Meldreth Parish Council **Mr S Hawkins - Chairman**
Parish Clerk - Mrs Judy Damant
Parish Office, Elin Way, Meldreth, Royston, Herts, SG8 6LT
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MELDRETH PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Delivered at <u>The Annual Parish Meeting</u> held on Thursday 19th May at 7.00 pm in the main room of Meldreth Primary School.

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Who and what is the Parish Council?

The Parish Council comprises of 9 volunteer councillors who serve for a term of 4 years and represent an electorate of 1277. Meldreth Parish Council's 4 year term finishes in May 2010 when there was a new election. The Election went uncontested and all members were elected onto the Parish Council.
The Council meets on the first Thursday of each month except August with additional Planning Committee meetings attended by five councillors being held in between. The agenda is displayed on the Parish notice board at Bell Close and on the website: **www.meldreth-pc.org.uk**

The Parish Council have representatives on other bodies outside the Parish Council and Councillors attend meetings on the Council's behalf. Each member of the Council either serves on a Committee or Working Group or has an area of responsibility.

Parish Council Meetings

All meetings of the Parish Council and its Planning Committee are open to the public and there is a short period on the agenda whereby residents may speak to the Council. During the rest of the meeting however members of the public may listen to but not take part in the discussion of the Council's business. Meetings take place in the Green Room of the Village Hall on the first Thursday of each month (except August) and start at 7.30pm. Planning Committee meetings are held at 6.30pm if not followed by a Parish Council meeting or at 7.00pm prior to the Parish Council meeting.; all meetings are advertised on the notice board.

Anyone wishing to raise a matter for consideration by the Council should write to the Clerk. Any letter received by the day before a Parish Council meeting will be reported at that meeting. If information is readily available, the Council may decide on action right away. If not, then the item will be dealt with at the next meeting.

What does the Parish Council do?

The Council has many powers to act and spend money for the benefit of its Parish. Some of these require the support of the District or County to facilitate them - and all are subject to normal procedures of planning and proper use of public funds.

What do elected representatives do for me?

Parish Councillors represent the people living in their local area at the closest level to the community. When issues are being considered, they are there to put your views across.

What issues can the Parish Council discuss?

It may discuss anything that affects all or part of the community, directly or indirectly. As the democratic representative body for the parish, it may influence decisions made by others too.

How do I get the Parish Council to do something for me?

Ask not what your Parish can do for you but what you can do for the good of your Parish. If you are passionate about something which will benefit the local community then the best person to lead that idea to fruition will probably be you. If the Parish Council believe that your idea will benefit a significant number of residents without disadvantaging a significant number of others, then they will support you and help find necessary resources. Like the important work done by many other people in our community, Meldreth Parish Council consists of volunteers who receive no financial reward for their time or effort.

To introduce a problem or idea to the Council you can ask one of the Councillors to put forward your views or come along and talk during the open session held at the start of every Parish Council meeting. You will find that you are more likely to get help or support if you present your ideas constructively. It is then best to proceed by writing a letter to the Parish Clerk summarising your topic of interest, views and any suggestions you may have, and ask that this item be included on the next agenda. The Clerk should then put your topic of interest onto the agenda for the next meeting. By introducing the topic and your ideas at the previous meeting in this way, the Councillors will, hopefully, have time to think about the situation, perhaps visit the site and gather any information they may need to understand the pros and cons of the idea. Because of the legal rules that the Parish Council must abide by, any topic to be discussed must be on the agenda and any motion passed must be agreed to by the majority of Councillors (passed by resolution). If the Councillors believe that more information gathering is needed, then this may delay any decision until another meeting.

Large expenditures, unless emergencies, must be precepted (budgeted) for. This means that to spend public money on significant projects, expenditure must be agreed by the Parish Council before the end of the

preceding financial year. This may mean significant delays for implementation. The money the Parish Council spends comes from Meldreth residents; the precept comes from your Council Tax. For example, when repairs are needed on play equipment etc., due to vandalism, then that money comes out of all the pockets of Meldreth residents who pay Council Tax. Funding and grants for new projects can also be sought from a number of funding bodies.

