

Meltham Mercury

Meltham Town Council's Newsletter - Autumn/Winter 2022

The Council offices are temporarily closed.

Please email the Clerk:

townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk



/AroundMeltham



YOUR Members of Council

TOWN MAYOR
Cllr Richard Noon
07706 678730
clrnoon@outlook.com

DEPUTY MAYOR
Cllr Spencer King
01484 349606
07941 403538

Cllr Roberta Bampton
07877 059975
r.bampton@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr Kate Buchanan
07780 548689
katebuchanan57@gmail.com

Cllr David Haigh
dhaigh191@gmail.com

Cllr Ann Jurczynsyn
07779936026
clr.ann@icloud.com

Cllr Brian Keighley
01484 854577
07938858057
brkeighley@gmail.com

Cllr Sonia King
soniagking@outlook.com

Cllr Terry Lyons
07514 355799
07514 300991

Cllr Alistair Storey
07753 102312
alistair.storey1@btinternet.com

Cllr Paul White
01484 308995
p.g.white@ntlworld.com

Cllr Jean Wrathall
01484 319686
jean.wrathall@virginmedia.com

The Clerk to the Council is Michelle Chard.

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

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN/WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of our newsletter; we hope to provide you with an update on some of the key activities that your Town Council is working on; this is a busy edition.

The Town Council is continuing to meet regularly to discuss matters which are of importance to us all. This edition brings updates relating to Meltham and Meltham Mills Band, the Jubilee and subsequent death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Report from the Town Mayor - Cllr Richard Noon

I am already halfway through the Civic year and the role of Town Mayor is one which is a huge personal privilege for me. I have tried to be visible, wearing the chains of office where possible and appropriate. This has led to many conversations on the streets and at events about the role of the Town Mayor and the Town Council more widely.

This year, we held the Civic Parade and Service on Saturday 3 September, this was an attempt to encourage a wider attendance and awareness of the Town Council and its role within our community. I have always tried to promote Meltham and ensure that we can have pride in our community, the Civic Parade is one such event where this is an opportunity to raise our profile.

The Civic Service is a celebration of our community and all who participate within it. I used our Pride of Meltham Award scheme to celebrate those in our community who are part of it. The event

was well attended and I want to thank all those who contributed to its success including Jenny Allgood from Friend to Friend who spoke eloquently.

The last few months have been busier than the average Town Mayoral year, with HM The Queen's Jubilee, her subsequent death and State Funeral all presenting a wide range of events and planning to ensure we marked her passing in a respectful and fitting manner. How our community responded is reflected on page 3 of this edition of Meltham Mercury.

My priorities for our Town Council for my remaining months as Town Mayor remain to make progress with matters relating to the upgrades of play equipment within Robert Ashton Memorial Park. These are of utmost importance to the Town Council and we will continue to prioritise any conversations about this important work.

The Platinum Jubilee Weekend was a busy time for the Town Mayor

On the Friday of the Platinum Jubilee bank holiday weekend, the Town Mayor was delighted to be invited by local charity Friend to Friend to an indoor Jubilee Street Party in the Methodist Church Hall in Meltham. The Town Mayor and his Consort, his 10 year-old son, Oliver enjoyed a 2-course meal served up by volunteers.

Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Noon said

“I was so pleased to attend this Jubilee event and celebrate the work that Friend to Friend do, reducing loneliness and improving the quality of life of older people in the semi-rural areas of South Kirklees including Meltham. It was particularly nice to be able to meet some of the amazing volunteers who organise the groups and activities for Friend to Friend”.



Town Mayor and consort Oliver with Rachel Chadwick at the Friend to Friend Jubilee Street party



Town Mayor at Greenacres Care Home - the crown and the pillow it is sat on were designed for the silver Jubilee!

In the afternoon it was onto Greenacres Care Home in Meltham where residents were holding a Jubilee Garden Party. During the party, a special replica of the Queen's Imperial State Crown also made an appearance. The crown was made back in 1977 by the mother of a local resident, to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee and rediscovered to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

The Town Mayor chatted to residents, enjoyed the entertainment and drew the raffle tickets. Commenting on the party; Richard added “It was an absolute pleasure to see the work that the staff do at Greenacres to make their residents' time a positive one. Myself and Cllr Jean Wrathall had a great time, the communal gardens look great too”

Town Mayor hosted a tree planting ceremony in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park as a tribute to the Queen's seven decades of service. The ceremony was part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, which invited people from across the United Kingdom to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee”, marking 70 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign, as well as her headship of the Commonwealth.

