



MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 25 Issue 4

December 2018

“DIARY PAGE”



PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Village Hall at **8pm** on **Wednesday 5th 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 **Wednesday 13th February 2019**.

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 16th December**. The service, with the renowned Cheddington Festival Choir will begin at **5.00 pm**, followed by seasonal refreshments.



ELK_HEALTH - MIND LAB

Come along for an afternoon of discovery - investigate mindfulness and other new ways of working with the mind. Learn why the mind can be tricky sometimes...and what we can do when it is. Bring your family and friends!

Not a barbell or running shoe in sight. This is an afternoon of finding out about skills anyone can use.

ELK-Health will be running their **Mind Lab** from Mentmore Village Hall on **2nd February** from **2.30 pm** to **5.00 pm**. (2 - 2½ hours followed by wine tasting). There will be a nominal charge (£10) for the afternoon to cover costs the costs, the remainder will go to the research foundation.

For more information email: karen.asprey@elk-health.org or call 0798 651 2426 or check out page 10.

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. Redecorating and refurbishment of the main hall floor is booked to take place in early January. 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 price 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.

FOOTPATHS

Please be aware that there are no designated public footpaths on Stud Farm, and that there is no longer any permissive right of way. It is sometimes difficult to work out the exact route of the public footpaths in the parish and the Parish Council are currently working to improve this. If you would like to have a look at a map showing the public footpaths and bridleways in Mentmore Parish, one can be found at: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/public-rights-of-way-map/>

LEDBURN TELEPHONE BOX

The redundant telephone box in Ledburn has now been removed. Residents have commented that as part of the village scene it will be missed, not least because it was a useful landmark for finding addresses.



NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Harvest Festival: In October we celebrated Harvest Festival with a service followed by a light lunch which was quite a feast!

The collection of £120.00 was donated to the Homeless of Leighton Buzzard. The charity has put this donation into their Christmas Day Fund which will provide: an evening Christmas meal for 20 homeless people (they normally have 7-10 night stayers). They will also be providing 30 meals on wheels for people in extreme hardship (in conjunction with the doctor's surgery and in particular Bassett Road Surgery in Leighton Buzzard). These people will get a Christmas Dinner and pudding plus a bag containing a sandwich, fruit, chocolates etc. for tea.

Remembrance Sunday: More than eighty people came to this special service celebrating 100 years since the end of the First World War. The Mentmore History Society produced an exhibition on those soldiers who died for our country and our freedom. The collection, as always, was donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and a cheque for £442.00 was handed to the local representative a few days later.

Christmas Carol Service: Nine Lessons and Nine Carols will take place at 5.00pm on 16th December 2018. 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! The Cheddington Choir will be there and the carols this year include some old favourites such as Once in Royal David's City, O Come all ye Faithful and Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

We look forward to welcoming you all then. Wishing you all a wonderful celebration of Christmas and a happy and healthy 2019.

Carol Cox

St Mary's Churchyard

In the last newsletter, there was an appeal for volunteers to help tidy up the graveyard which was looking neglected and overgrown, although parts of it are regularly mown. This was highlighted by the judges of the Best Kept Village Competition which we entered this year.

The call to arms went out asking for interested parties to come along on Saturday 3rd October with gloves, loppers, pruners, bow saws and a willingness to help tidy and clear the churchyard in preparation for the Remembrance Day Service on 11th November.

A group of 11 turned up and started what looked like a monstrous task; a tangle of bramble, ivy and other pernicious weeds was overwhelming the yew trees, and the fence was hardly visible. With a bit of encouragement and some very significant help from Jonathan our local professional, we began to fight our way through it all, pulling, tugging, cutting, getting scratched and stung. The team were happy with what we had achieved and continued to meet for the next four weekends, giving generously of the time they could spare.



Our efforts had an immediate impact. As you can see, we managed to reclaim a large part of the graveyard and clear the fence. The War Memorial was also refurbished and smartened up. The compost area was cleared and rebuilt. The churchyard no longer looks sad and neglected and has started to look cared for. We are proud that it was ready in time to commemorate those who fought and those who lost their lives in two world wars.

The working party will continue to meet on a monthly basis so if you are interested and would like to join us please let me know.

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 – Martin & Caroline Gates of Mentmore.

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

October winners:

The 1st prize of £100 went to – Ruth Wheeler of Yeovil, Somerset.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Bob Ager of Drayton Parslow.

November winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Sue & John Sutton of Mentmore.

