

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO



Brian Robinson Challenge Ride: Sunday 26th April 2015
The ride is named after Britain’s first Tour de France stage winner who has an impressive list of cycling achievements. Brian has also played a major role in bringing the Tour de France to Yorkshire in 2014 and it is no surprise that sections of this ride feature on the Tour route. Further details go to: www.brcr.co.uk

Tour de Yorkshire: Sunday 3 May 2015
The Tour de Yorkshire is coming through Meltham on 3rd May. It heads from Holmfirth, up Greenfield Road, turns right at the Ford Inn and down through the centre of Meltham on Holmfirth Road, down Station Street and over towards Marsden at which point it then turns right on Manchester Road towards Slaithwaite. If you want to know more about the race, Kirklees Council will be hosting Residents Roadshows in March in villages along the route - dates will be published in the next few weeks.



Meltham Scarecrow Festival 2015: Monday 4th May 2015
Judging of scarecrows begin at 10am. From 12.30pm, residents and visitors are invited to follow the trail around the village, setting off from Meltham Church Hall, where you will be able to buy a programme (£1). Refreshments will be available. At 3.30pm the winners will be presented with their awards.

Meltham Memories: 4 & 5 July 2015
Meltham Memories wartime weekend this year offers a truly unique view of the event with ‘Battle of Meltham Memories flights’ throughout the day on 4th July 2015. The flights depart from Crosland Moor airfield, fly over Meltham outbound for a circa 20 minute flight, and return over Meltham and the Memories event. Flights will be sold online in March with part of funds raised contributing to the fuel cost of the flight and the remainder to Meltham Memories for the future development of the annual event – of course the flights will be weather dependent. More details will be released through the Meltham Memories website and the Huddersfield Examiner.



Thinking about becoming a Councillor? ACT NOW!

Contact Electoral Services for a nomination pack. The pack contains a nomination paper which you need to complete and information relating to the election, including deadlines, nomination submission rules and a timetable of key events.
The period for submission of nomination papers for this election is from the 30 March 2015 to 4.00pm on 9 April 2015 (excluding Bank Holidays and weekends). Further information regarding the timeframe for submission each day is detailed within the nomination pack.
Electoral Services Kirklees Council,
3 - 5 Albion Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2NG
01484 221650 electoral.registration@kirklees.gov.uk

Due to the national and local elections happening at the same time, Electoral Services will be extremely busy so don’t leave things to the last minute.

FRIEND TO FRIEND ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

We need help with taking older folk to their monthly meal at Meltham Methodist Church Hall the first Friday of the month for 11.00am and to take them home again at about 2.00pm.
Can you help?
Please contact either Jenny Allgood on 01484 842947 or Richard Styan on 01484 850647. Thank you.



LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Have your say about the future of the public library service in Kirklees. You have until 10 April to join in the consultation in every Library or online: www.kirklees.gov.uk/libraryconsultation

A Message from the Town Mayor
Can I urge everybody to fully participate in the Kirklees Libraries Consultation. As many of our local voices as possible should be heard. At the moment the newly-formed Friends of Meltham Library group and local councillors, such as myself are working hard to ensure that we keep a library in Meltham. Completing the consultation can be one way of helping as well as contacting the Friends of Meltham Library.



Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council’s Newsletter - March 2015



What will happen to Meltham Town Hall?

The Town Hall is an important building in Meltham and currently houses the Library and Council offices. In 1974 the ownership of the building passed to Kirklees Council following the Local Government Act. There is still some who dispute the legalities of the transfer given that both the Town Hall and Carlile Institute were gifted to the town in perpetuity. Following the great success of re-acquiring the ownership of the Carlile Institute thanks to the vision and energy of a small group of people in the Township including Richard Noon, Charles Greaves and members of the Town Council, we now have many questions facing us. Do we look at the transfer of ownership of the Town Hall? How could this be achieved? Is it a viable proposition?

Meltham Town Hall: transfer of ownership?
Where would the funds come from to buy the building and repair it? Where would the funds come from for its ongoing maintenance? What kind of commercial enterprise could be put in place to facilitate this?

Meltham Town Hall is in need of repair. Kirklees Council estimated that to bring the building up to standard would cost somewhere in the region of £350-£400,000. We know, however that the Carlile Institute upgrade according to Kirklees was estimated at £250,000 whereas in reality Meltham CIC has spent approximately £180,000 to date. The Town Hall requires repairs to the roof, guttering and pointing; it needs new windows, re-wiring, a new boiler and new plumbing and toilet facilities as well as new flooring. If it were to continue to be used as a public building, a lift would need to be installed to comply with the Equality Act 2010.