Meldreth Parish Council Contact Details http://www.meldreth-pc.org.uk

Clerk Mrs Judy Damant Parish Office Meldreth Sheltered Scheme Elin Way, Meldreth SG8 6LT 01763 269928 parishclerk@meldreth-pc.org.uk		**Chairman** Mr S Hakins 14 Flambards Close Meldreth SG8 6JX 01763 261451 s.hawkins@dsl.pipex.com
Councillors		
Mr John Chamberlain	261258	john.Chamberlain017@btinternet.com
Mr Graham Borgonon	260358	gvborgo@dsl.pipex.com
Mr Tony Burlton	262988	tony.burlton@tiscali.co.uk
Mrs Joan Fallon	262822	joan.fallon@btinternet.com
Mr Alan Land	260020	c.land963@btinternet.com
Mrs Joanne Montague-Fuller	260268	josephinom-f@hotmail.com
Mr Nigel Pellatt	262444	nppellatt@btconnect.com
Mr Rob Searles (Vice-Chairman)	260435	rob.searles@orcharddene.demon.co.uk
District Councillor		
Dr S Soond	268447	cllr.soond@scambs.gov.uk
County Councillor		
Dr Susan van de Ven	261833	susanvandeven@yahoo.co.uk

Reports from Councils

Chairman of Meldreth Parish Council - Mr S J Hawkins

Attendance at meetings: out of 11

Mr S Hawkins (11), Mr G Borgonon (10), Mr A Burlton (10), Mr J Chamberlain (11), Mrs J Fallon (11), Mr C A Land (11), Mrs J Montague-Fuller (9), Mr. N Pellat, elected october (6), Mr R Searles (8).

This year we welcome Nigel Pellat to the Parish Council, who joined us in October.

Planning:

There were 39 planning applications during the year. The Parish Council recommended approval of 31, with "No Recommendations" for 4 and 4 recommendations for refusal. In addition to planning applications there were 3 applications for treework

Village Precept:

There has been an increase of £1,475. To £39,885. This represents a 3.7% increase from last year for the average Band D property. This has been kept as low as possible but the Parish is having to pay for items normally covered by SCDC and CCC as well as village maintenance, and costs, as we know, are always increasing.

Bus Stop:

Due to increased parking along the High Street, near the railway station entrance, it has been necessary to implement bus stop markings to ensure that buses are able to have a safe place to stop. A new bus stop sign has been erected at no cost to the village.

Dog Fouling

There has been a marked increase in reports of dog fouling both on the recreation ground and public footpaths. Additional signs and bins are being installed but the onus must rest with owners to clear up after their pets.

Financial Assistance

The Parish Council has limited funds to aid local groups and will this year be changing the application procedure. Any group wanting assistance should apply to the council by November 11th. For consideration for Grants to be awarded in April 2012 this is to enable proper financial planning for next years precept.

Church wall and Trees

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of the churchyard and has had to remove the Horse chestnut tree at the entrance as it was in a dangerous state, also work is being done on stabilising the boundary walls, which are in danger of collapse.

Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Planning permission has been applied for to provide an extension and improvements to the Pavilion, further progress on this is dependent on raising funds through grants and donations. Unfortunately this year has seen an increase in vandalism in the area of the playground leading to increased costs for repairs.

Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership

The Parish Council has joined the Partnership to encourage a greener approach to energy and sustainability of our resources.

Youth club

Meldreth P.C. has joined with Melbourn and other local villages to support Youth activities based at Melbourn Village college following the withdrawal of County Council funding.

Community Events

The Parish Council Congratulates the organisers of the May Fayre and Royal Wedding Street Party on their events which have done much to enhance community spirit in the village.

Once again it has been a year full of business for the Council, I would like to thank on behalf of the village all members of the council for the work they have done on the various sub committees throughout the year.

