



Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - December 2016



Christmas Lights Switch-on—Saturday 3 December 2016

On Saturday 3rd December, the Meltham Christmas lights will be switched-on. However, before that a hardy group of volunteers will be putting them up! If you'd like to give us a hand taking them down, or indeed putting them up next year, please call in at the Waggon & Horses and let Pam know.

This year, as well as the usual light switch-on and events in the Church Hall, we'll also have an incredible attempt at Breaking a World Record – 'most number of people firewalking'. The target is to beat 608 people and will take place on 3rd December at the bus turning circle. The event is hoping to raise a significant amount of money for charities. This will take place between 3pm and 5pm on the Saturday afternoon followed by the finals of Meltham's Got Talent and the lights switch-on at 5pm. All the information about the light switch-on and the event itself is available at www.firewalkmeltham.co.uk

On Sunday 4th December, there will be a Christmas Market in the newly refurbished Carlile Community Hub from 12.00pm to 4.00pm. This will then be followed by Carols in the Park at the Robert Ashton Memorial Park from 4.00pm. Please remember to wear wellies and park sensibly!

Carols in the Park —Sunday 4 December 2016 4.00pm



Church and Carols Services

Tuesday 6th (Christ Church-Helme) Helme Ladies Carol Service 11am

Sunday 11th (St Mary's- Wilshaw Crib Service 4pm

Friday 16th (St Barts) Meltham & Meltham Mills Bands Christmas Concert 7pm

Sunday 18th St. Barts Carol Service 4pm and (St Mary's Wilshaw) Christingle Service 6pm

Saturday 24th (St James) Crib Service 4pm

Saturday 24th (St Barts) Midnight Mass 11.45pm

Sunday 25th Christmas Day

St. Bartholomew's 9am,

St. James 10am,

Christ Church-Helme 10.30am,

St. Mary's – Wilshaw 11am



Over 70s Christmas Gift - Tuesday 6 December 2016 10.00am to 4.00pm

The annual tradition in meeting up and giving a small monetary gift to the people of our parish who are 70 and over continues again this year. Please come along on Tuesday 6 December between 10.00am and 4.00pm to collect your gift and have a coffee/tea and a mince pie - we'd love to see you! The event will be held in the newly refurbished Committee Room at the Carlile Institute, (same place as last year). You'll be able to see the wonderful transformation of the Carlile Institute and chat with your local Town Councillors.



www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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Clr Pat Maxfield, Town Mayor 2016 /2017



It has been my privilege to be elected Meltham's first female Town Mayor.

I am also honoured that our Deputy Town Mayor is female, Councillor Jean Wrathall.

I hope that this can

be an inspiration to all the young women in Meltham to reach for and achieve their goals. So, in the first six months there have been many ups and downs, which is no different to what happens in everyone's daily lives. Firstly my wonderful Civic Sunday which was supported by so many people who made this such a special day. My chosen charities, this year, are, motor neurone research and the oncology unit, ward 7 HRI. Motor neurone disease is one of the most debilitating and devastating neurological conditions. From Civic Sunday we raised £215, from the collection, to help with research into this dreadful disease. Ward 7 (oncology) at HRI., relates to so many people's lives, who live locally. This unit is paramount in cancer care for the local community, for which we also raised £215.

I was asked to support the children who opened Meltham Moor School Autumn Fayre. What a credit this school is to Meltham. Every child recognised for their own individual abilities.

It has also been my privilege to open a new wing at Helme Hall. This unit has impressed me so much.



Let us know what you think



However wonderful it has been to be the Mayor so far, I feel it very important to also share the downside.

It is with regret that I have to announce the resignation of our much loved clerk Sarah Armitage. On behalf of all the Council and Meltham residents I would like to thank Sarah for all her hard work and dedication to her duties. Thank you so much Sarah and we would all like to wish you the very best for your future.

As many of you will be aware this Mayor has been burgled. The car, the personal possessions, the complete destruction and devastation caused, are nothing compared to the historical Town Chains that have been stolen from my home. So my message to everyone is please have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Equally as important, please let us all try our best to encourage our children to do what is good and remind them to always be remembered for who they are and not what they are.

Clr Pat Maxfield, Town Mayor of Meltham



Clr Maxfield handing over a cheque to the Oncology Unit at HRI

www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Please clean up after your dog

Why do we get hung up about dog poo? It smells, it is offensive and it is a severe health risk to all of us but particularly to our children. **Why is it important to clean up after our wonderful dogs?** We all know our dogs are great! They help us relax! They make us happy! They love us unconditionally! They teach our children so many important facts of life! So what's the problem? Too much dog poo on our pavements and paths and an apparent lack of knowledge about the risks. There are five main facts we need to know about dog poo

- Dog poo is not a fertiliser like horse or cow poo. A dog's diet is mainly protein and their feed tends to contain preservatives, resulting in a very acidic poo, which does not degrade easily.
- Because of its acidic nature, dog poo usually takes a very long time to decompose. It can take up to a year before it breaks down completely.
- Bacteria: Just 1gm of dog poo contains around 22/23 million different types of bacteria. Not harmless bacteria but Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli, parvovirus, and many different kinds of worms, many of which can cause serious health problems if ingested.
- Dog poo can be carried into our local waterways.
- If left in our fields with grazing animals it can infect them.