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



December/New Year Services

Sunday 16 th December	Carol Service at 5.00pm at St. Mary's, Mentmore
Monday 24 th December	Midnight Eucharist 11.30 pm at St. Giles, Cheddington
Monday 24 th December	Carols on the Green, Cheddington at 7.00pm
Tuesday 25 th December	Eucharist 9.00am at St. Mary's, Mentmore
Sunday 6 th January	Eucharist 9.00am at St. Mary's, Mentmore

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS: Luton Airport Expansion Consultation

London Luton Airport Ltd is currently in the process of a lengthy consultation period to explore the various options for their planned expansion of the airport from 18 million passengers per annum to 38 million passengers per annum.

Their timeline for consultation is:

Mid 2018: Non-Statutory Consultation - initial round of public consultation on the emerging strategic masterplan options for making best use of the existing runway in the period up to 2050 to achieve up to 36-38 mppa.

Mid 2018- Mid 2019: Ongoing engagement and feedback review - project team reviews responses to Non-Statutory Consultation while continuing dialogue with local stakeholders, leading to a preferred scheme.

Mid 2019: Statutory Consultation - statutory consultation on the preferred scheme. This will be supported by the draft detailed technical and environmental assessments.

Mid - Late 2019: Further engagement and feedback review - consideration of all comments provided during consultation, leading to final design changes to our scheme. Environmental Impact Assessment will be finalised.

Anyone who wishes to download the full reports can do so at the following web address (<https://futureluton.llal.org.uk>), where there is also a "Have Your Say" option to receive further information via email.

As some residents have also expressed concerns over scheduled night flights, just a reminder that the link to make a noise complaint to the airport is:

<https://www.london-luton.co.uk/corporate/community/noise/making-a-noise-complaint>

I would like to encourage all my residents to participate as fully as possible in these consultations and to report any noise issues on the weblink above. While BCC and AVDC have aerospace planning officers working with the airport on behalf of our residents, anecdotal resident information, opinions and viewpoints are invaluable in helping us to better represent you. Do please take a look at the proposals and if you have any questions or views on them, please let me know and I will be happy to take those forward to the planning officers and the airport representatives on your behalf.

Anne Wight, County Councillor

UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS



RESCUE & REHOMING KENNELS

We would like to thank the residents of Mentmore, Crafton and Ledburn for their support and recent duvet donations.

We are currently in the process of updating the heating in one of the rescue blocks and the duvets, in particular, are being very much appreciated while we wait for the grand switch on. We always have 40+ dogs in residence these days, often 50+, so donations of this kind mean that we can care for the dogs as they should be cared for.

Every little helps!

Julie, Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels, Eaton Bray



ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE AT MENTMORE ST MARY'S - a time to remember the local men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

For so many years the names of these local soldiers who fell in WWI have been read aloud at the annual Remembrance Sunday services but most of us knew very little about them.

This year being the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War was a significant anniversary, the subject of a display had been mooted by members of the History Society. Lyn Sharp and I decided to see if we could find out more about the individuals named on the memorial outside the church. We understood that none of the local families were likely to still live in the parish anymore as the sale of the estate in 1977 resulted in most leaving the area.

Information was very sparse, so an appeal went out on the [Mentmore Parish History with Photographs & Stories](#) Facebook page and, in a short space of time, some very useful pictures and information appeared. Our local history archivist collated material from the National Archives Medal Index Cards, together with information from the War Graves Commission web site which gave us some important details about the soldiers. Further searches through Ancestry websites, together with information gleaned from the Facebook page helped to establish the individual stories and local links for each of the 14 soldiers. An information sheet was produced for each soldier and these were assembled and displayed in St Mary's Church for the Armistice Day service on Sunday 11th November.

We would like to thank: Andy Cooke, John Smith, Karen Thomas, Peter Brazier, Mike Armson, Jonathan Langley and the Mentmore Arts festival for the loan of their display stands.



The service was conducted by Canon David Hollaway and was a very fitting tribute to all the war casualties for all the conflicts in the world, but in particular this year for the WWI casualties.

George Potts, James Bull, Ruben Jeffrey, Samuel Sayell, William Bond, Frederick Millins, Percy Fiddler, Neil Archibald Primrose, Ernest Taylor, Herbert Kent, Henry Griffiths, Arthur Kempster, Philip Varney, William Randall.



MENTMORE'S BIG TIDY-UP

Thank you to all those brave souls who helped to carry out the last litter pick at the end of September between showers. We managed to cover most of the Parish over a period of several days. Special mention to Graham Scott who single-handedly increased the pile we collected by about a third, all from the short stretch between the railway bridge in Ledburn and the B488, including debris from a burnt out vehicle.



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.

If you would like to join our merry band of litter-pickers for our next foray (April, date to be announced), 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
- 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 : November 28	Collection	Collection	No Collection
Wednesday : December 05	Collection	No Collection	Collection
Wednesday : December 12	Collection	Collection	No Collection
Wednesday : December 19	Collection	No Collection	Collection
Normal Day December 26	Collection	Collection	No Collection
Revised Friday: December 28 2019	Collection	Collection	No Collection
Normal Day Wed : January 02	Collection	No Collection	Collection
Revised Day: Friday Jan 04	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 06 February 2019.

