

# Meltham Mercury

## Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - Summer 2022

The Council offices are temporarily closed.  
Please email the Clerk:  
[townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk)



/AroundMeltham



### YOUR Members of Council

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The Clerk to the Council is Michelle Chard.

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[townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

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

## WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER

### Clr Richard Noon, Town Mayor 2022-23

#### Introduction

I am delighted to be taking on the role of Town Mayor of Meltham and am looking forward to working on many projects including the Robert Ashton Memorial Park renovation. This year, my energies will have a particular focus on how we provide for young people.

I would like to thank Councillor Roberta Bampton for her hard work as Town Mayor and I look forward to working with Clr Spencer King, the newly-elected Deputy Mayor and my other Town Council colleagues over the next twelve months.

If you would like to be involved in any of our activities, please let us know by contacting us on [townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk).



## Robert Ashton Memorial Park Renovation: Phase 1

We are excited to announce that Phase 1 of the Park renovation is underway. The Council members felt strongly that the play area was a priority so this will be happening first.

### Saturday 2 July: Consultation

We will be displaying this draft sketch design for the play area in the Carlile Institute between 12.00 - 4.00pm on **Saturday 2 July** during Meltham Memories. We welcome your feedback. Please come and tell us what you think. There will also be an opportunity to give feedback online. Details via social media and Meltham Town Council website.



\* Please note this sketch design is in DRAFT format for comment. The play area design is dependent on consultation and the securing of funding and tendered prices

# THE COMPLEX

Meltham Sports and Community Centre  
Community Owned



The new ball court at THE COMPLEX

Like many community-owned businesses, Meltham's Sports and Community Centre has faced very challenging times during the last two years covid pandemic. However, we are bouncing back, having started a wide range of improvements to the sports changing rooms and the bar/event space which includes new lighting, new CCTV, re-upholstery and redecoration. The most dramatic change is the construction of a new multi-use ball court providing space for 5-a-side football, basketball, netball and other activities. The latter is being funded from monies paid by Barratts' housing development. There is also a full package of improvements to Broadlands Rec, including a completely new play area, tree planting, outdoor gym and improvements to the existing pitches, which will follow on once the ball court is opened. The trustees of the centre have also agreed to rebrand the facility as 'The COMPLEX' as this has become the common name used by many over the last few years.

### **Cllr Paul White, Chair of Trustees said:**

*'We're very excited to be welcoming back the whole Meltham community to The COMPLEX as we get back to full use and hope everyone enjoys all the improvements we've made.'*

To book a function or event at The COMPLEX telephone 01484 850198 or simply speak to the bar staff when you visit.

## **Meet your new Councillor: Cllr Ann Jurczyszyn**

Ann was appointed by the Council following a co-option process which saw 6 candidates expressing an interest in the vacancy. A resident of Meltham since July 2000, Ann is an active member of the community, volunteering as a walk leader for Kirklees Health Walks and a founder member of Meltham Walkers are Welcome. She is a trustee and volunteer at Meltham Carlile Institute and helped establish the Friends of Meltham Pleasure Grounds and the Edible Meltham Scheme.

### **Cllr Jurczyszyn said:**

*'I'm delighted to have been appointed to Meltham Town Council. Meltham is such a vibrant community and I particularly enjoy getting involved in family-friendly activities. Meltham has given me so much since I've lived here and I appreciate the opportunity to give something back.'*



### **Newly appointed Town Mayor Cllr Noon said:**

*'We are pleased to welcome Cllr Jurczyszyn onto the Council and thank the other applicants who expressed an interest in the co-option vacancy.'*



# Walking Celebration in Meltham

On Saturday 14th May in the Carlile Institute, Meltham Walkers are Welcome (MWAU) hosted the Northern Area Get Together. Visitors from far and wide were welcomed to Meltham by newly-elected Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Noon. This was followed by several presentations: River Holme Connections informed us of the sterling work being done in the Holme Valley and its feeder tributaries including tree planting; footpath improvements; habitat development and working with schools and young people. MWAU member Mark Corrigan, (Kirklees Bridle ways & Access Officer- Yorkshire) spoke about the work being done to preserve and protect PROWs (bridleways and footpaths). We informed our visitors of MWAU history, our past achievements and future plans and took the group through our work on Light Up the Pleasure Grounds and how the lanterns are made. Ann Sandell (Secretary, National WAW) gave a brief update on national matters. We also had photography by Andrew Swales on display and artwork by children from Meltham C of E school.

