Meldreth Local History Group

Email: info@meldrethhistory.org.uk **Website: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk** **October 2026**

Welcome to the latest issue of our newsletter

Our Websites

Our website now has 747 published pages. Pages are continually updated as new information comes to light.

Why not add your own material? We welcome contributions to our site. You can submit your own photographs, stories or information to the site using our contribution form. For guidance, see our page on How to Contribute to this Site. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this first or need any help.

You can also add a comment to the website by clicking the "Add a comment" link at the bottom of each page. These comments often provide new information or help us to put family historians from around the world in touch with one another. Recent pages and comments can be viewed by using the tabs at the bottom of our home page.

Please use the search facility, available on every page, to look for topics that interest you.

Our Cambridgeshire Community Archive Network (CCAN) site is also fully searchable. Although we no longer add to this site, it includes over 1,100 images, some of which are not on our main website.♦

Facebook

We now have over 1,100 followers on Facebook! The page was set up to complement our main website and our CCAN site. Thank you to everyone who has followed us, liked our page or commented and provided information.♦

2026 Meetings

History Group Meetings

We have two further meetings scheduled for this year:

Tuesday 20th October, 7.00–9.00pm

Monday 2nd November, 10.00am–12 noon

Both will be held in the Community Room in Elin Way, Meldreth SG8 6LX and are open to all those who would like to help us with our work.

Course Family Documents

Following our Family History event last October, Peter Jackson kindly offered to transcribe some documents for us. We duly handed over a box of papers associated with the Course family who lived in Northfield House on Malton Lane. Peter will be attending our meeting on **Tuesday 20th October** and will summarise his findings from the Course documents.

In addition, we will be participating in the following event:

Sunday 8th November, 9.30am
Remembrance Service at the War Memorial

A wreath will be laid by a representative of the History Group.



Following the service, refreshments will be served in Meldreth Village Hall. There will be a small display by the History Group with information about people connected to the village who were involved in both World Wars.

More details on all village events can be found in Meldreth Matters.♦

Our 20th Anniversary

Next year will be the 20th anniversary of the founding of Meldreth Local History Group. Unfortunately, it may also be the final year of the Group in its present form. We introduced evening meetings this year in the hope of attracting new members but were not successful. Please see the article we placed in the September issue of the village magazine, Meldreth Matters.

We are planning to hold some meetings in the early part of next year. Once dates have been organised, we will make the schedule available on our website.♦

Angus Bell

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Angus Bell on 3rd September. Angus was a founder member of the Group and our first Chairman. He played a significant role in the early development and direction of the Group, prior to his move to Yorkshire.♦

2026 AGM

Our AGM was held in April and we were delighted to welcome Tim Gane back onto the committee. Tim has taken over as Treasurer from Bruce Huett. Once again, we would like to thank Bruce, who had been our Treasurer for eighteen years. Bruce has remained on the committee and there were no other changes.♦

Latest Additions to the Website

Since our last newsletter, several pages have been added to our website. These include:

- Extracts from a Covid Diary, Parts One and Two
- Gordon Handscombe
- Westacre – the House and the Road
- Marys Way
- C Holland & Sons
- Memories of a Meldreth Butcher
- Rob Searles (1942–2026)
- Bert Richard Elijah Radford♦

Current Projects

Some members are conducting more research into the villagers who fought in the Second World War. The pages on Gordon Handscombe and Bertie Radford (listed above) have been added to our website as part of this project.

We also have several pages still in draft form. We are hoping to complete as many of these as we can in the next few months.♦

Village Christmas Cards



We have some multiview Christmas cards remaining from last year. The cards show four Meldreth scenes. The message inside is “Season’s Greetings”. They cost £3 for five cards or £5 for ten cards, plus postage if applicable.

We also have village walk booklets and leaflets available. Please see our Merchandise page for more information.

If you would like to purchase some Christmas cards or any of our other merchandise, please email us.

All profits from the sale of merchandise go towards funding the work of the History Group.♦

Cambridgeshire Association for Local History (CALH)

It’s not just our Group that is struggling for volunteers. At the CALH AGM on 3rd October, no volunteers stepped forward to fill the vacant officer positions. As a result, the Executive Committee’s resolution to dissolve the Association was carried unanimously by those members present. CALH will therefore cease to exist from 30th September 2027.♦

Barkway

The village of Barkway was a major stopping point on the route from London to Cambridge and the north-east.
On 3rd October, Barkway Local History Group launched its first book:
Beer, Beds and Stabling by Jon Mein - A History of Barkway's Inns and Pubs, c. 1750–1920
Priced £10, the book is available from Barkway Reading Room on the last Sunday of each month between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, or from Bow Books, 6 Angel Pavement, Royston: www.bow-books.co.uk.♦

***Did You Know?** Newsletters from the past ten years are available on our website*

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