The Town Mayor was ably assisted in planting this special tree by Denny Ingham (age 11), Florence Nunn (age 2), Albert Nunn (age 10 months), Charlie McLean (age 11) and his son, Oliver Noon (aged 10). Each of the participants received an uncirculated 50p coin, which marks the Queen's 70 years of service. Denny is in fact the great grandson of a former Mayor of Meltham, Denis Ingham who planted the Oak tree at the park in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

To accompany the tree a commemorative plaque was also unveiled. The plaque was created by the Royal British Legion and was handmade by Armed Forces veterans.



Town Mayor planting jubilee tree helped by Denny, Florence, Albert, Charlie and Oliver



The Town Mayor, Councillor Richard Noon said “this tree planted to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee will be a reminder of this special day for many years to come”.

The Town Mayor concluded the ceremony by paying tribute to all those individuals and community groups in Meltham and beyond who had made the Platinum jubilee weekend something to remember and by sending best wishes to her Majesty on behalf of the Town Council and the residents of Meltham, Wilshaw and Helme.

Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th, followed by the period of mourning and events linked to it, offered a moment to reflect on her service to us all. There is protocol that exists to support the funeral and mourning arrangements across the country, however there was very little information as to how we respond at a local level, until it was shared later on by Kirklees Council.

Upon hearing that HM Queen was unwell, I contacted our vicar, Rev John Dracup and we began to share our respective organisations' pre-planning and protocols. The announcement of her death came later that day and we began to put into action our response. That evening, Meltham and Meltham Mills Band performed the National Anthem outside the newly installed bench in the centre of Meltham.

The following morning, we laid flowers at St Bartholomew's Church where our Band again performed the National Anthem, we opened the books of condolence and visited the care homes within the Township to drop off loose leaves of the book for residents in those homes to sign. A schedule of services were brought together and St Bartholomew's Church became the 'civic church'.

For the State Funeral; local event production company, Swooshed, installed a large screen within St Bartholomew's Church and Meltham Town Council funded tea, coffee and cakes from local firms to allow residents to watch the funeral alongside others. Throughout the funeral, around 100 people joined to watch the ceremony.



Meltham Proclamation from left to right Deputy Town Mayor, Reverend Dracup, Deputy Lieutenant, Town Mayor – Photo attributable Sarah Howlett

The Town Mayor and Clr Paul White attended the reading of the Proclamation at Huddersfield Town Hall, before heading back to Meltham where the Proclamation was read once more. It felt appropriate to continue the tradition of reading the Proclamation and we were joined by His Honour Roger Thomas KC,DL, representing the King and introducing the reasoning behind the Proclamation and his role to those in attendance.

A further church service was held on Saturday 17 September, which was attended by community organisations including children from 5th Holme Valley Scout Group and again by John Hammond-Booth, DL. Various readings were given including from the Town Mayor.

A special note of thanks must be shared for our various community leaders who worked tirelessly to deliver a fitting series of events and services; most notably our Vicar, Rev John Dracup who I was continuously in touch with throughout the period.

Over 70s Christmas Gift:

Monday 5 December 10.00 - 2.00pm
at Meltham Church Hall, Greens End Road

If you're 70 yrs or over, come and collect your small Christmas gift on Monday 5th December in the Church Hall. Enjoy a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate and a mince pie in our pop-up Christmas café provided by local business Bewley's and meet some of your Town Councillors.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas can be an expensive time for any family and a lonely time for many elderly people living alone and this year, with the increase in energy charges, things will be more expensive than ever for everyone.

A limited number of people will be invited to a 2 course Christmas Dinner in the Meltham Parish Church Hall on Christmas Day for a donation of £5 per head with children under 10 eating free. Numbers are limited due to facilities and space available.

If you, or anyone you know, will be struggling financially to heat your/their home or have a Christmas Dinner, please contact me asap:

Pam Murgatroyd - 07761 393502 - pammurg.mgt@gmail.com

Picnic in the Park

We held our second Picnic in the Park over the warm and sunny August Bank Holiday weekend, which was well supported with local traders and stallholders.

An excellent musical performance was provided by The Mustard County band who played a selection of music on the bandstand

The event included a wide range of stalls, craft activities, Dixons ice-cream, Bewley's coffee and 3 Fiends Horse Box bar.

The Valley Bowmen of Huddersfield held a popular archery taster session for all ages and the David Brown tractor club arrived in spectacular fashion



with a range of tractors made by the David Brown factory in Meltham.

There was also representation from several local community groups including Walkers are Welcome, Meltham Library volunteers, Meltham Scouts and Crossroads.

Our thanks to volunteers from the Friends of RAMP and Councillors for their work to make the day go smoothly. Special thanks to Bewley's for their pop-up coffee shop. All proceeds from the sale of Bewley's refreshments were given back to the Friends of RAMP for improvements to the park. We are now planning to make this an annual event.



New bench installed at Robert Ashton Park

Over the summer, the Council installed a new bench in the Robert Ashton Memorial Park. The bench is designed to be wheelchair accessible at one end allowing everyone to join in with a winter picnic. The new bench is located on the edge of the car park providing easy access for wheelchair users.



