

MELDRETH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

Keeping our history alive

Though the Covid restrictions of the past two years have prevented many of our usual activities taking place - our regular coffee mornings amongst them - members of the Meldreth Local History Group have continued to work on a number of projects. These have included further research into the histories of some notable Meldreth houses and work on the ancient village thoroughfares, drawing once more on the richness of the Topcliffe manorial court rolls. We are always looking for new projects to work on and so if you have a topic you want investigated or an idea that you would like to discuss with us please don't hesitate to get in touch - we shall be delighted to hear from you.

Our regular Monday morning meetings now take place on the first Monday of each month from 10.00am to 12noon at the Elin Way Community Room. Members report back on progress and it's always valuable to receive feedback on, for example, what other sources would be worth investigating. So if you've enjoyed looking at our website and Facebook posts and have an interest in helping us build the fascinating story of our village, why not join us? We do plan to resume our coffee mornings as soon as we can but only when we feel it is safe and sensible to do so. The group will also need to undertake new fund-raising activities many of which have had to be paused during the pandemic. If this is something for which you have a special flair it would be great to have you on board!

Meldreth's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

Members of the Group were actively involved in the celebrations to mark the Queen's historic 70 years on the throne. The extended Bank Holiday weekend began on Friday 3rd June with a community church fete at Holy Trinity. With a variety of traditional stalls, activities and children's games, it was extremely well supported and enjoyed by people of all ages, raising more than £5,000 for church funds and local charities.

On Sunday 5th June, the village held a 'street party', The Big Platinum Lunch, on the British Queen's field and thanks go to Sue and Alan Tobin for their generous hosting. Organised by a team of 9 residents with Joan Gane, MLHG chair, playing a lead role, the event was also a real success and brought together residents from all parts of the village. The Village Hall provided afternoon teas and live screening of the Queen's Pageant from London. Wendy Braid, who was chauffeur-driven to the event in a 1927 Phantom 1 Rolls Royce, played the part of our own 'Queen' admirably - waving, smiling and circulating amongst the guests with regal poise. Wendy, with her husband, Ian, a resident



of the village since the late 1960s, has made many valued contributions to Meldreth, including to the re-building of the Village Hall. Throughout the weekend the village was adorned with red, white and blue bunting, flags, flowers and with the addition of a colourful and imaginative scarecrow festival.

On our Website

We've just reached another milestone - there are now more than 700 pages on our website! This represents a wealth of information about the story of our village, though there are many more chapters still to be written. Recent additions (continuing the royal theme) include: the [Coronation of George V and Mary, 1911](#); the [Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953](#) and [Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Celebrations 2002](#). There are also recently added pages on the exterior and interior design of a familiar Meldreth building, [The Homestead, 73 High Street](#); on the legendary and much-loved [Mr Perkins, Station Master of Meldreth and Melbourn 1877-1888](#); on the naming and purpose of the [Highways and Byways of Meldreth during the Medieval Period](#) and the [Death of Dr William Mortlock Palmer](#), a celebrated local historian.

You can view a full list by clicking on the '[See what's new](#)' link here. We would love to have your photographs, memories and stories so why not have a go at adding something yourself? Just visit the [Contribute](#) page on our website to see how to do this.

Facebook

The Group's Facebook page is thriving and now has 737 followers with the weekly Thursday posting attracting plenty of comments. Recent posts have included a series on Meldreth's royal celebrations; extracts from Sarah Butler's account of growing up here in the 1920s and the history of the building now occupied by the One Stop shop. A big welcome to everyone who has joined us recently!



You can view the entries to this by clicking on the following link <https://youtu.be/YfnB34FKY94>.

Meldreth Local History group produced special display boards for the occasion with photos of all the past Meldreth Jubilee celebrations. Group member, Joan Fallon, known to many and who has lived in the village for over 70 years, remembers appearing on a float at the 1953 celebrations alongside Peter Oakman. She is shown in the photograph below, together with members of the Course, Gipson, Rayner and Walford families, each of them well-known Meldreth names.



Looking back on a Royal past

In addition to the recently added pages on royal coronations and celebrations (see shaded column to the left) you can learn how the village has marked other royal events by visiting the following pages on our website:

[Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee](#); [Coronation of George VI](#); [Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee](#); [Royal Wedding Street Party 2011](#) and [Diamond Jubilee Street Party 2012](#).

Topcliffe Mill visit

In May 14 members of the Therfield and Kershall WI visited [Topcliffe Mill](#). They were shown round by Kathryn Betts and viewed the displays and information about the Mill's fascinating history. The donation they gave has been passed on to MLHG as a contribution to the Group's funds.

MLHG Committee members

Chair/Membership sec	Joan Gane (01763) 260129
Secretary	Gloria Willers
Treasurer	Bruce Huett (01763) 232855
Publicity officer	John Crawforth (01763) 262848
Webmaster	Kathryn Betts (01763) 268428
Other members	Ann Rogers, Linda Clarke