



## MENTMORE PARISH NEWSLETTER

Volume 26, Issue 1

March 2019

### “DIARY PAGE”



#### VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS

While The Stag remains closed it has been agreed that Mentmore Village Hall will be open for a weekly pub night every Friday. Everyone is welcome - the more the merrier.

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 8.00 pm and “chucking out” time will be 11.00 pm.

We are looking at other events we could include in the future such as games nights, fish n’ chip night as well as film nights. All suggestions gratefully received. We are also looking at setting up a village WhatsApp group to ensure we can all keep in touch.

Look forward to seeing you all on Friday night.



#### MENTMORE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* at 8pm on *Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April*. The Annual Meeting will be held in the *Village Hall* on *Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mentmore.org) for full details of all minutes.

To contact the parish council, email [clerk@mentmore.org](mailto:clerk@mentmore.org)



#### PARISH LITTER PICK

Please join in with our parish litter-picking team on *Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April*. In these days of uncertainty, people are even more inclined to be careless. Fast food debris is creeping ever closer with the opening of a new retail site in Grovebury Road. We can show that we do care for our environment by making an effort as a community to keep it clean.

Between us all, we collected a huge quantity of litter last year. Towards the end of March I will contact all those who have previously expressed an interest, but more volunteers are always welcome. Bags, litter picking tools and hi-viz jackets are supplied. On the day, there will be tea and refreshments available in the Village Hall from 1.00 pm.

If you are not available on 7<sup>th</sup> April but would still like to take part, contact Liz Dack – [elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com) for more details.

N.B. It is worth taking a few minutes to look at [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org) which is a useful source of information and inspiration.

Flytipping should be reported to [fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk).



## VILLAGE PLANT SALE

Come and join Hannah and her helpers for another classic Mentmore event on *Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 12-4pm*. Entrance costs £1 which includes entry into the Prize Draw. All profits will go to local causes.

Keep the date free! The end of April when the soil is warming up is the ideal time to plan your planting for the summer. We have specialist nurseries who will offer advice, as well as beautiful plants on their stalls, garden paraphernalia and our very own village stall where we can sell anything garden-related.

Your garden donations are essential to provide us with a variety of affordable plants (labelled if possible) grown from cuttings or seeds, or just transplanted, as well as unwanted garden tools and ornaments. There will also be a barbecue and tea stall. Offers of help with setting up/ packing away, as well as cakes for teas, gratefully received.

If you would like to help or provide items for the plant stall or cake stall, please contact either Hannah [hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hlwrathall@yahoo.co.uk) or Jonathan [jonathanlangley707@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanlangley707@gmail.com).



## MENTMORE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Mentmore Arts Festival is back for its eleventh year. The Festival takes place on *Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk) or, if you are willing to help set up (see page 10) contact Carol - [carol.art@virgin.net](mailto:carol.art@virgin.net).

## UPDATES THANKS UPDATES THANKS

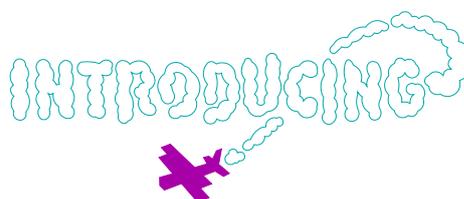
### POPPY APPEAL

Many thanks for the Mentmore Parish Council Cheque of £90.00.

You will be pleased to know that it brought the total of funds raised for the appeal, covering Wing, Burcott, Ledburn & Crafton to **£5,267.17** - a massive amount for such a small area.

In fact - the most ever raised for the appeal in my 18 year tender as Poppy Appeal Organiser. This has only been achieved by kind donations such as yours. Thank you all.

Kind regards  
Stephen Naghi  
PAO Wing and District



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.

## MENTMORE PARISH HISTORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORIES

Our Facebook group is still live and active and has over 195 members, posting interesting and stimulating conversations from far and wide, featuring stories about local families and buildings in Mentmore, Ledburn and Crafton.

