Romero Communities get their hands on history

22/08/2013

Led by volunteers from the local community, the project aims to help local residents discover the archaeological past beneath our feet and lead courses in archaeology and local history. The project begins in September and runs until May 2016.

Explaining the importance of the HLF award, Fiona Spiers, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund Yorkshire and the Humber said “This exciting project will enable people to actively learn about the history of their local area and gain skills in archaeological investigation. This project really will uncover the hidden heritage of Athersley and New Lodge, letting everyone get involved and learn about their community’s past!”

Carol Clair of Romero Communities said: “We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund who have awarded the grant to look into the archaeological history of Athersley and New Lodge. This means we can dig archaeological test pits, do geophysical surveys and run courses in archaeology and local history. Anyone who would like to have a go at archaeology is welcome. You don’t need to know how to dig or do geophys as archaeologists will train and supervise you. We will also provide all equipment.”

The test pits will be dug in people’s gardens during September for the next three years. We are looking for finds such as old pots and clay tobacco pipes that can show how the area was used before the estates were built. In October, we also hope to do geophysical surveys of the area to the north to see what ancient features are buried beneath the soil. Pupils from all three local primary schools will also get the chance to join in. They will dig test pits in their school grounds and have lessons about archaeology.

Finds from the test pits will be shown at a Finds Road show in November.

If you live in Athersley or New Lodge and would like to find out how you can get involved contact Carol Clair on 07958 180 660. They will also have stalls at the St Helens Gala, Laithes Lane pit fields on 28 August and New Lodge Celebration Event, on village green behind Roundhouse Medical Centre, 31 August. Please come along for a chat or view the Hands On History Barnsley Facebook page.

Notes to editors

Romero Communities, a local charity who promote community cohesion and understanding to advance education, employability and vocational skills in order for residents to develop social and financial inclusion and to participate more fully in society.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews contact Bill Bevan on 07538 185 960.