Smaller Grants awarded

£500 was set aside from the grants pot this year for mini grant awards for Jubilee related materials and the Council contributed £700 towards the new benches at Wilshaw Village Hall. Additionally the Council gave a grant of nearly £1K to the Friends of Robert Ashton Memorial Park towards the costs of the picnic in the park event in August and also made a grant of £300 to support the Carols in the Park event and recently a grant to Meltham Community group to support the provision of a Christmas lunch this year.

Town council funds three skateboard sessions

Meltham town Council was pleased to fund 3 free skateboard sessions over the summer at Meltham Recreation skate park. Hosted by Skate It Yourself it was a great success and very popular. Expert guidance and tuition was offered to everyone who turned up to improve their skateboarding skills.



More Grot Spots dealt with by your Town Council



Before clearing



After clearing

When services from Kirklees council were reduced some years ago Meltham Town Council stepped in. Where it's safe and appropriate our contractor will step in to clear litter, cut back overhanging vegetation or clear weeds. Earlier this year the contractor cleared the steps at Mean Lane of rubbish and vegetation, cleared a track at Durker roads, and the photographs show the before and after shots of his efforts at Golcar Brow.

If you spot a grot spot report it to townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk or to one of the Councillors and we will see what we can do!

Meltham Litter Heroes - Free litter picking kits

The Town Council is keen to encourage residents to join Keep Britain Tidy's army of volunteers helping care for the environment on our doorstep. You can join the thousands of people who support the work of Keep Britain tidy by volunteering, whether it's joining their #Litterheroes campaign (a year round army of litter pickers) or something else – why not join them and make a difference.

See www.keepbritaintidy.org.get-involved for information on how to sign up.

At the event in the park in August, the Town Council (with the help of Meltham Walkers are Welcome) gave away free litter picking kits to people who wanted to help by picking up litter in their community. They contained - a litter picker, reusable gloves and a supply of black bags. Those taking a kit were also given advice produced by Keep Britain Tidy on clean up preparation and safety advice. Thank you to everyone who helps to keep Meltham a beautiful place to live and visit.

Benches and update on the improvements to Wilshaw Village Hall

New benches (which were part funded by a grant from the Town Council) have been installed at Wilshaw Village Hall. The new windows and doors are in place as well now and the village hall is looking good.



Mayor unveils new bench in the Town to commemorate the anniversary of Meltham & Meltham Mills Band

In August the Mayor was delighted to unveil a new wooden bench in the Town Centre celebrating the anniversary of the Band. Meltham & Meltham Mills Band is one of the oldest brass bands still in existence and once was the most famous band in the world. They are celebrating their 175th anniversary this year (albeit a year late due to covid).



The Mayor, Town Councillors, Members of the Meltham and Meltham Mills Band including young members - Jack and Luke Spittlehouse

Town Mayor Councillor Richard Noon said "The band have always been part of community life and they have fantastic support from local businesses and the people of Meltham. The Town Council were delighted to support the installation of the bench with a financial contribution. On behalf of the Town Council congratulations to the Band on reaching this amazing milestone."

It has been a very busy and exciting year for the band. In March they became the Yorkshire Area 2nd Section Champions, Meltham Junior Blast started up in January (a band for young beginners) and a new Community band began in May of this year.



Committee members decided a bench would be a fitting way to commemorate the band's big milestone and a great way to thank the village for all the support they have given over the years.

Tony Clarke (Chairman and a band member for 64 years!) said "I am absolutely delighted to see the bench finally get installed. It has taken over two years to get to this point, but the bench should serve the village for years to come."

Meltham and Meltham Mills Band also received a Community Fund grant totalling £7918.13 for their Brass Roots project. This will enable Meltham school children to receive free musical tuition and access to a musical instrument.

Shop Front Grant Scheme



Town Mayor, Richard Noon, Councillor Ann Jurczynszyn and owner Gemma Dorrington inspecting the new shop front of Gerry's coffee shop and cafe

We are delighted that Gerry's coffee shop and café was successful in applying for a shop front grant from Meltham Town Council towards improvements to the frontage on Huddersfield Road. Gerry's has been serving residents and visitors to Meltham for many years.

Richard Noon, Town Mayor said "We are delighted with the results – the new frontage looks very smart indeed. One of the priorities that residents identified in Ask Meltham was to improve the look of the Town centre and we feel this is another positive step forward"

Safe roads for all

Poster Competition

Meltham Town Council is inviting all primary school children (between the ages of 4 to 11yrs) in Meltham, Helme and Wilshaw to design an A4 poster to spread the message that our roads should be safe for all users - whether we walk, ride, drive or use public transport. The overall winning poster will be printed in the next edition of this newsletter.

