



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 27, Issue 1

March 2020

“DIARY PAGE”



VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS

While The Stag remains closed the *Village Hall* will be open for a pub night on the *first Friday of each month – the next one is on 6th March!* Everyone is welcome - the more the merrier.

The hall will be warm and cosy – with the fire lit. As an added bonus this month, a seasonal ale from Tring brewery will be available. Please bring your drink of choice, together with nibbles and suggested £1 donation (to cover the costs of hall hire, electricity etc.). Doors will open at **6.30pm** and “chucking out” time will be 11.00 pm.



VILLAGE FILM NIGHTS

These are usually held in Mentmore Village Hall on the *last Saturday of each month - but please note the next one is 14th March!* Doors open at **7.30pm** for an **8.00pm** start.

Please call Angela (07725 950995) for more details and to check it is going ahead.



HEAD TO HEAD MENTMORE QUIZ

Gather teams of up to 6 people together for a “Head to Head” quiz on *Saturday 28th March* at **7.00pm** in *Mentmore Village Hall*. Our Quizmaster will be Andrew Krauss.

The competitive spirit of Mentmore is alive and well and this is an opportunity to have some fun whilst exhibiting your superior knowledge (or not!). Prizes for the winners and the runners up.

There will be a light supper included in the ticket price of £10 per head, plus wine and beer available to buy. There will also be a raffle; prizes include tickets to future events in the Church.

All profits will be used to help make the Church a better place for future community events such as film nights, William Farmer antiques roadshow lecture and valuation, concerts and more.

To book your places and with offers of raffle prizes please contact:

Andrew Krauss: andrewjkrauss@gmail.com or Caroline Gates: gates_caroline@hotmail.com



MENTMORE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* at **8.00pm** on *Wednesday 1st April*. The Annual Meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* on *Wednesday 13th May*.

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 for full details of all minutes.

To contact the parish council, email clerk@mentmore.org



PARISH LITTER PICK

Here is a date for your diary! The next litter pick will be on **Sunday 5th April**. Please do join us on that day or, you can “do your bit” on a more convenient day before or after if you prefer. The Village Hall will be open from 10am on Sunday 5th and refreshments will be available for those taking part.

I will contact anyone who has shown an interest in helping towards the end of March. Work is carried out in pairs as far as possible, with equipment provided. The general public always sees to it that we are well rewarded with a never-ending supply of bottles, cans and fast food wrappers, as well as the odd surprise.

If you see any fly-tipped rubbish at any time, it can be reported to fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk. This website can also be used for reporting potholes.

Liz Dack (elizadack@outlook.com)



VILLAGE PLANT SALE

Join Hannah and her helpers for another classic Mentmore event on **Saturday 25th April from 12 noon to 4.00pm**. Entrance costs £1 which includes entry into the Prize Draw.

Proceeds will be used to help fund play equipment designed for small children, to be installed in the existing play area on the Green.

Your presence will help to make it a successful and happy occasion! Plant nurseries will have stalls selling a riot of colourful plants and shrubs. There will be a barbecue, as well as tea and cakes and a chance to sit down. Books too!

We have a community stall selling plants, garden produce, and garden related paraphernalia. For that we do need your help in potting up your surplus plants and seedlings and identifying any items in the garden which you no longer need - we need them! Anything big or heavy can be collected.

We would also be grateful for offers of help on the day, before and after the event, and for cakes for the teas. Phone 07980 828798 or 07795 383086 or email Hannah (hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk). Don't be shy!

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections to Mentmore Parish Council will be held on Thursday 7th May 2020. To find out more check out page eleven of this newsletter, or visit www.mentmore.org



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

We are holding a street party on the **Village Green** on the May bank holiday from **3.00 pm on Friday 8th May** to mark the 75th anniversary of **VE Day** - to show our respect and because we love an excuse to dress up and have a good time.

We are very excited to have Fiona Harrison coming along, in costume, to perform music of the 40s and to round off the evening with a rousing patriotic sing song, including Land of Hope and Glory! 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 ask that party goers provide plates of food and bottles of pop - again on a WWII 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 that will make the day go with a swing!



MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Mentmore Arts Festival is back for its twelfth year. The Festival takes place on **Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th and Monday 25th 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, if you are willing to help set up (see page 10) contact Carol - carol.art@virgin.net.



MENTMORE FÊTE

Another summer favourite, the Mentmore Fête takes place on the **Village Green** on **Sunday 28th June**.

It is not too early to start making plans - some have already offered to help and the more the merrier! For more information or offers of help e-mail Caroline on gates_caroline@hotmail.com

UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS



THE STAG

We have our pub back!

All the necessary paperwork has been signed to ensure the purchase of the freehold of The Stag Public House and grounds, and it will shortly become community owned.