District Council Report – Cllr Surinder Soond

2010/2011 has been a year of many changes both in and around South Cambs. With reading of the Localism Bill late last year the government has set in motion in decentralising key decision making to local councils. While the implications of this indeed focuses on giving Parish Councils more of a say in local Housing and Planning issues, I believe that the Localism Bill also embodies the empowerment of local communities with the effect of their views and decisions having greater relevance. Nowhere else has this been more apparent than in some of the Meldreth planning applications that have been discussed at SCDC Planning meetings, with very successful outcomes for all concerned. An examples of this includes the GoCold application, where both residents and the owners of this site worked pro-actively together by agreeing to hold regular meetings to address past and future noise issues originating from the site and thereby working together for the benefit of all concerned-well done all.

My role as your District Councillor has usually revolved around 'liaising in discussion' between all parties with a view to defining a tangible solution that works for all-sometimes a very arduous task. For this, the District Council surgeries held in Meldreth have been instrumental in helping me to be aware of residents' concerns, and of course for residents to discuss their views on relevant issues. Certainly, the most common issues brought to my attention have involved 'affordable housing' or housing related issues. While some provision is being made to address the housing issue in South Cambs by SCDC, in my opinion there is a clear shortage of affordable housing stock and is an issue being monitored carefully by myself and the officers at Cambourne. Other issues that have been brought to my attention through my surgeries have been broad and range from planning applications-such as 'Fieldgate', overgrown hedges that need trimming back and the new blue wheelie bins. While the DC surgeries were slow in getting started, they have proved to be very useful and I will certainly continue to hold them for the foreseeable future for the benefit of Meldreth residents.

Other campaigns that I have been actively involved in over the last year include getting porch-lights fitted to the Sheltered Housing on Elin Way, addressing parking issues on a number of hot-spots on High Street (some of which is still work in progress) and lack of public transport. I have been liaising with Cllr Susan van de Ven on a possible collaboration between SCDC and CCC in support for Community Transport-a common theme in South Cambs, which I hope will strengthen over the coming years.

Down the A428 in Cambourne, SCDC has also implemented major changes over the last year. While we are all aware of obvious development and restructuring, the introduction of the blue bin has been a huge success-although teething problems are being worked through. The new CEO Jean Hunter has taken an active interest in the parishes and I hope to invite her to meet me in Meldreth for a tour of the village in the coming months.

One aspect of DC business that has been met with praise is the Sustainability Parish Energy Partnership, which doesn't have the solutions to all the problems here in South Cambs, but certainly addresses them from a creative angle and I think that Meldreth Parish Council should be recognised for embracing this initiative. This scheme is running into its fourth year, and the focus is on reducing carbon footprints, through collective projects such as car-pooling, using alternative energy sources and striving towards developing more sustainable communities.

- Which really brings me full circle, in that local people are absolutely instrumental in the grand scheme of living in a progressive, rural society and because we are living through times of transition, local views and initiatives are all the more important-so get involved and help define what 'Localism' translates to here in Meldreth!

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Susan van de Ven

The County Council budget

The council has set a very difficult budget for the coming five years and this presents many challenges to everyone. This is due to a much reduced Government grant, but also a decision by the Council's ruling group to freeze council tax for five years.

All areas of the council's work have taken a hit but the most important fact is that the budget sets out no platform for reinvestment on a range of services which will be irretrievably lost. This includes 100% of bus subsidies (£2.7 million saved), conversions to community-run/closures of 13 libraries (£200K saved), no meaningful investment in road maintenance (£11 million would be needed), and a host of services around children and young people (e.g. £1 million for youth clubs).

A council tax increase of 1% yields about £2.3 million. The public consultation which preceded the County's budget setting indicated that people supported a council tax rise with inflation in order to mitigate the loss of public services.

New expectations of parish councils

At the same time that County has frozen its council tax, it has suggested to parish councils that they raise their precepts as generously as possible. Indeed, parish councils are expected to pick up the reins for many services. Some have the resources to do well but others will struggle.

It can be helpful and productive for villages to cluster around services they share. Cooperation by five parish councils including Meldreth has produced a strong template for a continuing youth club to serve this area. A project to move the Library Access Point to new premises will come on to our radar in the coming year.

Primary school issues

For several years, local school head teachers have been joining together to share problem solving. There is worry at the moment about the decrease by about 80% to capital budgets, and Meldreth has had difficulties with a leaky roof.

