

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - Spring 2022

The Council offices are temporarily closed.

Please email the Clerk:

townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk



/AroundMeltham



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The Clerk to the Council is Michelle Chard.

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Please email the Clerk:

townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

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

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

With Covid restrictions now relaxed and April just around the corner, I am confident that we can all look forward to a much better year in 2022. In this edition you can read about some of the forthcoming activities and events planned for the summer. It promises to be a busy time, especially around the time of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June. You will also find information on how we are tackling the problem of illegal parking in the town, how we plan to promote Meltham as an outdoor destination and details of how we want to move forward with our initiative to reduce our use of single-use plastics.

In view of the substantial increase in energy costs this year, we have included some ideas on how you can reduce your energy use – I hope you find this useful. You will also be able to read about some of the events I have attended in the last few months, including our Over 70s Gift Event, Crossroads Raffle, Wilshaw Village Hall improvements and a presentation of awards to children who entered our Road Safety Heroes poster competition. I hope you enjoy reading your copy of the Mercury.

Clr Roberta Bampton - Town Mayor

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A MELTHAM TOWN COUNCILLOR AND HELP TO MAKE MELTHAM A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

There is currently a vacancy on Meltham Town Council.

The Council can now fill this vacancy by co-option, which is a process where the Council considers applications from interested persons and can then select someone to fill the seat.

If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor, please email the Town Clerk with your details and include a short statement explaining the reasons why you want to become a Town Councillor and what skills you feel you could bring to the role.

There are a number of qualifications and disqualifications for being a Councillor contained in Sections 79 and 80 of the Local Government Act 1972. Therefore, you will also need to complete and return the legal declaration of qualification to

hold public office as a local councillor which is available to download from the Council's website (in the Notices section). If you need more information about the role of a local councillor, the National Association of Local Councils (www.nalc.gov.uk) is a great place to start. To find out more about what Meltham Town Council does our website is a good place to start.

www.melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

The deadline for receipt of statements and your legal declaration of qualification to hold public office is: **22 April 2022**

A Council meeting will be held shortly after the closing date to decide on who to co-opt onto the Council. For more information about the process have a look in the news section of the website

Email:

townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Speeding: Tackling the Problem in Helme, Wilshaw and Meltham

As we come out of the Covid pandemic the Town Council has been working closely with our Kirklees Ward Councillors in order to pursue some of the key actions from our 'Ask Meltham' conversations. In particular, many residents are concerned about speeding vehicles on a number of roads in Meltham.

We have managed to secure more Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). The evidence nationally is that these are effective at reminding drivers of their speed and reducing speeds on roads where they are positioned.

In the next few weeks residents will see new SIDs appearing on Slaithwaite Road, Wessenden Head Road, Huddersfield Road, Helme Lane and in Wilshaw. The new generation SIDs are more sophisticated and will record the speeds of and number of vehicles. This will enable us to see if more action is needed to reduce speed and protect our community further.



**The Friends of Robert Ashton Memorial Park
with the support of Meltham Town Council
invite you to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Sunday 5 June 2022, 11.00- 4.00pm.**

We are planning games and activities for children and pop-up refreshments. Further information will be available on Meltham Town Council website and via social media.

**Meltham Town Council is planting a tree in the Park to commemorate the Jubilee.
Come and join us at 1pm for the ceremony**

Planting Trees in Meltham



River Holme Connections planting trees in Meltham

One of the many actions in The Kirklees Climate Emergency Action Plan is the planting of lots of trees. Many residents highlighted this during 'Ask Meltham'. Kirklees are committed to planting an additional 40,000 trees annually from now, this will include sites in Meltham, including Broadlands Rec and our school sites, but there will be more opportunities as well, and residents are asked to make suggestions of suitable locations (please contact the Town Clerk).

Road Safety Heroes: Poster Competition



Meltham Town Council (MTC) was delighted to receive 128 submissions for the Road Safety Heroes poster competition and selected 25 winners each of whom received a £10 book token kindly donated by ABG Geosynthetics and a selection of gifts donated by Rosenbauer. All the children who submitted posters received a gift bag from ABG on a bee theme which included a bouncy ball, bee stickers, sweets, a packet of wildflower seeds and a leaflet about green roofs. MTC is delighted to be working with local businesses in this way.

The overall winner was Izzie Moorhouse (aged 7yrs) from Meltham Moor Primary School. In addition to a book token, she and her family won a visit to Rosenbauer to look at the state-of-the-art Panther fire engine.



