

# Big Dig expert does the groundwork at village



**TIME TRAVEL:** Time Team's Dr Carenza Lewis, fourth right, with, from left, Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group's Kate Millar, Philip Bastow, Mike Walton, Jackie Snow, Will Swales, Alan Mills and Judith Mills on Reeth Green preparing for the Swaledale Big Dig

A YORKSHIRE Dales village is gearing up for the start of a community archaeology project.

Dr Carenza Lewis, star of Channel 4 series Time Team, visited Reeth to inspect the preparations for the Swaledale Big Dig.

The archaeologist met local pupils on Reeth green, which will be the location of

several test pits during the project.

She then took part in a Big Dig open evening in Reeth Memorial Hall, which featured talks by various experts involved in the initiative.

The Swaledale Big Dig is a two-year community project organised by the Swaledale and

Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group (SWAAG) to help residents search for clues to medieval and ancient history in their own backyards.

It has received funding of £76,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Authority. Project manager Alan Mills, from SWAAG, said: "The Big Dig is primarily about archaeologists working with residents to dig test pits on their own and public land.

"The pits will be a meter square and up to a metre deep, and will help us to see snapshots of what lies

beneath our feet over a wide area of the landscape. "Hopefully we will have lots of pits so that they will help us to formulate views about the development of settlement areas and gain a better understanding of our local history."

The project will run for the rest of 2014 and next year.