



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 28, Issue 1

March 2021

“DIARY PAGE”



MENTMORE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at **8pm** on **Wednesday 7th April**. Please see the website www.mentmore.org for full details of parish council minutes.

The following meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19th May**, following the Local Council elections on **Thursday 6th May**.

Agendas are posted on the noticeboards. Currently, meetings are being held remotely using Zoom, details on www.mentmore.org if you would like to join.

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



PARISH LITTER PICK

You will have noticed a shocking accumulation of litter around, not just locally but everywhere. We can do our bit in this community and once again, I am inviting you to take part in our spring litter pick, in the optimistic hope that it will be possible. I plan to have the main event on **Sunday 11th April**, though it will be fine to do a stint during the week before or the week after, if you are not available on that day. As usual, litter picking sticks, hoops and bags will be provided and also hi-viz jackets, if required. We will be based on the Village Hall, and full bags will be left in the Village Hall garden, to be collected by the council. Refreshments provided.

For those who are new to Mentmore, this is an activity we have carried out twice a year for the last few years, in April and October, equipment provided by the Parish Council. Please do email me if you are interested in taking part or have any queries. It is not only a chance to make a difference, but also a chance to meet new people. I will contact all those interested during March to confirm details.

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)

Why don't we run a...

BIGGEST VEGETABLE GROWING COMPETITION??

As the usual spring Plant Sale will not go ahead this year, the committee looked at what we could run that would not be in doubt. Years ago (more years ago than some of us care to remember), we held a series of annual vegetable growing competitions. Nigel Dack started off the seeds and once they were big enough they were allocated in a draw held in the Stag. Then everyone went away and grew the biggest cabbage/marrow/runner bean etc. they could to enter into the final in the autumn when the vegetables reached maximum maturity. Final held (naturally) in the Stag.

Nigel Dack and Elsa Hill with a small cabbage



So, is there anyone out there - maybe a new resident who would like to get involved - who is willing to start us off by growing some seedlings for the challenge? Nigel has promised to give a prize to the grower of the biggest specimen. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact Hannah at hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk

UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS



MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

After the disappointment of having to postpone the Arts Festival in 2020, we had hoped to be in full swing organising the Festival for May 2021 by now. Unfortunately, due to the current situation with Covid-19, we have had to accept that we must postpone again this year.

All being well, we hope that the 2022 Festival will be able to go ahead over the weekend of 28th-30th May 2022. We plan to donate funds to Leukaemia UK and WheelPower, the two charities we planned to support originally in 2020. We are in regular contact with our artists, who are all keen to exhibit again as soon as they can do so safely. Thank you, as always, to everyone who supports the Arts Festival.



PLANT SALE

We hope to organise a Plant Sale later in the year and have a number of nurseries lined up who would like to attend. We just need a green light and a date.

We will of course miss the spring planting time but late summer/early autumn could be a possibility. We are poised to go, so bear us in mind if you are disposing of spare plants or renewing garden furniture and garden-related items. If not this year, then we will be back in spring 2022!

Contact Hannah at hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk



THE STAG

It's looking ever more hopeful that the Stag will reopen in May, subject to restrictions being lifted sufficiently. The interview process has gone exceptionally well - we've been spoilt for choice - and we are within a whisper of appointing a General Manager and a Head Chef. They will, quite literally, bring an exciting offering of food and drink to the table.

Bear with us for just a few more weeks. This is going to be worth waiting for!

Adam, Bob, Caroline, Nick & Peter

You may have heard already that I am writing a book on The Stag at Mentmore.



I have written three social local history books in the past which were all very successful. The Stag book will hopefully be the same.

The content of the book will be memories and photographs of The Stag. I am hoping that you can help me, as your memories will be very valuable for generations to come.

Because of the pandemic, I am unable to come and chat to you as I would normally, but hopefully you can be thinking about this venture and email me at june@thestag.pub

My aim is to receive contributions as soon as possible, so please put your thinking caps on and dig out those old photographs.



Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.
June Wiggins



MENTMORE VILLAGE FÊTE

It's about time we had some fun!

We would all very much like to think there will be a fête this year. Once this is a real possibility, we will start accelerated planning, and let everyone know. As usual, we will ask the community to get involved; helping, participating and enjoying. It is not too early to volunteer your help, even if we have to wait until next year to hold the event.

In preparation: You may have been taking the opportunity for a clear out. Before you throw anything away, please bear in mind our bric-a-brac stall and also our clothes section for items of clothing in good condition. It is amazing what other people can use! We will also need raffle prizes, offers of sponsorship and small (new) items - great for the tombola, not to mention your ideas. There are so many ways to be part of the event.