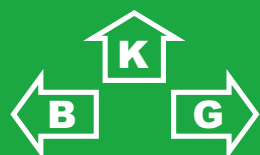
We broke for lunch before heading off in two groups for a short walk to show-off our beautiful countryside. Both groups took the opportunity to visit the new premises of the David Brown Tractor Museum on the Towndoor estate.

The whole day was well received, and feedback was excellent. We were particularly pleased that all purchases were locally sourced: signage from ZEST; refreshments from RachAls Kitchen and Nicola's Gateaux. Thanks to our volunteers – we could not have done it without you: Ann, Barbara, Bev, Brian, Chesh, Mark, Pat, Julie, Ziona, Jean and Jane.

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](mailto:info@walkingmeltham.com)



## Kirklees Bridleways Group



The Kirklees Bridleways Group works collaboratively with Meltham Walkers are Welcome and Ride Kirklees Mountain Bike to maintain and improve the bridleway network in and around the area. Members can often be found helping with work parties in Meltham Pleasure Grounds as well as local bridleways and footpaths helping to clear several miles per year of overhanging and encroaching vegetation sympathetically making them

accessible for everyone.

The Kirklees Bridleways group was founded in 1988 by local members of the British Horse Society. Our aim is to safeguard all historic routes by getting them recorded for public use therefore ensuring that they are safe for future generations. The Crossroads Centre has kindly assisted the group and allowed us to hold information days and meetings in the centre. We have also been successful in receiving grants from Holmfirth Lions for gates and user-friendly gate handles.

We recently welcomed changes to the Highway Code (see below): horses are now ranked alongside cyclists as the second most vulnerable road users (the group has been campaigning for this over a number of years). The advisory speed to pass people riding horses has been reduced from 15mph to 10 mph and drivers must allow at least 2 metre (6.5feet) of space making the roads safer for everyone. In 2021, 46 equine deaths were reported to the British Horse Society (BHS) with 118 injured and 130 human injuries using the app Horse I.

Join us if you share our aim of protecting and improving our Rights of Way network. [www.kirklees.bridlewaysgroup.co.uk](http://www.kirklees.bridlewaysgroup.co.uk)



Volunteers from Kirklees Bridleways group clearing the drains on Meltham Cop



# CHAIRS' REPORTS 2021-2022

## **Welcome and Annual Report**

### ***Town Mayor, Cllr Roberta Bampton***

My year as Town Mayor seems to have passed by very fast. It has been far from a normal year with Covid still impacting on our activities, however, we have continued to run our council meetings either in person or by Zoom. As restrictions eased, I was able to attend several events in our community. We have also made progress on some of the issues identified in the Ask Meltham project.

**Anti-Speeding** - In support of our anti-speeding campaign, we have purchased two movable Speed Indicator Devices, (SIDS), which will be positioned on various roads around the town.

**Greener Meltham** - Plastic free Initiative. We are aiming for Meltham to be classified as a Plastic Free Community by substantially reducing our use of single use plastic. The Town Council approved a resolution for this back in March 2020 and we hope to further progress this in 2022.

We plan to have a good display of hanging baskets in the town this summer, having received permission from Kirklees to use additional lamp-posts to hang our baskets from.

