

# Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - Spring 2020

The Council offices are open:-

Mon 9.00am - 4.00pm by appointment only

Tues 9.00am - 1.00pm

Weds 9.00am - 1.00pm



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The Council offices are on the first floor of  
The Carlile Institute (access via lift or stairs).

## Welcome to our Spring 2020 Newsletter

### Town Mayor Kate Buchanan reports:

*'On the lead-up to Christmas I was delighted to attend many events including school performances, the Christmas Lights switch on and Meltham & Meltham Mills Band's Christmas concert.'*

*'Here I am giving the award of Band person of the year to percussionist Mike Heaven.'*



Your Town Council has been busy refining the results of Ask Meltham in order to update its 4-year plan and ensure its priorities align with what you've been telling us. We have now identified seven priority areas. At our January meeting we agreed the budget for the year and in February our new Shopfront Improvement grant becomes live. We are determined to improve the look of the Town Centre this year with more flowers, litter picking and working with all the businesses and shop owners. Launching a Friends of Robert Ashton Memorial Park will mean that the Town Council can work alongside a group of volunteers to drive the improvements in the Park. We are excited about our plans for the Big Lunch in June.

In this extended Newsletter we are now able to include a **What's On in Meltham** section. Please let us know if this is useful. Would you like your organisation to be included? We are here to help connect people and ensure that you enjoy all that Meltham has to offer.

Young people in Meltham in a recent consultation mentioned 'helping people' as something they'd like to do. If you are a young person (and even not so young person) and would like opportunities to volunteer, please come along to the **Carlile Institute on Saturday 7 March** between 11am and 3.00pm. You will be able to chat to someone who can help.

### **Meltham Women's Institute (WI) celebrated 50 years in style in Meltham Church Hall.**



Town Mayor Kate Buchanan (left) joined Rosemary Pearson, WI Chairman for the West Yorkshire Federation (centre) and Kate Schofield, President, Meltham WI (right) for the cutting of the cake. This was followed by refreshments and entertainment much enjoyed by all who attended.





# MELTHAM VE DAY 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FRIDAY 8 MAY 2020



## Programme of Events

11.00am	Parade led by Meltham & Meltham Mills Band leaves Greenacres
11.30am	St Bartholomew's Church short service
12 noon	Meltham & Meltham Mills Band outside St Bartholomew's Church
1.00pm	Outside Street Party at Meltham C E Primary School for young families, outdoor games & activities
1.00pm	St Bartholomew's Church Hall – Senior Adults Lunch for ticket holders
	Entertainment by the Barnhowlers Ukelele Band 2pm to 5pm
2.55pm	The Last Post and the Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2: Church Hall & Meltham C E School
6.55pm	The Town Crier – A Cry for Peace Around the World
7.00pm	Ringin' Out for Peace – St Bartholomew's Church Bells
From 6.00pm	Refreshments & Entertainment at Meltham Liberal Club

## Supported by Meltham Town Council

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day is on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 representing an important milestone in our history. There will be celebrations all over the nation - for full information go to [www.veday75.org](http://www.veday75.org).

Meltham cannot let this day pass without reflecting on the enormous sacrifice and courage of people from all walks of life who saw us through this dark period, so a group of us got together to organise Meltham VE Day 75 supported by Meltham Town Council. There will be food, fun & games for young families at Meltham CE School, while the more senior among us can go to the Meltham Parish Church Hall and enjoy food, a drink and entertainment. Look out for tickets when they become available. Then, just when you think it is all over, go to the Meltham Liberal Club for more goodies and entertainment until midnight.

We are looking for vehicles of the era to parade and if you feel you want to help in any way at all please contact us on 07761 393502 or [pammurg.mgt@gmail.com](mailto:pammurg.mgt@gmail.com)

## PRIDE OF MELTHAM AWARDS 2020

We welcome applications for the Pride of Meltham award.

For further details please check out the website or contact the Clerk (details on page 1).