What seemed like a “pie in the sky” idea has been achieved thanks, in no small part, to the belief, tenacity, dogged determination and diligence of a small group of incredible villagers who inspired local investors to enable this to come to roost for the good of the community.

We are in the process of appointing a management team who will bring to life our vision of how The Stag will be run. Not for us, the usual formula for chain run pubs. We will focus on the history of The Stag, whilst embracing future trends. The welcome will always be warm and the food, while unpretentious, will be of the best quality. Local beers and carefully selected wines, not forgetting gin (!) will be on offer.

We will ensure that everybody, whether local or from further afield, who walks through the door, feels comfortable and included, and leaves longing for their next visit, while keeping this gem a little secret perchance they can't get booked in next time!

We will keep you posted through the grapevine and regular updates of when the doors will be thrown open for business; we are hopeful that this will be early summer.

This is a most exciting development and proves that anything is achievable. You can rest assured that this is going to be a success and “the place” people will be talking about for years to come – for all the right reasons – just as it has been in the past.

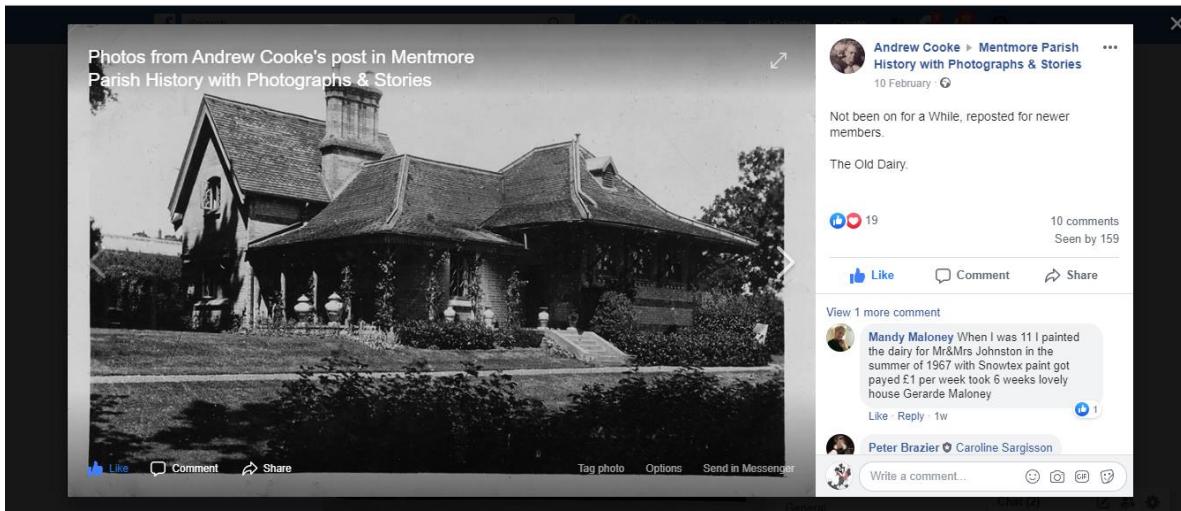
Watch this space

Adam, Bob, Caroline, Nick & Peter

MENTMORE PARISH HISTORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES

The Mentmore History group has continued to receive contributions on the Facebook page.

We have continued to get postings and pictures as you can see from this screen shot.



Andrew is a regular contributor to the page.

If you are not a fan of Facebook (not everyone is) and you have some local gems you would like to share with the Mentmore History group please contact us via the Mentmore History email address mentmorehistory@gmail.com

The next local event that will provide an opportunity to make history and share some of the past will be the **VE day celebrations**, this will be an opportunity to share war time memories or stories that you have heard from those who lived and experienced the original event in 1945. If you have any local pictures or documents from this time and are happy to share them with us please contact Diane or Karen via mentmorehistory@gmail.com. If you are interested in joining our group to help with any future projects or have some ideas of your own, please get in touch.

The guided walk round Crafton, held last summer proved to be a great success. We are looking forward running another **local history walk, this time around Ledburn** and the Ascott Estate and another around Mentmore's estate buildings, but probably not the Towers. If you are interested in coming along please contact Diane by email mentmorehistory@gmail.com or phone 01296 661141.

There is currently a small exhibition of some local historic pictures and wildlife photographs in Mentmore Village Hall, so why not come along to the next event and take a look?

Diane & Mike Armson

WILDLIFE NEWS

It has been an unusual few months, with mild temperatures and record rainfall – both of which are playing havoc with the normal day to day life of not only us humans, but our local wildlife too!

Unfortunately, I have not been around much to see what has happening, but recently have had numerous sightings of Chinese Water Deer, Muntjac, displaying Buzzards, Red Kite, Barn Owl, Little Owl and Kestrel. Garden birds too are reappearing in greater numbers, so for those of you with nest boxes do keep a look out, as they will soon be making their nesting choices for the forthcoming breeding season.

