Pot luck with a fingerprint for the history detectives

A fascinating fingerprint, farthing coins and pottery dating back hundreds of years were among the items found when young people excavated part of a Norfolk beer garden yesterday. Students from school years nine to 11 dug up part of the King’s Head Inn garden at Acle with the help of television archaeologist Carenza Lewis.

Despite only being 20cm into their one-metre dig, the team had already unearthed pottery as much as 350 years old. They will continue to dig further today. Among the relics was part of a Victorian pot with an indent of a fingerprint.

Ms Lewis said: “We don’t normally find things with manufacturing flaws: someone has made it and picked it up. “To find a fingerprint in it is quite unusual.”

She added: “I have done quite a few of these in pub gardens, and this is just brilliant.”

Hayley Speck, 15, from Caister High School, said: “We didn’t expect to find as much as we have done.

“I am doing this because I thought I would try something new. “It fits well with history, which I am studying.”

Ms Lewis said: “We are hoping children will be able to do this as part of their history GCSE.

“One of the most important things for them to learn is to question the evidence.”