



Pride in Meltham Awards 2015

This year’s awards were presented at the Civic Reception on Saturday 28 March 2015. The very worthy recipients were:

- * **The Crossroad Project** represented by Pat Radford and Catherine Moulson - This organisation is a marvellous testament to the enthusiasm and dedication of these people who willingly give of their time to benefit the whole community in very many ways.



- * **Wayne Barrett** pictured with his partner Anita. Wayne is the regular driver of the Meltham circular bus. He is friendly and polite, but much more than that, he shows a real concern for all who travel. Since working on the bus for the last ten years he has gained a good knowledge of all his passengers. He notices and checks up if they are missing and helps those who are struggling—he really goes out of his way to help.



- * **Judith Powell** pictured with her husband Paul. In Meltham she was active in St James Church at Meltham Mills and in 2007 became Church Warden. It was at the church that she became involved with Operation Christmas Child. Through what became known as the ‘shoebox appeal’ Christmas gifts for needy children throughout the world were packed in shoe boxes and then transported to places such as Iraq, Rumania and Haiti. From small beginnings the Meltham church became the base for much of Yorkshire – and much of this was due to the drive and effectiveness of Judith. Judith was also elected to Meltham Town Council and served for 16 years. During that time she was chair of the planning committee and was twice chair of the council. In 2003 Judith was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Club of Great Britain for services to the community. In 2005 she received the Badge of the Order of Mercy for voluntary work.

Do you know someone who should receive an award? Please get in touch.

Grants awarded 2014 / 2015

£5,000.00	Meltham CE School	Grand Depart Cycle Track
£175.00	Meltham Environment Ltd	Maintenance of Hey Doorstep Green
£1,810.00	Walkers are Welcome	Leaflets and path maintenance
£600.00	Carlile Street Residents Association	Contribution towards seats
£800.00	Meltham Baby & Toddler group	Contribution towards running costs
£350.00	Meltham Churches Together	Carols in the Park
£784.90	Residents 70 years old and over	Over 70s gift
£940.00	Natures Footprint Forest Play & Education CIC	Purchase of a Forest School Kit
£1,200.00	Meltham Community Trust	Purchase of promotional material

Summary Income and Expenditure Account 2014/2015

		2014/2015	2013/2014
Income (revenue)			
Precept and grant from Kirklees		£40,890	£46,100
Interest and dividends		£9,416	£13,041
Rental, Loans and miscellaneous		£37,627	£1,095
TOTAL INCOME		£87,933	£60,236
Expenditure (revenue)			
Administration		£35,355	£29,244
Meltham Hall Estate		£27,216	£26,303
Services		£2,379	£1,718
Loans		£80,611	
Expenditure (capital)		£31,949	£53,423
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£177,510	£110,688
Cumulative Fund Balance			
Balance brought forward 01/04/13		£571,445	£621,897
Net movement in funds		-£89,578	-£50,452
Balance carried forward 31/03/14		£481,867	£571,445

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council’s Newsletter - June 2015 and Annual Report 2014/2015



A new Town Mayor for Meltham

Clr Paul White - Town Mayor of Meltham Town Council 2015 - 2016



Outgoing Mayor, hands over to our new Town Mayor, Clr Paul White.

At our first Town Council meeting I was able to thank your Councillors for placing their trust in me as Town Mayor. I am indeed honoured and privileged to represent the township of Meltham. I will do my best to not let you down. I also congratulated and welcomed the new councillors to the first meeting of this four year term. I hope they are not put off by the scale and length of the first agenda. There is a lot to do on the township’s behalf. I would also like to place on record the Council’s and the town’s gratitude to all the Councillors who served on the previous Town Council and for various reasons have not continued. I thanked them for their commitment and work to improve the lives of the people of Meltham; Susan Andrew, Ken Stenton, David Maxfield, David Wood-head, Jean Danson, Alan Redfearn, and last but by no means least Shirley Watson. The last four of these have all been past Chairs of the Council and so the Council has lost a good deal of experience and wisdom. I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the outstanding contribution to this community by Shirley Watson. Twenty eight years

a councillor, her list of roles, initiatives and honours are legendary. Shirley was inspirational in her dedication and commitment to support and improve the quality of life of all the residents of this Town. Shirley had a selfless positive impact on many people’s lives and she will be missed and remembered in equal measure for that. I first came across Shirley in Safeways (now Morrisons) perhaps 14 years or so ago, when she approached me with the words *‘I’m sure I should know who you are?’* I explained that I was managing a junior football team at the ‘rec’ and was helping Stan Danson with the project to build a new Sports and Community Centre for the town. From that day on Shirley always stopped me to ask how things were progressing. Perhaps, this was my first taste of Civic life in Meltham. I am very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as I’m able to during the coming year in this much loved and admired community, and you’ll probably hear me borrowing Shirley’s opening gambit, ‘I’m sure I should know who you are?’