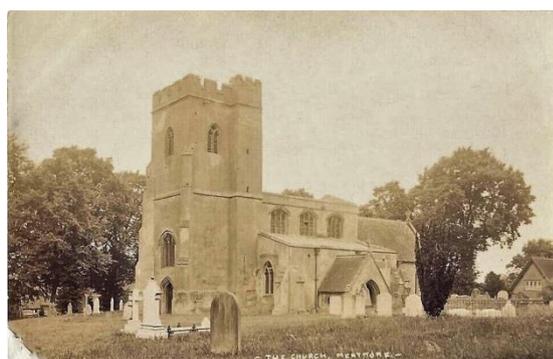


Crafton Lodge built in 1870 now called Honeysuckle lodge.

These group conversations and pictures are helping to answer a great many local historical questions and providing a forum for interesting and important photographic records.

You can look at the posts without joining the Facebook group. However, if you wish to post a photo or have a question you would like to ask the community, you can join the group and take a more active part in the conversations that have already started. Please note this is a public group and can be viewed by anyone, so sensitive material or pictures of living people should only be posted with their full permission.

Mentmore Hunt date unknown 1913 - 18?



St Mary's Church - post card circa 1930's

## YOUR VILLAGE IN FOCUS



[www.mentmore.org](http://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

The main hall has now been re-decorated and the floor refurbished to a high standard - thank you Jonathan. Ongoing repairs are being tackled as they arise and a new, efficient heating system is planned. We can all be proud of our hall which is now well looked after and well used.

## **RIGHTS OF WAY IN MENTMORE - MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN**

**Let's get the most out of our cherished rights of way** - give your views about Buckinghamshire's rights of way in a new online survey [www.buckscc.gov.uk/news/lets-get-the-most-out-of-our-cherished-rights-of-way](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/news/lets-get-the-most-out-of-our-cherished-rights-of-way)

Buckinghamshire has a network of 3,359 kilometres (2,087 miles) of public rights of way, and it is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire County Council to ensure that residents and visitors alike have free access to these routes and are able to get the maximum benefit from the access they provide, not only to the wonderful Bucks countryside but also through urban areas.

As part of this duty, there's a legal requirement for highways authorities such as Bucks County Council to have in place a rights of way improvement plan (ROWIP) which sets out how the public rights of way network will meet the current and future needs of the public. This has to be reviewed every ten years, and in Buckinghamshire that review falls in 2019.

So that we can develop a ROWIP that reflects what people need and expect from the county's rights of way, we're conducting an online survey, and are asking Buckinghamshire residents, organisations, businesses, district councils and parish councils to take part.

Bill Chapple OBE, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment, said: "Whether they're used for sport, relaxation, studying nature or simply getting from A to B, Buckinghamshire's rights of way are an important part of our local heritage and an incredibly valuable way of enhancing quality of life for our residents, people who work in the county, and visitors that come to enjoy the beautiful countryside for which Bucks is renowned.

"So that we can ensure that this wonderful resource provides the maximum benefit to all, I'm asking residents, local groups, organisations and businesses to take part in the online survey and let us know how you use our rights of way, what benefits they provide to you, how you feel about their upkeep and use, and what you think our spending priorities should be in this area."

Take part in the survey here: [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Bucks\\_CC\\_ROWIP](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Bucks_CC_ROWIP)

**For further information please contact: Graham Skeggs, on 01296 382444 or out of hours on 07825430978**

## **FIRST AID COURSE FOR GRANDPARENTS**

Would anyone be interested in a new and exciting first aid course that has recently been developed? It is specifically tailored for people who are looking after their grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other younger relatives.

Treatment for emergency care in children has changed considerably over the last few years and keeping your knowledge up to date could be life-saving. The course will also give you confidence to deal with an emergency until our crews get to you. Topics include seizures, burns, head injuries, choking and CPR. The course lasts about 3 hours.

Training is delivered by uniformed ambulance clinicians and all profits are ploughed straight back into the front-line blue light service.

In order to make the course viable, up to 12 people are needed. At this stage, we are collecting names of people who would be interested, so if you would like to be included please contact Liz Dack - [elizadack@outlook.com](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com).



