



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 Issue 4

December 2019

“DIARY PAGE”



PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at **8pm** on **4th December**. Please see the website www.mentmore.org for full details of parish council minutes. Agendas are published on the website and posted on noticeboards prior to each meeting.

The following meeting will be held on **12th February 2020**.

The Village Hall Committee meets in the Hall during the week previous to the PC meeting - agendas posted on noticeboards.



CAROL SERVICE

You are invited to the Nine Lessons and Carols service, at St. Mary's Church, Mentmore on **Sunday 15th December**. The service, will begin at **5.00 pm** and will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



www.mentmore.org

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chairman: Peter Brazier
Councillors: Jonathan Langley
Elizabeth (Liz) Dack
Rob Fletcher
Iain Butler

Clerk: Bridget Knight clerk@mentmore.org

VILLAGE HALL NEWS:

Improvements are ongoing. The hall is currently regularly used for table tennis and Pilates classes, meetings and children's parties. Books are available for sale at very reasonable prices in the lobby every weekend if the hall is not in use.



DOG WASTE

This is a plea to be mindful of where your dog chooses to make deposits. Bag it and bin it! Poo bins are situated for your convenience at the T-junction in Crafton, and at the top of the path leading down to the fields below Haselden House in Mentmore. Otherwise take bags home for disposal in your own bin. It is very easy to forget! Should the dog waste bin be full, there is a number to call printed on the bin.



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST UPDATE: Unfortunately, no candidates applied to the third interview, talks are ongoing as to the best way forward.

Team Rector: Team Rector, Philip Derbyshire, is retiring and his last service will be on 5th January 2020. He will be on leave until 29th February and will move on 1st March.

CHURCHWARDEN, MENTMORE: Sally Smith has stood down from her role as churchwarden, as she will be moving to Somerset at the end of the month. It has been a privilege to work along-side Sally, and I thank her for carrying out her role with hard work and enthusiasm. She has done a very good job. I would also like to thank Jeff who has supported and helped Sally along the way. I wish them both happiness in the new chapter of their lives in Somerset.

Lin Knappitt

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: A smaller congregation than last year gathered in St Mary's Church to remember those who died in conflict, with the names of those lost from our Parish being specially remembered.

Thank you to Caroline Gates and Carol Armstrong for the stunning flower displays in the Church for the service. A generous collection totalling £141.66 was given by cheque made out to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal to our local representative in Cheddington.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: Nine Lessons and Nine Carols will take place at 5.00pm on 15th December 2019. It is a joyful service where we can celebrate the Christmas message together and share the Christmas spirit, including a sherry at the end of the service!

We look forward to welcoming you all then. Wishing you all a wonderful celebration of Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

Carol Cox

MENTMORE 200 CLUB

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

£24 Per Annum or £2 Per Month Per Ticket (Max 10 tickets)

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.

September winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Theo Lambros.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Sally Smith of Mentmore.

October winners:

The 1st prize of £100 went to – Robin and Yvette Morello.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Ivy Rickard.

November winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Pam Newton.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Michael Daniels of Cheddington.



December/New Year Services

Sunday 15 th December	Carol Service at 5.00pm at St. Mary's, Mentmore
Tuesday 24 th December	Midnight Eucharist 11.30 pm at St. Giles, Cheddington
Wednesday 25 th December	Eucharist 9.00am at St. Mary's, Mentmore
Sunday 5 th January	10.00am Phillip's Farewell, Soulbury

St. Mary's, Mentmore		St. Giles', Cheddington	
January 2020		2 nd Sunday 09.00 am	B.C.P.
05 th 10.00 am	Phillip's Farewell @ Soulbury	2 nd Sunday 10.30 am	Family Service
19 th 09.00 am	Holy Communion		
		4 th Sunday 10.30 am	Morning Worship
February 2020			
02 nd 09.00 am	Holy Communion	Thursdays 09.15 am	Mid-week Communion
16 th 09.00 am	Holy Communion		
23 rd 10.00 am	Team Eucharist @ Wing	5 th Sunday 10.30 am	Combined Service – Cheddington Methodist Chapel

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD: Our season of work parties in St Mary's churchyard started in October, the group managed to get the important work of reclaiming the grave stones, box trees and yew trees from the invasion of ivy and brambles started, but it is a long and difficult task.

