

Christmas dates for your diary.



Over 70s Christmas Gift

Tuesday 1 December 2015 10.00am to 4.00pm— Civic Hall, Carlile Institute

It's coming up to that time of year again when Meltham Town Council upholds the tradition of giving a small Christmas Gift to all residents of the parish who are 70 years old and over. The gift started way back in 1929 as a bequest from Sir William Ramsden. Sir William was from Meltham and although he left in 1894 he retained a warm affection for the place and its people.

The initial funds from the bequest have long since gone but Meltham Town Council continue make this small monetary gift (£2.50), in the spirit that it was given. Please come along and collect your gift and enjoy a warm drink and a mince pie and meet up with friends old and new – what better way to start the festive season! We look forward to seeing you.

Christmas Lights Switch-on—Saturday 5 December 2015

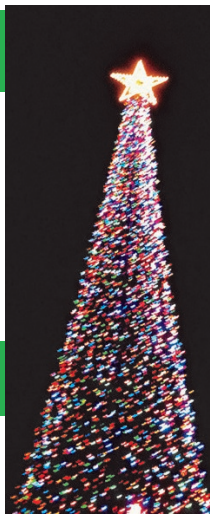
The Christmas Lights switch on is on Saturday 5th December. It starts with a Coffee morning from 9.30am until 12.30pm in the Church Hall in aid of the Christmas Lights Committee, to raise funds for new lights when required. From 1pm until 3.30pm Santa will be in his Grotto in the back room of the Church Hall, while refreshments are served in the main hall by St. Bartholomew's church ladies. At 3.30pm, the school children will be singing in St Bartholomew's church, followed at 4.15pm by a carol concert in church with everyone welcome.

The lights will be switched on at 5pm. At 7pm in the Church Hall there will be a Social evening which will include the finals of Meltham's Got Talent.



Carols in the Park—Sunday 6 December 2015 at 4pm

Meet to sing carols, eat mince pies and sip mulled wine in the beautiful woodland surroundings of the Robert Ashton Memorial Park at this annual festive event.



Should Meltham Town Council do more for its residents?

Over the next couple of months, your Town Councillors want to hear from you to understand how you would like the Town Council to react to the reduced services from Kirklees Council. Meltham as a town faces its own challenges as well. The Town Hall and other assets owned by Kirklees Council are to be sold off and this may present an opportunity, similar to that of the Carlile Institute. Other wider issues, such as an aging and increasing population are considerations. Together these clearly present opportunities for Meltham Town Council to either provide new services, or adopt existing services, that will improve the lives of residents in the township.

Currently Meltham Town Council receives money collected with Council Tax by Kirklees Council, called the precept. The precept for 2015/16 is £49,500. The amount that you, as a resident of Meltham pay depends on the valuation Band of your house. A typical Band D house pays 36 pence per week, or £19.04 per annum. This amount has stayed largely unchanged since 1998. This figure is very low compared with other areas with Parish/Town Councils nationally, with the average for England being £54.00 per annum on a band D house. The Town Council is able to request a bigger precept on behalf of the Meltham residents if it resolves to provide more services. The precept in Meltham is used to look after the Robert Ashton Memorial Park – which the Town Council, **not** Kirklees Council, owns. This includes paying for gardening, toilet cleaning, litter picking, play inspections, maintenance and repairs, insurance cover and electricity and water bills. The Council also pays the salary of the Town Clerk, it services three church clocks, looks after benches and

ensures the Council is properly run covering things such as Audit fees, production of newsletters, website maintenance and running a small office with all associated expenditure. It is important to note that the Town Councillors do not receive any payment or allowances for their service to the Council, (with the exception of the Town Mayor who can claim an allowance of £600 for the year). Meltham Town Council is also fortunate to have an amount of money which is available to fund Capital projects. This money was from the sale of land adjoining Meltham Hall and the Robert Ashton Memorial Park. The fund is invested in savings schemes and is available periodically for Capital grants to organisations in the Township. More than sixty such grants have been provided in the last six years to groups such as Meltham and Meltham Mills Band, schools, playgroups, Sports Clubs, churches, Christmas Lights and organisations such as the Over 60s and Walkers are Welcome etc. **Meltham Town Council invites you to a series of Public events at which we can debate the future role of Meltham Town Council; the extent to which it is funded and what priorities YOU have for the township. In January, following this consultation, the Council will prepare a summary report which will set out, based on the feedback received, how the Town Council intends to continue to serve you.**

Look out for Posters around the village and on our website for dates, times and venues of the meetings.

www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - December 2015



Carlile Institute – celebrating twelve months on.



