

# MELDRETH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2020

### What's Been Happening

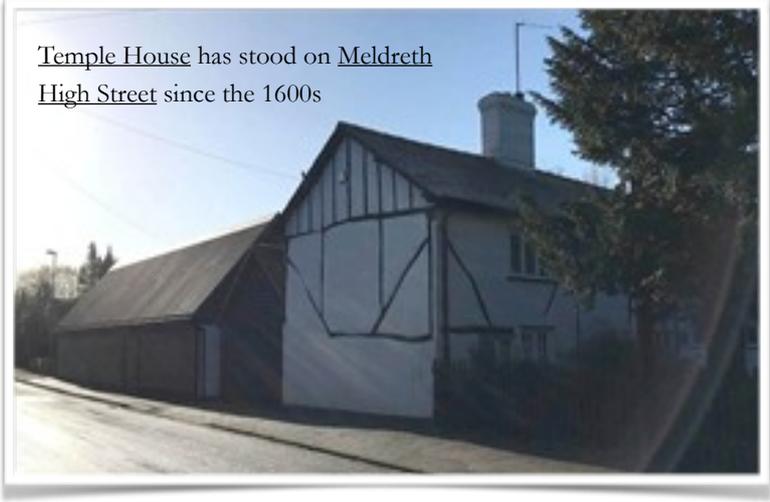
Group member, Alan Williams spoke to a well-attended coffee morning in November on 'Meldreth Cottages - Then and Now'. Alan shared his detailed knowledge of how some of the village's oldest buildings have evolved over the centuries. Thanks go to him for an interesting and informative presentation.

At last year's Service of Remembrance at [Meldreth's War Memorial](#), Group Chair Joan Gane laid a wreath, hand-made by Anna Taylor. This was the first time the Group had been invited to do this, in recognition of the work it has done on the [war years in Meldreth](#) and on those who served in both world wars.

At the the annual Christmas Tree Festival at Meldreth's [Holy Trinity Church](#), MLHG contributed a tree decorated as it might have been during the Second World War. It drew very favourable comments and thanks go to everyone who helped decorate it.

Group members continue their research into a number of topics, for example, the village's historic buildings (see photo), street names and parish records from the 1670s - 1870s, held at the [Cambridge University Library](#).

[Temple House](#) has stood on [Meldreth High Street](#) since the 1600s



### Website Update

Over the years, we have built a very substantial website [www.meldrethhistory.org.uk](http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk) for those who want to know more about Meldreth's story - its buildings, its people and the way it has evolved as a community. It now has well over 600 published pages with several others in preparation. Some recent pages include those by Roger Pepper on his late brother [Brian Pepper \(1938 - 2019\)](#); Alan Williams on [The Warren in North End](#) and [Not Quite but Nearly - Meldreth's Lost Waterway](#); Gloria Willers, Joan Fallon and Ann

Handsombe on the [Meldreth Girl Guides, 1955-1973](#). The Meldreth Guides are shown here in a photo from 1958.



With the benefit of a grant from the [Meldreth](#)

[Futures Group](#), we have been working with our website designers, Community Sites, to upgrade our existing site. The new website will follow a similar structure to the present one but will be easier to navigate around and more compatible with mobile devices. It will also be simpler for people to add new comments and pages and we hope that more will do so.

## Group Merchandise

A range of [group merchandise](#) can be viewed online. Our packs of 8 notelets with four different pictures of Meldreth are a great way to keep in touch with family and friends, especially at this time.



**Meldreth Village Notelets**  
8 notelets (2 of each image)  
of modern views of Meldreth  
**Price: £4**  
The inside of the cards are blank

To purchase  
please phone Joan and Tim Gane  
on 01763 260129,  
or email:  
[info@meldrethhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@meldrethhistory.org.uk)

## Follow Us on Facebook

Our Facebook page now has over 400 followers. View our page at [facebook.com/meldrethhistory](https://facebook.com/meldrethhistory) where we share one post every Thursday on an aspect of Meldreth's history.



## When we meet again....

Due to the current pandemic we have not been able to hold our usual meetings. Our Spring coffee morning and a talk on Sutton Hoo had to be cancelled. We will look to see if they can be re-scheduled when current restrictions are lifted. In the meantime some Group members are continuing to research from home. You could, too - see our 'local history in lockdown' section.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our planned training day had to be cancelled but three members of the Group have now received some training via Skype and are busy preparing the site for launch. Good progress is being made and we hope that the new site will go live within the next few months. In the meantime, we are unable to make changes or add comments to our old site.

## Local History in Lockdown

While we can't meet or work in the usual way we have some suggestions of things you might like to do:

1. Familiarise yourself with our [website](#): 670 pages
2. Look at our other website: <https://meldreth.ccan.co.uk/>
3. Write your memories of the village or research an aspect of Meldreth's history
4. Research your Meldreth ancestors
5. Write an account of what life is like in Meldreth during the pandemic or send us any photos you have taken of the village during this period
6. Take a free online course in genealogy (or another subject) with [futurelearn.com](http://futurelearn.com)

And some resources to use (free or with free trials):

1. [Boredom Busters](#) from the National Archives. National Archives are also offering free access to their digitised records during lockdown: [nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/](http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/digital-downloads/)
2. [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) - LDS website offering genealogical records. Free of charge.
3. Free index for birth, marriage and death records in the UK from 1837-1992. [freebmd.org.uk](http://freebmd.org.uk)
4. Look out for free weekends with [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) or sign up for a free 14 day trial with them or [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk). There are lots of social history records on both sites and FMP includes access to the British Newspaper Archive.
5. If you are a member of [Cambridgeshire Libraries](#), you can access [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) through their website at the moment free of charge. E-editions of some magazines (including family history and history titles) are also available free of charge from Cambridgeshire Libraries.
6. Browse or search the [Cambridgeshire Archives online catalogue](#).
7. Cambridge University's [Institute of Continuing Education](#) (ICE) has virtual open days and topical talks.

## MLHG Committee Members

Chair/Membership Sec.	Joan Gane (01763) 260129
Secretary	Gloria Willers
Treasurer	Bruce Huett (01763) 232855
Publicity officer	John Crawforth (01763) 262848
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