## NEWS FROM ST. MARY'S CHURCH

**HOUSE FOR DUTY PRIEST UPDATE** - Unfortunately the proposed candidate for the post of House-for-Duty Team Vicar has decided that the job isn't for him. The post is currently being re advertised and one telephone enquiry has been received so far. We thank all clergy who are continuing to help and support us through our interregnum.

The interregnum will continue until a new House-for-Duty priest has been appointed. In the meantime services will continue as normal.

### SERVICE TIMES

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> 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

*HC – Holy Communion; BCP – Book of Common Prayer*

### Easter Services at St. Giles, Cheddington

#### March

6th Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes 08.00 pm

#### April

18th Maundy Thursday Stripping of Altar 08.00 pm

19th Good Friday Service 10.00 am

### Parish Lent Course

Our Lent Course will be held on Thursdays 14th, 21st, 28th March; and 4th, 11th April at 8.00 pm in the Methodist Hall, Cheddington.

For any enquiries please contact the Team Rector: Revd Philip Derbyshire - 01525 240287 or the Churchwardens: Lin Knappitt - 01296 668568 and Christopher Shephard - 01296 661849. Thank you.

**Lin Knappitt,  
Church Warden, Cheddington with Mentmore**

**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](mailto:carolcox48@gmail.com) or call 07920 140 740.

#### December winners:

The 1st prize of £300 went to – Penny Roberts of Mentmore.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Rosie Knight of Mentmore.

#### January winners:

The 1st prize of £30 went to – Sally Smith of Mentmore.

The 2nd prize of £10 went to – Jennifer Langley of Mentmore.

#### February winners:

The 1st prize of £100.00 went to – Bob Ager of Drayton Parslow.

The 2nd prize of £10.00 went to – Jan Dodkin of Stevenage.

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

'Gardening for God' sessions, as someone called our work parties recently, are having a visible impact on the churchyard. We started in October 2018 and this month were rewarded with lovely colonies of snowdrops and primroses making their way back amongst the grave stones, many of which had been completely engulfed with ivy and bramble and were no longer visible.



If you have not had a wander into St Mary's church yard recently, please do go and have a look, but mind where you step as there are many new plants making their appearances and even some wood anemones are trying to make a comeback.

If you would like to join the work party and help look after our churchyard just come along to our next session, or let me know so I can tell you what will be happening and what tools you will need to bring – not to mention knowing how many to cater for at the coffee break, even gluten free snacks are available! Anyone can get involved; you don't have to be a church goer, just a willing volunteer.

The next work party is due to convene on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 10.00 am – 1.00 pm. You don't have to stay for the full three hours, just come for as long or as little as you want.

We would also welcome volunteers to help Sally & Jeff with the interior spring cleaning - the priority will be cobwebs, cobwebs, cobwebs, many of which are at a high level. There are tools available to deal with these (with expanding handles), but if you have your own long handled dusters, please can you bring these with you and dress suitably, it might be worth having a scarf or dust mask as it could get very dusty.



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

**“Thank You For The Music”:** A fitting comment from eighties band Abba and well deserved by Mary Saintey who, at the service on 20<sup>th</sup> January this year, was given a £40 book token as a “Thank you” for playing the organ at St. Mary's for 40 years.

Mary has not only been the organist at St Mary's for the past 40 years, but has also been an integral part of all the services and events at St. Mary's, often putting in extra time to make sure she had a good understanding of the new and varied music that was sometimes requested. She helped run many of the activities including the Sunday School, Easter Egg Hunts and August Bank Holiday Teas (often coming along to play background music for our visitors), not to mention the amazing production of “Neddy the Donkey”!

We are happy to report that Mary continues to play the organ at St Mary's and so far there is no mention of retirement.....

**Church Warden:** In May 2018 Penny Hibbert of Crafton resigned as Church Warden after 11 years of service. For the first three years Penny worked alongside Jean Howlett, continuing as the only Church Warden following Jean's retirement in 2010.

During the twelve months since Penny's retirement services at St. Mary's have been manned by loyal church goers. However, we are delighted to announce that Sally Smith, of Rosebery Mews, has just volunteered to be Churchwarden (to be confirmed at the Annual Parochial Meeting in April). This is excellent news – Sally will bring commitment and previous experience of being a Churchwarden.