All schools were keen to participate in the rail station adoption project, with associated opportunities to explore the realms of sustainable travel, gardening and local history, and Meldreth School Gardening Club has taken a leading role.

Melbourn Village College
MVC is looking to cooperate with Comberton VC in an academy framework.
As a small school with demographic pressures, this presents essential opportunities for Melbourn. The County Council's view is that all schools need to ensure viable futures, but at the same time, schools leaving local authority control under the academy heading take disproportionately high budgets away with them, and it will become increasing hard to provide for those left behind.
Social Care
This is not an area of the County Council's work that often comes to parish council meetings but it is a hugely important area of the council's remit. To help give a sense of proportion in terms of responsibilities and remit: There are 500 'looked after' children in the county. The council spends £33 million per year on children in care, including £3.4 million on children in residential homes.
Road issues
Pot holes will continue. The council is spending dramatically more than it used to on compensation to owners of vehicles damaged by potholes. Speeding: Meldreth is one of the premier Speedwatch villages but there has been recognition in Neighbourhood Panel discussions that after identifying the problem, inadequate measures exist for acting on speeding drivers. The County Council is now discussing a policy to allow parishes to set speed limits within settled areas. A civil parking enforcement policy is now being consulted on.
Bus subsidies
Consessionary bus pass holders will have fewer options due to the removal of all bus subsidies over the next four years, starting with the 139 which stopped running on the 17th April. Community Transport providers will not have the power to honour concessionary bus passes, and have been given very little meaningful support to help fill the gap that will be left by the removal of bus subsidies. I have joined the South Cambs Community Transport Strategy Delivery Group, and as such am helping to spearhead a pilot project for using idle village college mini-buses to transport young people to youth club, and this will be aimed at Meldreth young people.
Rail issues
Rail is the best form of public transport we have and indeed becomes more important as bus subsidies are phased out. This past year has seen the implementation of a greatly reduced post-16 Cambridgeshire student transport rail pass (unique within First Capital Connect's franchise) which has saved the County Council and local families alike a great deal of money. Our local Rail User Group has strengthened its role in terms of relationships with the Rail Operator, Network Rail and the County Council Highways as local transport authority. First Capital Connect has asked if we would like to pursue 'Station Adoption', and then perhaps work toward a Community Rail Partnership. The idea is to increase access to the service; one aspiration could be a Community Transport rail link for a regular pensioners' shopping trip. As a first step, Meldreth Primary School gardening club and GoCold have come forward to help smarten the station up with garden enhancement, in time to showcase for the station's 160th birthday celebration on July 9th. There have been many offers by local residents to support this. The County Council has incorporated our aspirations into its Local Transport Plan and has put in a bid to the Sustainable Transport Fund for officer support for a Community Rail Partnership specifically for Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Stations.
While it has been a very difficult year in terms of County budget cuts, I feel there is still much scope to do good things for our community, and this comes from working together.

Clerk to Meldreth Parish Council - Judy Damant
The accounts for 09-10 have been audited satisfactorily by both internal and external auditors. The draft accounts for 10-11 are available for inspection, showing a breakdown of expenditure and income. The figures attached to this report have been internally audited but not yet passed by the external auditor). It is recommended that general reserves should allow the Council to operate for a year without any income.

Matters raised by Parishioners at the Annual Meeting 2010:
Land on Mettle Hill:
The question of what is to happen to the old gypsy site land situated on Mettle Hill was raised. SCDC are presently in consultation for new gypsy sites and traveller sties to meet proven needs, but the closed Mettle Hill site does not meet the criteria and is not being considered as a site in these consultations. The land is presently under the ownership of CCC who are not looking at selling at the moment. The land is likely to be priced for industrial or business use but planning permission for change of use would be difficult to obtain. Allotments were mentioned, but as the price for the land is very high it is not an option that the Parish Council can consider at present.
Meldreth Primary School:
Congratulations was also expressed for Meldreth Primary School as it reaches it Centenary this year, and to

a very well organised display which was held in celebration of the event and it was suggested that the Parish Council write to congratulate the school.

