



■ Members of the Stour Valley Community Archaeology group formed after the completion of the Dedham Vale & Stour Valley's 'Managing a Masterpiece' project. Left, Right, group members Corinne Cox and Nick Moore work on a dig.

Photo: SU ANDERSON

# Archaeologists want to meet people who dig local history

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A team of amateur archaeologists has started its own group and is searching for people to join – and places to dig.

The Stour Valley Community Archaeology group is made up of volunteers who got a taste for unearthing history after getting involved in the recent Managing a Masterpiece initiative.

The three-year project, made possible through a £900,000 grant from the National Heritage

Memorial Fund, financed more than 60 schemes, which sought to celebrate the heritage and natural beauty of the Stour Valley which runs through the Essex/Suffolk border.

These included a number of archaeological digs in places like Mount Bures, Clare and Nayland overseen by well-known *Time Team* TV historian Dr Carenza Lewis. But although Managing a Masterpiece has come to an end, the volunteers feel they still have a lot of digging in them.

"We found the whole experience

so rewarding we want to continue with our archaeological work in the area," said group chairman Laure Bonner.

"We agreed it would be a marvelous legacy from Managing a Masterpiece if we carried on. It's such an interesting pursuit and we'd like others to join us."

Ms Bonner says with archaeology there are jobs for everyone from wielding a trowel to recording finds and sieving soil, which children can do. Dr Lewis, who runs her own company, Access Cambridge Archaeology, has

agreed to be patron of the new group and to oversee digs so they are accurately recorded.

The group's first project will be to dig for remains of Anglo-Saxon settlements at Goldringham Hall in Gestingthorpe, near Sudbury, which is owned by farmer Ashley Cooper – a respected local historian.

If you are interested in getting involved, have a place where the group can dig or can help by donating old digging tools contact Ms Bonner on [stourvalleyarchaeology@gmail.com](mailto:stourvalleyarchaeology@gmail.com)