Town Mayor Cllr Roberta Bampton & Izzie Moorhouse

Meltham Pleasure Grounds - New Play Area

Meltham Walkers are Welcome (MWA) and the Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds are delighted that the new children's play area is almost completed.

Cllr Brian Keighley, Chair of MWA said:

'We are grateful to Kirklees Parks and Green Spaces and the Contractor who managed the challenges of Covid-19, supply issues and adverse weather to deliver this exciting project. The security fencing will stay in place until the grass drains and dries sufficiently to allow the grass matting to be installed which is an essential element of the safety surface. In addition to the new play area, we have been able to incorporate new raised beds to support Edible Meltham.'

If you are interested in learning more about Walkers are Welcome; our free monthly guided walks or volunteering with the Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds please see our website <https://walkingmeltham.co.uk/> or contact us on info@walkingmeltham.com



New play equipment in the children's play area

Crossroads Raffle

On December 13th, the Town Mayor, Cllr Roberta Bampton was invited to attend Meltham's Crossroads Project (based at the Old Town Hall) to draw their Christmas raffle with prizes kindly donated by local businesses. The Mayor was given a tour of the building by some of the volunteers and was very impressed by the improved facilities. Our thanks go to these volunteers and all others who volunteer to help others in our community.



Right to left: Chris Sinclair, Jane Rockett, Debbie Still, Jill Horsman, Grace Dronsfield, Jennifer Hill. Cllr Roberta Bampton (Meltham Town Mayor)

Wilshaw Village Hall - Update

Meltham Town Council awarded a grant of £10,000 to the Wilshaw Village Hall Trust (WVT) for improvements to the Hall. Judith Moore, Secretary of the Trust said: 'On behalf of the WVH Trustees would you kindly pass on our sincere thanks for Meltham Town Council's continued support for our rejuvenation project!'



Wilshaw Village Hall



The Town Mayor pictured with Liz Pearson, Chair of Wilshaw Village Hall Trust.

- Mercury is missing -

You might have noticed that there is a statue missing in the Robert Ashton Park. There is an empty plinth in the formal garden area. What should be there is a statue of Mercury, one of the ancient Roman gods - and after whom this newsletter is named. Mercury served as messenger for all the other gods. He ruled over wealth, good fortune and thievery!

For many years the Mercury statue had pride of place in the Park before being stolen. The statue was eventually recovered by the police, returned and is currently in safe storage. As part of the works to improve the park we are looking at ways of putting Mercury safely back where he should be.



Children's Easter Activity - Where's Mercury?

Each day over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend 15 April-18 April 2022, Mercury will be hiding in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park - somewhere different every day.

Can you find him? Mercury was the cleverest of the Olympian gods and known to be cunning: you'll need to be clever to find him!

Honley Male Voice Choir



The Town Mayor was invited to Honley Male Voice Choir's (HMVC) coffee morning, organised by the choir's Ladies Circle and held at the Meltham Sports and Community Centre. The event was well attended and members of the Ladies Circle had baked a delicious selection of cakes. The choir although based in Honley, has several links with Meltham including a number of members who live in the town. They have performed in St Bartholomew's Church and the parish hall on many occasions.



From L to R: Steve Roberts, HMVC Musical Director, Cllr Roberta Bampton, Town Mayor, Barbara Lewis, Chair, HMVC Ladies Circle and Meirion Lewis, Chair of HMVC.

Plastic Free Meltham

Last year Meltham Town Council passed a resolution to move towards Meltham becoming a plastic-free community by substantially reducing our use of single-use plastics. Now that COVID restrictions are coming to an end we would like to move forward with this, but we need businesses and local community groups to work with us to help to achieve this. If you would like to be involved or have an informal chat about what it would involve, please email townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk and somebody will get back to you. Over the next few months we will be contacting businesses and other groups directly to provide information as to how you can be involved.



As well as businesses and community groups, we also need households to be involved, it doesn't have to be anything huge, small steps are all that is necessary to move towards reducing our use of single use plastic. Small wins – I have taken two small actions this year so far, I no longer buy plastic bottles of shower gel and just use a good old-fashioned bar of soap, although I haven't dared try a shampoo bar yet! My second action is to get my plastic bottles of cleaning products refilled rather than buying a new bottle. We are lucky to have, in our neighbouring village of Slaithwaite, a zero waste shop where you can take your empty containers along to be refilled www.zerowasteyorkshire.com and you can also buy many other environmentally friendly products from there.

