



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 24, Issue 1

March 2017

“DIARY PAGE”

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

To celebrate our newly refurbished Village Hall, we propose to stage an exhibition of historical photographs and items which relate to Mentmore, Crafton and Ledburn. With this in mind, you are invited to a preliminary meeting in the *Village Hall* on **Thursday 30th March** at **7pm**. The purpose of the meeting is to brainstorm ideas and to stimulate interest. All are welcome.

Please email Diane Armson dchmja@gmail.com



MENTMORE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* at **8pm** on **Wednesday 5th April**. Agendas 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



MENTMORE'S BIG TIDY-UP

The next litter picking event will be on **Sunday 9th April**. Bags and litter-picking tools will be dispensed from the *Village Hall*, and refreshments will be available, as well as good company and good cheer! You are welcome to join us on that day if you would like to play a part in keeping the litter under control, and can spare a couple of hours, either on that day or at a time to suit you. Our aim is to cover all the roads in the parish, to clear the verges of litter and report any fly-tipping to the council.

Please do contact me on elizadack@outlook.com



VILLAGE PLANT SALE

Looking forward to **Saturday 22nd April**, we announce the annual Plant Sale on the *Village Green* (**12-4pm**). This is your chance to fill your garden and pots with beauty after the Easter rush and, while you are at it, to see friends and treat yourself to tea and home-made cakes or a good quality burger. We would love to receive donations of any plants you can spare (identified please!) or garden related paraphernalia for our stall. Also offers of help, cakes and prizes for the PRIZE DRAW. All proceeds to local causes.

Contact Sue Stovell on 07731 864540/ stovell1@btinternet.com or Jonathan Langley on 07795 383086/ jonathanlangley707@gmail.com



MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Mentmore Arts Festival is back for its eighth year. The Festival takes place on **Saturday 27th, Sunday 28th and Monday 29th 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

UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS

LITTER - ACTION EXTRA!

Thanks to Steve and Karen Thomas for additional 'off piste' clearance between Mentmore and Crafton and to the Rosebery Mews posse who worked along the Cheddington Road.

Liz Dack



Report on the Village Hall Expansion Project



In August we broke ground on the extension and the old lean-to store came down and work began. The project was funded by a combination of Section 106 monies donated by local developers, a Community Chest grant from Aylesbury Vale District Council and some of the reserves from the village hall funds.

The concept was to add a second usable meeting room, better kitchenette and a proper storage space. We did this by getting planning permission to replace the lean-to store with a proper building. We also added an outside store for the garden stuff and so what was the kitchen became the new store room. We also made it all on the same level so getting chairs and tables in and out wouldn't be such a chore.

One casualty of the work was the rowan tree in the garden which had to be felled as the roots were under the new building. We have saved the wood from the tree and hope to make some memorial objects from it including a plaque commemorating the new extension.

Much of the village hall has a flat roof and when building work was underway we discovered the old roof, especially the section over the toilets and entrance lobby were only a few years away from failing so we took the decision to replace all this at the same time.



Internally we are now complete, all bar some finishing touches. The room has already proved its worth as we are able to accommodate the 4th May Council Elections Polling Station in the new room while keeping existing bookings running in the main hall.



There is a little landscaping to be done to get the garden back to its normal condition but we hope to be OK for the Mentmore Arts Festival.



If you would like to hire the hall rates are £12 per hour and £10 for parishioners. Bookings can be made online at www.mentmore.org or by calling **07707 218 719**.



BOOKS

The Village Hall continues to be open most weekends for book sales. Where else would you find 3 books for £1? Read and re-cycle. Proceeds go into village hall funds.

YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



www.mentmore.org

Your Parish Councillors are:

Chairman: Peter Brazier
Vice Chairman: Jonathan Langley
Councillors: Liz Dack
Rob Fletcher (Crafton)
Iain Butler (Ledburn)

TOUR OF GREATMOOR ENERGY FROM WASTE

The Parish Council is hoping to organise a tour of this facility for those interested. We are told that it is interesting and well worth while! Details will be announced on the website (www.mentmore.org) and Facebook.

PLEA FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

We are looking for someone suitably qualified who would volunteer to make a valuation of the refurbished Village Hall for insurance purposes. Please contact clerk@mentmore.org

WALKING THE PARISH FOOTPATHS: MEN 8/1 (Bridleway)

This path takes you round the edge of part of Mentmore Golf Course, currently not in use, starting just below the thatched Cheddington Lodge on the road to Cheddington and finishing at Crafton Lodge at the lower end of Crafton. From beginning to end and back again will take you approximately an hour at a reasonably brisk pace.

The bridleway is signed from the road at Cheddington Lodge and leads straight through an opening onto the course along a tarmac drive. At the first bend, leave the road and continue forward along a wide track (way marked). The track runs straight between a flat cultivated field on the left, with Westend Hill in Cheddington visible in the distance, and the golf course on the right. Along the golf course you will see a planted border of small trees such as cherry and birch interspersed with other deciduous woodland trees, with here and there the odd evergreen.

After about ¼ mile, after passing the golf club maintenance sheds, leave the track (not currently waymarked) and plunge right, into the wooded area which fringes the path from this point. If you find yourself at a sharp left hand bend on the main track, you have overshot the official footpath.

For the remainder of the walk, the path meanders through the wood with glimpses of the undulating contours of the golf course to the right. To start with, the woods are strewn with fallen branches and dead vegetation which give an air of neglect, though they seem to cheer up as you proceed. There are signs of a more ordered past with sections of iron railings and a scattering of untended box plants, normally associated with gardens and trim hedging. Overhung with trees, the path may be muddy but can be delightfully shady in the heat of summer. The footpath finishes at Crafton Lodge where a last muddy flourish leads you through a gate and onto the road at lower Crafton.

