

933 Rural Bus

If you, by any chance, have lost your belief in a sense of community, take a ride on the 933 rural bus and you will have it restored. One passenger spoke for all when she captured the vital role the 933 plays. "This bus is a matter of life and death", she said. This view is justified, as the service covers a wide residential area whilst stopping at all the amenities in Meltham. Although there are some changes proposed by Metro these are minor changes. The Town Council is consulting with Metro to ensure that these

proposed changes, if implemented, do not disadvantage the individuals / groups who need the rural bus the most. The Council members are very much in agreement that this essential service needs preserving for this and future generations; and as such they will exercise all their powers to maintain efficient transport for

our community. The remaining buses serving Meltham are for the most part regular and accessible to all. For the exceptions to this rule, Meltham Council will work with all operators encouraging a continued addressing of customers' complaints and the achievement of a high level of satisfaction.



What's in a name?

Well this is the name of the statue which spent several years in the Italian Gardens in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park, (on the currently empty plinth). Unfortunately, it had been stolen and recovered twice so it was thought better not to replace it. Instead, we use its name for our Newsletter which is very apt as in mythology, Mercury was a messenger!



The Gardeners Society Committee

meets bi-monthly to arrange two annual events:- the Spring Show held in March, and the Open Show held in September. Entries are received in the morning, with judging in the afternoon followed by presentation of trophies and afternoon teas. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information on the Gardeners Society, please contact Anne on 327346.



Your New Council

The new Council was elected in May this year and members represent the Township of Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw for a period of four years. It's worth noting that all members of Council are non-paid volunteers who give up their time and commitment for the benefit of their local community. They come from all walks of life; from nurses and dinner ladies, university lecturers, industry, businesses, social care, administration. Some are retired and some are still working. We have a mix of men and women and also have a large age range from early forties to people in their seventies. Some Councillors are Meltham born and bred whilst others are new to the Township. We also have two Councillors who are also Ward Councillors - or Kirklees Councillors and represent our area with Kirklees.

Come along to one of our meetings and meet your Councillors. The meetings are held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, usually on Monday evenings at 7pm—please refer to the website, www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk or the Notice Board for further details.



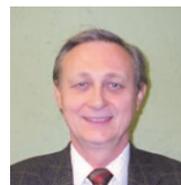
Clr Susan Andrew



Clr Nigel Brook



Clr Jean Danson



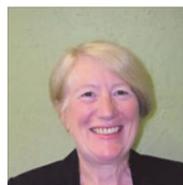
Clr Edgar Holroyd-Doveton



Clr Terry Lyons



Clr David Maxfield



Clr Pat Maxfield



Clr Alan Redfearn



Clr Shirley Watson



Clr Paul White



Clr David Woodhead



Clr Jean Wrathall

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - September 2011



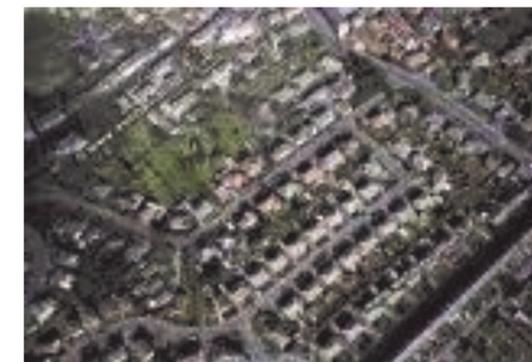
Your Town's Future

Over the next few months there will be two important changes that will have a major impact on the people of Meltham. The first is Kirklees Council's new Local Development Framework (known as the LDF), intended to be voted on by the Council in October (followed by a six week consultation). This document sets out what can be built and where this building development can take place in Kirklees. The LDF shapes where businesses and factories can go and where new housing can be built – be this on green belt land, green field, "provisional open land", or previously used land.



bigger say in what happens. But the LDF and Localism Bill are tied together. Critically, any decisions by local communities to decide on what they would like in their own neighbourhood plan must not conflict with any existing strategic policy. In Kirklees, this means the LDF. In other words, once Kirklees agrees its LDF plan, the power of our community to shape our own neighbourhood will be limited by the LDF.