Contact Caroline - gates_caroline@hotmail.com

Liz Dack (for the Fête Committee)

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:	Rob Fletcher (Crafton)	
	Iain Butler (Ledburn)	
	Hannah Wrathall (Mentmore)	

I am pleased to announce that at the Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd of February 2021, we co-opted Hannah Wrathall onto the council. Welcome Councillor Wrathall.

Hannah fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Liz Dack, who has served the village so well for so long. She always had an eye on a certain birthday as a cut-off point and that birthday is this year.

I cannot thank Liz enough for the time she has served on the PC. Of course she has been involved in serving village life before I moved into Mentmore; I understand she first got involved in the early 80's. So we reached out to Corry Cashman, who was also involved in council duties at that time, and asked him for his thoughts.

My first memory of Liz was at a meeting of Mentmore Parish Council in the early 1980s, at which time she was the parish clerk. The meeting ran smoothly, due in no small measure to Liz's preparation and work. All parish councillors had been provided with the appropriate paperwork and necessary briefings. When questions arose on particular agenda items Liz provided answers. Where it might be helpful she would tactfully volunteer further information. At appropriate moments she reminded the councillors of the limits to the council's powers. While it was a formal meeting, it was conducted in a friendly, respectful and inclusive way. That first meeting, to my recollection, considered a number of agenda items, from planning applications to the potential traffic hazards posed by the summer growth of cow parsley at Mentmore crossroads. It was in many respects a typical Parish Council meeting - similar to thousands of others conducted monthly across England. What made it memorable, to me, was the presence of a quietly supportive, and well-informed clerk, who clearly identified with her parish and community. Late in the 1980s, as a new and inexperienced Mentmore Parish councillor, I was also to benefit immensely from Liz's knowledge and experience as clerk to the council. - Corry.

I've only been serving the Parish Council a relatively short time but I can recognise Corry's comments. While Liz has long since stopped being Clerk, she never stopped contributing. Sometimes, without me even realising, she would contribute to my thinking and reassure and correct all at the same time. I could ask her anything and know I'd get a considered and sensible response.

We will miss Liz on the PC but she has agreed to stay on the village hall committee and that is highly reassuring. Again, thank you Liz for all the work you have and continue to do for the community. Mentmore is a better place because of you.

Peter Brazier, Chairman to the Parish Council



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Greetings to everyone,

After nearly a year since the first lockdown started, we have all heard the phrase 'new normal' several times by now, and it might feel like a cliché already. However, one of the things that has been made crystal clear over the last year is that this pandemic and its variants are not an isolated problem that can quickly be forgotten when it is over but are instead part of a longer-term global, ecological, economic and demographic challenge that humanity, as a whole, faces in the coming decades. It would be a drastic and irresponsible oversimplification to think that there was merely one problem (pandemic) and one solution (vaccination) and that was the end of it. We are realizing more and more that the background contexts to several seemingly different problems are intensely connected with one another, which also offers the possibility of several problems being addressed at once with a more involved and carefully worked-out strategy.

I recently read a book by a professor of cognitive science who thinks one of the biggest dangers in our day is precisely the idea that problems can be isolated from each other and a unique solution found for each, not least because overly simplistic solutions potentially have unwanted side effects. He advocates instead the practice of searching for multiple solutions that not only abate the problem in question but also prevent both it and others from resurfacing – a necessary practice if we are to navigate our way through the coming years in the most responsible manner.

By March we will be well into the season of Lent, and it would equally be an oversimplification to see Lent as being all about giving something up or a willpower exercise. While there is an aspect of Lent that does encourage laying some things or habits aside in order to make room for more helpful ones, there are other aspects too. Traditionally it is a period of study and instruction, originally for those preparing for baptism at Easter, and there is an even wider sense in which it involves encouraging new life to flourish in order better to greet the 'new normal' of Eastertide. This newness took quite some re-acclimatization for the first disciples and indeed none of us can say that we fully inhabit it yet. We can however think about what sets of habits are and are not helpful for being able to see the newness of Easter for what it is. Lent challenges us to be aware of how different habits, attitudes, thoughts and deeds are connected to one another and to consider what this realization means in terms of helping life to flourish in its proper environment. As that seems to match up very well with the challenges posed in our present time, let us hope and pray that a well-informed discipline for the future may emerge and bear fruit for us and for all life.