Carol Cox  
St Mary's Treasurer

# MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

The 11th Mentmore Arts Festival will be held from  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 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 £12,000 in 2018 and over £72,000 in total from ten events.

The lead charity for 2018 was The National Autistic Society who received £5,500, Lindengate Wendover who received £2,000 and See Ability who received £2,000. St. Mary's Church, Mentmore received £2,500.

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.

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 all those who support the Committee over the weekend.

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

**Date and Time:** Bank holiday weekend 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 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](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk) ...  
and do come and join us in May.

[www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk](http://www.mentmore-arts-festival.co.uk)

## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CROSSWORD

I think I owe my crossword puzzlers a sincere apology. I believe the clue you've all struggled with was this one:

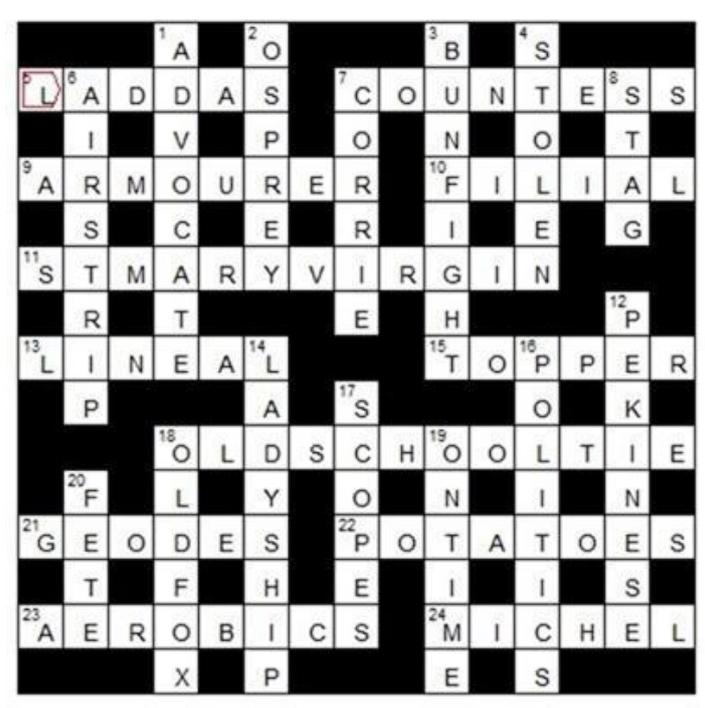
One-time stablemate backs Blue Peter, the English poet? Almost! (6)

The intended answer is LADDAS. A stablemate of Blue Peter (more or less) and made up of Blue = Sad, and Dal = abbreviated surname of Peter Dale, an English poet. But BONG! I was so pleased at having a way to bring Blue Peter into the cryptic and literal parts of the clue, I overlooked the fact that the horse's name was LADAS, with one 'D'.

My only excuse is the one Samuel Johnson made when accused of mis-defining a word in his dictionary (which coincidentally was also horse-related, I believe) – "Ignorance, Ma'am, pure ignorance".

**Steve Thomas**  
Your very apologetic cruciverbalist

Here is the full solution:



## WILDLIFE UPDATES

Sorry there are no updates for you this issue, but hope you like these shots taken in our garden over the past week or so.....



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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

## To Let

**Three bedroom  
First floor flat in Wilstone**  
£850 per month



Large Kitchen/dining room, Lounge, 2 double bedrooms, 1 study/bedroom, bathroom. Gas central heating.

Further details can be found on the [Rightmove.co.uk](http://Rightmove.co.uk) website Property to Let pages

**Contact:** Michael Armson Antiques:  
Tel: 07860 910034

or enquire at  
Michael Armson Antiques shop

# MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

## ARTS FESTIVAL APPEAL FOR HELPERS



to make the Arts Festival buzz!

- help set up in the church (Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May)
- help set up in the village hall (Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:carol.art@virgin.net) if you can offer any help.

### 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](http://www.mentmore.org)

*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](mailto:elizadack@outlook.com)) or Karen (Tel 661509 / email [karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com](mailto:karen.thomas@dial.pipex.com))  
Newsletter deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> May 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 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 and Michael Armson.**