## **Big Lunch in the Park:**

**Saturday 6 June**  
**12 noon - 3.00pm**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

We are inviting people to come together on Saturday 6 June for the Big Lunch in the Park. It will take place in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park (RAMP) in Meltham. We are planning to have a marquee and lots of different activities for children to make the event something to remember. In order to develop our plans, we are setting up a Friends of RAMP to find out your ideas for the Big Lunch. This group will also help us plan improvements in the Park over the next few years.

Following the Ask Meltham engagement last summer, a recurrent theme was how much people value the Robert Ashton Memorial Park and how many people use it. The Town Council does its best to maintain the Park but it is in need of further investment to improve the facilities, to make it more accessible and make the best use of the natural space. Meltham Town Council is commissioning a masterplan which will have input from the Friends and there will be opportunities for everyone to have their 'say'.



To find about how to become a Friend of the Robert Ashton Memorial Park or just to find out more about the Big Lunch in the Park, please contact the Clerk (details on page 1).

## **More trees in Meltham**

In March 2020 we will be getting over 300 saplings delivered from the Woodland Trust to plant in and around Meltham. We will be arranging community planting events for the end of March and beginning of April and any community groups or schools that would like some of the trees for their areas are encouraged to contact the Clerk to Meltham Town Council so we can share them around.

The saplings will be small but when they grow up will help clean our air, drain soggy areas and provide food for wildlife and people who like to forage. We are very excited about the trees coming and looking forward to getting them planted. Look out for tree planting events advertised nearer the time.





## Ask Meltham: Reducing Litter

Walkers are Welcome in Meltham are planning a co-ordinated Litter Pick on Saturday 28th March supported by Meltham Town Council. We are looking for additional volunteers to come and join us. Please look at the Meltham Walkers are Welcome Facebook page for further details. The Litter Pick route proposed:

1. Town Gate Gardens (adjacent to Near Lane)
2. Near Lane
3. Steps and path leading to Morrisons
4. Path from Station Street to its intersection with The Cobbles
5. Continue to steps leading to Mean Lane
6. Continue to steps - path leading to Hey Doorstep Green
7. Continue to steps - path leading to Sunny Heys Road

We will be working with the supermarkets, other independent shops, Meltham Business Association, schools and Kirklees Council.

## Dog Fouling Campaign



As we reported in our last newsletter Meltham Town Council launched an innovative anti dog-fouling campaign, aimed at dog walkers who don't scoop the poop last year. The Council joined forces with environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy in a bid to reduce dog fouling in priority problem areas in Meltham. The campaign to tackle dog fouling hotspots involves the display of 'We're watching you' signs which use innovative cutting-edge materials so they are visible even after dark. Local residents in the first two priority areas have reported a marked reduction in dog fouling since the signs went up. As a result the Council will be expanding the scheme to other key areas.

Town Mayor, Councillor Kate Buchanan said, "Feedback from residents as part of the Ask Meltham project made it clear that dog fouling is an issue in Meltham that residents want addressed. The vast majority of dog owners are responsible people, who habitually pick up after their dog but some don't and we are thrilled to be working with Keep Britain Tidy on such a cutting-edge campaign. We are delighted with the initial feedback from residents on the impact the campaign is having in the first two priority areas and will roll out the campaign to other areas shortly."

Public areas in Kirklees also have Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders - if you don't clean up after your dog in these areas you can be issued with a fixed penalty notice, or prosecuted in the Magistrates' Court. You can report dog fouling to Kirklees Council using a simple online form available on their website. Remember that information about the dog owner(s) causing the problem, or the most common times that people walk their dogs, are helpful to Kirklees Council as it may allow them to take specific enforcement action.

# Meltham Town Centre: Shopfront Grant Scheme



Many residents commented during our 'Ask Meltham' conversation about how the Town Centre might be improved. Ideas included larger floral displays in the summer months, improvements to car parking and ways to reduce the traffic congestion. We have an attractive historic Town Centre with a number of fine buildings but it could be better. One action the Town Council has implemented is a new 'Shopfront grant scheme' which is now up and running. A grant of up to £2,500 is available to any retail property within the Conservation Area for improving the façade of their property. All proposals must follow good design principles and in particular taking note of the historic

nature of the centre. Other similar town and village centres elsewhere in the UK have similar schemes which have worked well in uplifting and smartening their appearance.