With every good wish

Revd Dr Andrew Krauss

COVID Services - while Covid restrictions apply there will be a ***Sunday Zoom*** service held ***every week at 9.30 am*** until further notice. Anyone wishing to receive the log-on details who don't already receive them should email Lin at lin.k22@btinternet.com, so that they can be added to the distribution list.

Following the recent government announcements, services at St Mary's Church will resume on ***Sunday 18th April at 9.00 am*** (subject to the guidelines at the time). A maximum of 30 may attend, and all government guidelines will still apply, including the wearing of a mask.

There will be a ***parish Easter Day service at St Giles at 10.00 a am***, a maximum of 30 may attend and all guidelines still apply, including wearing a mask (subject to the guidelines at the time).

Mid-Week services at St Giles remain cancelled until further notice.

For further information please contact the following:

Team Rector: Howard Robson 01296 688593

Team Vicar: Andrew Krauss 07508 213154

Acting Churchwarden: Lin Knappitt 01296 668568

NORMAL SERVICE TIMES (when COVID restrictions allow)

	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	-		-
St Giles		9.00 am BCP 10.30-11.15 Family Service		10.30 am Morning Worship	Combined 10.30 am with Cheddington Methodists	9.15 am Mid-week Communion

HC – Holy Communion; BCP – Book of Common Prayer

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 – Andy & Carol Lister

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Theo Lambros

January winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Bob Stratford

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

February winners:

The 1st prize of £100.00 went to – Caroline Sargisson

The 2nd prize of £10.00 went to – John & Sue Sutton

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

Since our last session of work in the churchyard in October 2020, we have not been able to work as a group. The recent weather has also been a significant deterrent. We had been planning to reinstate the bird boxes that had fallen during the storms but it was either too windy or bitterly cold. However, we would now like to restart our working parties. The main purpose is to prevent the ivy and brambles from reclaiming and re-establishing their grip on the area, to tidy up the paths and ground close to the church walls and to clear out any clogged drains.

It is also a time when the wild spring flowers are starting to appear, so we can enjoy their appearance without damaging them. The snowdrops have been particularly amazing this season.

To make our volunteering safe, it will be essential for you to bring your own tools and refreshments. Tasks can be shared but social distancing should enable us to work safely outdoors. It would be advisable to wear a mask to protect those who have yet to receive their vaccination.



Tools that will be useful, include secateurs, lopper, saw, spade, rake, brush and wheel-barrow, and garden gloves that can deal with brambles and keep your hands warm!

Proposed date: **Saturday 27th March 10.00am – 13.00pm**

We look forward to seeing you. Come for as long or as little time as you like.

Contact Diane or Mike Tel: 0129666114 or 07745 928698 dchmja@gmail.com
MENTMORE PARISH HISTORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES



The membership of our Facebook page has now grown to 246. We have recently seen an increase in posted contributions and comments, helping to bring to life stories, characters and photographs of the parish community from the past. Sharing information in this way is a wonderful opportunity, a valuable and important way of honouring the past, ensuring that it is not forgotten and building up a coherent picture of life as it was.

Robert Adams has been going through his archive of information and generously sharing the stories he is uncovering, adding his own memories and encouraging other community and family members to add their memories and photographs. Robert has written an informative and touching piece in memory of Stella Marshall, a local resident. Here is a part of what he wrote:

“Like many of us, I was very sad to read here that Stella Marshall from Ledburn had died. Her family was connected to the Mentmore Estate for over a hundred years, and Stella had recorded many of her village memories on both paper and tape. I think it would be good to remember her here as she typified many of the people born on the Estate and a way of life which is now gone forever. So, with the help of Stella’s niece, Rose Norton, there are some photos and a potted biography, but more importantly one of the small booklets she wrote about her childhood in Mentmore as a separate post”. The booklet is available on the Facebook page and makes fascinating reading.

Recently we have welcomed a number of new residents into Mentmore, Crafton and Ledburn. You may be interested to find out what life was like in this area and even discover something about your own property.

The Facebook page has enabled us to receive and contact a much wider audience. It is a monitored group and you need to apply to join.

