



January 2013

Invitation to get involved with 'Sizergh Castle – Dig in the Park'

Interested in archaeology? Fancy trying your hand at uncovering history in the grounds of one of Cumbria's oldest inhabited houses? Volunteers are invited to join a project at Sizergh Castle next July, with pre-dig education and training days, being offered by Levens Local History Group, in partnership with the National Trust and utilising the professional skills of Oxford Archaeology North.

Levens Local History Group has been successful in securing a grant of nearly forty-seven thousand pounds to run 'Dig in the Park'.

We believe this project will be of interest to your members as it will provide an opportunity for anyone with an interest in archaeology or local history to take part in an archaeological survey. It should be stressed that no prior knowledge or experience is required and that on-site training will be given by qualified archaeologists.

The 'Dig in the Park' project follows on from a 2010 landscape survey of Sizergh Park, and the dig will be of two items of interest discovered through the survey; a putative burnt mound, and a ditch/boundary or sunken roadway that forms an obvious landscape feature. Both of these are situated in the Park adjacent to the entrance lane. Additionally, there will be a full geophysical survey of that portion of the Park, and a detailed vernacular building survey of the Great Mediaeval Barn, which, somewhat surprisingly, has not been carried out before.

Anyone wishing to take part is invited to attend two training days and a guided walk which will be held at Sizergh Castle on Saturday 22nd June and Saturday 29 June between 11.00am and 4.00pm. The project itself will take place between Saturday 6th July and Saturday 20th July.

We are very keen that local people and local groups have the opportunity to get involved in this exciting project, and to this end can we please ask you to

forward this invitation onto your members. Your members are welcome to volunteer for a single day, or for longer if they wish. Volunteers will be asked to commit to attending on the days they specify to enable a project timetable to be produced, with places being allocated on a first-come first- served basis.

Anyone wishing to take part in the project should contact Stephen Read, secretary, Levens Local History Group, levenshistory@btinternet.com or 01539560318.

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 over 30,000 projects, allocating £4.6billion across the UK . Website: <http://www.hlf.org.uk>

