

Meldreth Local History Group

Email: info@meldrethhistory.org.uk

Website: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk

September 2017

Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter with news of what's been happening, what's coming up next and recent additions to our website.

Recent Events

Topcliffe Mill Open Weekend

As part of National Mills Weekend, [Topcliffe Mill](#), Meldreth opened to the public on the afternoons of Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th May. Along with the chance to view the fascinating building and mill machinery there was an informative exhibition and special activities for 'young millers'. A total of 101 adults and 24 children attended over the course of the weekend and special thanks are due to Kathryn and Ralph Betts for their willingness – yet again - to open the mill and all their hard work in making this such a successful event.

The *Royston Crow* published details beforehand and an article afterwards. Also, Keturah Sesstein, a senior reporter from That's Cambridge TV who had recently moved to live in Meldreth, visited on the Sunday. She filmed what was happening and carried out a number of interviews. You can view her video report here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX20gsFHONs>.

Meldreth Local History Group 10th Anniversary

On Friday 7th July the Group celebrated the achievements of its first ten years with an open evening in the Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way. Over a glass of wine and light refreshments, visitors were able to view a year-by-year exhibition of the main work done since the Group came together in 2007. A summary of our these events and achievements is now available on our website: http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk/page/meldreth_local_history_group-2. We look forward to building on this and to an equally successful next ten years – and beyond!♦

What's Coming Up Next?

Coffee Morning

Monday 9th October - 10.00am-noon

Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, Meldreth

The topic for our forthcoming coffee morning is '**Crime and Disorder in Nineteenth Century Meldreth**'. Capital punishment, transportation and prison with hard labour - just a few of the sentences handed down to Meldreth people in the nineteenth century. What kinds of crime had they committed? How were these punishments carried out? And what glimpses do we get into the lives of some of those who lived in our village at the time? John Crawforth, formerly Chief Probation Officer for Lancashire and Greater Manchester and member of the Sentencing Council, has been researching this topic for Meldreth Local History Group and will talk about some of the cases he has uncovered.

Archaeology

As part of our research into Meldreth's [manorial history](#), the Group recently organised another geophysical survey in the village. As a result, we are planning to do some more archaeological work next year. Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in helping or look out for details in a future newsletter.♦

Website Update

There are now 593 published pages on our website, with a further 11 in draft form, covering a wide variety of topics about Meldreth, past and present. Work continues on a variety of fronts. The [Meldreth Football Club](#) project has resulted in a number of further pages being added, most recently on the Club's fortunes in the 1960s. Anyone who has any further information about the Club would be very welcome to [get in touch](#) with us. The pavilion on the recreation ground has recently been renovated to incorporate separate changing rooms for the football clubs and was used recently at the open day for the refurbished tennis courts.

The [Law and Order project](#) now has 29 pages illustrating a range of cases involving Meldreth people as well as how the courts and police were organised in previous times and what the various punishments actually involved – very different from what would happen today!

Work on the [manorial history](#) of the village has resulted in two pages being added recently on Flambards Manor. A page incorporating a timeline of the manor will be published soon. Work has also continued on transcribing documents, including manorial documents and old Parish Council minutes. We have also been given access to Women's Institute scrapbooks dating from 1939 which are providing a useful source of information about the village. An [image gallery of the 1977 scrapbook](#) has recently been added to the site, with more to come.

The Group is always keen to hear from anyone who would like to add something to one of the existing website pages – or why not create one of your own? [Instructions](#) are included on the site.♦

Follow us on Facebook!



Please don't forget that you can now find us on [Facebook](#). The Facebook page has been set up to complement our [website](#) and our [CCAN site](#).♦

Group Merchandise

We have a variety of merchandise available and sales help us to raise much-needed funds to support our work. You can see a selection [online](#), at any of the Group's events or by contacting Joan or Tim Gane on (01763) 260129. Our notelets – perfect for keeping in touch with friends and family - sell for £4 per pack, have 2 each of 4 designs and are blank inside. Limited stocks of Christmas cards are available, too; priced at just £2 per pack of 8 cards, with individual cards at 30 pence each. View the [advertisement on our website](#) to see the available designs. All proceeds from the sale of the Group's merchandise go to supporting our work – we're run entirely by volunteers.♦

Interested in Joining Us?

We welcome offers of help from anyone interested in local history. There is always plenty to be done and no previous experience is necessary, nor do you need to live in the village. N.B. the Group now meets twice per month only on the first and third Mondays from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Sheltered Housing Community Room on Elin Way, Meldreth. New members are always warmly invited to join us. If you can't come to our meetings but would like to be involved we would be equally pleased to hear from you. Just [email the Group](#) or telephone one of the Committee members listed below.♦

MLHG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman and Membership Secretary	Joan Gane (01763) 260129	Webmaster	Kathryn Betts (01763) 268428
Secretary	Gloria Willers	Other Committee Members	Tim Gane
Treasurer	Bruce Huett (01763) 232855		Ann Rogers
Publicity Officer	John Crawforth (01763) 262848		Linda Clarke