

PRESS RELEASE - 22ND November 2012



Telling Our Story: Meldreth Local History Group celebrates £7,100 Heritage Lottery Fund grant

Meldreth Local History Group is one of the first groups in the UK to receive a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) All Our Stories grant, it was announced today. This exciting project, Understanding Our Past: Exploring the Hidden History of Meldreth, led by Meldreth Local History Group, has been given £7,100 to fund the digging of test pits at different locations in Meldreth in order to explore how the village developed and evolved.

All Our Stories, a brand new small grant programme, launched earlier this year in support of BBC Two's *The Great British Story* - has been designed as an opportunity for everyone to get involved in their heritage. With HLF funding and support, community groups will carry out activities that help people explore, share and celebrate their heritage.

The popular series presented by historian Michael Wood and supported by a programme of BBC Learning activities and events got thousands of us asking questions about our history and inspired us to look at our history in a different way through the eyes of ordinary people.

The programme and HLF All Our Stories has proved a real hit and now Understanding Our Past: Exploring the Hidden History of Meldreth is one of hundreds of successful projects around the UK to receive a grant, following collaboration with Cambridge Community Heritage at the University of Cambridge in preparing its proposal. The project will be managed by Meldreth Local History Group, a community group formed in 2007. The Group will continue to receive support from Cambridge Community Heritage throughout the project and will be working closely with Dr Carena Lewis, former Time Team presenter, and head of Cambridge Community Heritage, who has overseen the digging of hundreds of test pits in over 50 villages throughout the east of England. The project, which will begin next year, will involve the digging of 20-30 test pits in different locations in Meldreth. The Group intends to involve the wider community by inviting them to actively participate in the project and an initial public meeting will be held early in 2013. Findings from the project will be shared through the Group's website at www.meldrethhistory.org.uk, Meldreth Matters, the village magazine and the local press. An exhibition will be held in Meldreth Village Hall at the conclusion of the project.

TV presenter and historian Michael Wood said, "We British love our history, and no wonder; few nations in the world, if any, have such riches on their doorstep, and so much of it accessible to all of us. It is really tremendous that the people of Meldreth have been inspired to get involved to tell their own story and to dig deeper into their own past. It's brilliant that so many people are being given the chance to get involved through the All Our Stories grants. Having travelled the length and breadth of the British Isles this last year filming The Great British Story. I am certain that fascinating and moving stories will be uncovered which will not only bring to life the excitement of local history, but will illuminate and enrich every community's connection with the national narrative."

Commenting on the award, Joan Gane, Chairman of Meldreth Local History Group, said, "Meldreth Local History Group is very pleased to have been awarded this HLF grant to enable us to dig deeper into our history and to try and discover more about how and why our ancestors settled here originally. Being a very friendly and active village, we know we will be able to energise all age groups into sharing history together in 2013 when we start our All our Stories project. Our thanks go to Dr Carezza Lewis and the University of Cambridge archaeologists and historians for inspiring us."

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, said, "Clearly the success of All Our Stories has reinforced the fact that we are indeed a nation of story tellers and that we want to explore and dig deeper into our past and discover more about what really matters to us. This is exactly what the grant will do for Meldreth Local History Group as it embarks on a real journey of discovery."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

Meldreth Local History Group was formed in 2007 by and for the people of Meldreth. Its aims are to:

- research and record the history of the village and its environs
- create an archive of local history which can be passed on to future generations
- publish material, both in print and digital forms, for the benefit of the local community and others interested in the history of the village.

All Our Stories

All Our Stories is a new, simple, funding programme for 2012 with grants available ranging from £3,000 - £10,000 developed so everyone can get involved in their heritage. From researching local historic landmarks, learning more about customs and traditions to delving into archives and finding out the origins of street and place names All Our Stories will give everyone the chance to explore their heritage and share what they learn with others. This programme is now closed to new applications and decisions were made in October 2012.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported 33,000 projects, allocating £4.9 billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk.

BBC Learning

BBC Learning plays a central part in meeting the BBC's purpose of promoting education and learning. Utilising the power of the BBC's big brands and key talent, the department puts learning right at the heart of the BBC and provides a variety of resources and learning opportunities for children, teachers, parents and adult learners. Working with partners and in local communities, BBC Learning aims to stimulate interests and encourage engagement through a variety of campaigns across all BBC genres and platforms.

Cambridge Community Heritage



**Cambridge
Community
Heritage**

[Cambridge Community Heritage](#) (CCH) is a University of Cambridge team which brings university researchers together with people and groups beyond the university who are interested in setting up and running their own heritage projects which explore, investigate and enjoy any aspect of the past. Cambridge

Community Heritage involves researchers and community groups with a wide range of interests, specialisms and passions encompassing sites, monuments, buildings, places, spaces and landscapes of all dates along with social, local, family and oral histories of all periods and sectors of society. Cambridge Community Heritage is run by Dr Carenza Lewis, archaeologist and landscape historian well-known from Channel 4's Time Team. In 2013, the Cambridge Community Heritage team will be supporting more than 20 community groups in running their All Our Stories projects. CCH has provided the following quote: "We are very much looking forward to working with a wonderfully wide range of projects which will be giving so many people the chance to enjoy making exciting new discoveries and unique records about the heritage all around them".