So what can we do?

Ensure that your dogs are well protected. Veterinary care is essential. Regular worming is also essential. The Town Council have provided free dog poo bags in areas where dogs are regularly exercised. Unfortunately some of our local residents have abused this service provided by the Town Council by stripping the containers completely of every last bag rather than just taking one bag as they need it. Even when these residents were approached and challenged by a passing Town Councillor they were oblivious and could see no wrong to their greedy actions. It is so pleasurable to walk our children to school along with their beloved dogs. **So please clean up after your dogs and do not put children at risk.** It is an offence not to clean up after your dog - please do not leave yourself open to prosecution and take some bags with you or take **ONE** of our bags that we provide for your use.



The Carlile Institute Community Hub Update

You will have no doubt have noticed as you pass through Meltham town centre not only the complete transformation of the Town's much loved Carlile Institute into a vibrant new Community Hub, but also the events to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of its opening. The Carlile Institute was paid for and built by one James William Carlile at a cost of £7,000 and

opened on the 16th October 1891. Mr Carlile who had been a partner in the firm of Jonas Brook and Brothers at Meltham Mills, was unable to attend the opening due to ill health but he wrote to the people of the township, *'I have built you an Institute in order that you may keep my 'memory green' and I have bestowed my own name upon it, so that in years to come your children may give a kindly thought to him who ever held your best Interests very near to his heart.'*

I suspect that if Mr Carlile had been able to see the Institute a few years ago he may have been unimpressed with what was happening to his legacy, as it fell into disrepair and neglect. Now, I hope that following its acquisition by the community of Meltham and the work that has been achieved to repair and transform the building into a contemporary space, full of community activities and life that he can look down with satisfaction that his legacy continues to serve its purpose. Of course time moves on, and needs change, and so the activities in the building have also changed. We have kept true to his vision of a local library and reading rooms but have added a local Post Office, multi use community rooms, a high spec meeting room, a dance studio, modern toilets and kitchens and offices.

Mr Carlile established a charitable trust to look after his gift to the town's residents, but this folded some time later and the building was taken over first by Meltham Urban District Council and then in 1974 by Kirklees Council. However, history is repeating itself with the establishment of a new charitable trust in October 2016, 'Meltham Carlile', with a group of local residents acting as trustees with the single mission of ensuring Mr J W Carlile's legacy continues for the benefit of the people of this Township.

Paul White, Chair of Trustees Carlile Institute

Outdoor Gyms? What do you think?



As well as providing and maintaining the play equipment in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park, the Town Council is considering whether to install some outdoor gym equipment and we want your views. You may have seen something similar at other parks around the country, equipment for older children and adults to use and get fit while enjoying the fresh air. Maybe, the park isn't the best place to locate the equipment - what about other places in the village, the Greenway, the recreation ground, a trim trail dotted around the village. If you have any ideas and views on this we'd love to hear from you - please get in touch.



Forthcoming Walk

**Meltham Meander 4.5 Miles -
Sunday 18 December 2016**

**Meet at the Carlile Street
Carpark at 10.00am**



Blue Plaque Trail—a real success for Meltham Walkers are Welcome



Town Mayor, Cllr Pat
Maxfield at the Blue Plaque
Trail Opening Ceremony

The Mayor of Meltham, Pat Maxfield launched Meltham's Blue Plaque trail on Sunday 18th September to a very enthusiastic group of around 100 walkers. This was followed by a guided walk of around 2 miles following a route map prepared by David Pattern of Huddersfield Exposed.

A Blue Plaque Trail in Meltham has been created by Meltham Walkers are Welcome to highlight the many wonderful buildings and Churches that were erected in Meltham in the 1800's by the Brook Family and other wealthy philanthropists.

The Brook family came to Meltham in the early 1770's and established a cotton mill providing work for over 4000 people in its heyday. The Brooks were a very benevolent family who provided work, housing, schools, hospitals, churches as well as a convalescent home and nearby landscaped areas for relaxation and exercise. Their philosophy even predated Titus Salt in their endowments to the working people of Meltham. Other local families in Meltham also followed suit including the Hirsts and Carlile families.

Elaine Johnson one of the Brook family descendants travelled up from London for the walk launch and was impressed with the history of her family that was provided on the walk.

The blue plaques are placed on many of these historic buildings such as the Town Hall, The First National School, St Bartholomew's Church, The Oddfellows Hall, Bank Buildings, Meltham's first Co-op at Meltham Mills, Meltham Mills School, St James Church, Meltham Hall, Durker Roods and Carlile Community Hub buildings with St Marys Church at Wilshaw and Christ Church, Helme also available as walk detours.

Meltham Walkers are Welcome was founded to help keep the paths and tracks in Meltham open and to bring people into the village to enjoy the countryside and use local facilities. They hold monthly free guided walks around Meltham and details can be found on their Facebook page – Meltham Walkers are Welcome or on the website

– see www.walkingmeltham.com.

Wendy Sykes, Secretary Meltham Walkers are Welcome.



Recreating the opening ceremony of Meltham Town Hall, February 1898