Despite the weather, an enthusiastic group of volunteers gathered on Saturday 23rd November to once again take up arms against the ivy and nettles in the churchyard. The ivy posed the biggest challenge, with some of the branches more than 8 ins. in diameter. With the right equipment and a great deal of determination we freed most of the box trees and rescued some of the yews.

We started the removal of the nettles, which take over the mound to the rear of the church. The ground was softened by recent rain and made pulling up much of the growth easier – but there is still a lot of work needed! The two rose bush holes were filled, one with a buddleia in a pot, the gutter down pipes were cleared of leaves, one of the drains on the north east side of the church was blocked and will be reported to the P.C.C. as it needs clearing.

All in all with a coffee and a delicious piece of shortbread and chocolate brownie the team were well rewarded and very satisfied with the work accomplished.

It was agreed that the yew and box will need further remedial work in the spring, but if we can remove all the remaining ivy and bramble before then we will be able to make a real difference to future maintenance of the church yard. Just a word of warning to all those keen gardeners amongst you be vigilant when it comes to removing ivy it is a pernicious invader and will take over and kill all other plants!

As the festive season is approaching and preparations for Christmas are taking up most peoples' time, I am proposing our next work party be held Saturday 4th January. We will continue the work and hope to have a bonfire to clear some of the more persistent rubbish. Hope you can come.

Diane Armson
01296 661141 dchmja@gmail.com

UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS

MENTMORE HISTORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES

The Mentmore History group has continued to receive contributions on the Facebook page with recent stories about local characters and photos. If you are not a fan of Facebook (not everyone is) and you have some local gems you would like to share with the group please contact us via the Mentmore 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 being held on the Green on Friday 8th May. This will be an opportunity to share any wartime 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.

Following the success of our guided walk round Crafton this summer, we are looking forward to running another local history walk around Ledburn and also round Mentmore.

Currently, Mentmore village hall has an exhibition of local historic pictures and wildlife photographs, so why not come along to the next Village Hall Pub night, held monthly on the first Friday of the month from 6.30pm? Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Look forward to meeting and welcoming you.

Diane & Mike Armson



MENTMORE'S BIG TIDY-UP

A big thank you once again to everyone who was involved in the litter pick in September. You are performing a valuable service to this community by continuing to keep our verges as clear as possible. Although fewer people were around to fill the sacks this time around, there was also less litter than usual. There were certainly fewer glass wine and spirits bottles! It remains to be seen whether this is a (welcome) trend or an unusual state of affairs. With new fast food outlets opening in Grovebury Road, we are likely to have the discarded wrappings blowing along our verges with squashed cups and cans to follow.

If you see any fly-tipping within the parish, or elsewhere for that matter, you can report it by going to fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk, or if you do not have access to a computer then please contact me and I can pass on the information as required. This allows for a log to be created of the issue and also generates a reference number for follow-up of the issue, plus allows for some details to be logged when the problem is reported to help with prioritising the issue.

I will notify everyone when we have another date, likely to be in April, before the grass grows too long. If you would like to join our merry band of litter-pickers for our next foray please email me.

Liz Dack
elizadack@outlook.com

DOMESTIC RECYCLING

Christmas Waste - don't forget you can still recycle most items including:

- Christmas Cards (but not foil or glitter ones)
- Paper plates and napkins (unsoiled)
- Paper crackers, hats, card inners (but not snap)
- Clean aluminium foil
- Wrapping paper and gift tags (remove bows and ribbons first)
- Card packaging
- Chocolate tins and plastic tubs
- Wrap turkey carcass in old newspaper and put straight in the food waste bin

Recycling & Waste Collection Schedule:

Date: Please make sure your bin is out for 6:30 am	Food Waste Bin:	Recycling Bin: paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans and tins	Waste Bin: non-recyclable or compostable
Wednesday : December 04	Collection	No Collection	Collection
Wednesday : December 11	Collection	Collection	No Collection
Wednesday : December 18	Collection	No Collection	Collection
Normal Day Wednesday December 25	No Collection	No Collection	No Collection
Revised Friday: December 27	Collection	Collection	No Collection
Normal Day Wednesday : January 01	No Collection	No Collection	No Collection
Revised Day: Friday Jan 03	Collection	No Collection	Collection

How to dispose of your Christmas tree after the festive period: Remove any decorations, cut the tree down to smaller, manageable pieces and place them in your brown, garden waste bin ready for the first collection on 6th February 2020.

If you are not subscribed to the garden waste service, please take your tree to a local household waste recycling centre.

WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT (see www.mentmore.org for updates on this year's activity)



Bucks Owl and Raptor Group – BORG
(www.giveahoot.org.uk)



Another year is nearly over and overall we have had a very good year in comparison with last year!

Karen Thomas

WANT TO GET INVOLVED

It will soon be that time of year again when those of you who like to take a more active role in environmental issues, wildlife observation and conservation can try one of the following:

RSPB – Big Garden Bird Watch Saturday 25th and Sunday 27th January 2020: The survey provides the RSPB with an important snapshot of garden bird populations in winter and has helped to highlight some dramatic declines in UK garden birds. You can register to take part at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.



BTO – National Nest Box Week: National Nest Box Week, is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology and founding sponsor Jacobi Jayne & Company and runs from **14th to 21st February**. For more information visit the BTO/NNBW web site at: www.bto.org/nnbw/index.htm. Why not put up a nest box for your garden birds or sponsor a box for one of our local owls or kestrels through BORG!



KEEP BRITAIN TIDY: Get ready for the Great British Spring Clean – the country's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. The main events take place between 20 March – 13 April 2020!

As you know here in Mentmore, Ledburn & Crafton we try to do our bit by organising a bi-annual litter-pick. If you would like to join our volunteer litter-pickers next spring please let Liz Dack know and she will keep you informed of dates etc.

We're counting on you to help make the Great British Spring Clean in our Parish even bigger and better in 2020!

Karen Thomas

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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

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MENTMORE NEEDS YOU!



Preparations are in full swing for the VE Day Celebrations in Mentmore (Friday 8th May 2020), as per the article in the autumn newsletter. We are very excited to have Fiona Harrison (look her up on YouTube) 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!

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 to make the day go with a swing!

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

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR in 2020

Mentmore Plant Sale: 25th April. Contact Hannah – hlwraithall@yahoo.co.uk

Mentmore Arts Festival: 23rd - 25th May. Contact Carol - carol.art@virgin.net

Mentmore Fête: 28th June. Contact Caroline - gates_caroline@hotmail.com

All offers of help are welcome and much needed!!

IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of;
Caryl Huntley, Jean Howlett and Graham Dunmall.

Caryl Huntly

(19?? – 2019)

It is with great sadness that we have to report that Caryl died in October. Caryl had lived in Mentmore with Gordon her husband (who died in 2011) for well over thirty years. Caryl loved Mentmore and was much involved in the village as a contributor and benefactor - particularly in the early days of the History Society. Many residents will remember Caryl zooming around in her beloved MGB and will also remember her and Gordon's renowned hospitality and long evenings of fine wine, dining and laughter!

Caryl will be sorely missed by many.

Jean Howlett

(1932? – 2019)

Sadly, Jean died on 10th October after a short illness (although she had suffered from health and mobility issues for some time). She spent most of her 86 years in the village of Ledburn and as a child walked to Mentmore to school every day. She is now laid to rest near her parents (Bayliss) in St Mary's churchyard. As a child Jean attended the church and was often asked to operate the pump for getting the air through the organ pipes. Indeed, we have lost a great link to the past in this area.