Liz Dack

DONATE A GATE

Walkers alert! It has been proposed to replace the stile adjacent to Vicarage Cottage, Mentmore with a kissing gate to make the footpath more accessible to dog walkers etc. The work of replacement will be handled by the volunteers of North Bucks rRipple (ramblers Repairing & Improving Public Paths for Leisure & Exercise). However we need to find about £250, the cost of the gate itself. The Parish Council is willing to make a contribution. If you have an interest in keeping public footpaths open for all, please consider making a small donation.

Contact peter@peterbrazier.com or elizadack@outlook.com



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

The Ascension Day service, usually held at St Mary's, will be at St Giles because of preparations for the Arts Festival.

Churchyard Tidy Up:- Since Christmas a small team of volunteers have carried out some much needed pruning and tidying up in St Mary's churchyard. They have done a magnificent job, but there is still more to do! Further tidy up days will no doubt be arranged in future months so look out for details and contacts. In the meantime, why not take a stroll through the churchyard for some quiet contemplation and to see the wonderful display of snowdrops and primroses.

Other things:

- Following last year's success, another Creative Arts Retreat is planned dates, tbd.
- We will need to do more fundraising for St Mary's this year - ideas and offers of help welcomed.
- Families and youth from Mentmore are very welcome at Messy Church and GLU, monthly events organised by Churches Together, held at the Methodist Church, Cheddington

For more details please contact Gill Rowell at gillrowell@tiscali.co.uk

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 – Sally Smith of Mentmore.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Jean Howlett of Ledburn.

January winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Penny Roberts of Mentmore.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Roger Martin.

February winners:

The 1st prize of £100.00 went to - Diane Cull of Whitchurch.

The 2nd prize of £10.00 went to – Sue Lang of Tring.

MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

The 9th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held from Saturday 27th to Monday 29th May 2017 from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm.

We are delighted that our favourite artists continue to support the event and are also very happy to make new artists a welcome addition to the team. We now showcase the work of over 60 contributors, twice the number from our opening year.

This, together with record numbers of visitors, has meant that we have been able to donate to charity the fantastic sum of £9,000 in 2016 and over £50,000 in total from eight events. The lead charity for 2017 will be our local Air Ambulance.

The weekend is an opportunity to have a family day out with our refreshment tent offering light lunches, teas, coffee and a bar including Pimms and local beer. We also have a raffle with some great prizes. Many thanks to all those who make this such a popular event, including our exhibitors, all our visitors (some from as far afield as Wales!) and everyone who supports the Committee over the weekend.

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

Date and Time: Bank holiday weekend 27th – 29th May 2017, 11.00 am – 5.00 pm daily

Admission: £2per 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

For full information please visit our website and we look forward to welcoming you in May.

www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk

SUPERFAST FIBRE BROADBAND

During a recent visit, by a representative from BT Open Reach, discussions ensued as to how soon we might expect to have superfast broadband, via fibre, in Mentmore. The representative recommended that as many people as possible register their interest online, as this will help Open Reach establish demand and may prompt earlier activation of Mentmore's upgrade. Superfast broadband is already at Cheddington, less than 2 miles away, and a "box" has apparently already been installed here, so it's all about numbers.

If you would like to register your interest please visit the Open Reach site at:-

<https://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/expression-general-landlord.aspx>

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, 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.

Karen Thomas

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The ELK-Health Foundation Mindfulness Practice from ELK-Health

There will be two afternoon mindfulness
sessions from 3pm to 5pm

on Wednesday 1st March

and

Wednesday 8th March.

Everyone is welcome; whether you have tried
meditation before or not. A donation of £5
towards costs would be welcomed, but isn't
necessary.

Please contact tadhg@elk.health.org,
for further details or to book a place.



The ELK-Health Foundation Size and Weight Permanent Reduction and Diabetes Prevention from ELK-Health

There will be two, free 1 hour evening talks
by the biomedical scientist Professor Ray Iles
explaining why being the size and weight we
want to be can be challenging - and how to
win through and gain permanent change.
They explain the features of ELK-Health's
size and weight club - called The E-SaW Club
- 19 Week Course which will have free local
support for parishioners in the Village Hall.

Talks take place in the café at
Room N^o 9, 5A High Street, LEIGHTON
BUZZARD, LU7 1DN at 6.15 for 6.30pm on
Wednesday 1st March
and
Wednesday 8th March.

You can book at e-sawclub.eventbrite.co.uk
or email tadhg@elk-health.org

For Sale

Following a recent re-furbishment of a bedroom we have a small vanity unit & sink for sale.

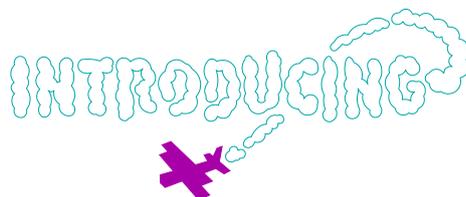


H 720 mm W 630 mm D 500mm

£20 ono

You can collect in person or, if you live in the parish,
we may be able to arrange delivery.

Please call Karen on 01296 661509 for further information



If you have a new baby in the family, or know anyone in the parish who has, we would be delighted to welcome the new arrival.

ACCESS TO NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is emailed to you free of charge. If you know anyone who would like a copy, maybe you have new neighbours for instance, please do let us know and we can add the details to our list. Also if you are moving away, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, we will remove your details if you let us know.

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 2017

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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