Telephone Box:

The Parish Council had originally proposed that the telephone box would not be adopted as there had been little support from the village, however since then there has been some support and ideas have been put forward. The Parish Council did listen and support some of the ideas, but this has since been withdrawn by the applicant and the Parish Council made a final decision to have the telephone box removed.

Elections:

There was an uncontested Election this year with all nominations going forward. One councillor did resign and a replacement was find through co-option.

RECEIPTS (For the year ended 31st March 2011)

	2009/2010	2010/2011
	£	
Precept	36750.00	38410
VAT repayment	0.00	443.23
Burials and Memorials	785.00	660
C.C.C (grass cutting donation)	828.40	Will appear in 2011/12 accounts
C.C.C (Parish Path Partnership Grant)	240.00	220
C.C.C (Melwood)	0.00	0
Office rental from Orwell and Arrington Parish	840.00	840
Orwell contributions towards training	93.47	30
C.A.P consumables	7.50	0
Tennis Club	0.00	0
Bank Interest	25.19	24.69
misc	0	173
S106	0.00	4977.66
SCDC repayment of rates	**0**	142.06
Saturday football club contributions	**0**	300
	39604.56	**46220.66**
vat payment to be reclaimed	358.91	1163.82

	39963.47	47384.48

PAYMENTS (For the year ended 31st March 2011)

	2009/2010	2010/2011
GENERAL ADMIN		
Insurance Premium	1,192.11	1207.64
Annual audit (internal & external auditors)	430.75	453.08
Room hire	202.00	154
office (rates)	0.00	284.9
Office rent (2009)	0.00	1727.15
Office expenses, incl computer	1194.9	1584.31
Salaries (incl PAYE & NI)	11,953.06	12326.42
Clerk, litter picker and cllrs expenses	472.75	378.78
Training	90.00	346
Memberships(ACRE, CPALC, LCR)	606.64	499.14
Telephone/broadband	582.98	870.56
Election costs	0	135
	16725.19	**19966.98**
DONATIONS/SECTION 137		
Royal British Legion - wreath	70.00	75
Royal British Legion - war memorial vase	65.00	0
Royston & District Community Transport	400.00	400
Meldreth & Melbourn Self Help Group	300.00	300
Over 60's (Good Companions)	200.00	250
Melbourn library	300.00	0
Mobile Warden Scheme	1,000.00	1000
History Club	0.00	400
CCC Archive Department	108.33	0
Village Hall Trust	0.00	1000
	2,443.33	**3425**
VILLAGE MAINTENANCE		
Grass cutting/spraying	6,000.00	6000
Street lighting	1,828.94	1545.08
Tree/hedge maintenance	94.97	535
General maintenance/repairs	771.25	260
	8,695.16	**8340.08**

CHURCHYARD		
Planning Application for wall	0.00	85
Wall survey	0	352.5
		437.5
RECREATION GROUND/PAVILION		
Rates	557.75	476.1
Water	74.68	78.18
Electricity	160.15	69.31
Repairs to playground equipment	137.25	3696.55
Repairs to pavilion	814.00	55
Grass cutting, spraying, footpath and tree maintenance	350.00	150
RoSPA playground inspection	183.43	158.04
Tree and footpath maintenance	14.85	0
Pavilion: fire extinguisher & insurance	98.14	103.99
Electric works	0.00	404
Insurance	132.16	132.16
plumber	0	410
Plans and planning application	0	675
Litter bin	0	150.82
Netball posts	0	76.77
	2,522.41	**6635.92**
CEMETERY		
Water and ground rates	61.07	65.3
Hedge trimming/grass cutting	700.00	540
Gate posts	0.00	200
Footpath repairs	710.00	0
	1,471.07	**805.3**
PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)		
Room hire	10.00	14
Footpath chippings	140.00	200
Expenses	22.50	22
Hedge cutting	0.00	0
	172.50	**236**
TOTAL INCOME	39604.56	46220.66
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	32029.66	39846.78