Meltham Town Hall has limited potential in terms of its use. Due to the position of the large staircase, both the ground and first floor have relatively few options in terms of layout and access. Internal re-structuring is a possibility but this would be at considerable cost and would not necessarily solve the problem.

Let us know what you

FAQs
Why can’t Kirklees just give Meltham back their Town Hall as they did the Carlile Institute?
It’s not as simple as that. The main reason they returned ownership of the Carlile was due to the fact that a commercial proposal was put in place with the Post Office and office space which provides a sustainable income for the Commercial Interest Company (CIC) which runs the building.

Didn’t Kirklees give £100,000 in addition to the transfer of ownership of the Carlile Institute?
Yes. This was because the CIC gave a convincing argument that Kirklees would be saving money in the long-term by transferring ownership as they would no longer be responsible for its upkeep.
Could Meltham Town Council buy the Town Hall?
No. Although Meltham Town Council has reserves, it would be unwise to spend money on a building which could provide no source of income either to pay for ongoing maintenance or to replenish the Council’s funds.

Could the residents of Meltham get together and buy the Town Hall?
Yes and No. The Town Council could organise a campaign to raise money. However, how would the building be maintained if it couldn’t be run as a commercial operation?

Let us have your views. Write to us or attend a Council Meeting. There is a public session before every main council meeting at 7pm where you can come and address the Council. Dates/ times are publicised on the Town Council Website and Notice Board.



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Councillor's Corner



Cllr Jean Danson

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY SHOP

Overheard on a Thursday afternoon when I was helping at the Charity Shop, two ladies were talking. One lady had just moved to Meltham and her friend told her *"this shop is one of the best things that has happened in Meltham"*. **How true.**

We have wonderful bargains, we serve our community in ways that many people will not know about. A key reason for this is the hard work Jean Burhouse and her team who contribute their time at Crossroads. The following report from Jean Burhouse will give you some ideas of the way you can help with the project.

Sports kits, goal posts, brass band instruments, bug bottles for the Beavers, summer outings for the housebound, student expeditions to South America, India and Malaysia, an Advice Centre and a Food Bank –these are just a few of the things the Crossroads Shop has helped to fund since opening in 1996. As we approach our 20th anniversary next year, we are delighted to report that we recently took our millionth pound through the till and have given back £500,000 to our community in grants. This has only been possible because of the generosity of local people who donate their unwanted clothing, household goods, books, CD's, DVD's jigsaws and toys and the goodwill of our customers who come in to browse and buy our good quality, affordable stock.

We mustn't forget the 65 volunteers who give their time and energy to working in the shop or the 35 volunteers who work in reception at the Crossroads Advice Centre (opposite the Fire Station). The Advice Centre offers free and confidential advice on many different issues including Debt and Benefit and is open every weekday morning. Crossroads is an initiative of Meltham Churches Together, set up with the aim of sharing God's love with our community. As the new Meltham Crossroads Food Bank becomes established we look forward to being able to help people in our village who suddenly find themselves in crisis. Finally our sincere thanks go to the community in Meltham for their support, to our wonderful volunteers and to God our Father for inspiring and guiding us through the years.

NOTE: Meltham Town Council is delighted to announce that Crossroads has received a Pride of Meltham Award. Further details in June's issue.

Meltham's Contribution to the Tour de France!

The 'grand depart' is now becoming a distant memory to many of us, but what a great moment it was for Yorkshire and in particular our local area. Of course many of us have our tales to tell about that weekend in July. Perhaps one of the least known is the visit to Meltham of Team Sky, Britain's premier cycling outfit and winners of the previous two 'Tour de France'. Our very own Meltham Sports and Community Centre decided early in the year to offer the centre to the Tour's organisers. It was felt it would suit a 'cycling club', or similar, who might wish to hire the whole venue for the week-end i.e. glamp in the sports hall and use the showers and bar and kitchen as a communal facility. They were underwhelmed by the lack of interest. Just one anonymous telephone call, from a 'cycling club from London' wishing to book the centre for the Friday before the Grand Depart in Leeds on the Saturday. Interesting, thought Poggy, I'll offer them my special beef sop supper or pie and peas. 'How many of you?' he asked. '73', came the reply. Excellent thought Poggy! The Friday before the 'depart' eventually arrived and Poggy was busy getting the food prepared and stepped on to the

