

It's scary in Meltham - in a nice way!



and butchers, there was a great sense of community spirit throughout the village on another lovely sunny day. Children

Over the 1st weekend of May, Meltham welcomed 100 new residents to the village - in the form of scarecrows! Meltham hosted the 5th annual Scarecrow Festival throughout the town, where scarecrows could be found in gardens, garages, shops, the churchyard and at the roadside.

With scarecrows taking the form of cyclists, school teachers, cowboys, gardeners

enjoyed a letter hunt and an ice-cream from Two Valleys, whilst Mums and Dads enjoyed a stroll round the village and a cup of tea in the Church Hall.

The first prize winners of the event were Isobel Gilleard, Scholes School, Mrs Taylor, Meltham Baptist Church, The Waggon and Horses, Maise Travis and Megan Williams. To see all the winners, check out our website: melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk/scarecrow.

In what is a terrifically well organised event, the Meltham Over-60s raised several hundreds of pounds for local charities. "The event is another great asset to the village, the Over-60s group who lead the organisation of the event should be congratulated for their efforts in both organising and raising such a terrific amount for charity" added Ella Bower from Two Valleys Deli on Green End Road.

Meltham Readers Group - why not join the bookworms?

The Meltham Library Readers' Group meets on alternate Thursday mornings in the Council Chamber in Meltham Town Hall from 10.30am to 12.00pm and don't normally take time off except possibly Christmas week. It is a vibrant group with some 30 members, who read a great variety of books from classics to graphic novels. Meeting initially when the library was in the Carlile Institute, the Readers' Group has been operating for at least twelve years. 'The group connects to the Kirklees Library Service who provide the books, which means no outlay for us, as is the case with some book groups. All it costs for us is 20p for coffee and biscuits. We read a book and then discuss it in a very relaxed way with no pressure or demands on individual members'. The group has a Christmas lunch in December, varying the venue, which last year was Durker Roods hotel. There is also an annual trip in the summer, relating to books. The group has visited Durham to see the Lindisfarne Gospels Exhibition, the John Rylands Library in Manchester and in 2010, on the

bicentenary of Elizabeth Gaskell's birth, they went to Knutsford, where she was born and managed to visit Tatton Park at the same time. Anne Rothwell a group member states: *"As an avid reader, it's great to explore the sort of books which I may not have chosen to pick from the library shelf. It's very entertaining when we discuss a book which some of us loved and others hated, as it leads to a very lively discussion. It's also a good social experience and I've acquired friends whom I might not otherwise have met."*

The group welcomes new members and all that is needed is to pop along on one of the Thursdays that they meet in the Town Hall.



Meltham Memories 1940s weekend - be part of this special annual event.



As ever, the 1940 Meltham Memories Weekend is structured over the first weekend in July - **Friday 4th to Sunday 6th July**. Throughout the weekend, there will be plenty of activities, fayres and street performers around the village - suitable for all the family. This year, to celebrate the Grand Depart in Yorkshire, we have a French theme intermingled through our activities! Pam Cox added "Meltham Memories Weekend is a special weekend for the village and its residents, it also attracts a huge number of visitors to the area from afar! We have had people come from across Huddersfield, Oxford, London, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Scotland, France and the Lake District - it is fantastic to see people each year come and enjoy themselves in the terrific scenery and fantastic weather we usually enjoy!". To celebrate The Grand Depart 2014,

members of St. Bartholomew's Church in Meltham, will serve a variety of real ales, ciders and wine alongside a selection of sausages served in a French baguette, under the official title 'Le Tour de Bières et Festival de Saucisse'. Food will be available throughout Saturday, with drinks available on Friday evening and all day Saturday - whilst stock remains! - so, if you are attending the Kirklees Youth Jazz Orchestra event on Friday 4th July, don't forget you can get your drinks from the outside bar. On Saturday 5th July, you can dance the night away to swing-era classics from the Greater Manchester Police Big Band. Tickets for Friday and Saturday night entertainment are available from the Waggon & Horses, Flowerbox, Crossroads & Café 33. Meltham Memories website is now at www.melthammemories.co.uk

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - June 2014



A new Mayor for Meltham

Clr Edgar Holroyd-Doveton Town Mayor of Meltham Town Council 2014 - 2015



Outgoing Mayor, Clr Terry Lyons, hands over to our new Mayor Clr Edgar Holroyd-Doveton.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for my election as Mayor of Meltham Town Council and wish to thank our outgoing Mayor, Terry Lyons, for the work he has done over the year in representing our community and chairing our Town Council meetings.