MARY COURSE AWARD

Item	Community A/c	Fixed Rate Bond A/c (FRB)	
Opening amount	1,565.11	1,400.00	
transfer to FRB	1,400.00		
plus interest	6.49	160.79	
donation to school	120		
minus tax paid	1.3	32.14	
Balance	**50.3**	**1528.65**	**1578.95**

Bank Reconciliation

March 2011

	£
Balance brought forward at 31st March 2010	47,011.00
Income	46,221.00
Expenditure	39,847.00
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c/f	53,385.00
Current Account	597.00
plus uncleared deposits	0
minus uncleared cheque	85.00
adjusted balance	512.00
Deposit Account	52,873.00
	_____
c/f	53,385.00
vat to be reclaimed	1,163.82

<u>These figures have been passed by the Internal Auditor.</u>

This year funds have been spent on the pavilion and recreation ground with the matting around some of the play equipment being resurfaced, the wall at the churchyard needed attention, and the office computer was updated, there was also an increase in donations.

MELBOURN LOCAL ACCESS POINT

In the previous 12 months the following took place:-

1. In December 2010 Cambridge Library Service [due to financial cuts] indicated that support for the LAP would decrease. There would no longer be a monthly rotation of books between LAPs. It was to be replaced by a quarterly visit by LAPs to Dryden House, Huntingdon where books could be selected, in a 2 hour period, and donated to the LAPs to a total of 950 books in the year.
2. The frequency of books being returned from other libraries would now take place at fortnightly intervals and not weekly.
3. The Mobile Library visit was changed from every fortnight to monthly, and the period of time spent at locations was reduced.
4. It is planned that in January 2011 the LAP extended the opening times by opening on a Tuesday afternoon.
5. There has been a continued increase in the use of the LAP with an increase in weekly book loans and visitors.
6. The under 5s Story-time was temporarily suspended in December due to volunteer relocating. It is to start again in January 2011, it is hoped to find more volunteers to help with this activity.
7. In June 2010 the LAP had a stall at the Melbourn Fete to advertise the LAP and provided a craft activity for children.

The Association is grateful to all who continue to support the Melbourn LAP

MELDRETH FOOTBALL (SUNDAY) CLUB

This season has been the best for a couple of years with a new player manager and some new players we finished the season in second place to we get promoted to 2B in the Sunday League. We played 16 games winning 11, drawing 3 and lost 2. We scored 74 goals and let in 31. There are a lot of supporters ranging from 3 weeks and up. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their support and hope that the upgrade for the pavilion goes ahead. There was a quiz evening held at the barbecue, which raised £100, a Christmas draw which raise £200. There is to be a tombola event at the May Fayre and it is hoped to have a Ladies Night later in the year.

MELDRETH TENNIS CLUB

Membership and public use of courts

Our membership remains fairly constant, with club sessions well attended and good interest in the tournaments held in the spring and autumn.

We have made efforts to ensure that village residents and local people are aware of the availability of the courts and this has been rewarded with an increase in revenue from the court fees received from public use.

Fund raising

We have continued our social events to raise additional revenue for the routine and future maintenance of the courts. These events add to the enjoyment of members, who also invite friends and neighbours – thus publicising the presence of the Club throughout the year, as does our continuing support of the Christmas Tree Festival at Meldreth church.

Court Maintenance

The playing surface of the courts is in good condition following professional cleaning and line re-painting.

As usual we pay to have the conifer hedging screening the courts trimmed, and to keep a neat appearance we have initiated a regular schedule of pruning. Grass cutting, weed control and small repairs are undertaken by club members.

We are pleased to report that vandalism has been at a minimal level recently, and in general, it would appear that its progressive decline follows the removal of the skateboarding ramp which was close to the courts.

MOBILE WARDEN SCHEME

Meldreth Mobile Warden Scheme continues to provide a much appreciated service to elderly people in the village. It is open to anyone over 65 who is not covered by the Local Authority Wardens. At present there are 8 members in the Scheme who pay £5 a week and are visited at least 3 times during the week with telephone calls on other days.

