

Meldreth Local History Group

Email: info@meldrethhistory.org.uk

Website: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk

March 2018

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 and Developments

At our Coffee Morning in October last year, 54 people heard John Crawforth talk about his research on some of the crimes committed by Meldreth people in the 19th century, what kind of punishments were handed down and how these were carried out. He talked, too, about the glimpses we could get into the lives of people living in the village at the time. View the detailed case studies John spoke about - and many others - by going to the [Law and Order](#) section of our website.

Rheesearch recently carried out another geophysical survey for us on the land behind the church, this time to the east of the river. Following receipt of the preliminary results, we intend to do some test pitting in the same location.

We were pleased to receive information recently from Jim Rayner's daughter about an award given to the [Dumb Flea](#), a well known Meldreth beer house, in 1954. The award, from Flowers Brewery, was for the best garden and for the drawing of beer from the beer tap. The beer house in Chiswick End had various other names during its history and at the time of the award was known as the Deaf and Dumb Flea!♦



What's Coming Up Next?

**'Spirits of the Mel': Coffee Morning (and AGM)
Monday 19th March 2018, 10.00am**

Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, Meldreth

We would like everyone to join us for a very short AGM followed by a presentation, including film clips, on the River Mel. After the presentation, we would be delighted to hear your memories of the Mel: swimming, fishing, jumping, dam building and other fun activities. These memories will be used to inspire further elements of a film about the river to be completed in 2018.♦

Members of the group are working on a new project - analysing some of the content of the Manorial Court Rolls for [Topcliffe Manor](#) which date from the reign of Edward II (1307 - 1327). They tell a fascinating story. The original documents, which are in Latin, are held at the London Metropolitan Archives. They were transcribed by the archivist of St. Thomas's Hospital, which owned the manor from 1553 to 1948. Arnold Stanford is kindly typing up the transcriptions for us so that we have searchable files. Robert Skeen has already written the first of a series of articles based on the material in the court rolls and this will be added to our website shortly.

We expect ['Who Do You Think You Are?'](#) Britain's best-selling family history magazine will be highlighting some of the work of the Meldreth Local History Group in their June issue - watch this space!♦

Website Update

By the time you read this there will be over 600 pages on our website, covering a wide variety of topics about Meldreth, past and present.

Recent pages include one on the life of the late [Don Chinery](#), a well-known Meldreth man with a distinguished wartime record in the RAF. Another features plans for the [route of the railway through Meldreth](#) (opened in 1851) drawing on interesting material from the Parliamentary Archives. A third recounts the story of Hubert Ellis's ambitious but ill-fated attempt to set up a '[gigantic](#)' cement works in [Meldreth](#) in the late nineteenth century.

Bruce Huett will be continuing with his work on the street names of Meldreth and if anyone has any information on this he would be very pleased to hear from them on (01763) 232855 or brucehuett@compuserve.com.

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 create one of your own? [Instructions](#) are included on the site.♦

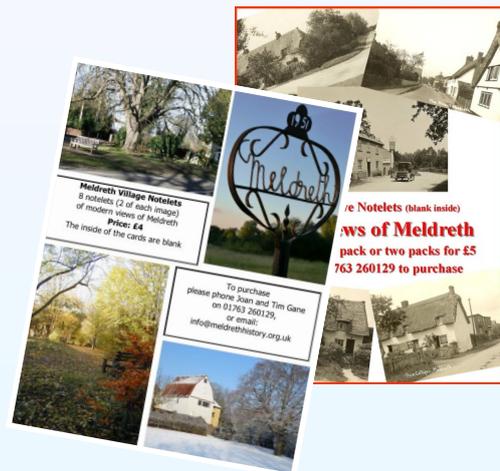
Follow us on Facebook!



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. Sales help us to raise funds to support the Group's work - we are run entirely by volunteers. Our notelets - perfect for keeping in touch with your family and friends - are available in packs of 5, each with a different view of old Meldreth, priced at £3 for one pack or £5 for two. There's also a new pack of 4 modern views of the village, priced at £4 for a pack of eight cards (two of each design). You can see the designs and other items [online](#), at any of our events or by contacting Joan or Tim Gane on (01763) 260129.♦



Like to Join 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 |