

Fancy an archaeological dig? Join one of our local Time Teams

YOU may have noticed that Time Team is back on our TV screens and as ever they are coming up with some very interesting archaeology, so this seems like a really good time to tell you about your local Time Teams. Longest established is The Manshead Archaeological Society!

Not only is it one of very few amateur groups that actively organises and undertakes its own digs, it also has resistivity equipment, or geophysics Time Team call it, so it can survey areas without disturbing the ground to determine what might be there under the surface.

Field walking is also an important aspect. This entails a detailed visual search of a particular area, usually using a grid system, and by this means any concentrations of finds soon show up. It could be roof tiles from a Roman villa or flints from a Neolithic site.

The group has dug many local sites and has a continuing excavation in Billington. The archaeologists are always interested to hear from you if you have found interesting things in your garden.

The group meets at its headquarters in The Les Matthews Archaeology Centre, 5 Winfield Street, Dunstable. Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 8pm to 10pm and on Sunday mornings from 10am to 12.30pm.

The great thing about the society is that age or archaeological knowledge are absolutely no barrier to becoming a member. The only thing you need is an interest. Why not try something new today and Give It a Go! Visit the centre at the times stated or call Mark Morgan on 07768-851015, or email markmorgan13@hotmail.com for further information on the Manshead's current digs, scheduled talks and coach trips.

IF YOU'RE interested in what's buried here under our own town, why not join the Leighton Buzzard and District Archeological and Historical Society?

You can read about the group's activities on its website, lbdahs.org.uk.

From September to May they enjoy a series of monthly talks for members and the public. These cover a wide range of subjects: recent talks have featured local wills, the local coprolite industry, and how to research the history of your house.

Forthcoming talks are about the fossil mammals of the Ousel Valley, Adventures in Science and Art, and the Cowper museum and gardens at Olney.

From April to September the society carries out excavations in the Leighton Buzzard area. They undertake research into the sand industry and sandstone buildings.

And they produce four news-sheets a year to keep members informed of what is going on, plus an annual summary of activities called Transactions.

Find out more from the website or contact the secretary, Bernard Jones, at 40 Redwood Glade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 3JT - telephone (01525) 376550.