For the full report please go to <https://melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk/about/publications-and-reports/>

## **Annual Report of the Planning Environment and General Purposes Committee**

### ***Chair: Cllr Paul White***

This has continued to be a challenging year in strange times for all of us with many struggling with anxiety and of course dealing with the impact of the pandemic. As I mentioned in my last report the Town Council had moved to remote working, but I'm pleased to report that we returned to actual meetings this year providing a voice for residents who may be concerned about development proposals adversely affecting their lives. We have continued to vociferously object to all planning applications where it is clear there is over development in the township.

There continues to be a high number of individual planning applications from residents seeking to improve and extend their existing homes. Fortunately, many of these applications have been well presented and applicants have gone beyond, often to improve the look of their homes.

### **Housing sites**

As I mentioned in last year's report the planning applications for new housing sites in parts of Meltham like Mill Moor Road and Helme Lane have now stopped. We had no planning applications for new housing sites this year. Building work does continue on a number of existing sites, which is causing much concern in terms of Meltham's over development. However, Kirklees Local Plan (which controls where, and if, new houses can be built) has no further fields/sites allocated for development. This means that there will be no new sites allocated for housing until the Plan is reviewed next time in the early 2030s. At that time the process will start all over again, and it is then that we need to be vigilant in our defence of our green spaces. For the full report please go to <https://melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk/about/publications-and-reports/>

## **Annual Report of the Properties, Administration and Finance Committee**

### ***Chair: Cllr D Haigh***

The Town Council authorised a formal precept demand to Kirklees Council for £144,158.44 for 2022/23 this means the average property in the Township will pay an extra £2.00 per year. 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.

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 which includes allotments, litter picking and environmental improvements, children's play areas, park facilities and maintenance, playing fields and gardens, public toilets, and sports facilities. At the February meeting we also agreed to plant a native species tree in the park with a plaque to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in addition to a planned June party in the park. We also agreed to continue with a yearly £5000.00 grant to the Carlile Institute to allow the library provision there to continue. Also further decisions were made about the funding for refurbishing the Robert Ashton Memorial Park. In addition to Kirklees monies the Town Council pledged £100,000 for capital expenditure, met from the Councils general fund, viring unspent other monies and allocated park improvement funds.

Finally at the March meeting it was agreed to fund Meltham Memories from capital grant monies to purchase market stalls for future community and local food and craft markets in the township, and the Clerk was also authorised to provide up to £50 of one-off funding grants to village organisations, who provide a written quotation to fund printing or other items such as bunting for Jubilee events.

For the full report please go to <https://melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk/about/publications-and-reports/>



## Friend to Friend

The Friend to Friend Charity was set up in 1996 and continues to work actively to reduce loneliness and improve the quality of life of older people in the semi-rural areas of South Kirklees including Meltham. We provide a range of activities to stimulate body and mind which give opportunities for companionship and fun. We can arrange transport to most groups. All our groups are organised by our volunteers with help from freelance experts who lead some of our activities.

The Meltham Meal takes place on the first Friday of every month in the Methodist Church Hall. Our volunteers serve up a 2-course cooked meal followed by entertainment. This may be a speaker, a slide show, a singer, or a visit from the Community Choir.

The Tai Chi group meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month in the Methodist Church Hall, Meltham for an hour-long session of gentle exercise led by a professional. The Men's group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at the Meltham Sports and Community Centre. Members come from all the area served by Friend to Friend. They enjoy a light lunch followed by chat and pub games.



During the Covid lockdowns we stayed connected with members by phone. Not surprisingly there was lots of reminiscing because we all had so much time to think. Now we have resumed our sessions, hopefully on a permanent basis. We have fantastic volunteers who generously give their time to ensure that every session is an enjoyable experience.

If anyone is interested in joining as a member or a volunteer, contact Pat Craven on **01484 364560**.

## Helping the Environment

Meltham Town Council fully supports green initiatives in the Township, including cutting down on plastics and promoting the use of public transport. In comparison to some other rural areas, the Township is well served with public transport links which can help facilitate journeys without the use of cars to many adjoining areas and link to railways and coaches for more distant excursions although there are no direct links to Marsden.

