

Friend to Friend Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2025



In Meltham...

Our Meltham Meal group were entertained in June by Mason Whittle, pictured here. Our members enjoyed the chance to join in a little, too.

After having to cancel Meltham Meal in August because the Methodist Church Hall kitchen was not available, it was great to see so many members attending September's lunch. They enjoyed pork sausage, new potatoes, carrots, peas & onion gravy. Dessert was apple pie & custard. A raffle was drawn.



Our speaker was Chris Freeman. His talk was on 'History by Design', which included a slide show. Everyone enjoyed the talk.

October brought Storm Amy, but this didn't dampen our spirits, with rousing entertainment provided by The Pleasant Pluckers from Shelley. They played songs by Elvis, Frankie Vaughan, Ringo Starr & more.



In November we enjoyed meat and potato pie with mushy peas, followed by ginger sponge and custard. We celebrated Norma's 99th birthday and were entertained by The Community Choir.

Lead volunteer, Jenny, as ever, is hugely grateful to her team of helpers. She could not do what she does without you.



We are very conscious that Jenny intends to step down next year after her rather special birthday, so Melthamites, you need, please, to help us find you a new lead volunteer! They would liaise with our brilliant caterers, confirm with volunteer drivers to check who is coming, support our fab team of volunteers in the kitchen and collect money on the day, but the role is really not very time consuming, plus they'll have the support of Jenny and our other trustees as

needed. If you know of anyone willing to have a conversation about this, please put them in touch with Jenny (07762 816220) or Louise (07825 565659).

Our Tai Chi group has grown now to around 25 members, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month at Meltham Methodist Church Hall (2-3pm) for gentle exercise followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Our Men's Group continue to meet twice each month, when we put the world to rights over a hot drink as well as discussing sport (mostly football and cricket). The main attraction of course is the steak pie and pea lunch, which is always excellent. This is followed by trifle and several games of dominoes, which can often raise a few laughs. Our format has remained unchanged for several years, as we would be hard pushed to find a better venue and lunch to suit our needs. With a Christmas lunch at the Huntsman Inn fast approaching, we will celebrate the festive period in style, but will look forward to our standard fare of pie and peas in early January 2026. Any gentlemen interested in giving us a try, or anyone wishing to volunteer to help out on occasion, Damian would be glad to hear from you (details on our groups page below).

Why do so many birds fly south
for the winter? ...



...because it's much too far to walk.

In Holmfirth...

Our Holmfirth Lunch Club had visits over summer from dance teacher Lizzie Gregory, ex-customs officer Brian Topping and singer Nicola Mills. Brian gave another fascinating insight into the often-unbelievable world of HM Customs and Excise- you really would not comprehend what people try to smuggle into our country, and the places they try to hide things!!!



In September we welcomed Sharron, who was inspired during the Covid Pandemic to write friendly, anonymous letters to people in care homes, many of whom would otherwise not have contact from anyone beyond their walls. Since then, word of her idea spread, and more and more people expressed interest in writing letters. As a result, Sharron now leads 'Give a few words', a charity of over 500

regular letter-writers from all over the UK, America, Australia, Mexico, India and Europe. They send the gift of a letter, poetry, pictures, quizzes etc to strangers put forward as at possible risk of isolation or loneliness. What a wonderful, generous thing to do! They are always glad to accept new writers or recipients, so if this of interest, Sharron can be contacted on 07498 818838, Email: hello@thegive.co.uk, or by post:

Give...A Few Words
Lawrence Batley Theatre
Queen Street
Huddersfield
HD1 2SP



As we slid into the Autumn months, 'Ship to Shore' sea shanty singers returned to our Holmfirth group for another rousing sing along. We might need Sandra to bring more of those bottle-top percussion sticks next time! In October we welcomed Jesse Wilson, from Kirklees Transcription Service, who introduced us to the free fortnightly audio newspaper and other free resources available and delivered to your door if you are struggling to see printed media.

Photographer Mick Forster-Jones shared his latest calendar of wildlife photos with us in November, available to buy around Holmfirth (including the library) in aid of River Holme Connections- a great cause!

December will see us hosting a new class of school children, this time some 6 and 7 year olds from Holmfirth J&I (Nabb). Together we will do some arty crafty activities and a good old singalong.

Our year will close with a festive lunch at Meltham Golf Club on Friday December 19th.

Holmfirth Big Meal have enjoyed some delicious food this season, thanks to our caterers 'Simply Splendid' and our wonderful team of volunteers, without whom the group could not run. Lead volunteers Gillian and Louise very much appreciate every minute each of you gives to the group, particularly as life has sent challenges to several of your doors in recent months. We could not do this without you and send you and yours our love.

Our Zumba Group also continues to grow, enjoying an upbeat seated exercise session twice monthly to a range of music from the 50s to the 90s, followed by a cuppa and a chat.

Three men die on Christmas Eve and arrive at the Pearly Gates, where they're met by Saint Peter. "In order to get in," he tells them, "You must each produce something representative of the festive period." The first man digs into his pockets and pulls out a couple of sticky sweets and a box of matches, of which he lights one. "These could represent a Christingle candle." Impressed, Peter lets him pass through the gates.

The second man pulls out a big bundle of keys and shakes them. "These are a bit like sleigh bells." He's allowed in too.