The weird weather has led to several instances of early nesting including, the recently reported Mistle Thrush, seen nesting in of a set of traffic lights in Leeds city centre and three young Tawny Owl chicks taken to St Tiggys in early February – both a good month earlier than one would normally expect!!

Karen Thomas

YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



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

Work is ongoing to make the Village Hall fit for any suitable purpose, fitted to a high - and lasting - standard. The lobby floor has now been screeded and covered in non-slip vinyl throughout. Plans are in place to repair and re-paint the front windows outside. The next big project is the installation of a modern efficient heating system.

Jonathan has been busy ensuring that the hall is well maintained inside and out - his attention to detail is second to none and we are grateful for all the work he puts in, as well as being our Bookings Clerk. The hall is regularly used for yoga and Pilates classes, table tennis, meetings, children's parties and by organisations such as the National Childbirth Trust. Not forgetting the regular film and 'Stag' nights.

Books: Following a period when the books were removed to allow for the flooring work to take place, books are now on sale again every weekend when the hall is not in use. Still an unmissable bargain at 3 books for £1, ensuring a good turnover!

Thanks to all the people currently on the monthly cleaning rota. Is there anyone else who would consider joining us? We work in pairs, a month at a time and there is always someone to take over at times when you are not available. For an informal chat, contact Diane (dchmj@gmail.com)



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Dear Friends

It is a pleasure to introduce myself in writing after my wife Anna and I moved into Cheddington vicarage just before Christmas. It was, as you might imagine, interesting to begin a new post at such a time of the year and it was good to have an opportunity to meet a lot of people in quick succession. Having now had our settling in period, we look forward to getting to know you better over the year that I am licensed to this post.

Having served in a variety of settings in the past, including a curacy post in Yorkshire, a number of years in Paris as a chaplain in the so-called 'Diocese in Europe', and a spell as a university chaplain, it will be a new experience to be an interim minister in this rural context, and I hope we can all work together to try and ensure a good base for whoever else may be appointed to the local team ministry over the next twelve to eighteen months.

Being without a vicar for 20 months inevitably means that people have had to rally around to keep things going in the vacancy, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Lin, the churchwarden, and Mike, our local retired priest who I am sure will be known to many of you, for their hard work during the interregnum. It would be great to develop and nurture a whole team of people who may be able to help or offer their expertise in various ways. I would already like to extend a vote of thanks to all who have helped with the upkeep of the churchyard – a big and important job. Many thanks also for the support and welcome of the people of St Mary's who have cared for the place and done what is necessary to keep the church afloat.

I am gradually working out how to apportion the various opportunities and responsibilities of an interim post, which extend both within and beyond Cheddington and Mentmore and into the wider area of the Cottesloe team.

It was good to meet some of you in the village hall already and I hope to meet more of you more fully as things develop. As to a couple of things I can already draw your attention to, I will be running a Lent course in the area of faith, personality and psychology on the first four Monday evenings in March. These will be in the Methodist church in Cheddington and start at 7:30pm. There is also a full programme of Holy Week services being provided in the run up to Easter and it would be great to see some of you at those. On the social front there are also some quiz evenings coming up, as I became fond of organizing such events in my Paris years and aim to keep this going! Details can be found elsewhere on this newsletter and on the St Giles Facebook page.

With every good wish
Revd Dr Andrew Krauss

NORMAL SERVICE TIMES

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday	Every Thursday
St Mary's	9.00 am HC	-	9.00 am HC	-	Combined 10.30 am with Cheddington Methodists	-
St Giles		9.00 am BCP 10.30-11.15 Family Service		10.30 am Morning Worship		9.15 am Mid-week Communion (9 th & 16 th April cancelled)

HC – Holy Communion; BCP – Book of Common Prayer

EASTER SERVICES APRIL 2020

St. Mary's, Mentmore		St. Giles', Cheddington	
		Sunday 5 th 10.30am	Palm Sunday, followed by APCM
		Tuesday 7 th 7.30pm	Said Communion & Homily
Wednesday 8 th 7.30pm	Said Service - Reflection & "Way of the Cross"		
		Maundy Thursday 9 th 8.00pm	Last Supper Eucharist followed by an hour of prayer
		Good Friday 19 th 10.00am	All age service – Festival Choir and "Pontius Pilate" play
		Good Friday 19 th 3.00pm	Traditional – sung Passion & Proclamation
		Saturday 12 th 8.00pm	Lighting of Pascal Candle & Communion
Easter Sunday 12 th 9.00am	Holy Communion	Easter Sunday 12 th 10.30am	Family Communion

Parish Lent Course

Our Lent Course on *The Enneagram – A Christian Perspective* will be held on Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm 8.00 pm in the Methodist Hall, Cheddington.

