NAYLAND TEST PIT DIG by Pat Bray

A community project which involved digging test pits to discover more about Nayland's early history drew an enthusiastic response over the weekend of October 5-7.

The archaeological event was run by Dr. Carenza Lewis, formerly of Channel 4's Time Team, and her team who were on hand to advise diggers.

Thirty-four pits were dug at sites all over the village and over three days a huge range of objects was unearthed.

On October 7 a tea party was held at Carvers' Barn, Mill Street, to display the finds which included medieval pottery, coins, brick and tile fragments, animal bones, metal and a range of bottles.

Dr. Lewis said there were very little prehistoric and no Roman or Anglo-Saxon materials. She added: "Nayland was a new town in the 13th century and went on from there. A fantastic range of people have been involved this weekend and it gives us a much clearer idea of the village."

She thanked Andora Carver, who co-ordinated the whole project, her own team and everyone who took part.

Mrs. Carver, Secretary of Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society, said: "It's been a wonderful experience for everyone involved and a great community event. There was a buzz about the village all weekend and people really enjoyed working together."

The finds will be washed, recorded and retained for analysis before being returned to the owners, if requested.

The event is part of the lottery-funded Managing a Masterpiece scheme.

Clockwise from top: Dr. Carenza Lewis at the briefing meeting at Nayland Primary School on Friday 5th October, Site 24 at Mill House, Site 7 at Parkers. Dr. Carenza Lewis giving the Saturday briefing at Carvers' Barn, visitors viewing the finds that had been unearthed, aerial view of the tea party at Mill House at the end of the weekend.