The Carlile Institute is an important and much loved building in the Meltham community. Just over twelve months ago the community acquired the building back from Kirklees Council and we can now all celebrate the results. The building had a long list of repairs and problems and a group of local residents led in the main by Clr Richard Noon and Clr Paul White set about the task of restoring the building to its former glory. The first tenant in September 2014 was the new Community Post Office, which has been welcomed by many of our residents. In March this year the 'Carlile Business Centre' opened in the annex with three local businesses taking up residence. There has also been a doubling of the use of space by community groups and by the Lauren Fayre Dance School, with wonderful support from volunteers through the Carlile Support Group. The community's response has not been more exemplified than by the Carlile Refugee Crisis Appeal. Literally hundreds of individuals and families have contributed through both donations but also volunteering time to sort and box the thousands of items donated.

The creation of this new Community Hub for Meltham has not been without its problems, with a number of major building repairs coming to light during the restoration work as well as inheriting historic issues with services and access. However, the future is bright with a bid for Lottery Grant in process, which will enable the remainder of the restoration works to be completed and facilitate the relocation of the Library and the Town Council, as well as improving disabled access, providing public toilets, and much improved community rooms. Subject to the funding being approved we should be able to celebrate the completion of the project in the next twelve months and see the whole building be a hive of community activity once more.



Should Meltham Town Council do more for its residents?

In the elections of May 2015 you, the residents of the Parish of Meltham, elected twelve citizens to be your Councillors on Meltham Town Council. These Councillors are reviewing what the Town Council does for the local community and are seeking to meet and speak with residents to learn what they want and need from their Town Council in the future. This has been prompted partly by the obviously difficult times ahead for Kirklees Council – there have been many news reports about the huge budget reductions. This will result in many activities and services being significantly reduced and others ceasing altogether, such as grass cutting, street cleaning, libraries, community buildings and sites, support for the elderly etc.

Please read on - continued on the back page.....

Let us know what you think

www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk



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Edible Meltham

Edible Meltham is promoting sustainable, healthy living through encouraging the people of Meltham to grow their own fruit, salads and vegetables. In collaboration with the Meltham Gardeners Society, Edible Meltham applied for and received a grant for £500 to provide free vegetable and salad seeds to the community. Every school child received a packet of seeds to take home and grow over the summer and seed collections were left in the Library, the Carlile Community Hub and the Crossroads project. There is also Edible Meltham Facebook page for people to join <https://www.facebook.com/ediblemeltham> Next year Edible Meltham is hoping to run a community growing project in the village. Their ultimate goal is for the community to grow, in public spaces, food for everyone to share. They also will be applying for funding and grants to provide equipment, expertise and seeds and to run community projects around the theme of growing edible plants.

Syrian Refugee Crisis Appeal



CCTV in Meltham



You may be aware, from previous editions of Meltham Mercury, that the Town Council has updated the CCTV in the village centre. Prior to the installation of the new system, the Town Council operated CCTV monitoring in the centre of Meltham with the assistance of three shop owners. Over the years, these cameras and the supporting hardware have become increasingly out of date and the data supplied in support of evidence for crimes has been of very little use. By updating the hardware and changing the location of the cameras to focus on the centre of Market Place covering all the roads entering the Market Place, (namely Station Street, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth Road and Wessenden Head Road), the Town Council hopes to provide a system which is

fit-for-purpose and provides reassurance to residents and businesses alike. The Town Council feels that this new system will now be able to provide useful information to the Police to combat crime and anti-social behaviour. The Council is very aware of the issue of privacy and of striking a balance between effective surveillance without being intrusive and this is why the footage will not be viewed 'real-time' and information will only be given to the Police following a procedural request. It's good to know that one serious incident in the Market Place has already been covered by the new CCTV and information has been passed to the Police to enable action to be taken. As the system has only just been in place for over a month now, it's early days and there are bound to be small changes that will need to be made but we would love to hear your views on this upgrade.