The Scheme's committee and the members much appreciate the dedicated and caring service provided by the Warden, Mrs E. Chamberlain. Mrs Chamberlain is well liked by all the clients and often goes over and above her duties to help those in the Scheme. The committee would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous donations, which help to keep the Scheme going.

MELDRETH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Meldreth Village Association continues with a small dedicated committee.

We held the annual MVA Quiz in October 2010 .The Quiz was very well supported. Some of the profits went towards Christmas trees for the Christmas Tree Festival and the village Christmas tree outside the village hall.

Our Christmas Tree Festival tree was later placed in the station waiting room and appreciated by everyone at the station. The one outside the Village Hall was not vandalised this Christmas.

We were able to buy a new marquee again this year and generate funds from hiring the marquees out for a small hire charge.
We are still able to support village groups. This year we sent a donation to the Good Companions Group and the Local History Group. We raised funds from the Frollies show on Feb5th 2011 and are using the profit to buy a comprehensive sound system for meetings / shows and a new stage spotlight.
Residual funds are kept in a savings account to benefit the village at a later date.
Thank you to the Parish Council for their continued support.

GOOD COMPANIONS (OVER 60's)

We have various speaker meetings including, Guide Dogs for the Disabled, East Anglia Air Ambulance, Gardening, Fire and Police. Last year we went on four outings,one of which was for lunch at The Longarm Shortarm in the pretty village of Lemsford. On other occasions we went to Scottsdale's garden centre, The Cambridge Motel and The Green Man in Shepreth. We also have quizzes, beetle drives, bingo, raffles and hold a bring and buy stall. In November we celebrate the clubs annual Birthday Party. In December there is a Christmas party and invite children from the Primary school to sing carols, which is enjoyed by everyone.

MELDRETH VILLAGE HALL REPORT

This has been a successful period for the Village Hall with regular scheduled weekday bookings from Pre-School, Mums and Toddlers Group, Dance Clubs, Keep Fit, Aerobics, Table Tennis and WI. The week-ends have been booked for more varied uses including children's' parties and adult celebrations.
Turnover for the first ten months of the financial year (£10,583) was similar to that of the previous year.
Expenditure (£12,917) included exceptional items without which there would have been a modest surplus.
Total funds stand at £13,132. This is acceptable but the Trustees are considering fund-raising ideas to build up reserves as an insurance against major expenses in the future.
Last April a much needed upgrade of the emergency lighting system was installed by Coton Electrical.
An annual Health and Safety assessment of the Hall premises is now done, the last one being July 2010.
Now all cleaning reagents and paper supplies are kept in a locked store.
General working of lighting and electrical appliances are checked regularly by David Smith.
Last summer, the poor condition of the floor in the main hall was addressed and quotes received to strip sand and reseal. The quote provided by Steve Pluck of Floor Restore, Meldreth for £2,184 was accepted.
On application to the Parish Council for a grant towards this expenditure, the Trustees were awarded £1000 for which they are extremely grateful. At the same time, external repainting of all windows and doors was done by Michael Hallewell.
Ongoing outside maintenance including hedge trimming and weeding round the hall and car park as well as gutter clearance has been performed by the Trustees and volunteers.
Our thanks go to our excellent caretaker, Mrs Mary Wedge, for the ongoing upkeep of the hall. Chairs have been checked, shampooed and repaired where necessary to protect the refurbished floor.
Sherida Richards continues as lettings secretary.
The smooth running of the hall and its success has to be credited to David Smith and our secretary Maggie Smith.

Meldreth Local History Group

Meldreth Local History Group has had another successful year.

Over the past twelve months, we have held the following events:

- Two coffee mornings at the Sheltered Housing Community Room (April and October 2010)
- Open day and exhibition at Topcliffe Mill (in conjunction with the Friends of Holy Trinity Spring Gardens Day in April 2010).
- Fund raising talk by Tom Doig, March 2011.

