

Meldreth Local History Group

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Website: www.meldrethhistory.org.uk

July 2013

Understanding Our Past: Exploring the Hidden History of Meldreth

Second test pit digging weekend: 6th & 7th July

A further ten test pits will be dug in the village this weekend when the second of our three weekends of test pitting gets underway. As reported in previous issues of our newsletter, the Group has been awarded an Heritage Lottery Fund All Our Stories grant to fund the digging of 20-30 test pits in the village. Seven pits will be open to the public this weekend. A map showing the location of the open pits is included at the end of this newsletter and can also be downloaded from our [website](http://www.meldrethhistory.org.uk).



The project got off to a very successful start last month, when the first test pits were dug. Over 50 volunteers were involved on each of the two days and many more people visited the village to have a look at the nine pits that were open to the public. One pit produced a very unusual find (pictured left), identified as a medieval pilgrim badge. These were purchased by people who had been on pilgrimage and were attached to clothing or headgear to show off their achievement and piety. Some people were even buried with their

pilgrim badge. Carezza Lewis, the former Time Team presenter who is working closely with us on the project said, "In nearly 1,500 pits that I've been involved in digging over the last few years, we've never found one of these before, so it's a remarkable discovery."

There is a [blog](#) of the project on the website, detailing all of our progress to date. Information and images from the first weekend of test pitting will begin to be uploaded to the website soon.

Our final test pits will be dug on 17th & 18th August. All August test pit owners and volunteers will be contacted

closer to the time. For further information please

see our [website](#). There is a link to the project from our home page and more pages will be added as the project progresses. If you would like to volunteer to help on one of the weekends and have not already been in touch, then please [email](#) us.♦



Our Next Coffee Morning



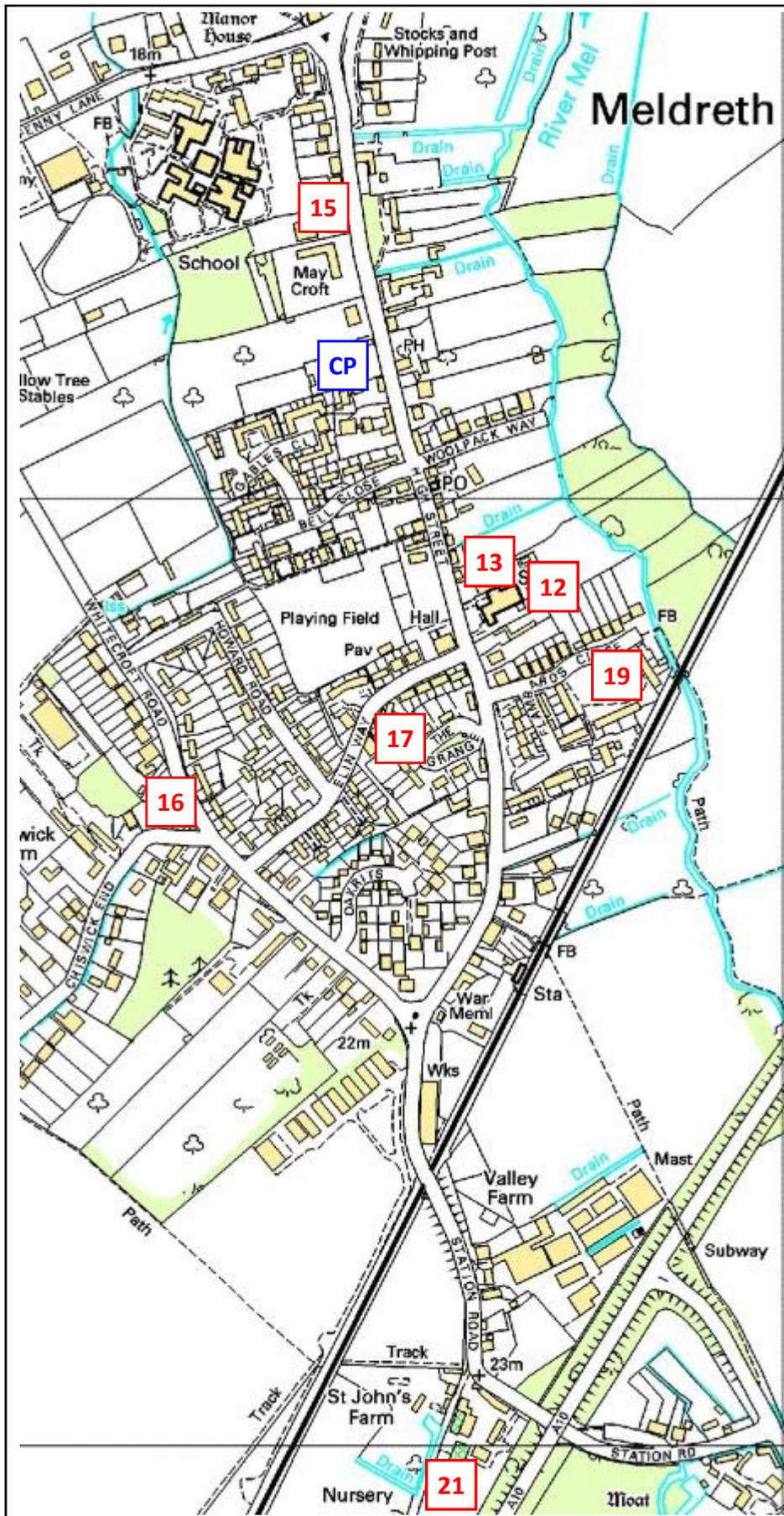
Our next coffee morning will be held on Monday 14th October 2013 in the Sheltered Housing Community Room, Elin Way, Meldreth from 10.00am until midday. Please join us for free refreshments.♦

MLHG COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman	Joan Gane (01763) 260129
Treasurer	Bruce Huett (01763) 232855
Secretary	Kathryn Betts (01763) 268428
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Publicity Officer	Terry Dash (01763) 260823
Committee Members	Tim Gane (01763) 260129
	Christine Duguid (01763) 260802

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Test Pit Schedule: Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th July



Ten test pits will be dug in the village this weekend. Seven of the pits will be open to the public from approximately midday to 4.00pm each day. Details are as follows:

TP12	Primary School, High St.
TP13	70 High Street
TP14	<i>not open to the public</i>
TP15	79 High Street
TP16	39 Whitecroft Road
TP17	7 The Grange
TP18	<i>not open to the public</i>
TP19	Flambards Green
TP20	<i>not open to the public</i>
TP21	Fieldgate Nurseries

The Finds Collection Point, marked as CP on the map, at 67 High Street (opposite the British Queen) will be open from 4.30 to 5.30pm each day and Dr Carenza Lewis will sum up the weekend's findings there at 4.45pm on the Sunday.

You are welcome to visit the public pits. Please respect the landowners' property and comply with the health and safety guidelines provided at each test pit.

Thank you.

This project has been coordinated by Meldreth Local History Group, using an Heritage Lottery Fund All Our Stories grant.

More information on the Group is available by visiting our website,

www.meldrethhistory.org.uk.



LOTTERY FUNDED