We did an amazing amount of work in the churchyard last autumn and winter, but there is another season ahead of us, starting this coming autumn. Last year we managed to claim back, restore and revitalise many of the trees, shrubs and wild flower areas, but there is still more work to be done. In addition to the churchyard we are also aware that the lime trees on the Green are in need of work (removal of the suckers at their bases) and there are also some verges that could do with some TLC.



We are planning to reconvene in October so 'calling' all willing volunteers; if you are interested and would like to know what the group will be tackling, please call or send an email. It would be helpful to let us know if you prefer a Saturday morning or afternoon session and it is of course weather dependent. We ask those joining the group to bring their own tools and protective clothing, e.g. gardening gloves. But beware, Jaz our dog, has a passion for playing with gloves and killing them in the process!

We always have a tea/coffee break with refreshments.

The first planned work party this autumn will be on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October**, optional **10am – 1.00pm or 2pm – 5pm**, but actually we are grateful for any time you can spare.

Please contact Diane Armson ([dchmja@gmail.com](mailto:dchmja@gmail.com) or call 07745 928698) for further details.



## THE FUTURE OF THE STAG



As you will likely know, our beloved village pub has been closed for almost a year now. There is a great deal of enthusiasm and support amongst the community for The Stag to re-open and prevent it from being converted to residential property. A small group of residents have been working on behalf of the community to secure The Stag and re-open it as a commercially viable, community owned free house.

We presented our plans to a packed village hall last month, and have since then been working to secure investment from the community to make it happen. Whilst many people have come forward to invest, we still need to raise more capital, and therefore need further investors in the project. We also realise not everyone could make the initial meeting, so if you would like to know more or are keen to get involved in helping us save The Stag, please contact one of us below:

Adam Goran: 07899 990042 |or e-mail [adam@spinneycottage.com](mailto:adam@spinneycottage.com)

Bob Ager: 07788 665276 or e-mail| [bobager@hotmail.com](mailto:bobager@hotmail.com)

Peter Brazier: 07785 384989 or e-mail| [peter@peterbrazier.com](mailto:peter@peterbrazier.com)

## HISTORY SOCIETY PARISH WALK

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, a small group of 16 locals convened outside the Stag in Mentmore; thankfully it was a much cooler day than the previous day where temperatures had reach 30°C. The walk was just under six miles and included Mentmore Park, golf course, Crafton Lodge, Helsthorpe Farm and back through Crafton village past Crafton Stud Farm, taking in the mediaeval settlements along the way.

Short talks were given by Richard Gem, Corrie Cashman, Lyn Sharp, Bob Ager, Steve and Karen Thomas and Jo Moss. We discovered interesting facts about the ancient and more recent local history and the wildlife. There was a splendid stop-off at Rose cottage in Crafton, where much needed refreshments and delicious homemade cakes were provided by Lyn Sharp.

Has been produced, providing information for a self-guided version of the walk, including many of the historical details and the route taken. The guide was available at the recent village fête and donations were given to the charities, Water Aid and Epilepsy Society.

Many thanks to those who organised this event. If you would like a copy of the self-guided walk, available for a small donation, or are interested in future events please sign on to the History Facebook page 'Mentmore Parish History with Photographs & Stories' or contact [mentmorehistory@gmail.com](mailto:mentmorehistory@gmail.com).

**Diane & Mike Armson**

# Important notes & dates for the 2020 diary



## Plant Fair

Next year's Plant Fair will be on **25<sup>th</sup> April** – please bear this in mind when dividing plants in the autumn!



Preparations are well under way for the 2020 Arts Festival which will be held on **23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May** next year. The charities are yet to be chosen, but it's never too early to welcome anyone who would like to be involved in the running of the event.



## VE Day Street Party 2020

The early, May bank holiday in 2020 will move from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May** to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day, marks the day towards the end of World War Two when fighting against Nazi Germany came to an end in Europe. We are proposing to hold a street party to show our respect and because we love an excuse to dress up and have a good time.

The Parish Council have kindly granted permission for this to take place and have already arranged for the road to be closed. This is to be a non-profit making, free to all event. However, we would like to ask just a few favours to help get the party started:

- We'd like everyone to come in clothing of the period - let your imagination run wild!
- We would ask that party goers provide plates of food and bottles of pop - again on a Second World War theme.
- Can you offer sponsorship to cover the costs of a hog roast (and vegetarian option!), a troupe of swing dancers and a barrel of beer?

Please contact Caroline 07761 199520 for more information, offers of help, sponsorship or any ideas you have to make the day go with a swing!



## Mentmore Fête June 28th.

We aim to be as organised and prepared as we can and for that we need your involvement. Caroline is compiling a list of people in our community who would like to offer help.

This could be:

- Beforehand, helping to set up, poster, sponsorship
- Afterwards, helping to take down
- Taking charge of a particular stall or activity or partnering someone else
- You might have some particular knowledge or field of expertise, or know someone who does

It is not too early - some have already offered to help next year and the more the merrier!

E-mail Caroline on [gates\\_caroline@hotmail.com](mailto:gates_caroline@hotmail.com)

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juliecatherinelewis@gmail.com

The Green,  
Mentmore, LU70QF



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**Tuesday:** 9.30am Spin. 8.25pm Spin

**Wednesday:** 9.30am Circuits.

5pm Kids Bootcamp. 7.45pm Circuits

8.30pm Yoga

**Thursday:** 12.15pm Spin 8.25pm Spin

**Friday:** 9.30am Circuits 5pm

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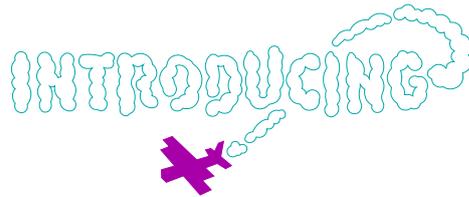
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**ACCESS TO NEWSLETTER** - Message to anyone with a new neighbour:

Please let Liz ([elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com)) or Karen ([karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com)) know if you are aware of anyone who would like a copy of the newsletter, whether that be a printed version (we know some folks do not have access to a computer) or an electronic version emailed to them every quarter. If you prefer, the newsletter can also be found on the Parish Council website [www.mentmore.org](http://www.mentmore.org).



If you have you just had a new addition to the family, or know of a neighbour with a new baby, then why not tell us so that we can include the details in our “Birth Announcements” section.

Just let Liz or Karen know the details and we’ll do the rest!

*If you have an item which you would like included in the Winter Newsletter ( December, January and February)  
please contact either Elizabeth Dack (Tel 661309 /email [elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com))  
or Karen Thomas (Tel 661509 / email [karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com))  
Newsletter deadline: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019*

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

**This newsletter was sponsored by The Little It Company, Julie Lewis, Fitness Farm, The Technology Doctors and Olive & Rose Artisan Florist.**