Meltham Town Council has written to Kirklees arguing that decisions on the LDF should be postponed until after the Localism Bill has been passed in Parliament. We have also written to ask for a re-think on the way the LDF has been written. We want to ensure that our community in Meltham does have a real democratic voice in what happens. This means that the LDF needs to have less detail and be more general. This will leave space for the people of Meltham to discuss and decide on the detail, shaping what we want built in our community. We can do this if we prepare our own Meltham "neighbourhood plan" unconstrained by a Kirklees LDF plan.



The second major change is the government's Localism Bill. This is a wide-ranging bill, but the government claims that it will facilitate a power shift from central government to communities; although there are strong concerns about its proposals to limit tenant rights and move some powers from local authorities directly to the Secretary of State. Nevertheless, at a local level, the bill promises to enable communities to take over council-run services and buy local assets. It will also introduce new "neighbourhood plans" to influence development and building decisions, where local communities will have a much

YOUR Members of Council.

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Paul's Tweet

Few places in England can boast the variety of birdlife that we have in Meltham. It's all to do with the different habitats—from the moorland edges, traditional farmland, wooded valleys, reservoirs, fast flowing streams, and lush gardens don't you know. If I appear distracted whenever I meet you, it's probably because I've spotted a brambling (winter visitors from Scandinavia) in the bush behind you! Or a great crested grebe swimming past (there are ten of them on Blackmoorfoot at the moment!). Just take a minute to stop and watch and listen as you go about your busy days. There's no better spot than the foot bridge at the bottom of Badger Gate near the town centre. You'll regularly see dippers bobbing on the rocks, grey wagtails and even herons standing motionless as you look left and right in the stream. And there's been a blackcap (a visitor from West Africa) singing its heart out in the willow trees just nearby for most of this spring.
 Clr Paul White.

Over 70s Christmas Gift

This year it's hopefully going to be held in the Church Hall at the beginning of December. The Town Council are hoping to host an information day at the same time to provide valuable advice for the older people within our community. Look out for posters nearer the time with the full details of the event.

Huddersfield Rural
 Crime Prevention Panel
 Race Night.
 Meltham Liberal Club
 29 September 2011
 8pm



Making the most of where we live

With your help, Meltham Town Council has decided to do the first "Environmental Audit" of the township.

You may well ask what is it? And, how can I help? **What is it?** It's a full survey of the quality of what we see as we go about our business in the town; how well looked after are our green spaces, what is the cleanliness or otherwise of our streets; where is there litter or fly tipping in locations, is there property that is an eyesore. Its purpose is so that we can act, by improving what we

have seen through clearing the grotspots, improving litter picking and management of our green spaces and insisting that Kirklees are not shirking their responsibilities and also so that we can challenge individuals that are spoiling our town. Following the survey Meltham Town Councillors will either write or visit landowners that are offending us all as citizens, as well as instructing Kirklees where they may be failing, or in

some circumstances organise "clear up teams" to take direct action. **How can I help?** Firstly by informing Meltham Town Council of any such matters that have offended you in your locality or the Town as a whole. Secondly by volunteering to be in a "clear up team" and thirdly by helping to stop others dropping litter. If you have any concerns, please contact the Clerk by 30 September 2011.

Schools Update

Meltham Primary CE School football team are the English School Football Association National Champions! At Leeds United's training ground they competed against 11 other teams to become North of England champions. And they went on to win the national finals at Watford. But success did not end there for this talented team. They took home two further trophies: winning both the National Npower Kids Cup competition and League 1 Kids Cup Final. Our community is justifiably proud of this team: Jonathan Woodall, Nathan Beaumont, James Hughes, Jordan Williams, Cavan Haworth, George Sykes Kenworthy, Liam Ralph, Charlie Horncastle and Alfie Copley (Captain). It was a remarkable season – one which the team will undoubtedly remember for the rest of their lives. In recognition of their achievements, both Meltham Town Council and the Mayor of Kirklees have bestowed awards upon them. The team would like to thank their families and the community of Meltham for the money raised to kit them out and cover their travel expenses.