An excellent cook, Jean worked for various pubs and restaurants and later used her baking skills for the benefit of the church and the village. Jean was a hard worker and with fewer family demands when her children were grown-up she turned to the church and was a church warden for many years, in fact as long as her health permitted. A much-loved woman of strong faith, Jean will be sorely missed.

Penny Hibbert

Jean was the salt of the earth and was loved by everyone who knew her. She was well respected and had many friends. Jean made a massive impact on St Mary's. She was churchwarden for many years most of which were on her own. She took her role very seriously and ensured the correct running of St Mary's and of course looked after the parishioners and hardly missed a church meeting. Nothing was too menial for her to take on, in addition to her CW role, she cleaned the church on her own, provided flowers for Sunday services, did the catering and refreshments. When she retired from CW she continued with the catering and the refreshments after services, and always had her finger on the pulse until her illness prevented her from doing so. She was too ill to attend the Harvest Festival this year but still provided food for the lunch, testament to the type of person she was. She worked tirelessly for St Mary's and always gave advice to those who sought it. It was a privilege to have her as a very close friend. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Lin Knappitt

Graham Dunmall
(1955 – 2019)

Graham's early life was spent in the suburbs of Kent but he really loved being in the countryside. As a family man he lived in St Albans, West Yorkshire and Studham before settling in Crafton over 20 years ago.

Graham was a dedicated father, encouraging his three children to pursue their hobbies; like him they developed a work hard and play hard attitude to life! Graham was also devoted to his dogs and thoroughly enjoyed training them for showing, obedience and field work.

Thankfully his illness was brief and he died peacefully on 3rd October. He will always be remembered as a cheerful, kind and loving man by all who had the privilege to know him.

ACCESS TO NEWSLETTER

After careful consideration we have decided not to return to distribution of paper versions of the newsletter, as in this era of environmental awareness it seems a tad out of kilter. However, we do appreciate that there are some parishioners who do not get a paper version, nor an electronic version of the newsletter (whether that be via e-mail or the parish web site) and therefore have decided to trial producing, and delivering, one issue per year as a paper version. We will produce a different newsletter each year, starting with this, the Winter 2019 issue.

However, we would be very grateful if you would let Liz (elizadack@outlook.com) or Karen (karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com) know if you, or anyone you know, would like a copy of the newsletter emailed to them every quarter. An electronic version can also be found on the Parish Council website www.mentmore.org. We are happy to provide limited numbers of paper copies for those parishioners who do not have access to a computer, but again we need to know who you are!

We have provided registration forms at the end of this newsletter, so if we do not already have your preference on file please fill one in and return to either Liz or Karen.

Your data will not be given to third parties and will not be used for any other purpose than to provide you with our parish newsletter and any related correspondence.

Thank you – Liz & Karen

*If you have an item which you would like included in the next Newsletter (March, April and May) please contact either Elizabeth Dack (Tel 661309 /email crackerdack@aol.com) or Karen Thomas (Tel 661509 / email karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com)
Newsletter deadline: 15th February 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 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 and Pilates with Emily.

Mentmore Parish Newsletter

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR OPTION!

We would like to do our bit for the planet and go completely paperless, however we do realise that not everyone has access to a computer/smart phone and therefore, if absolutely necessary, you can still opt to receive a printed copy of the newsletter if you have no way to receive an electronic version.

We would be very grateful if you would complete the enclosed form and return to us as soon as possible.

Name	
Address	
e-mail	
Telephone	

e-mail version

Yes	
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No	
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Parish Web site only

Yes	
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No	
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Printed Hard Copy only

Yes	
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No	
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You will continue to receive the newsletter via your preferred option three times a year, together with one paper issue per year and the occasional related extra-ordinary articles, until such time as you ask us to unsubscribe you from the distribution list.

We will never sell your data or pass it to other organisations or users and will keep your details secure. If you would like more information about how we use your data or would like to unsubscribe please contact Karen at karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com.

A copy of each newsletter will also be available on the Parish Council web site: www.mentmore.org.

Forms/preference can be returned to:
Liz Dack: 34 The Green, Mentmore
Karen Thomas: The Old Laundry, Mentmore
karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com