

Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group
22 June 2011, 7:30-9:30
Meldreth Manor School, Fenny Lane, Meldreth, SG8 6LG

Signposting to meeting room will be on hand; tea and coffee will be served by Meldreth Manor School

By car: Fenny Lane joins the junction of High Street and North End in the centre of Meldreth. Enter the 'Riding School' entrance in Fenny Lane.

By foot/cycle: enter main vehicle entrance in Fenny Lane.

*By train: Meldreth Manor is a ten minute walk from the station; turn right as you leave the station car park and carry on till you meet Fenny Lane.
Let Susan know if you need a lift from Meldreth Station.*

Train information: 18:55 from Cambridge arrives at 19:10. Return train departs Meldreth 21:45. Cycles are permitted on these trains.

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of March 8th AGM –
 - a. Accuracy and action points
 - b. Approval of Must Haves and Aspirations List
3. Updates on rail campaign points
 - a. Bikes on trains – new restrictions on 8:10 from Meldreth to Cambridge
 - b. New ticket machines - now installed at all three stations
 - c. Pedestrian gates, Foxton Station- still pending
 - d. Local Transport Plan & Sustainable Transport Fund bid support for MSF RUG
 - e. Community Transport links to stations – watching brief
4. Any new issues to report from the three stations
5. July 9th Station Birthday plans and garden project update
 - See below
6. Opening MSF RUG bank account – to agree in principle, if needed
7. Dates of future meetings: September 21 (Foxton VH), December 14 (Shepreth VH), March 14 (AGM).



Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Railway Station Gardens

Sponsoring a platform planter

The Railway Station Gardens at Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton will be launched on July 9th, when the three stations celebrate their 160th, 160th and 163rd birthdays, respectively.

The project is sponsored by the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group, and is built around the idea of local residents, schools and businesses, who use and enjoy the local railway, creating and maintaining the gardens year round. We'd like to give our stations a village identity, and to encourage use of the sustainable transport network on our doorstep.

Each garden will have its own theme depending on the configuration of the station property and amount of land available, as well as the interests and input of the local community.

Foxton's garden is necessarily confined to the platforms and will focus on planters. Shepreth's garden will make use of the area around the entrance area adjacent to the car park, and will have a wildlife theme garden sponsored by Shepreth Wildlife Park and the primary school. Meldreth's garden will make use of the plot of ground in front of the Indian takeaway, where the primary school gardening club is creating a flower and vegetable patch.

All three stations will have traditional oak barrel planters on the station platforms.

Local people – individuals, families, schools or businesses - are welcome to sponsor the care of one or more of the oak barrel planters. This will involve supplying potting soil and summer or winter annuals, which can either be purchased or grown in advance from seed. In the first year the cost will be a bit more because there has not been enough lead time to grow plants from seed, and the cost per planter will be about £15-£20 for soil and plants.

At each station the name of the sponsor will be displayed on our Railway Garden notice boards. We'd like sponsors to commit to the care of their planters for at least one year.

Vandalism is a sad fact of life these days but we will take a practical attitude and simply replant if necessary – sponsors will be asked to anticipate this possibility.

Please get in touch if you would like to get involved! The reverse side of this sheet tells a little about work on the Railway Gardens project so far, and plans for July 9th.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Susan van de Ven

County Councillor, Melbourn Division
Chairman, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group

12 June 2011

susanvandeven@yahoo.co.uk T 01763 261833

Thanks to the following donations so far, which have enabled the project to begin:

- First Capital Connect: 18 oak planters

- Meldreth and Orchard Manor: bedding plants
- Cambridgeshire County Council and AmeyCespa (formerly Donabon): soil improver and use of skips for waste
- Country Homes and Gardens: garden tools and watering cans, seeds, sweet peas
- Fieldgate Nurseries: rosemary and lavender plants for Meldreth School patch
- Phillimores: moisture retention compost and transport of planters onto Foxton Station
- BWS Royston: scaffolding boards for Meldreth School patch
- Shepreth Wildlife Park: water butt, bird boxes, bird feeders, old stacking tyres, free child passes to Shepreth Wildlife Park for school children helping out
- Gocold: free ice cream for the station birthdays, water supply, hard labour
- Julie and Peter Draper: Fen topsoil for Meldreth School patch, plants
- Ann Thompson, Meldreth Primary School Gardening Club: plants
- Meldreth and Melbourn garden enthusiasts – Ann Thompson, Jane and Jim Eggleton, Julie and Peter Draper, Ann Barnes, Bruce Huett, Tim Gane, Susan van de Ven: preparing the ground for Meldreth School patch.
- NG Bailey Maintenance: affixing planters to station platforms
- Melbourn Village College: litter picking the Melbourn side of Meldreth Station.
- David Piggott, Meldreth Station Master: tea

First tub sponsors

- Elisabeth Goodman Spain, RiverRhee Consulting
- The Farmer Family
- Melbourn Allotment Holders
- Tavern Gallery
- Wright's Mowers
- Sue and John Smith
- Foxton Shop
- Jon Butler and Elisabeth Haigh
- The Montague-Fuller Family
- David Kendrick

July 9th railway birthdays celebration schedule

- Foxton Station: 12:10
- Meldreth Station: 13:10
- Shepreth Station: 14:10

At each station we will have a delegation of local primary school children to help launch the new railway station gardens.

A local history theme will be woven into the day, with Foxton's Common Stream group and Meldreth's Local History Group providing photographic displays in their respective station houses, and a specially reprinted local history of Shepreth and the local railway, *Distant Voices*, available to purchase at each station (£6).

Mike Sharman, Foxton resident and local rail historian, will travel by train to each station with an historic railway lantern, accompanied by the Common Stream Local History group, a Melbourn Village College musician, a Shepreth Wildlife Park representative, the County Council's Community Transport officer, First Capital Connect Station Services Manager, and Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group.

Free ice cream will be served by Gocold at each station. All welcome!