First Bus is the operator of the Broadlands to Huddersfield service which still has reasonable opportunities for early morning or late night journeys to link with the Railway Station and express coaches. The service operates all days of the week.



Around the Meltham Township we have the 933 Monday –Saturday circular services operated by South Pennine, which connects the bus station and Morrisons to Broadlands, Calm Lands and Meltham Mills followed on with Slaithwaite road and the estates around Moor View and Golcar Brow finishing with the Matthew Lane area estates Upper Mill Moor and Wessenden Head road. The company also operate a Holmfirth –Halifax via Meltham service on Saturday and a few and also Marsden to Meltham (Morrisons) and return trips.



Stotts coaches operate daily Monday to Saturday services from Meltham to Holmfirth and Slaithwaite (335). Meltham Morrison's to Honley Brockholes and Thurstonland calling at Honley Railway station (911). In addition they provided a service to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary via Helme Linthwaite and Milnsbridge (388) and school day services linking to Colne Valley High School.



Honley Railway station has a service to Penistone, Barnsley and Sheffield with a number of other stations on the line such as Denby Dale, and a quick service into Huddersfield itself.

With post covid expenditure issues we need to make sure we use public transport whenever possible. It is a green solution to environmental pollution from cars and if we do not use the services they will be at risk and we may lose some for ever.  
Councillor David Haigh J.P.

# Litter and our Meltham Litter Heroes

Litter reduction is a top priority for your Town Council. When Kirklees Council cut the level of street cleaning in Meltham we set up our 'Grot Spot' service where residents and Councillors can report an area in need of a tidy up and (if it's suitable) our contractor will clean it up.

We often get requests for more bins - but responsibility for bins and emptying them lies with Kirklees Council (not the Town Council). We have recently applied to Kirklees for more bins and would be interested in receiving your suggestions for where these additional bins might go (bearing in mind they can only go on existing waste collection routes). Please let the Clerk know [townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk)

But litter is a huge problem and one we can't fix on our own. Which is why we also wanted to say a big thank you to the wonderful residents who volunteer to pick up litter around Meltham. Alain Merle is one of our litter heroes who regularly picks up litter around his home. He can't go past a piece of litter without stopping and picking it up. His selection of rubbish grabbers is impressive but he reckons the one from the Pound Shop is the best. All you need is one of these and a plastic bag. Oh and Love Clean Streets is useful he says. It's an app which reports automatically to your local council.



Alain litter picking around Deer Hill Court.

## Meltham Wildlife Rescue

Former Town Mayor, Cllr Roberta Bampton, visited Meltham Wildlife Rescue to present them with £202 raised from the Charity Raffle held at the Civic Dinner, and was shown round the facilities by Kathy Heaney who runs the centre. Cllr Bampton said 'I was very impressed by the dedication and care shown by Kathy, Nigel and the volunteers to all the birds and animals in their care'.

Cllr Roberta Bampton & Kathy Heaney



## Small fund to help local groups with Jubilee Year Costs

The Town Council has established a fund for the Jubilee year to help local groups meet the costs of printing leaflets, bunting and similar items during these Jubilee year celebrations. Claims shouldn't exceed £50.00 in total and need to be supported by a formal quotation documenting the costs. The fund is limited and will be administered on a first come basis. Applications can be emailed to the Clerk - [townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk).

## A Floral Town Centre

At last, the Town Council has received permission from Kirklees Council to put up hanging baskets on lamp posts throughout the town centre. We're also stepping in to replace those hanging baskets previously provided by Kirklees Council in the town. The Town Council has continued to plant out the concrete planters in the Town with spring bulbs and bedding plants and thanks Morrisons for their donation of plants again this year.

### WILD FLOWERS AND SPRING BULBS

The Town Council recently agreed to pay for an area of land off Slaithwaite Road to be planted out with wildflowers and bulbs. The wildflowers will be planted this summer and the bulbs in the autumn. The proposals are for mixed narcissus and crocus to be planted along with mixed wildflower plugs including yellow rattle.



