

Meldreth Local History Group

Email: info@meldrethhistory.org.uk

Website: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk

April 2016

Welcome ...

... to the latest issue of our newsletter which includes news of our next events and the latest additions to our website.♦

Our Next Events:

9th AGM on Monday 9th May 10.00am - 12.00 noon

This will be held at the Sheltered Housing Community Room in Elin Way, Meldreth. Following the business part of the meeting, there will be an update on some of our current projects.

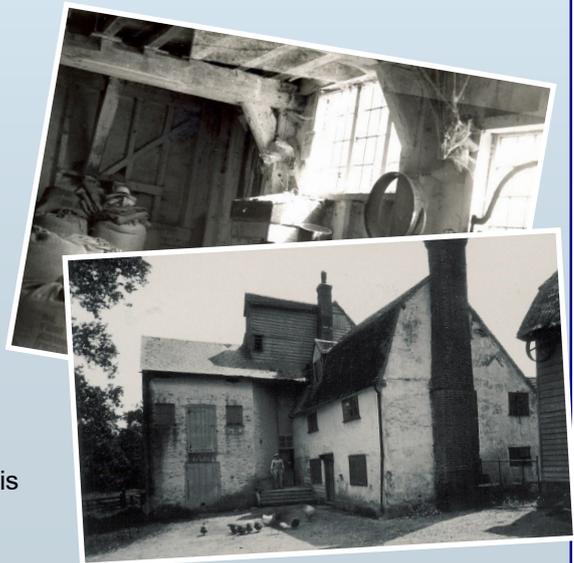
All are welcome and free refreshments will be served

Topcliffe Mill Open Days National Mills Weekend Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th May 2.00pm - 5.00pm

[Topcliffe Mill](#), a disused watermill in North End, Meldreth will once again be open to visitors as part of this national event. An admission charge of £3.50 per adult (accompanied children free) will be levied in order to raise funds for the History Group. No unaccompanied children will be admitted.

There has been a mill on or close to the site of the present mill for around a thousand years and although the mill wheel no longer exists, all of the machinery remains. There will be an exhibition on the history of the mill and manor on the ground floor.

Please come along, support the History Group and enjoy this wonderful building.♦



New Facebook Page

Meldreth Local History Group is now on [Facebook](#). The Facebook page has been set up to complement our [website](#) and our [CCAN site](#). If you are on Facebook, please like our page and share our posts. Every week we have a "Throwback Thursday" post, highlighting an aspect of the village's history and from time to time we will be highlighting village news and events.♦



David Piggott

David Piggott, Meldreth's Station Master, retired in December 2015.

Susan van de Ven, our County Councillor, put together a booklet to celebrate David's time at the station. The booklet includes photographs and contributions from a number of villagers. One of the funniest bits in the book is David's own account of a day at work in 2003, when the then train company was busy drawing up detailed plans for the apparently imminent waiting shelter for the Cambridge-bound platform... a shelter that we are still waiting for.

Some copies of the booklet are still available and a donation of £3 is requested, to cover print costs. To purchase a copy, please contact Susan van de Ven by emailing susanvandeven5@gmail.com or telephoning 07905 325574.♦



Don Chinery

Our congratulations go to former Flt. Sgt. Donald Robert Chinery, 61 Squadron (rear gunner, Lancaster QR-O PA 998) who was awarded the Légion d'Honneur (Chevalier) by Former Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire KCB DFC AFC ADC FRAeS RAF at Duxford on 16th March. Don flew a total of 52 missions as a rear gunner, including two on D-Day.

The award was made in front of a Lancaster bomber and was witnessed by Don's friends and family, including his daughter Pam and son-in-law Roger Winter.

The French government has been awarding the Légion d'Honneur to D-Day veterans from many different countries for several years, as a way of honouring and thanking those who fought and risked their lives to secure France's liberation during the Second World War. On average, just ten British nationals per year receive the Légion d'Honneur.

Don lived at 40 Whitecroft Road for many years before moving to Moorlands in Melbourn where he lives now. He worked at the Atlas Stone Company (now Marley Eternit) and was a founder member of [Meldreth Football Club](#).♦



Family History Message Board

Just a reminder that we have a [Message Board](#) on our website, so if you are tracing your Meldreth ancestors, please add a post to the Message Board to let us - and our website visitors - know which surnames you are researching. This will help us to keep you informed if new material comes to light on those names and will make it easier for other researchers to get in touch with you.

We would also encourage you to read our [Guidelines for Family Historians](#), which include valuable tips for those researching their ancestors.♦

*Over 200 people receive this newsletter now.
Please advise us if you change your email address by emailing info@meldrethhistory.org.uk.*

Archaeology & Geophys: Volunteers Wanted

Perhaps we started something when we ran our Test Pitting Project in 2013 ... test pits are being dug this year in the neighbouring village of Orwell, as well as in Stapleford and Histon and Impington.