Peter turns to the third man. "So," Peter says, "what do you have for me?" The third man proudly pulls a pair of red knickers out of his pocket. "What on earth have they got to do with Christmas?" Peter exclaims. The reply?

"They're Carol's."

Save this festive wordsearch for a rainy day.

G	G	G	M	T	B	E	A	E	Q	I	E	M	V	Y	I	B	H	B	B
C	A	N	V	M	Z	J	O	D	C	V	P	I	H	O	Q	Y	P	R	O
Q	M	I	Q	I	R	T	B	P	E	B	B	N	W	Y	I	R	Y	C	X
C	F	U	O	Y	E	M	V	S	D	S	N	C	I	V	U	Y	A	I	V
I	P	K	G	L	L	S	A	O	N	C	Y	E	H	H	I	D	G	F	F
R	I	Z	T	F	R	M	N	O	F	Q	U	P	X	Y	D	G	W	G	H
T	E	S	W	G	T	E	I	O	Z	O	Z	I	C	A	R	O	L	S	T
D	I	N	H	S	N	T	I	Y	W	A	T	E	D	A	A	I	V	T	A
M	T	M	I	R	A	I	O	N	L	F	Y	S	G	I	F	T	S	N	E
K	Z	R	O	R	F	Q	K	R	D	U	L	P	X	B	C	M	F	R	R
W	H	P	O	V	H	E	S	C	L	E	O	A	E	M	E	T	Q	K	W
C	N	C	Z	M	T	I	I	E	O	G	E	J	K	N	Z	B	S	C	P
A	E	B	U	M	Y	Q	K	T	H	T	Q	R	A	E	O	V	N	L	D
D	D	K	N	Y	C	I	R	B	I	E	S	C	V	Z	T	P	O	Z	M
R	T	V	T	N	T	F	Q	J	T	Y	Y	R	V	T	W	F	W	U	U
K	W	Y	E	G	N	C	U	E	P	D	Q	Z	E	B	J	V	M	Z	X
H	Y	F	Q	N	A	K	H	I	N	F	X	P	F	O	J	Y	A	A	R
R	J	D	O	Q	T	Y	O	A	D	H	A	N	C	L	T	U	N	X	K
V	V	G	B	F	Y	M	C	C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	E	A	O	L
P	G	P	M	D	S	V	X	T	P	M	J	M	J	R	S	V	H	Z	Q

advent	Christmas Eve	mistletoe	stocking
candy cane	decorations	reindeer	wreath
carols	gifts	snowflake	Yule
celebrate	mince pies	snowman	

Trustee news

Our AGM was held on the 20th of October at the Carlile Institute in Meltham. Treasurer Gillian talked through our accounts, which show we have succeeded in our intended mission to somewhat reduce our reserves this year, through contributing towards trips and everyone's Christmas meal.

Our trustees: John, Gillian, Damian, Elaine, Jenny and Louise will all continue in their roles in the coming year, and we may soon be joined by another, Jayne, who has expertise and experience from working in the insurance industry, and is offering to help us review and update our policies and procedures.



FUN FACTS ABOUT SNOWFLAKES

- 1** EVERY SNOWFLAKE BEGINS AS A TINY SPECK OF DUST OR POLLEN IN THE AIR.
- 2** SNOWFLAKES ALWAYS FORM WITH SIX SIDES DUE TO THE STRUCTURE OF WATER MOLECULES.
- 3** THE COLDER IT IS, THE SIMPLER THE SNOWFLAKE DESIGN.
- 4** MOST SNOWFLAKES FALL AT AN AVERAGE SPEED OF 1-2 MPH.

Our groups

You are most welcome as members of our charity to attend any of these:

<u>Group & Details</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Zumba</u> - Gentle exercise to music. Most do this seated. Hot drink & chat. Around 20 members. Gillian 07855 899846	2 nd & 4 th Thursday	1:30 - 3	Holmfirth Methodist Hall
<u>Holmfirth Lunch Club</u> – Listen to a speaker or other entertainment, soup & sandwich lunch, quiz sheet or similar, hot & cold drinks & chat. About 25 members. Louise 07825 565659	1 st Friday	11 - 2	Holmfirth Methodist Hall
<u>Holmfirth Big Meal</u> - Hot 2 course lunch. Quiz sheet or similar, hot & cold drinks & chat. Free raffle. About 25 members. Louise 07825 565659	3 rd Friday	11:45 - 2	Holmfirth Methodist Hall
<u>Meltham Meal</u> - Hot 2 course lunch, speaker, hot & cold drinks & chat. About 40 members. Jenny 07762 816220	1 st Friday	11:30 - 2	Meltham Methodist Hall
<u>Tai Chi</u> - Gentle exercise. Can be seated. Chat & hot drink. Around 15 members. Jenny 07762 816220	2 nd & 4 th Friday	2 - 3	Meltham Methodist Hall
<u>Men's Group</u> – Hot lunch & drinks, licenced bar, chat, table games. Around 10 members. Damian 07931 961091	1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	12 - 2	Meltham Sports & Community Centre.

Spring 2026 will see the 30th Anniversary of Friend to Friend, which we will celebrate together with a lunch and entertainment on Friday March 20th. Please put the date in your diary – members, volunteers and drivers – you are all invited!



Friend to Friend Contact Details

Telephone: Louise on 07825 565659

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You can find up to date information about us on Facebook and our website www.friendtofriend.org.uk