Information

Design an A4 poster using the tag line Safe Roads For All using any materials (e.g. felt pen, pencil, crayon or paint). It needs to be eye-catching. There are two age groups: KS1 (5-7yr olds) and KS2 (7-11yr olds). Submit your posters to participating schools or send them to the Town Clerk, Meltham Town Council c/o Carlile Institute, Meltham HD9 4AE. Don't forget to write your name, age and contact details on the back so we can contact the winners. Unfortunately, we are unable to return the posters.

Deadline

Mon 28th November (for participating schools the deadline is Fri 25th November)
For further information please contact



townclerk@melthamtowncouncil.gov.uk or look under the Notices section of the website.

Cllr Richard Noon, Town Mayor said:

"Making roads safer must be a priority for us all no matter what your mode of travel. This competition provides children with the opportunity to spread the message that we all use roads and deserve to feel safe whether we are walking, riding, driving or travelling on public transport and we hope that the winning poster will help get the message out."

The Friends Of Meltham Library

In February 2007, Meltham Library moved from the Carlile Institute to the Town Hall building across the road, but in Summer 2014, when Kirklees reported the closure of several libraries in the borough, Meltham as a small village library, came under the threat of complete closure and as a result, the Friends of Meltham Library (FOML) was set up by volunteers from the community to fight for the future of a library in Meltham.

They won their fight and in March 2016, a party was held for the opening of Meltham Library in its shared space with the Post Office in the Carlile Institute. To reduce staffing costs, one Library employed Customer Service Officer (CSO) was supported by two volunteer members of the FOML, all fully trained by Kirklees Library Services.

Since then the group has grown and there are now 20 volunteers working alongside a CSO in Meltham Library on Mondays - 10am to 2pm, Tuesdays - 1pm to 5pm, Thursdays - 1.30 to 5.30pm, Fridays & Saturdays - 10am to 2pm, each covering a 2 hour shift. The library is still available for returning, renewing or taking out books whenever the Post Office is open as the Self Serve Machine is left switched on.

The FOML also includes the Knit & Natter Group, several Reading Groups, preschool Story-time and Summer Holiday events for children aged 3 to 11 years. This year these included a Reading and Crafts with a Local Author, Learning Crafts Session and Circus Skills, all held in the Carlile Institute. We also manned promotional stands at the Meltham Memories event in July and the Town



Council, Picnic in the Park in August. During Covid lockdowns, although the library was closed, services were still available online, but it is good to be back to normal and offering that personal touch. It is with grateful thanks to those volunteers, (the FOML), the Carlile Institute and Meltham Town Council that the library has remained in our town. Pay us a visit, it's free to browse or join the library at any age. For more information contact: Pam Murgatroyd on 07761 393502.

Christmas Church Services

27 November, Christmas Tree Service, 4.00pm,
Meltham Methodist Church

11th December All Age Nativity 10.30am,
Meltham Methodist Church

11th December, Carol service, at 6:00pm St Mary's Church, Wilshaw.

17th December, Christingle, at 4:00pm Christ Church, Helme.

18th December, Carol service, at 4:00pm St Bartholomew's Church

18th December, Carols by Candlelight, 6.00pm, Meltham Methodist Church

24th December, Crib service, at 4:00pm St James Church, Meltham Mills.

24th December, Midnight Communion, at 11:30 St Bartholomew's Church

25 December, Christmas Day

9:30am St James Church, Meltham Mills.

10:00am Christ Church, Helme.

10.00am Meltham Baptist Church (joined by Meltham Methodist Church)

11:15am St Mary's Church, Wilshaw.

Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 November

Christmas Tree Festival, Meltham Methodist Church, Mill Moor Road, HD9 5JU

Craft stall, Christmas goods, a chocolate tombola. Refreshments on Saturday 27 Nov 9.30am to 3.30 pm and Sunday afternoon

Saturday 3rd December, Christmas fair at the Church Hall, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Saturday 3rd December, 5pm, Christmas Lights Switch on. Market stalls, pork sandwiches, mulled wine etc. Some businesses will remain open, please support and shop locally.

4th December, Christmas fair, Carlile Institute, 12:00 - 4:00pm

4th December, 4.00pm Carols in the Park, Robert Ashton Memorial Park (off Huddersfield Rd/ Meltham Mills Rd)

5th December 10.00 - 2.00pm, Over 70's Christmas Gift at Meltham Church Hall, Greens End Road

Week commencing 5th December, Meltham Methodist Church is hosting 'A Christmas Journey,' organised by Meltham Churches Together, to which the local schools have all been invited.

10th December, Carols in the pub, at 7:30pm Waggon and Horses

11th Dec Xmas Concert - Meltham and Meltham Mills Band, St Bartholomew's Church at 2pm

25th December, Christmas Lunch, Meltham Parish Church Hall

What's On
in Meltham
Nov - Dec 2022