Your new Council from May 2015



Clr Roberta Bampton



Clr Nigel Brook



Clr Kate Buchanan



Clr John Butterfield



Clr David Haigh



Clr Edgar Holroyd-Doveton.



Clr Terry Lyons



Clr Pat Maxfield



Clr Pam Murgatroyd



Clr Richard Noon



Clr Paul White



Clr Jean Wrathall

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Let us know what you think

Clr Edgar Holroyd-Doveton



During my year as Mayor of Meltham, I have particularly focused on the many local community organisation working in and serving the village and its surrounding areas. I had the great fortune to visit and talk to the Meltham Over-60s, the Crossroads Project, the local Church Council (PPC), Deacon Close Tenants Association, the Meltham Gardening Society, and the Lions Club. Meltham is fortunate to have so many generous people, willing to give their time and energy for others. A reflection of this was in this year’s Civic Reception, where we honoured our local schools – Helme C of E, Meltham C of E and Meltham Moor – for their contribution to children’s education and to their engagement with the wider community. As Mayor, I had the opportunity to visit all these schools during the year, observing their contributions in more detail. At Meltham C of E school I was pleased to see the cycle track (which the Town Council helped fund with a £5,000 donation) being enjoyed by the children. At the Civic Reception we were proud to present the town’s gold standard of recognition – the Pride of Meltham Award – to three worthy recipients: Judith Powell, Wayne Barrett and the Meltham Crossroads Project. The raffle during the evening raised a further £408 towards the Mayor’s charities: the St. Bartholomew’s Carillon Appeal and Meltham Walkers are Welcome. Thanks go to the local businesses who generously donated prizes: Morrison’s, Meltham Post Office, Café 33, The Flower Box and Dimps. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors who give their time on a voluntary basis and who bring their wide ranging experience and knowledge to our endeavours. Thanks also is due to our Town Clerk, Sarah Armitage, for her diligent work and attention to detail. Meltham, as a community, is, I believe, stronger with our own local council working for and with the community. In the current period we are confronted with difficulties in securing local government finances; but in terms of what Meltham Town Council can do is continue to serve its local community. Over the next few years, the contraction of services from Kirklees Council will raise the need for our community to step in, and the Town Council can help play its part in this process.

A report from the Chair of the Finance, Properties and Administration Committee 2014/2015 Clr Jean Wrathall



As Chair of the Finance Committee of Meltham Town Council this has been a most exciting year. We have seen the growth of the Carlile Institute from a slightly uncared for building, blossoming into a new and vibrant commercial centre. We now have a brand new Post Office in situ and four companies renting out the newly refurbished office space in the annexe to the main building. Plans are also being discussed to renovate and modernise the old Mechanics Institute. The Carlile project was put forward for the Great Britain High Street Award (a local government scheme) and we came second which was a fantastic achievement for this scheme. Last year I mentioned the budget cuts which would be imposed on Kirklees by the Government but, as yet, we have not directly felt the impact. However the saga of all the libraries in Kirklees saving Meltham Library struggles on and we still don’t have a clear answer as to what will happen and when. From a financial point of view our bank balances are healthy and we have managed to give grants totalling £11,660 to various organisations in the village and a bridging loan to the Carlile Institute (see below). However the ongoing costs of running and maintaining Robert Ashton Memorial Park continues to take up a large part of our expenditure over the year.

Meltham Carlile Institute CIC

£30,000	Loan - May 2014 to be re-paid over the next five years.
£50,610.89	Bridging loan - July 2014/August 2014.
£25,610.89	Part of bridging loan repaid in September 2014 by the CIC
£25,000	Balance of bridging loan given to Meltham Carlile CIC

A report from the Chair of the Communications Committee 2014/2015 Clr Kate Buchanan