Looking ahead over the coming year, the climate of austerity, means that local government is going through some challenging times, and the Town Council is not exempt from this. However, as a council we have been working hard to keep expenditure low, while continuing our

work, such as the maintenance of the Robert Ashton Memorial Park.

The Town Council also sets aside each year funds to give grants to local community groups and organisations. Although reduced this year, requests can be made for grants to the council. Can I encourage you to apply for these if your group or organisation is in need - we are here to help the community.

The village now has a number of key community events over the course of the year. Only a few weeks ago we had the established scarecrow festival on the May Day holiday weekend and the Meltham 40s committee has revived the famous Murder and Maniac Mill race to take place on May 25th. Starting on Friday 4th July is the 40s weekend itself. And later in the year there is being organised our third Victorian Christmas weekend, including the Santa Dash.

Over the year, whilst Mayor I particularly would like to visit the different parts of our community, from the very young to our more elderly citizens. So please invite me and my fellow councillors to your events. Keeping in contact with, and working with the community, is what we are about.

Let us know
what you think



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Councillor's Corner



Councillor Edgar Holroyd-Doveton

Two of my great passions in life are the study of local history and hill walking. Living in Meltham I have the opportunity to undertake both of these – in the company of local people who have similar interests.

Meltham is situated in a great area for walking, where we have a range of choices, from green leafy valleys and woods, to the more rugged high hills of the Pennines. Last year I approached some people locally with the idea of setting up a Meltham Walkers are Welcome group. A team of us worked over a couple of months and were successful in establishing a group and subsequently gained the national Walkers are Welcome badge. The group now has a website (www.walkingmeltham.com), and has regular organised monthly walks, sometimes attracting 50 people or more. With declining funds from government, it will be important for local people to do more to help maintain the use of our local footpaths and bridleways: they are an historical heritage we should treasure.

Local history has also been an interest of mine for many years. I have written a commentary on two Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of Meltham, circa 1904, as well as two other maps of Huddersfield from the same period. I've written and published booklets on how to research your family history in old British India, as well as another on the Turnpike Road System for Family Historians.

My current local projects include writing a history of Meltham in the 20th Century and a video/oral history project entitled All Our Yesterdays. In the oral history project I have been filming interviews with local Meltham residents about life in the area during the 1940s through to the 1980s. Hopefully, in about a year's time, I will be able to turn these interviews into a documentary on local working life in the post-war period. For each of my interviewees, the videos are a record that their children and grandchildren can cherish.

Meltham has a fascinating history, growing first as a significant village during the domestic textile days, to becoming an industrial mill town, emerging in the 20th century as the town where David Brown's tractors were made. It continues this rich heritage of community, religious worship, and festivals, old and new. It is a community that I am proud to live in.

Pride in Meltham Awards 2014

What do Duncan Crawshaw, Peter Foden, Cathy Heaney and Jackie Sill all have in common? They are all recipients of this year's Pride in Meltham Awards. The awards were presented by Town Mayor, Cllr Lyons at the annual Civic Reception held at Durker Roods Hotel on Friday 2 May. All the awards were made in recognition of the voluntary work undertaken for the community.