balcony overlooking the cricket pitch in order to soak up a beautiful summer's day with the magnificent view of Meltham beyond that we all love so much. When, a big black pantechicon with big letters on the side 'Team Sky', rolled up Mean Lane and into the car park. 'You must have got the wrong place' exclaimed Poggy. 'No' said the driver 'we've booked it and no one is to know that we're here' Then another big black pantechicon rolled up and a fleet of black jags and later all the cyclists rolled in: Chris Froome, Richie Porte, Geraint Thomas, Sir Dave Brailsford etc. You name them, all there. They settled down to a day of team tactics and team bonding, getting ready for the big day tomorrow and Jonny and Poggy both sworn to secrecy. Now then. You may be aware that Team Sky didn't have such a great Tour this year – they kept falling off their bikes. I've heard some scurrilous wag in the village' well have you tried riding a bike for over 3000 kilometres after two of Poggy's beef sandwiches! Cllr Paul White

Meltham Scout Hut

Exploring the possibilities of a new-build Scout & Guide Headquarters in collaboration with the Scout Association and Meltham Scouts is an important project which is being led by Meltham Town Council. It is hoped that a new building will re-invigorate scouting in Meltham and create a modern and up-to-date building fit for purpose. The existing Headquarters was built some forty years' ago through the energies and labours of local people and has served the scouts and guides for many years. An opportunity has now presented itself to use monies from the sale of the land and to re-invest this in creating a new building with a long future ahead of it. There has been a great deal of discussion amongst the Scout & Guides Association, local Scout leaders, members of the Town Council and architects to ensure that we achieve the best possible outcome both for the Town and those who will continue to use the Headquarters in the future. It is not without its challenges – many people are extremely attached to the existing building so the Town Council is hoping that by involving everyone in the development of the project, that any issues can be discussed and resolved. A number of plans have been drawn up and re-drawn to ensure the building is of the required specification. Everyone involved has had an opportunity to put forward their ideas and points of view within the limits of the proposed site and budget. If you would like to get involved, keep your eye on the forthcoming agenda items.



CCTV Provision in Meltham

The Town Council has for many years paid for CCTV provision for the village centre. The equipment we have has become increasingly less useful and outdated and as such the Town Council has been considering updating the system to take advantage of technological advances in this area. Having weighed up the pros and cons of installing CCTV equipment with some people feeling that it is an invasion of privacy whilst others feel that it is a necessity due to incidents including vandalism, assaults and near-misses on the zebra crossing, the Town Council has decided to go ahead. In June of last year the Town Council agreed to fund an upgrade to the current system to make it fit for purpose. It will be installed by the end of March. The cost to the Town Council is in the region of £7,700 which the Town Council feels is money well spent providing reassurance to local residents and businesses in the area.



A bench for Lorraine - a BIG thank you from us.



In October last year we learned of the sad loss of Lorraine Crowe, the lady who looked after the toilets in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park. Lorraine was a super lady and did a sterling job keeping the toilets clean and opening and

closing the drive gates, (at all hours!). Lorraine also acted as a roving eye at the park; helping people and reporting problems - she will be sorely missed. Lorraine's daughter, Verona, has taken over from her mum and is continuing to do a fantastic job, (with her mum watching down over her). The Council has provided a bench in the park in honour of Lorraine and her many years' of dedicated service to the Council and the people of Meltham.

Meltham Walkers are Welcome group are organising a path clearing on Sunday 22nd March 2015.

The path we are targeting is the one at the top of Colders Lane, Meltham. Meet at 10.30am where the tarmac of Colders Lane turns into a rough track up towards Leygards and where there is a footpath leading off to Wessenden Head Road.

We will supply all tools but please bring gardening or rubber gloves to protect your hands.

FUTURE WALKS

Sunday 19th April – 3 mile history of Meltham walk

Sunday 17th May – 6 mile – A fair Cop

Sunday 21st June – 4 1/4 mile Travellers Trail

All walks are FREE – Meet at 10am at Carlile Street, Meltham. Food and refreshments available after at the Waggon and Horses for the Feb/March walks or Café 33 for the April onward walks.

For further information ring Ann on 07779936026