Big Dig Ewyas celebrates grant for Time Team

Archaeological activity at Big Dig Ewyas

Big Dig Ewyas, an exciting project led by local firm Headland Archaeology, has been awarded £9,900 to conduct a series of test pits across the village of Ewyas Harold and neighbouring Dulas in a project reminiscent of the renowned Time Team ‘Big Dig’ broadcast on Channel 4 in 2003.

Just as with the Time Team project this investigation is a true exercise in community archaeology and will target local peoples’ gardens and common spaces in search of the earliest origins of the village. With the support of professionals, local people will be putting their new archaeological skills to the test as they investigate the past communities that lived in and around the medieval castle and priory.

Local archaeologist Sam Thomas explains: “We have eight days over the summer to investigate the origins and history of the village. To do this we want to dig as many 1 metre x 1 metre test pits across the village and its surrounding area as possible.”

Reyahn King, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, said: “Sharing Heritage is a wonderful opportunity for communities to delve into their local heritage and we’re delighted to offer this grant so Big Dig Ewyas can embark on a real journey of discovery – for some literally in their own backyard! HLF has already supported two successful projects with the EHHAG which explored the origins of the castle and monastic activity in the area. Now the modern-day

community will uncover the story of their medieval predecessors and the earliest origins of their village.”

Notes to editors

Ewyas Harold History and Archaeology Group is to explore the land and borough surrounding the castle site of Ewyas Harold. To investigate various aspects of the heritage of the village. To share and disseminate information to the local community and involve them in investigating the history and archaeology of their local area.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews, please contact Headland Archaeology Sam Thomas on 01432 364 902, email: sam.thomas@headlandarchaeology.com or Mike Kimber on 01432 364 901, email: mike.kimber@headlandarchaeology.com.

For EHHAG enquiries contact Amanda Huntley at Ewyas Harold History and Archaeology Group on 01981 240 208, email: amanda@huntleyarchives.com.