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local NEWS



■ Mason Pearce from St Gregory's Primary School with two of the finds. Photos: PHIL MORLEY



■ Many youngsters were involved in the Sudbury Community Big Dig at the Croft.

Volunteers help dig up town's history

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A community big dig in Sudbury over the weekend has helped to shed light on the town's history, with finds including Saxon pottery.

About 35 test pits across Sudbury and into Ballingdon were excavated and more than 100 volunteers were involved, with roles including everything from digging to making cups of tea.

The big dig – organised by the Sudbury Society, the Sudbury History Society and the Sudbury Museum Trust – has been under the supervision of archaeologists from Cambridge University's Access to Archaeology headed by Dr Carenza Lewis.

She is known for her appearances on Channel 4's *Time Team* and on the BBC's *The Great British Story*.

John Newman, a freelance archaeologist working with Dr Lewis, said the dig had been "very successful".

On Friday, schoolchildren involved in digging about five pits on the Croft, near St Gregory's Church, came across Saxon and medieval pottery. Also referring to the pits in gardens across Sudbury and Ballingdon, Mr Newman said: "We have got a



■ Tudor Primary School pupils Molly Ratliff and Abbie Smith scrape back the soil in search of ancient gems under the watchful eye of volunteer Julie Thomson.

whole range of pottery finds which are telling us all about Sudbury with middle and late Saxon settlement – from the 8th Century through to the Domesday Book period – and we can see the town growing in the medieval period."

He said the population dropped off in about 1340 because of the Black Death and then in the late medieval Tudor period areas started expanding again. "The pottery shows us a thriving town," he said.

Andrew Tate, of Ballingdon Street, was one of those who volunteered to have a test pit in his garden. He said: "Clearly Sudbury is a historic town and we were curious to know what might be under the garden."

Councillor John Nunn, who has been involved with the project, said: "Everyone has enjoyed it despite the bad weather on Saturday."

The finds will now go back to Cambridge to be analysed. For updates visit www.access.arch.cam.ac.uk

Man denies attempting to murder brother

A man is to go on trial early next year after denying attempting to murder his brother. Shaun Webber, 22, of Fore Street, Ipswich, was arrested

following an incident along a footpath behind Sapphire Close on July 6 where a man in his 30s sustained serious stab wounds. At Ipswich

Crown Court on Thursday he denied attempting to murder Jamie Webber and wounding him with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

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