We participated in the following village events:

8. Meldreth Primary School Centenary Open Day, March 2010
   Three members of the Group were on the Primary's School's Centenary Committee and we provided all of the displays on the history of the school.
9. Christmas Tree Festival, Holy Trinity Church, November 2010

We undertook the following tasks:

- Transcribed records relating to the history of the village.
- Photographed or scanned photographs and documents, such as the Meldreth Award book.
- Continued our oral history program by interviewing long-term residents of the village.
- Continued to update the Meldreth Community Archive at www.ccan.co.uk.
- Carried out research into the history of the village.

- Produced merchandise such as cds, notelets and Christmas cards to raise funds for the Group.

Parish Council Grant of £400, received September 2010.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for their grant.
In December, we were successful in obtaining a grant under Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's Grassroots Grants scheme and, with the money we had already raised, this enabled us to go ahead with plans for a website dedicated to the village's history.
The website has been created for us by Community Sites and since December we have been adding material to the site. By the time we launched the website, on 30th March 2011, we had uploaded over 260 pages, but have many more to go! The website has a Meldreth Today section which includes information on the facilities in the village, together with details of many of the clubs and groups operating in the village today. We were particularly pleased with the response from village clubs, with 24 submitting material for the website prior to the launch.

RIVER MEL RESTORATION GROUP

As we enter the sixth year of the Group it is good to report another productive set of workparties and other events.
Since the last Annual Village Meeting we have completed Phase One in Melbourn and started on Phase Two at the bottom of Melbourn Village College's playing field. In Meldreth we have progressed downstream to the rear of the British Queen and are on target to complete Phase Two later this year.
Plans are being drawn up for Phase Three sections in both villages, which will take us to the kissing gate into the field in Meldreth and to the A10 Bridge in Melbourn.
As well as the scheduled work on the river we have hosted Litterpicks sponsored by RiverCare in Melbourn and welcomed members of the River Restoration Centre in July, who installed a riffle in the Melwood section of the river in Meldreth - with us combining their expertise with our local knowledge.
The riffles appear to be popular with the trout as sightings have increased this year as have those of water vole, water shrew, bullhead, and Otter by members and other walkers along the footpath. We have also installed sections of dead hedge along the river to protect particularly vulnerable habitat.
We again had a stall at the Melbourn Village Fete and Ratty and Mole made a popular re-appearance at the Meldreth Christmas Tree Festival.
Sandra Webb and Maureen Brierly were invited to give talks about our work to the Melbourn Gardening Club, the Meldreth and Melbourn Women's Group and the Roysia Women's Club. All these talks were well received and generated interest in the Group and our projects.
We have had several mentions in the local press and in July we were visited by BBC Look East to do a piece on water voles with Rob Mungovan and Janine Machin. The water voles spotting the chance of some good publicity dutifully appeared on cue much to the delight of the cameraman. At Christmas we were very pleased to be presented with a community service award by Melbourn Parish Council in recognition of the work the Group has done in Melbourn.
At this point I must thank Maureen, Sandra and Anne for their work on publicity; writing articles for Meldreth Matters and The Melbourn Magazine, Les Brierley and Graham Duguid for their work as work party Leaders, Don Braggins for allowing us to store materials in his field and Jim Reid for his record keeping.

MELBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE

Following recording breaking GCSE results we were proud to welcome back and celebrate the success of our students who achieved 90% A* - C grades with a presentation evening at the end of November. Each subject had nominated an outstanding student and the Governors Prize for outstanding achievement overall went to Matthew Way and for outstanding progress to Georgina Waldman.
In addition to their superb academic achievements, our students have been engaging in learning outside the classroom on trips, through fantastic performing arts productions and some excellent sports performances.

Students in year 8 went on a trip to Rhineland last summer exploring History as well as German language and year 7s travelled to Boulogne. We've had a host of other opportunities in every subject for our students to show their talents from our Science group winning a Crystal Growing Competition run by Cambridge University to our gifted and talented Maths students attending events at University of Hertfordshire. We've had dazzling dance, music and drama showcases and our gold sports ambassadors even met Olympic athletes at a conference at the Oval!

VERBAL REPORTS:
Tree Warden
Meldreth Primary School
ATTACHED REPORTS:
Melwood Conservation Group
Meldreth and Melbourn Self Help Group

Meldreth Parish Paths Partnership