

Meldreth Local History Group

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Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter which includes news of what's been happening, our next event and recent additions to our website.

Recent Events and Developments

At the Group's last coffee morning in March 2018, a short AGM was followed by a presentation, including a number of film clips, about the River Mel. After the presentation, members of the audience shared memories of the river and the part it had played in their lives. These memories were used to prompt further sequences which have been added to the film. On Wednesday 10th October 'Project Waterlight', as it is now known, will launch its new website from 11.00am to 2.00pm at The Hub, Melbourn. All are welcome. The film is due for completion by summer 2019. Coming soon to our website: a series of pages on the River Mel covering the unique aspects of chalk streams and the importance of the river to the local community over time, right up to the present day.

In April, Joan Gane (pictured centre) and Kathryn Betts (right), on behalf of the Group, presented a coloured and framed version of the 1910 [Land Values Duties](#) map to Meldreth Primary School, together with a large, roll-up PVC version of the same map and of the [1820 Inclosure Map](#) for the children to use when carrying out local history projects. The Deputy Headteacher, Andrew Jones, received these enthusiastically and, in a piece in Meldreth Matters in June, expressed his gratitude to MLHG.

In May, Joan Gane and Bruce Huett took 27 members of Cambridge WI on a guided walk through Meldreth when, despite the rain (unlucky in such a hot, dry summer!), they enjoyed their insight into the life of the village.



The June issue of Britain's best-selling family history magazine 'Who Do You Think You Are?' carried a [full page feature](#) (left) on the work of Meldreth Local History Group which gave us very positive coverage, commenting on the 'rich website' as a 'living resource' which was expanding all the time, the 'lively message board for family historians' and a number of the sections members of the Group have worked on.

It is always interesting to learn more about local family names. Some of those we've researched recently have been Pepper, Casbon, O'Sullivan (an evacuee) and the Marvell family. In the case of the latter, when some American relatives visited in late July, they were able to visit Meldreth Court where the Marvell family lived in the seventeenth century.

Also in July we were delighted to meet Judy Musolino and her daughter, Christine, who were visiting from Rochester, New York. Judy's grandfather, Thomas Dash, was born in Meldreth in 1888, one of eleven children of Naomi and Charles Dash. The family lived in Kneesworth Road and Willow Way cottages. [Reuben Dash](#), one of Judy's great uncles, was killed in World War I. Thomas emigrated to the United States at a young age and his cousin, Jack East, followed him shortly after. Members of the group showed Judy and Christine the delights of Meldreth, with the customary photograph by the stocks followed by an enjoyable lunch at the British Queen. Judy promised to update her records of the Dash family and share them with our Group.

Over the summer, committee member Ann Rogers completed her transcription of the minutes of Meldreth Parish Council meetings from 1898 to 1932. This will be another useful resource for us, providing information on a wide range of issues affecting the village during that period. ♦

Our Next Event: Coffee Morning

'Meldreth: Then and Now'

Monday 15th October, 10.00am to midday

Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, Meldreth



'Meldreth: Then and Now' will feature a short slideshow of photographs which illustrate some of the changes that have taken place in the village. As ever, we will welcome recollections, comments and further information from members of the audience. Everyone is welcome and refreshments will be provided.♦

Website Update

We now have 605 pages on our website with a further 13 in draft. Amongst recent additions you will find an obituary for [Sandra Searles](#), written by her daughters, Kirsty, Heather and Lucy. Bruce Huett has investigated the 13 Ordnance Survey [Benchmarks of Meldreth](#), which were used to measure the height of the ground; two can be found at Holy Trinity Church. Another recent page chronicles the [war years](#) of Brian Pepper's father, Leslie, and gives an account of his service in the local Home Guard. Robert Skeen has researched some of the [Topcliffe Manor](#) Court Rolls and you can read about the brewing of [bread and ale](#) in 14th century Meldreth and the 'curious job of aletaster'. Work on the manorial court rolls will continue over the next few months.

If you have any items referring to Meldreth's history we are always willing to feature them on our website. Just contact us at info@meldrethhistory.org.uk. Or why not add your own page? [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

A range of merchandise is available and funds raised will go to supporting the continued work of the Group on behalf of the village. Our notelets - ideal for keeping in touch with friends and family - are available in packs of 5, each with a different view of Meldreth; they are priced at £3 for one pack and £5 for two. There is also a pack of four recent views of the village, priced at £4 for a pack of 8 cards (two of each design). We will not be selling Christmas cards this year but you can see the full range of other items [online](#).♦

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