If you're interested in applying for a grant please look at the information on the Council's website.

**The railings:** We have been told by Kirklees Council that due to the fact that they had to be manufactured to order, there has been an unavoidable delay in returning them to their former glory. We look forward to their return.

## Broadlands Recreation Ground – Getting better

A public consultation took place last autumn at Meltham's Sports and Community Centre to seek ways of improving Broadlands Recreation Ground, led by Kirklees Council. All the suggestions made have been considered and built into an exciting package of improvements. Phase 1 of the improvements will include: a major refurbishment of the ball court which will provide a competition standard 5 aside football, basketball and netball court, with a regular maintenance programme for the future; a new and extended play area with a wider range of play equipment to cater for all ages; resurfaced main paths; extra bins and picnic benches; and additional tree planting. The works are to be phased over the next year or so and are being funded from contributions from Barratt Homes in the form of a Section 106 contribution (these are conditions imposed on the developers to provide benefit to the community).

**You can view designs for the Phase 1 improvements and give your feedback (by Monday 9th March) at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/97MHS39> or scan the QR code.**

A further Phase 2 project is also on the horizon when additional Section 106 funds become available, with possible improvements in this phase including an extension to the play area, new pathways, a 'trim trail' with outdoor vandal-proof gym equipment, biodiversity improvements to make the site better for wildlife, and improved drainage and surfacing to the football and rugby pitches.





## Ask Meltham: Prioritising the Results

Our Ask Meltham discussions were exceptionally well supported with over 700 respondents yielding almost 120 potential improvement projects. We carried out an initial review of the projects in order to determine their relative priorities and then held a drop-in session where residents could vote for their top project from each of the 14 themes. We also sought feedback from children at Honley High who had previously been in Year 6 in the summer of 2019 when the Ask Meltham project took place.

We used an analysis tool called a Cause & Effect (C&E) Matrix, adapted from Six Sigma problem solving techniques. We selected four criteria to rate each possible project against then sorted the results with the highest scores at the top. Our criteria were:

1. A positive impact on Meltham
2. Ease of implementation
3. Cost
4. Feasibility

We put the feedback results and the C&E Matrix together. This resulted in 39 projects. After grouping projects with a common theme we have been able to form 7 major projects:

1. Improve Robert Ashton Memorial Park
2. Litter reduction
3. Improve Social Contact Opportunities
4. Improve Road Safety
5. Improve the Look of the Town Centre
6. A Greener Meltham
7. 3 stand-alone projects covering dog fouling, signage and improving social housing



## Ask Meltham: Youth provision

In November 2019, following the Ask Meltham conversations, the Town Council gave a grant to Enabling Youth to carry out a consultation with young people to find out what they want. Many young people said there were no safe places for them to meet and nothing for them to do in Meltham. However, one heartening statistic in the report was that 84% of young people are satisfied with Meltham as a place to live. When asked for suggestions, young people were not short of ideas: 'helping others', 'cycle routes', 'gaming groups', 'teen café'. We will be working with the team from Enabling Youth and Kirklees over the coming months.

The Enabling Youth Team had this message for the Town Council:

'I would like to say on behalf of the team, a big 'THANKYOU' for supporting us to carry out this consultation. Having conversations with over 200 young people has given us a real insight into how young people feel about their community, what activities they would like for their age group, and the kind of things that young people would like information and support around in their community.'

## The Town Mayor visits Honley High School

Honley High School's first Combined Cadet Force Graduation in January. In the centre of the photo: Kate Buchanan, Town Mayor; to her left Deputy Lieutenant Jon Hammond Booth, (to her right, Headteacher, Paul Greenough). Well done to all the cadets.



## Over 70s Christmas Gift from Meltham Town Council

It was a great day at the over 70s gift event in Meltham on the 3rd December. Over 400 residents who were over 70 years of age came to the Carlile Institute to receive their Christmas gift of money from the Town Council - a tradition which has been going on for many years.