Peter Foden is pictured here with his wife, Janet. Peter has been actively involved in the community taking on the roles of Parade Marshall, officiating at Civic Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and more recently the 1940s parade. His most outstanding and demanding contribution is as the Poppy organiser, which he carries out virtually single-handed, ordering /sorting the poppies and wreaths, contacting all the volunteers, collating the rota to collect at Morrisons, preparing and distributing the 63 collection boxes to the schools, shops, pubs/clubs, elderly people's care homes, etc,

then collecting them, counting the cash and taking it to the bank, which has been in excess of £8,000 and has reached £10,000.



Duncan Crawshaw receiving his shield.

Duncan's award is made to recognise his contribution to St Bartholomew's Church Council where he has served as Church Warden and Church Secretary, the Church Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Meltham Town Council where he served two terms and was Chairman of the Council in 2007/2008.



Cathy Heaney pictured with her partner Cllr Brook. Cathy provides refuge and care for our local, injured or orphaned wildlife animals. She provides care, not only day and night, but also 365 days a year. Cathy pays for all the care and medication these animals receive out of her own pocket without a second thought.

This is a great place for our young people to spend their work experience module from school, which many do. They learn so many things from Cathy,

particularly caring for sick, vulnerable animals and working as a team in order to achieve goals.



Jackie Sill receiving her shield. Jackie is well respected in Meltham for her devotion to duty within the Scouting Group and the award is made to recognise this long standing voluntary contribution as well as her involvement in the Meltham Gala, the Meltham Over 60s and Meltham Gardeners' Show.

If you know of someone who deserves an award - let us know!

GRANT UPDATES - Wilshaw Village Hall and Meltham Grand Depart Cycle Track

Wilshaw Village Hall

At the beginning of December 2013 the boiler in the Hall failed. Russell Senior from Senior Plumbing very quickly put a new boiler in for us, but the Hall funds were very low. However Meltham Town Council came to our rescue with a generous grant of £1,000 for which we were very grateful.

This meant that we could continue to hire the Hall out without having to raise the prices and keep the classes going which in turn would continue to fund the day to day running of the Hall. These days it is a very busy spot and has become in some ways the heart of our small community. We have table tennis, keep fit, upholstery and sewing, flower arranging, and self-defence classes. The Hall is also available for children's parties and we have disabled access. For more information Tel: Liz on 850488.

Meltham Grand Depart Cycle Track

As part of the celebration and legacy of the 'Tour de France' visiting our area, Meltham has a fantastic new facility, The Meltham 'grand depart' cycle track.

Alex Beaumont, the Head Teacher at Meltham C of E Primary School, has led the project which is located in the grounds of the school. The new cycle track was opened on the 1st May with great excitement from both the children and staff at the school. The track is a community facility and may be enjoyed by organised groups and clubs and not just the school's pupils.

Funding was provided by The National Lottery, Meltham Town Council, (giving £5,000) and the School's own funds. The track is a fantastic addition to the great facilities for our children in the Township, providing a safe but challenging track for children to learn and improve cycling skills as well as simply experiencing the enjoyment of outdoor sports.



Does your organisation need some extra funds? Apply for a grant.



A new Baptist Minister

On Sunday March 23rd the Induction Service of the Rev Ron Phillips as Part Time Minister was held at the Baptist Church. A very warm welcome was offered to Ron & his wife Jen, followed by a meal for the members and invited guests.



The Royal Voluntary Service is looking for anyone who can spare an hour each week to visit an isolated older person in Meltham. A visit from a volunteer can make a great difference to their health and well-being and help them feel included in the local community. If you are interested, please call 01484 453 679



PROGRAMME FOR SUMMER 2014

Sunday 15th June – 9.5 mile 'Wessenden Way' picnic walk.

Wednesday 16th July – 5 mile walk from Travellers Rest, Meltham at 7pm

Sunday 17th August – 3.75 mile Harden Hike

Sunday 14th September – 7.5 mile Wolfstones Walk

Sunday walks start at 10am from Carlile Street Car Park, Meltham

Food and refreshments available afterwards at Café 33, Meltham

For more information visit our website www.walkingmeltham.com/route

or contact Ann on 07779936026 or email ann@chesh.info

Find us on Facebook at Meltham Walkers are Welcome

