

Students dig in to help uncover the past at Hillington's hospice site



Students from Springwood High School and Thomas Clarkson Academy with West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society volunteer Steve Jukes and the Hospice bear, Harmony, with their test pit at the Norfolk Hospice. ANL-150319-091222001

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Land surrounding the site of Norfolk Hospice's modern new facility at Hillington is being investigated to discover more about its past.

The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House is one of the 12 archaeological test pits, which are being explored in Hillington this week.

Organised by University of Cambridge Archaeological department and West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society, the dig is being undertaken by students from local schools, including Springwood High School in Lynn and Thomas Clarkson Academy in Wisbech, as part of a programme designed to help the students develop the skills required for Higher Education and the workplace.

Daniel Harvey, a Year Nine student from Springwood, has been taking part in the project at the hospice and described the opportunity as "once in a lifetime."

During the building of the hospice, a 900-year-old well was unearthed along with several flint arrowheads and tools. It is hoped that the test pit will uncover more artefacts allowing people to understand more about the history of the hospice site. So far, the students have unearthed a few pieces of what they suspect is medieval pottery.

Mark Shea, commercial director at the Norfolk Hospice said: "It is wonderful to be part of a project which helps young local people develop skills for the future, whilst discovering the history of both the hospice site and our local community. Everyone at the hospice is looking forward to finding out more about how our new site was used in the past."