Cllr Roberta Bampton

Parking outside the Post Office & Crossroads (Old Town Hall)

Please be aware that a single yellow line indicates no parking. Many people are parking outside the Post Office and popping in without realising the problems it causes. Cars and vans are regularly parking illegally on both sides of the road making car access extremely hazardous onto Huddersfield Rd. Pedestrians are particularly at risk in this situation: a fellow councillor recently witnessed a 'near miss' as an elderly woman crossed the road outside the Post Office using a walker and had to negotiate parked cars and therefore reduced visibility and a less than ideal walking route.

Please be kind and park in the car park.

Photographs of offending cars have been sent to Kirklees Highways and we have requested officers to attend to enforce the law. We hope it won't be necessary.

Services for Young People in Meltham

A longstanding ambition of Meltham Town Council has been providing additional services for young people. As is widely understood, funding for youth work was cut under the national austerity measures but there are now funds available to replace some of these services. Meltham is very fortunate to have an up and running funded youth project 'Enabling Youth'. They provide 'detached youth workers' in our township and have been doing an excellent job over the last year. One of the projects they have been running is learn how to skateboard led by Skate It Yourself who provide equipment and funded by a grant from Crossroads. The evidence of this is the much-reduced anti-social behaviour during this period. It is anticipated that there will be further funds coming available, which may also support badly needed facilities for our young people. We'll keep you informed of developments.



Energy Saving Tips

Many people are understandably concerned about the upcoming increase in electricity and gas prices. However there are measures you can take to help to reduce your bills, individually they may not amount to much, but taken as a whole, they can make a contribution to reducing your costs.

Town Mayor Cllr Roberta Bampton said: 'Wash your clothes at 30 degrees, or even try a cold wash, in my experience this does not make any difference to the cleanliness of your washing; consider how regularly you wash your clothes, we all tend to over wash, think about whether that pair of jeans can last a few more days before going into the washer and make sure you are washing a full load rather than just a few items.'

If an electrical appliance has a standby-function then switch it off at the socket when not in use, as otherwise it will continue to use electricity. Remember to switch off lights when you leave a room, and don't automatically switch them on during the day, we can usually manage just with natural light. Buy energy efficient lightbulbs when replacing. Only fill your kettle with as much water as you need; you may need to measure the amount the first few times you do this but you will soon find it easy to estimate the correct amount. Make sure your house is as draught-free as possible, and consider whether there are rooms in your house which you don't need to heat.

All these measures are easy to do, and have a positive impact on the environment, so a win-win situation.



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Destination Meltham

Meltham Town Council is keen to promote Meltham as an outdoor destination. Ask Meltham highlighted the extent to which residents in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw appreciate the outdoors: walking, running, cycling, horse riding, playing in the Parks and play areas, archery, outdoor concerts are all activities which many of us engage in. Do you have ideas and suggestions to promote Meltham as an outdoor destination? We look forward to hearing from you. Please email Michelle, the Town Clerk:
townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Meltham Walkers are Welcome

In May 2022, Meltham Walkers are Welcome will host the Northern Area Get Together in the Carlile Institute. Delegates from the northern towns and villages will get to experience our wonderful countryside and take back to their members the message that Meltham is a great place to experience the outdoors. Check out www.walkingmeltham.co.uk for 12 documented and way marked walks with free downloads plus 2 documented trails: The Blue Plaque Trail and The Olde Ale Trail.

Cllr Brian Keighley, Chair of MVAW said: 'We were delighted when Meltham Walkers are Welcome was featured in both the national newsletter and more recently in Walking World newsletter.'

The article mentions one of the local walks to the Folly Dolly Falls, the Blue Plaque Trail and the Olde Ale Trail. It describes the 'rich architectural history of Meltham' and the suffragette Dora Thewlis who was born at Meltham Mills and spent a week in prison campaigning for votes for women alongside hundreds of other Yorkshire (and Lancashire) women.



Precept 2022-23

At its meeting on the 7 February 2022 Meltham Town Council authorised a formal precept demand to Kirklees Council for £144,158.44 for 2022/23 meaning that the precept demand has gone up by just over £2.00 per year for an average property.

