

# MELDRETH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

## NEWSLETTER

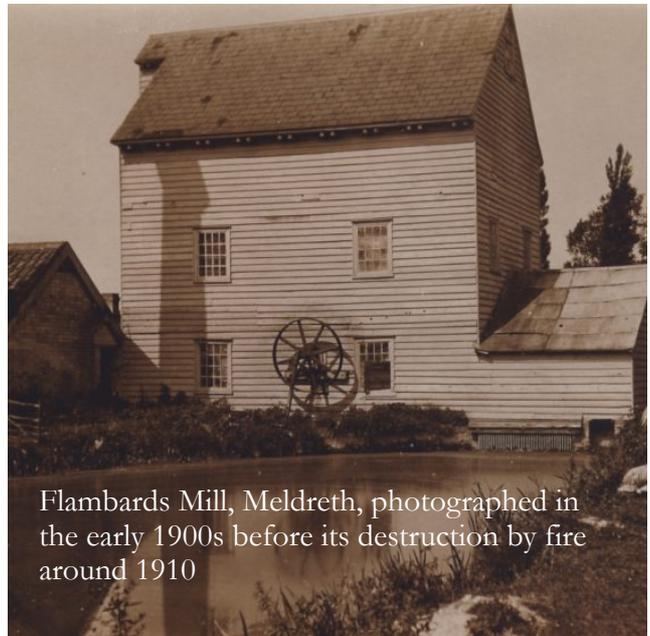
### MAY 2021

#### Keeping local history alive.....

Like so many other local groups and societies the [Meldreth Local History Group](#) has been very much affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. We have not been able to meet for well over a year and our popular coffee mornings have had to be suspended. Nor have we been able to hold any fund-raising events in support of the Group's work. Of course, we have not had to pay for the cost of room hire over the past year but when our activities begin again we shall need to find ways of boosting our income. As before, **if you have ideas about how we can go about this or would be prepared to consider making a donation yourself we would be delighted to hear from you.**

But despite the constraints of the past year, local history remains alive and well in Meldreth. As recorded in our last newsletter, we have recently carried out a major upgrade to our [website](#). The new one, launched last September, is working very well and has already attracted an encouraging range of contributions from a number of people, both within our Group and beyond. We are always keen to have further additions, whether you want to make a comment on an existing page, ask a question or even add a new page yourself! If you haven't familiarised yourself with our new website yet, please take a look - there's a '[first time visitor's tour](#)' if you'd like a bit of guidance finding your way around.

Current projects that we are working on include both the history of [Non-conformism in Meldreth](#) and the [Fenny Lane cemetery](#), in collaboration with the Parish Council (Linda Clarke will be leading on part of this project). Group members are busy researching other material as we look to add to the evolving story of our fascinating village. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for things you would like us to focus on in future - better still, why not join in yourself! No previous knowledge of local history is needed, just an enthusiasm for the topic and a curiosity to find out more.



Flambards Mill, Meldreth, photographed in the early 1900s before its destruction by fire around 1910

#### Meldreth mill on the map.....

The April 2021 issue of 'Mill News', produced by the Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, included a nine-page article on [Coprolite Mills](#) in Cambridgeshire. This had a section on Meldreth, including a photo of Flambards Mill and mentioned the Meldreth Local History Group's website. For more information about the mill please visit the page on [Flambards Mill](#) on our website.

#### Helping with family history

Whilst MLHG does not have the time or resources to research family histories in full we can sometimes unlock family trails which have come to a dead end, or give new direction to the researcher. Recently we have been able to help the Flack, East, Jude, Hale and Farnham families in their research. There have been some very interesting stories which have been uncovered using our local history resources. Sometimes we can introduce other members of the family to each other.

We recently had an enquiry about someone called Edwin (Eddie) Forsyth who was employed at the Atlas works from the 1930s until about 1950. Does anyone know of him?

We do ask those contacting us to write up their stories and share them with us later on our website. If more time is required for any in depth research then a small donation to MLHG is always appreciated to help our funds. Contact us on [info@meldrethhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@meldrethhistory.org.uk).

## On our website

We now have over 600 pages on our website with 17 new ones being added on a wide variety of topics since the last newsletter was published in October 2020. You can see a full list by following the [‘See what’s new’](#) link here.

Recent additions include [‘The last Will and Testament of Mary Palmer’](#), transcribed by David Marsh. The Palmer family’s long association with Meldreth stretches back over several centuries.

Jon Casbon has added a number of pages to our website, most recently on [‘The Casbon Family of Meldreth’](#) drawing on family records dating back to the early 1700s. Jon’s extensive research on his family history has resulted in the publication of a book [‘The Descendants of Isaac Casbon in America’ \(March, 2021\)](#). This traces how Isaac, a poor farm labourer, and his descendants left England in the 1800s seeking better lives for themselves and their families. Copies are available to purchase by following the link above.

John Crawforth has added several pages on the Meldreth Wesleyan Chapel and one of these, [‘Meldreth’s Methodist Chapel Remembered’](#), includes a number of personal recollections of chapel life and particularly its Sunday School.

In another page, added by Kathryn Betts, you can read about the [‘Twenty Year Search for a Burial Ground’](#) after the Meldreth churchyard closed for burials in 1907.

George Newell’s [‘Memories of Meldreth and the War’](#), sent to us by his son, Colin, is a fascinating account of George growing up in the village between 1932 and 1947. He attended Meldreth Village School and is pictured here in his schooldays.



George Nodder Newell, b1924

## Follow us on Facebook

Our Facebook page goes from strength to strength. You can find us at: [facebook.com/meldrethhistory](https://facebook.com/meldrethhistory).



Every Thursday we share a post on an aspect of Meldreth’s history. Recent examples have included Meldreth’s 19 remaining thatched houses and the May Day celebrations that were held in the village 50 and 60 years ago. We now have over 600 followers and more people are ‘liking’ the content.

## Open Again

After many months of closure due to the pandemic, the [Cambridgeshire Collection](#), an invaluable source of documents and records for local historians, is now open again. Please follow the link for details of their opening times and resources available. NB. Although you can visit on a ‘drop in’ basis, making an appointment is recommended.

The [Cambridgeshire Archives Service](#) which holds a wealth of unique historic records and other resources is also open again. Visiting is strictly by appointment only. The Archives are now housed in Ely. They do offer a range of online services as well. Further details are available on their website.

## Looking ahead

At the time of writing, it is not yet possible to know when the Group’s normal programme of meetings and events will resume. We wait to see if the government will relax the remaining Coronavirus restrictions on 21st June as envisaged. When the position is clearer we plan to resume our meetings and, all being well, we look forward to meeting with our friends and supporters at one of our coffee mornings before too long. We will also arrange an AGM at a suitable point. In the meantime, if you need to contact us please do so on: [info@meldreth-history.org.uk](mailto:info@meldreth-history.org.uk).

## MLHG Committee Members

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