Let us know what you think.

Grants

The Town Council operate two grants schemes – one for small grants under £1,000 and one for larger grants for capital projects. Full details of both schemes and application forms are available on the Council's website. Since April this year, we have granted £18,625 to various organisations within the parish. The Baptist Church has received £8,000 towards new windows, the Pre-School Group has been granted £8,000 towards a new extension, The Valley Bowman of Huddersfield, (situated just over the Knowle), have been granted £1,800 towards car park improvements and we've issued £125 to Meltham Environment Ltd towards expenses incurred at Hey Doorstep Green, (by Broadlands), £200 to the Friends of

Meltham Greenway for maintenance of the greenway and £500 to Meltham Community Trust to fund part of an art project involving students from the Meltham area attending Honley High. Living in an area which has a Town Council is a real benefit if you are part of a voluntary / charitable organisation who requires funding because we can fund projects in our own area rather than you having to apply centrally to Kirklees and compete with other applications. We still have some funds left in our budget so if you want to apply or know an organisation who would benefit from some monetary help please get in touch or check out our website – www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Meltham Memories

This July saw the 7th annual Meltham Memories Wartime Weekend, it was a very busy weekend, with more people attending on the Saturday than in any year previous. People lined the streets to watch another impressive parade before enjoying re-enactments, dances and a RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight on both Saturday and Sunday. Music and stalls took over Meltham C of E Primary School, the fire station on Holmfirth Road and St Bartholomew's Church, with the last hosting a victory ball presided over by the Manchester Police Big Band. Pam Cox, Chair of the organising committee was "delighted" with the turnout to the event. "It's just a great way to bring people out and get everyone to know each other and we're so pleased it has gone so well." Vintage vehicles, military personnel and school children made up the parade, along with Meltham Mills Brass Band and Oldham Pipe Band, who provided a stirring soundtrack. An inter-pub tug-o-war on the Sunday saw the Victoria Park team win the competition, which was started by the Deputy Mayor, Clr Pat Maxfield.



The Carlile Institute had been open to the public for a little under a year when Ally Young recognised that there was a need for a local collection point for aid for the refugees. Ally got in touch with Clr Noon on Twitter who proposed using the Carlile Institute as a drop-off point for donations. The Carlile has worked with Meltham Churches Together, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and local businesses such as Grumpy Mule, Motor Works at Meltham Mills, Distinct Disposables and community groups throughout the Holme Valley to collect, sort and distribute aid to Syria Relief, a charity based in Manchester which distributes aid to those in need on the Syrian border. Post Office Ltd provided huge trucks for free to transport the goods over to Manchester and kind-hearted, compassionate residents donated goods, money and their time to efficiently sort and distribute huge volumes of donated aid. Meltham was one of the first points to be setup and received national press coverage from ITV Good Morning Britain, ITV News at 10 (and 6), Calendar News, The Guardian, BBC Breakfast and local BBC radio stations up and down the country. The bulk of items were in and out of the Carlile Institute within 2 weeks, but the volume was incredible. Ally Young said "It was an emotional few days, we had so many generous people, many with stories which really resonated and made me believe that despite the lack of Government action, we were making a difference, it was a project that was demanding emotionally and physically, but one that I am immensely proud of." A further £142 was raised with the church collection at the Civic Sunday Service on 20 September.



Meltham
Walkers Are Welcome

Meltham Walkers are Welcome is almost three years old – can you believe it? We are a friendly, community-based group and our aim is to promote Meltham as a special area for walkers, cyclists, runners, and all those who enjoy Meltham and its surrounding areas.

In the last two years we have developed ten way-marked and mapped routes and organise guided walks each month. A recent development has been the introduction of 'history walks' led by a local historian who provides insights into our buildings, heritage and people who formed Meltham. Walks depart from the Carlile St car park. Our walks usually conclude with the option of refreshments in local pubs and cafes. A recent initiative is to work with others to develop plans to improve Meltham's Pleasure Grounds for the benefit of all. Additionally we are actively involved in footpath maintenance.

We are working on a five-year plan that will guide our work between now and 2020 and will be actively seeking input from residents in the coming months. If you have ideas that you wish to share now then please email me with your thoughts. If you would like to join us on a walk or help in any way please visit our website; view our Facebook page or contact me by email.

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