Town Mayor, Councillor Roberta Bampton said: 'The Town Council is pleased to announce that despite the huge inflationary pressures being felt by all sectors we have been able to keep the increase in the precept demand for 22/23 below the rate of inflation. The Town Council's precept continues to be significantly less than the national average and is a tiny proportion of residents' total council tax bill, with most of the council tax going to Kirklees Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the fire and rescue authorities. At a total cost of less than a pound a week for an average property, our services continue to represent value for money'. Raising money through the precept is necessary for the following reasons:

Cuts to grant funding

Unfortunately, Kirklees Council has significantly reduced the grant it provides to the Town Council from over £7,000 a few years ago to nothing at all for the 22/23 financial year. The Town Council needs to replace this funding which is used to provide a wide range of facilities and services.

Protecting Meltham Services

As Kirklees Council has cut services, the Town Council has stepped in to protect and provide services for the residents of Meltham e.g. contributing significantly to the provision of library services in Meltham and arranging for footpaths and public spaces to be cut back of vegetation and cleared of litter.

Improving our area

The Council listened to what residents wanted when we undertook the Ask Meltham project and monies raised through the precept will go on putting in place actions to address the priorities that residents highlighted. The Council continues to set aside monies for improvements to the Town Centre to ensure Meltham is an attractive place to live, work and visit. We are well underway with a major improvement scheme to further enhance Robert Ashton Memorial Park over the coming years, as well as providing more events and activities in the park as requested by residents. We have now given significant grants to two businesses in Meltham to help them improve their shop fronts and improve the look of the Town Centre.

Helping others to deliver for our residents

We continue to make both capital and smaller grants to community groups in Meltham or who provide services to Meltham residents.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Roberta Bampton continues:

'The Town Council must be financially self-supporting. We receive no funding apart from the precept (other than a very small amount from allotment rentals and investment income) and we provide a wide range of services including allotments, litter picking and environmental improvements, children's play areas, park facilities and maintenance, playing fields and gardens, public toilets, and sports facilities. We subsidise the library to protect this essential service in Meltham and make substantial grants to Meltham organisations to support community led activities.'

Over 70s Christmas Gift



It was a great day at the Over 70s gift event in Meltham on the 6th December which this year took place in the Meltham Parish Hall to allow for social distancing. Whilst numbers were lower than last year, those who came enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee generously provided by local firm Bewley's.



Saturday 30 April 7.00pm Meltham Methodist Hall, Mill Moor Road, Meltham and Meltham Mills Band in concert. £8 including refreshments

Sunday 1 May Meltham Market*

Car boot sale at Metham C of E Primary School, Holmfirth Road, HD9 4DA

Sunday 5 June The Big Platinum Jubilee Lunch 11-4pm, Robert Ashton Memorial Park; - Scarecrow Festival and Meltham Market*

24-26 June Motorsport Festival: The North's Most Spectacular Motorsport Event: vehicle displays, food and drink, family fun. Great bands <https://www.ymsf.net/> Email: info@ymsf.net

Saturday 2 July Meltham Market*

Meltham Memories: Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration

6- 9 July Holmfirth Art Week: Meltham Fringe at Crossroads, Old Town Hall & Carlile Institute, times tbc

*The market will be held within the turning circle and doctors' surgery car park at Parkin Lane, HD9 4EN

Carlile Events

Thurs 31 March: A Laugh at the Carlile: Comedy Night doors open 7.00pm - £14

Sat 2 April: Meltham Makers' Market 11.00 - 4.00pm Jubilee Room

Sat 4 June: Meltham Makers' Market 11.00 - 4.00pm Jubilee Room

Carlile Institute: Check out their website for a list of regular events/classes/ meetings including: Dance & Tone, Fitness Classes, Knit and Natter, Lauren Faye School of Dance, Meltham Community Choir, Meltham Readers' Group, Meltham Writers' Group, Meltham Gilbert & Sullivan Society, NCT, Pilates, Singing for Health, Step Class, Storytime, Painting & Drawing Workshop, Ukulele Class, Women's Institute, Willow Garden Club, Yoga.

Meltham Parish Church Hall Weekly Saturday Coffee mornings for many community groups; Flower Club, Over 60's, Pilates, Slimming World, Stage Company, Zumba.

Meltham Methodist Church & Hall Check out their website for a list of regular groups including: French Class, Friend to Friend, Ladies' Fellowship, HIIT, Judo, Babies & Toddlers, Side by Side (dementia support group), Tai Chi, Together Tuesday Coffee Stop, Yoga, Zumba. Regular Saturday Coffee mornings.

What's On
in Meltham
Mar - Jul 2022