

Meldreth Local History Group

Email: info@meldrethhistory.org.uk

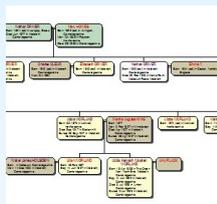
Website: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk

July 2015

Welcome ...

... to the latest issue of our newsletter which includes details of our projects and recent events.♦

Family History Message Board



We recently added a [Message Board](#) to our site, specifically for family history enquiries. If you are researching your Meldreth ancestors, we would encourage you to post a message, even if you have previously done so elsewhere on the site. This way, we will build up a community of people who are researching their Meldreth ancestors, making it easier for you to connect with those who may be researching the same family.



Simply visit the [Family History Message Board](#) and click "post a new message". You do not have to register with the site first, but it is easier if you do so. All comments posted to pages or to the message board will be moderated prior to publication.

We have also added some guidelines for family historians, which can be accessed from our home page or by clicking the icon on the left.♦

Events Report

Coffee Morning

We held another successful coffee morning on Monday 23rd March when Chris Duguid and Terry Dash talked about Meldreth Railway Station, its history and its characters. Over 50 people attended and there was plenty of audience participation. The stories and memories contributed on the day will be added to our website soon, where we already have over [20 pages](#) on the railway, station and goods yard.

National Mills Weekend

Approximately 150 people visited [Topcliffe Mill](#) when it was open to visitors on 9th & 10th May, as part of National Mills Weekend. The weekend was very successful and all proceeds have been donated to the History Group.

AGM

Our 8th AGM was held in May. The existing committee was re-elected for another year - see details on page 3 of this newsletter. Copies of the minutes, Chairman's report and Treasurer's report are available upon request.

Future Events

We are planning to hold two events in the autumn: another coffee morning and a get together for those interested in the history of Meldreth Football Club (see next page).

We will also be supporting a new play, "For Conscience Sake", which explores the choices faced by conscientious objectors in World War One against the backdrop of growing militarisation today. The play will be performed by the Plain Quakers theatre group in the All Saints Community Hall in Melbourn on Friday 25th September. Proceeds from the play will be split between [Cecily's Fund](#) and the History Group. Tickets cost £10. For further information, please [email Ann Barnes](#) or telephone her on (01763) 261073.♦



MLHG Projects

As reported in our March newsletter, we are focussing on a number of projects this year. More information on some of these is given below.

[Meldreth Football Club](#)

This project is being led by Chris Duguid who is researching the history of Meldreth Football Club. Group members have already made considerable progress and have unearthed photographs, trophies and newspaper reports on the history of the Club. [Two pages](#) have already been added to the website, with more to follow.

If you have any documents, photographs or memories of the Club, please telephone Chris on 07946 484389 or email info@meldrethhistory.org.uk.

[Law and Order](#)

John Crawforth is leading this project which is looking at crimes involving Meldreth people and the development of the justice system. Some fascinating material has already been uncovered and [several pages](#) have been added to our website. If you have any relevant information, please contact John on (01763) 262848 or email info@meldrethhistory.org.uk.

[Holy Trinity Churchyard](#)

A project based on the memorial inscriptions in the churchyard at Holy Trinity Church has just been completed and a [page on the memorial inscriptions](#) has been added to our website. The project was an attempt to bring together the memorial inscriptions recorded by members of the WI in 1981 with photographs of the gravestones plus burial and other records. The webpage includes two plans of the churchyard - hovering over the graves with your mouse will produce an image of the gravestone together with the names and burial dates of those buried there. A downloadable pdf gives further details, including the memorial inscription and notes or links to additional information.

Other Projects

Members are continuing to work on other topics, including [archaeology](#) (see next page), listed buildings, building materials, manorial history and a transcription of the earliest admissions register for Meldreth Primary School. If you would like to be involved in our activities, please [email us](#), telephone one of our committee members (contact details are on page 3 of this newsletter) or pop in to the Sheltered Housing Community Room one Monday morning between 9.30am and 11.30am. New members are always welcome and no experience is necessary.♦

[Meldreth History Website](#)

Our website now has over 540 pages on Meldreth, past and present. Over 45 pages have been added or amended since our last newsletter. New pages include:

- [Six pages](#) on our law and order topic
- [Two pages](#) on the history of Meldreth Football Club
- [A poem](#) about the destruction of Topcliffe Manor House
- A page on the [Pepper brothers](#) who died during the first world war
- The [second part](#) of Sarah Butler's memories of the village, which was written in 1975
- [Memorial Inscriptions](#) in Holy Trinity churchyard, Meldreth.♦

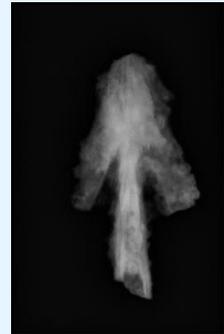
Test Pitting

We have recently been tying up some loose ends from our 2013 project: Understanding Our Past: Exploring the Hidden History of Meldreth. This was run with the aid of Heritage Lottery funding and was supervised by Dr Carenza Lewis and her team at Access Cambridge Archaeology.