If you are not a fan of Facebook but have a local story you would like to share or a request for information please contact Karen or Diane via the Mentmore History email address mentmorehistory@gmail.com.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: 6 MAY 2021

The following elections are taking place:

- local government principal area elections (i.e. district, borough, county, county borough and unitary authority elections)
- parish council elections
- local authority mayoral elections in England
- combined authority mayoral elections in England

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- Delivery of services
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Give communities a democratic voice

Becoming A Local Councillor

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve. Local councillors have three main responsibilities:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally

**YOUR LOCAL
COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!
MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR**

To find out more contact: mentmoreclerk@gmail.com

nalc

Getting Elected

To stand for election to a local council you must:

- be a UK or Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- be at least 18 years old
- be an elector of the local council or; in the past 12 months have occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant), work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work), live within three miles of the local council boundary.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, CONTACT THE COUNCIL ON:



Walking Mentmore's Public Footpaths - MEN/3/1 (bridleway), MEN/6/1 - 1 hour
These two paths both link Mentmore and Ledburn. I chose to walk both of them as a circular walk, including some unavoidable use of the road. They can of course be walked independently of one another, and starting either end in Mentmore or Ledburn. I walked them on a freezing day in February.



1. Starting at the bridleway beginning at the bottom of the hill below the cricket ground, enter the field with the hay barns on your right and walk diagonally across to the far side, aiming for the telegraph pole. I watched a beautiful rusty red kite cruising low here on the day that I walked here. The path is well marked.

2. Continue into the next field, keeping to the same line, and cross it. Mud alert! Still on the same line continue, with the drainage ditch on your left. You will then cross a bridge into the next field. Do a dogleg, left and right to walk along the edge of the next field, towards the pylon, keeping the hedgerow and small trees always on your left, and carry on until you meet the Ledburn - Wingrave road. Do not be fooled by a 5-bar gate which you will see to the left as you approach. Keep to the right. This section will take you about 15 minutes.

3. Go through the gap in the hedge at this point and walk to the right along the road, for about 10 minutes past Well Lane on your left, with the Ledburn Farm buildings ahead. In about a third of a mile, as you reach the main village of Ledburn, you will see a footpath sign to the right.

4. Cross the field, aiming for a gap in the woody growth on the far side. Walking straight ahead you will pass through three areas of deciduous plantation, separated by wide grassy areas. Catkins along here were a welcome sign of spring. You will pass under the line of pylons arriving at a sturdy bridge over a ditch. There are a number of warning signs about use of the paths at this point.

5. The marked path continues over a ploughed field. On the other side, walk to your right, with the drainage ditch to your left, to the end of the field. A short distance along to the right is another bridge to cross into the trees. Follow the path (spectacularly muddy on the occasion I walked it) which winds through wild woodland. You will pass a fenced off pond at the far end.



6. Pass over another bridge into the field. At this point, the official path cuts diagonally across the corner of the field, but this was not marked. Continue once again with the ditch to your right and turn to your right at the end of the field, over a final bridge, walking for a few yards past a pond to a stile on your left. This is the only stile on the walk, and it is easy for dogs to pass through. Note - there is often livestock in this field.

7. You now find yourself walking gently uphill towards the village of Mentmore, buildings and skeleton trees on the horizon. On this occasion the ice and snowy patches serve to highlight the original medieval ridge and furrow nature of this field. The end of the path is marked by a kissing gate in the far corner, just below the first building as you reach the top of the hill.

Liz Dack

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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



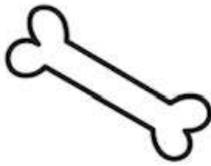
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or call us on 01296 534537

www.thetechnologydoctors.co.uk

Room No. 9



www.roomno9.co.uk

01525 852 742

Room No. 9 offers a range of interesting items, including a selection of lovely Mother's Day gifts and Easter decorations as well as seasonal cards!

Our café may be closed but we are doing a roaring trade in 'delivered to the door' afternoon teas. Take a look at our Facebook ([Room No.9 - Home | Facebook](#)) / Instagram (www.instagram.com/roomno9/) pages for images of the delicious homemade cakes, scones and savouries.

Our online store is open and, as well as a postal service, we are offering a click & collect or local delivery service.

Email: enquiries@roomno9.co.uk
Caroline 07761199520
Always happy to help.

Caroline

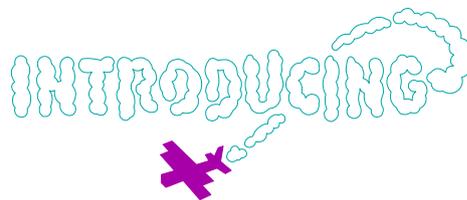


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-

If you feel that I can help you with any of the above, please call Sharon on **07538 747030**



Congratulations to George and Nikki Metcalfe, of Mentmore, on the birth of
Heather Liberty Metcalfe
on 31st January 2021

*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 2021*

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, Julie Lewis, Olive & Rose, Wingbury Paws, Leighton Footcare, The Technology Doctors, Room No. 9. and Sharon Ferrity