# Pride of Meltham

## award winners recognised at Civic Reception and outgoing Mayor raises over £400 for charity



In late April the outgoing mayor held her Civic Reception which was attended by the Kirklees Mayor, Cllr Nigel Patrick, other civic dignitaries from across the region and representatives of local community groups from Meltham, Wilshaw and Helme. Also, at the event (which was held in Meltham Golf Club) were the winners of the Pride of Meltham Awards recognising people in the local community for their outstanding achievements in all walks of life. A wooden shield depicting Meltham's Coat of Arms was presented by the Council to the recipients of the award.

Former Town Mayor Cllr Bampton said:

*'There are a lot of great people in Meltham, Wilshaw and Helme who either give their time and energy to the community and worthwhile causes or endeavour to be the best at their chosen area of expertise. This award, albeit a small gesture, goes some way to acknowledging how proud our community is of them.'*

A charity raffle at the event raised £404.00 to be split between the Town Mayor's charities: Parkinson's UK and Meltham Wildlife Rescue. Former Town Mayor Cllr Bampton continued:

*'I would like to thank Bewley's, The Cooperative, The Flower Box, Hair Gem Hairdressers, Heavenly Essence Beauty Salon, Meltham Barbers, Morrisons, The Pink Elephant and the Three Fiends Brewery for their generous provision of prizes.'*



Cllr Nigel Patrick, Syed Hussain & Taiba Hussain



Cllr Nigel Patrick, John Mitchell



Peter Murgatroyd & Cllr Nigel Patrick



Cllr Nigel Patrick & Pam Murgatroyd



Cllr Nigel Patrick & Pat Redfearn



Shirley Haigh, Debbie Still,  
Cllr Nigel Patrick & Caroline Linsell

## Take a Seat

The Town Council has recently provided a significant contribution towards a new bench in the Town Centre to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Meltham and Meltham Mills Band, with the band contributing the rest. Additionally the Town Council has provided funding for the provision of benches at Wilshaw Village Hall.



**24-26 June** Yorkshire Motorsport Festival

The North's Most Spectacular Motorsport Event: a celebration of motorsport, vehicle displays, all sorts of food stalls, live music & shows, a major trade presence & loads of family fun <https://www.ymsf.net/> Email: [info@ymsf.net](mailto:info@ymsf.net)

**Saturday 2 July** Meltham Memories: Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, Carlile St Car Park: 10.00-10.00pm  
Meltham Market, Meltham Bus Turning Circle, Parkin Lane HD9 4BJ

**Wednesday 6- Saturday 9 July** - Holmfirth Art Week: The Fringe  
Meltham Art @The Crossroads Centre & Carlile Institute, Huddersfield Road HD9 4AG.  
Wed 2.00 - 8.00pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat 12.00 - 8.00pm  
Fourth Fiend Taphouse, 2 Station St, HD9 5NN. Wed 4.00 - 10.00pm, Thur 4.00 - 11.00pm  
Fri & Sat 12.00 - 11.00pm, Sun 12.00 - 9pm.

**Saturday 27 August** Picnic in the Park, Robert Ashton Memorial Park, 11.00 - 4.00pm. Come and join us and bring your picnic. We are planning all kinds of activities for children and there will be pop-up refreshments. Further information will be available on Meltham Town Council website.

**Carlile Institute, Huddersfield Road, HD9 4AG**

**Heritage Open Day** will take place on Sunday 11 September, 11.00 – 4.00pm (part of the national Heritage Open days 9-18 Sept). Exhibitions from David Brown Tractors and the Brook Family. Meltham in Focus booklets will be on display.

**Comedy Nights:** Thurs 29 September, 27 October & 24 November 2022. Check out social media for further information nearer the time.

**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.

**Wilshaw Village Hall:** Alliance Dance (Mon & Thurs early eve, Sat am); Upholstery (Tuesday); Yoga (Thurs am), Salsa Classes (Thurs eve).

What's On  
in Meltham  
June – Oct 2022