The Orwell Village Dig

This will take place over the weekend of 4th & 5th June. (Some people may start on Friday 3rd). There are 15 test pit locations planned, four of which need teams of diggers. Any help from the experienced test pitters of Meldreth would be most welcome. Please contact Sue Miller on (01223) 207328 or email shm@sbore.plus.com if you can offer help. Thankyou.

Meldreth Test Pitting

With the kind permission of the owners, we recently organised a geophysical survey on the land next to Esse in Melbourn, opposite [Sheene Manor House](#). This is adjacent to the earliest site of Sheene Manor House. The survey was carried out for us by [Rheesearch](#). The results of the survey were inconclusive but we are intending to organise a weekend of test pitting on the site later this year. Naturally, we'll be calling for volunteers closer to the time!

Rheesearch

Is an enthusiastic amateur group of landscape archaeologists operating in the South Cambridgeshire area. Their main activity is geophysics and they undertake resistivity and magnetometry surveys of sites that are of interest. In Meldreth, they have conducted geophysical surveys of [Bury Farm](#) and of the site next to Esse, mentioned above.

They welcome new members, so if you would like to be involved, please get in touch with them by emailing webmaster@RheeSearch.org.uk. No technical knowledge is required but do bear in mind that they tramp across fields which can be a bit muddy! They work on Sundays throughout the year except when it is raining (or likely to) or otherwise inclement.

Excavations at Peterborough Cathedral

Archaeological Excavations at Peterborough Cathedral will be taking place this summer and are to be run jointly by [Access Cambridge Archaeology \(ACA\)](#) and the [Cambridge Archaeological Unit \(CAU\)](#), alongside the Peterborough Cathedral Archaeologist as part of the [900 year celebrations](#) of the cathedral. Volunteers are invited to take part in the excavations for a **minimum of three consecutive days**. Those wishing to work for further days will be put on a waiting list in case there are still spaces available. The excavation is open to all ages and abilities, as there will be opportunities not only to excavate but to be involved in less physically demanding tasks too. Children under the age of 16 may be considered, but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. The excavation will run from **Wednesday 22nd June to Sunday 3rd July** and a total of **six** trenches will be opened. All volunteers will be able to work with both professional archaeologists and members of the cathedral staff. No previous experience is necessary and the allocation of places will be on a first come first served basis. If you want to take part in the excavation or for more information please email ACA at access@arch.cam.ac.uk or telephone (01223) 761519.

For those who do not want to dig please visit the site anyway as tours will be held daily.

Archaeological Building Recording

The 8th in the East Project is recording a number of airfield sites across East Anglia this year and would welcome help. The recording process is straightforward, no previous experience is necessary and full training will be provided on site. All of your out of pocket expenses, including travel and food can also be covered by the project. Further information is available on the [8th in the East website](#) or by emailing Martin Cuthbert, Community Archaeologist, at martin@8theast.org or telephoning him 07856 267936.♦

Website Update

Our website now has 570 pages on Meldreth past and present. Since our last newsletter, 20 new pages have been added to the website and over 30 pages have been amended. New pages include:

- ⇒ [Listed Structures in Meldreth](#)
- ⇒ [Murder at the Gables: What Happened Next](#) - find out what happened to Frank Rodgers
- ⇒ [Discord in the Affairs of the Parish, 1843](#)
- ⇒ [Unpleasant Relations at Meldreth, 1888](#)
- ⇒ [Meldreth Football Club, 1950s](#)
- ⇒ A number of pages on past [Community Events in Melwood](#)
- ⇒ Obituaries of [Dorothy Pepper](#) and [Mary Findlay nee Adcock](#)
- ⇒ [Inspector Ron Brooksbank](#), one of the last Police Sergeants to work at Melbourn
- ⇒ [Paupers, Workhouses and Guardians](#): Supporting the Poor of the Parish

Several pages are presently in draft form and will be published in the coming months. These include more pages on Meldreth Football Club and Law and Order in the Village and a series of pages on the Building Materials used locally.♦

Local History Websites

If you are interested in family or local history in this area, don't forget to have a look at the websites of neighbouring villages. Both [Orwell](#) and [Harston](#) have websites now. There are also over 32 groups, villages and towns represented on the [Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network](#).♦

Cambridgeshire Archives

Preparations are now underway for the move of Cambridgeshire Archives from Cambridge to Ely. For more information see: http://www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20011/archives_archaeology_and_museums/177/archives_and_local_studies/11

The Cambridgeshire Collection will now not be included in the move and will remain at the Central Library in Cambridge, but staffing levels have been much reduced: http://www4.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20011/archives_archaeology_and_museums/177/archives_and_local_studies/6#Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire Archives' [online catalogue](#) now contains nearly a third of a million catalogue entries.♦

New Members Welcome!

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 and no experience is necessary.

If you're interested in becoming involved with the work of the Group, 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
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Publicity Officer	Terry Dash (01763) 260823
Other Committee Members	Ann Rogers
	Tim Gane
	Christine Duguid
	John Crawforth