The Communications Committee has been responsible for four editions of the Meltham Mercury over this period: June, Sept, Dec 2014 and March 2015. We reported on the Town Council’s activities including grants awarded, developments in the town as well as general news and information about Meltham. Over the past year we celebrated the re-birth of the Carlile Institute and the opening of the new Post Office which received financial support from Meltham Town Council. We raised awareness of the demise of the Town Hall building, the Council’s offices and the future of Meltham Library. Other reports have included updates on Meltham Walkers are Welcome who received a grant for new waymarker signs from the Council, Meltham Memories and Le Grand Depart, events leading up to Christmas 2014 and Meltham Church Hall Coffee mornings. We reported on the proposed new building for Meltham Scout and Guide Headquarters, CCTV upgrade to improve safety and security and the achievement of being shortlisted for The Great British High Street Awards. Information about grants included Wilshaw Village Hall & Meltham C of E Primary School Cycle Track. We celebrated the Pride of Meltham Awards and showcased many local organisations which provide great services to the people of Meltham.



A report from the Chair of the Planning and General Purposes Committee 2014/2015 Clr Paul White



The Council’s Environmental, Planning and General Purposes Committee has had another busy and fulfilling year, and yet again we have considered a large number of planning applications. Many of these have been from Meltham residents and businesses seeking to improve and enlarge their properties and we have been impressed on the whole with the quality of proposals, many of which will no doubt improve both individual sites and properties but also the whole environment of the Township.

Like much of the country we have started to see the impact of the increasing optimism in the housing market. There have been housing developments started on sites at Crosland Mills and Albion Mills at Millmoor Road. Both of these are on ‘brown land’ (previously abandoned industrial sites). It is difficult to argue against the benefits of new development on ‘brownfield’, removing current eyesores, with more choice of new housing and even possibly some ‘affordable’ housing, as well as more economic activity and employment for local people. However, there has also been increased activity from house builders seeking both new and revised planning permissions elsewhere some of which has been on more controversial sites, such as on green fields at Colders Lane, Millmoor Road and Helme Lane. This is a different matter and your Town Councillors have objected strongly to the development of all these sites on various grounds, including traffic management, overdevelopment, not enough affordable housing and the loss of valuable green space. However, Kirklees Council’s Planning Committee has approved all of them, because they are sites that match current

national planning policy, and for Kirklees to object would incur them in heavy financial penalties. I mentioned in my last annual report that the ‘BIG ISSUE’ for local residents and the Town Council is Central Government’s current Planning Policy on house building. Your Town Councillors, like many of the town’s residents, are increasingly frustrated that local voices appear not to be heard in the planning application process. This is because the current government changed national planning policy so that there is a ‘presumption in favour of development’, which has tipped the balance very much in favour of developers. One could argue that this is a good thing, as part of the intention was to stimulate activity in the economy and the construction sector, which had been particularly badly hit by the recession. Of course there are many other factors for the slowdown in house building, namely the lack of mortgage funding from the banking sector and it can be argued that to blame planning regulations and the ability for public/community objections to be heard, was simply an ideological response. Residents may also be aware that Kirklees Council is currently redrafting their Local Development Framework or LDF, as their last one was rejected by the Government appointed Inspector on the grounds of lack of consultation and insufficient new housing. The Town Council has responded to the latest consultation on the new draft ‘plan’, but it will be very surprising if the new housing numbers for Meltham will be less than previously proposed, which was a figure of 500 new houses. It is obvious to any informed observer that to satisfy the new ‘plan’, most of these houses will have to be built on green fields and there by totally changing the unique character of the Meltham Township and putting huge pressure on traffic and local health and education services. It is fair to say that all other similar communities in Kirklees will also be required to have built similar numbers of houses. This current government policy is an attempt to achieve a huge increase in house building in every town and village in the country, and takes little or no account of local demand or local environmental concerns. On this ‘big issue’ your Town Councillors will continue to vigorously object and fight for a change in planning policy so that communities, like ours, are protected from excessive development. Some housing and in particular increasing numbers of affordable housing makes sense, but substantial increases to the size of townships, like Meltham, we believe makes no sense! It would be remiss of me not to mention the Great British High Street Award that Meltham was recently awarded the runners up spot in the category of village. There are clearly a number of reasons for achieving this award, including the strong community spirit in the township, demonstrated by the popular community events, such as Meltham Memories, the Scarecrow Festival, Christmas lights etc. as well as the project by the community to reinvigorate the Carlile Institute and create a new Community Post Office. Alongside all of this is the fact that all our High Street shops are occupied and supported by the community. We are pleased that both the Co-op and YBS have committed to the Town with improvements to their properties and that other businesses are also confident in the future. The Town Council are very supportive of a vibrant town centre and a wide range of local services and will be looking to take further action to strengthen this in the coming year.