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 odd year – with a variety of unseasonable weather! The early months of 2018 gave us a period of wet and cold weather, followed by one of the longest, driest summers we have seen in many years both of which had their effect on our owl and raptor populations.

As always the Tawny Owls are the first to breed and unfortunately this year the success rate appears to be quite low. Our group ringed only eight birds this year in comparison with 22 2017. In fact in my own local area we recorded no Tawny Owls at all, although I am hopeful that this does not mean there were no breeding just that they were using natural nest sites!

If you have been out and about at dusk, or during the early morning, during the past few weeks you will probably have heard the familiar 'twit twoo' owl call. Yet this call is actually made by both a male and female owl calling to each other - the female makes a 'ke-wick' sound and the male answers with something more like 'hoo-hoo-oo' as they busy themselves establishing breeding territories for next year.

We found that both Barn Owls and Kestrels were nesting later, with many nests unoccupied early in the season. This delay was probably because the adults had not been finding enough food to maintain their body weight – a major factor in breeding capability. This lack of food items will have been a consequence of the cold, wet winter and also because we believe that the primary food for all owls (the short tailed/field vole) is in decline. This creature represents 80% of most owls' diet! This decline is a natural event that follows a three to five year cycle of boom and bust. Fortunately, things began to pick up as the year progressed and eventually the birds started to produce young. As result of the initial delay our BORG volunteers were ringing chicks well into late summer/autumn.

So far, we know that this year has been a poor year for both Tawny Owls and Little Owls, but we are hopeful that the year's final results for Barn Owls and Kestrels will be more positive. I am currently awaiting confirmation of our yearly ringing & monitoring results so look out for future updates!

During the year our volunteers have dealt with many interesting scenarios including the recovery of injured birds and subsequent rehabilitation and release aided by the staff at St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital, visitors from another parish – a young female Barn Owl in Mentmore, born and ringed in Swanbourne last year, surprise guests – a Mandarin Duck and her young in a Barn Owl box and excessively large clutches of eggs – two nests in one box or a failed brood and a second? Who knows what we will find next 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 wildlife observation and conservation can try one of the following:

RSPB – Big Garden Bird Watch Saturday 27th and Sunday 29th January 2019: 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!

Karen Thomas

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The Little IT Company - based in Cheddington - Call Mark: 07789 304 274

EVENTS TO LOOK OUT FOR SPRING 2018

Mentmore Plant Sale – 27th April 2019

Mentmore Arts Festival – The 10th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held over the May Bank Holiday from Saturday 25th May to Monday 27th May 2019.

Mentmore Arts Festival 2019

“WE NEED YOU”

The committee are looking for volunteers to take on the task of putting up 150 posters and 6 banners in late April/early May across a wide area. It requires commitment, a staple gun and transport.

Full training will be given - and you'll be helping to raise money for the charities the Festival is supporting this time - Keech Hospice, Riding for the Disabled and Home Start.

Please contact Caroline gates_caroline@hotmail.com
07761199520



Do You Want to Feel Better?



Are you looking for ways to improve your well-being?

Do you want to know what's been reliably researched and shown to be of significant benefit?

ELK-Health will be running their **Mind Lab** from Mentmore Village Hall

on the 2nd February 2019

from 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm (2 - 2½ hours followed by wine tasting)

Not a barbell or running shoe in sight

This is an afternoon of finding out about skills anyone can use.

- Learn how working with your mind can benefit your physical health
- Find out ways to work with your mind to slow (and even reverse!) the ageing process
- Improve your immune system
- Sleep better
- Feel happier
- improve your memory
- and lots more!

The day will be interactive and fun and you'll have the opportunity to end the day with MINDFUL WINE TASTING :) (*The wine tasting will be led by Tadhg Ó Séaghdha, who used to have an organic wine business – unsurprisingly!*)

ELK-Health is a not-for-profit group researching behavioural endocrinology – the way our body chemicals affect how we feel and what we do – and delivering support through clinics.

It is now part of the National Institute for Stress, Anxiety & Depression which is based in Lund, Sweden.

ELK-Health is funded to deliver public health programmes at a minimal cost.

There will be a nominal charge (£10) for the afternoon to cover costs, while any remaining funds will go to the research foundation.

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 £7 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

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

Please let Liz (elizadack@outlook.com) or Karen (karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com) know if you know anyone who would like a copy of the newsletter emailed to them every quarter. It can also be found on the Parish Council website www.mentmore.org

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 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.