Olympians eating at the athletes' village in London 2012 will be offered a dish cooked up by children from **Helme Primary School**. The Ethiopian style dish, "chickpea surprise", won the primary section at a recent cook-off held at London's Westminster Kingsway College. Drawing inspiration from the five Olympic rings, the school asked each of its five classes to research one of the continents of the world and discover the most popular sports, their athletes and their nutritional needs in order to come up with a meal fit for an Olympian. The children of **Meltham Moor School** have been busy too - the infant and junior choirs have enjoyed performing at the local residential homes. It was good to see so many people at the community performance of 'The Pied Piper of Meltham'. A major improvement at the school has been the Woodland Development, carried out with lottery funding the school received this year. The funds have really enhanced the outdoor learning area with a bird hide, a mini beast area, willow tunnels and a story circle all of which the children love.

This was the third year of the Meltham Memories weekend, organised by a community group, for the people of Meltham and surrounding areas. It turned out to be a very damp weekend, but it didn't deter people from supporting the events which took place over three days. The streets and shop windows were decorated. Many families and visitors entered into the spirit of things and strolled around in fantastic 40s costumes. The weekend kicked off with a strictly ballroom style 40s tea dance,

complete with authentic refreshments of jam tarts and sandwiches. The evening event at the Church Hall featured music by The Swing Commandos. It was so brilliant two people attending said they would have paid £50 for a ticket! Saturday commenced with a flag raising and salute. The Home Guard were on duty, and Meltham brass band led the parade through the village, accompanied by wartime vehicles. Residents of Greenacres Care Home came out to watch, accompanied by nurses in wartime uniforms.

Meltham was full of vintage stalls selling hats, clothes, plants and a range of home produce. Refreshments were available throughout the day in the Church Hall, and children's entertainment was provided by a Punch and Judy show as well as performances by children from the three local schools of favourite wartime songs. Afternoon events culminated in a Battle of Britain Spitfire flypast and the day ended with a music and dance extravaganza, with DJ Gary Duncan and featuring the fantastic 1940's singer Marina May. Meltham Churches Together celebrated with an "Echoes of the 40s" service of thanksgiving, where six people shared their own personal wartime memories. The collection was taken for "Help the Heros". The focus of activities for the rest of the day moved to the Sports and Community Centre, where jive lessons, pipe band performances, and music and singing kept everyone entertained. Mick Pogson's famous Pie and Peas were in great demand. At 6pm on Sunday the flag was lowered and the "all clear" sounded. The weekend was a great success. It was a real tribute to the community spirit of Meltham, past and present.



Skate Park

At a meeting on 7 June, the Town Council officially agreed to form an alliance with Friends of Meltham Greenway and Meltham Sports and Community Centre to strengthen their funding bids. They will need this to ensure that the dream of providing a skate / bmx park becomes a reality. A total of £150,000 is needed, and the group are actively pursuing all possible revenue sources. We will update



you in future editions of Meltham Mercury - **watch this space!**

Allotments

Meltham Town Council has recently provided more allotments, an increase from 24 to 58. The new allotments are situated at the top of Calmlands Road. We are always interested in acquiring further prospective sites around the township and wonder if you could help? Land used for this purpose will remain allotment land for local people for a very long time. Allotments are a wonderful way of producing fresh organic vegetables, fruit and flowers and the present users of the allotments produce an amazing variety of crops. It's not surprising that we have an increasing waiting list for such sites. People of all ages are involved from children to grandparents who pass on skills, interest and knowledge in a healthy environment. If you could help with land or know of a prospective site please contact the Clerk at the Town Hall. Many thanks.