Quiz Night

Andrew is running a Quiz Night with Bring and Share Supper, soft drinks only on 7th March at 6 pm in Cheddington Methodist Hall.

For any enquiries please contact: Revd Dr Andrew Krauss 01296 660352 or andrewjkrauss@gmail.com or Parish Churchwarden, Lin Knappitt (01296 668568).

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 or call 07920 140 740.

December winners:

The 1st prize of £300 went to – Peter Thomas

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Stewart Miles

January winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Elizabeth Dack

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Denise Redding

February winners:

The 1st prize of £100.00 went to – Sally Smith

The 2nd prize of £10.00 went to – M and V Hardy



ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD – Caring for God's Acre

Our working party was unable to meet on 29th February as planned due to the wild, wet and windy weather. However, a small group of us met later to carry out the important task of installing four bird boxes. As we know, the birds will not wait.

In October, we resumed our monthly Saturday morning sessions of cutting, trimming, slashing and burning brash, in an attempt to reclaim the area from brambles, ivy and nettles. In January we were rewarded with lovely colonies of snowdrops and now primroses, making their way back amongst the gravestones. We anticipate a later display of woodland flowers, such as wood anemones after the work we have done. Once the birds start nesting, we will leave them in peace until the autumn.

If you would like to join the working party, just come along, even if you can only spare a little time and would just like to see what we are doing. You will be very welcome. The next session will be on Saturday 21st March 10am - 1pm.

For more information please contact: Diane Armson - dchmja@gmail.com or call her on: 07745 928698



The 12th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held from Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th May 2020 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Once again, we have a fantastic variety of artists exhibiting, including people who have supported us in previous years alongside new artists who we look forward to meeting. The number of artists attending has more than doubled since the first festival. Every year we choose different charities that we would like to support and, over the course of the previous 11 festivals, we have donated over £84,000 to those charities.

In 2019 we donated £11,000 to our chosen charities. Our lead charity, Keech Hospice Care, received £4500, Riding for the Disabled received £2000 and Nest Aylesbury Vale received £2000.

We also donated £2500 to St Mary's Church in Mentmore.

The charities for the 2019 will be Keech Hospice Care, Riding for Disabled, and Home Start. The weekend is an opportunity to have a family day out with our refreshment tent offering light lunches, teas, coffee and a fantastic bar selling Pimms and local beer. We also have a raffle with some great prizes.

In 2020 we plan to support Leukaemia UK, WheelPower and St. Mary's Church.

The festival provides an opportunity for a family day out with refreshments available including light lunches, teas, coffee and cake and a bar selling Pimms and local beer. There is always a raffle with some great prizes. Many thanks, once again, to all our exhibitors, visitors and everyone who contributes towards making this a very popular and successful event.

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

Date and Time: Bank holiday weekend 23rd – 25th May 2020, 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

Have a look at our website for further information... www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk ... and do come and join us in May.

www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk

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GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

Julie has owned her own salon in Hertfordshire for 15 years, though since moving to Mentmore now runs another treatment room from the idyllic garden setting of her refurbished summerhouse. With flexible opening hours, loyalty discounts & regular monthly offers it is proving a popular relaxation destination.

Tel - Julie 07800749591 juliecatherinelewis@gmail.com The Green,
Mentmore, LU70QF



ARTS FESTIVAL APPEAL FOR HELPERS



to make the Arts Festival buzz!

- help set up in the church
(Sunday 19th May)
- help set up in the village hall
(Thursday 23rd 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 if you can offer any help.



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 dchmj@gmail.com

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: £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

MENTMORE NEEDS YOU!



Preparations are in full swing for the **VE Day** Celebrations in Mentmore - **Friday 8th May**

Sponsorship is needed for help cover the cost of the event as follows please:

Hog Roast - Barrel of beer - Swing Dancers - Fiona Harrison

Cost of marquee hire - the Parish Council have kindly made a substantial contribution towards this.

So, dust off your flags, polish up your medals and get practising your Chattanooga Choo Choo!

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

WANTED



Do you care about Mentmore, Ledburn and Crafton?

Do you want to do something positive for your community?

Can you think, listen and act locally?

Elections to Mentmore Parish Council will be held
on 7 May 2020*

Why not consider becoming a Councillor?

To find out more please visit
www.mentmore.org

*Applications must be submitted by 8 April 2020

If you have an item which you would like included in the next Newsletter (June, July & August) please contact either Liz (Tel 661309 / email elizadack@outlook.com) or Karen (Tel 661509 / email karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com)
Newsletter deadline: 15th May 2020

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 and Julie Lewis.