We have now received the reports on the mirror back (TP7) and the arrowhead (TP29) from the conservationist. These have been uploaded to our [results page](#) and the information added to the pages for [Test Pit 7](#) and [Test Pit 29](#). The [final report](#) of the project, produced by Dr Lewis and her team, has now been uploaded to our website and is available on our [results page](#).

During our project, we participated in an evaluation of the HLF All Our Stories programme which was carried out by ICF GHK, an external consultancy. We have now received copies of the overall valuation and a case studies report. Not only does our project feature favourably in the [full case studies report](#) (pages 120-121) but it is also mentioned in the [evaluation](#), where our exhibition was singled out following Carenza

Lewis's comment that the event conveyed "in a way that I think better than any other exhibition of finds that I've seen from test pitting, what test pitting is all about and how it works." The full reports can be viewed by clicking on the hyperlinks above.



X-ray image of the arrowhead, showing the squared barbs. It had been wrapped in leather.

2014 Test Pitting

In 2014, an additional four pits were dug in the village. The finds are yet to be analysed, but a brief summary of archaeology in the village in 2014 - including details of the discovery of an extensive Roman settlement - can be seen on our [2014 overview page](#).

2015: Do you know someone who would like to have a test pit on their land?



If you or someone you know lives in Meldreth and would be interested in digging a test pit, then please get in touch with us. We will provide all equipment and documentation free of charge and will also be on hand to offer advice or help with finding volunteers to dig the pit if required. Please [email](#) us or telephone Kathryn Betts on (01763) 268428 for further details.



The mirror back after it had been cleaned and repaired

Archaeology Training Day

Please see the following page for details of a training day on the Archaeology of Airfields and Building Recording Techniques being held at the Imperial War Museum Duxford on Sunday 26th July.♦

This newsletter is sent to over 250 people worldwide. Please remember to notify us of any change in your email address.

The Group continues to meet on most Monday mornings from 9.30 to 11.30am in the Sheltered Housing Community Room in Elin Way, Meldreth. New members are always welcome. If you're interested, please [email us](#) or telephone one of the Committee Members listed on the right to find out how you can help. Thank you.♦

MLHG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Joan Gane (01763) 260129
Treasurer	Bruce Huett (01763) 232855
Secretary	Kathryn Betts (01763) 268428
Membership Secretary	Joan Gane (01763) 260129
Publicity Officer	Terry Dash (01763) 260823
Minutes Secretary	Ann Rogers
Other Committee Members	Tim Gane
	Christine Duguid
	John Crawforth

Mike Petty's Internet Archive

Mike Petty is a well-known local historian. He has been researching Cambridgeshire's history for the last 50 years, helped to set up the Cambridgeshire Collection, writes a local history column in the Cambridge News and has helped thousands of people research all aspects of life in Cambridge, Cambridgeshire and the Fens.

Recently, Mike very generously made many of his articles and information available to all on the [internet archive](#). The various writings can be read, searched and downloaded if you wish. Of particular interest is "[Looking Back](#)", a digital scrapbook of stories dating from 1897 to 1989. It runs to some 4,000 pages and includes over 80 Meldreth-related items from Mike's "Looking Back" column.

For more information on Mike and his work, see his [website](#).♦

Archaeology Training Day

Details of a training day at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford are shown below. If you are interested in attending this training day, please telephone 07856 267936 or email martin@8theast.org. Information on other Eighth in the East events is available at www.8theast.org.

Archaeology Training Day

The Archaeology of Airfields and Building Recording Techniques

Imperial War Museum, Duxford

- Have you always had an interest in archaeology?
- Do you live close to a **World War 2 Airfield**?
- Want to learn **new skills** and help **record and preserve** your local airfield?

We want to hear from you!

On **Sunday 26th July 2015** we will be running a day-long course providing an introduction to recording your local airfield.

This course will be held at the **Imperial War Museum, Duxford**
from **11am until around 3pm.**

No previous experience necessary.

The training day is free for "Council for British Archaeology East" (CBA East) members and "Cambridgeshire Jigsaw affiliated group members". If you are not already a member of the CBA EAST or Jigsaw you can join CBA East on the day for just £5. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. To book please email martin@8theast.org or ring 07856 267936. Further details will be provided upon booking.

To find out more about future and past events take a look at: www.8theast.org