For many, it was not the small gift itself but the opportunity to meet other residents at the 'pop up' café, enjoy a chat and have a go at the quiz featuring photographs of Meltham from the past. Can you identify the event/organisation or where they are photographed?



Bewley's, a Meltham based coffee roasting firm supported the event by providing free drinks and a professional barista for the whole day serving a selection of delicious coffees, hot chocolate and teas.

Town Councillors served those who came along with mince pies and shortbread and listened to any concerns that residents raised. The event was very busy throughout the day and enjoyed by everyone who came along.

Photo: Cllr Paul White, Town Mayor Kate Buchanan, Michael Bell from Bewley's.

*Bewley's*  
1840





### 10, 11 & 12 April

Meltham Beer Festival, Meltham C E Primary School

### 2 May

The Tour de Yorkshire is coming through Meltham

### 8 May

(Bank Holiday) Celebrations for VE Day (see separate listing)

### 6 June

The Big Lunch, Robert Ashton Memorial Park

### 4 & 5 July

Meltham Memories including the Scarecrow Festival

### 6-13 July

Holmfirth Artweek Meltham Fringe at Crossroads, Old Town Hall & Carlile Institute tbc

What's On  
in Meltham  
March - July 2020

## Carlile Events 2020

### 1 March 4:00pm **Downton Abbey (Film)** Dolly Shot

£5

We've been expecting you! The Crawleys are back but this time they're venturing onto the big screen and the King and Queen are coming to tea.

### 7 March 11.00am - 3.00pm **Carlile Institute Open Day**

Admission free

Come and find out what's on in Meltham. Looking for a new class or activity? Or maybe you'd like to see what volunteer opportunities there are. Refreshments available.

### 28 March 7:45pm **McShane & Shaw** Folk Music

£10

For a total of 25 years both men have been running ukulele clubs in their respective home towns of Vancouver, Canada and Penistone, UK. Chris McShane is a multi-instrumentalist with significant chops on ukulele, guitar, mandolin, bass guitar and tenor banjo and Ralph Shaw has been called Canada's King of the Ukulele. Plus humour!!

### 16 April 6.00pm **2040 (Film)** Dolly Shot

£5

'An idealists version of a healthy earth' according to the Guardian. This upbeat documentary predicts our best selves saving the planet.

### 21 April 7:30pm **Atalanta Forever** Mikron Theatre

£13/£11

It's 1920, and in post-war Britain, women's football is big news. Across the country, all-girl teams are pulling huge crowds in fund-raising games for wounded soldiers. Huddersfield amateurs Ethel and Annie take a shot at the big time. Teammates at Atalanta AFC, they're soon tackling new football skills, mastering the offside rule and kicking back at the doubters.

### 16 May 7:30pm **Fiesta Evening** Tanya Cusan

£15

Come and enjoy a taster evening of Columbian food, song and dance (including your chance to learn the salsa!), brought to us by Tanya Cusan, who enthralled our children with her puppet theatres last year. Price includes food, dance class and entertainment.

**Carlile Institute** Check out their website for a list of regular events/classes/ meetings including: Dance & Tone, Fitness Classes, FUNctional Fitness, Knit and Knatter, Meditation groups, Meltham Community Choir, NCT, Over 60s Luncheon Club, Pilates, Pre-School Group, Singing for Health, Readers' Group, Step Class, Textiles' Group, U3A Art Group, Ukulele Class, Yoga.

**Meltham Parish Church Hall** Weekly Saturday Coffee mornings for many community groups; Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Over 60's, Pilates, Slimming World, Stage Company, Women's Institute, Yoga, Zumba.

**Meltham Methodist Hall** Check out their website for a list of regular groups including: Beetle Drive, Bootcamp Fitness, Country Dance Group, French Class, Friend to Friend, Ladies' Fellowship, Mothers & Toddlers, Powerhoop Keep Fit, Side by Side, Tai Chi, Together Tuesday, Weightwatchers, Zumba.

**Probus** meets at the Liberal Club every second and fourth Wednesday for retired business and professional men.