



Cambridge
Community
Heritage



That was the year that was...



DIGGING IN: above: project leader Terry Dymott, left, Madeleine Colledge, Matt Finch, Pam Norton and Robert Skeen examine test pits at Wimpole Estate. Left: Peter Cornelissen and Susan May with Alan Norton, rear, from Cambridge Archaeology Field Group.



Going down, next stop Australia



Just a few test pitting finds after washing



Charles II three penny coin



Ringing the changes. Crotal bell

Team delves into estate's history

ARCHAEOLOGISTS began a journey into the hidden history of Wimpole Estate in the 17th century over the weekend.

A series of test pits were dug on the sites of abandoned houses to search for signs of the earliest inhabitants of the now popular South Cambridgeshire attraction.

Pottery and a brick layer were discovered on a site believed to have been once owned by a man named Mr Daintry.

Terry Dymott, project leader of the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group, said: "The map we are using lists the owners names from 1638.

"On Saturday, one pit produced a midden site full of oyster shells and cut bone, then on Monday we moved north and are now investigating three house sites

BY LUCY ROSS-MILLAR

lucy.ross-millar@nyx.net.uk

labelled Mr Daintry, Mr Jepson and Mr Griper.

"We put in five pits and the one we think is near Mr Griper produced a heavy cobble layer which we think is a road or track.

"Near Mr Daintry we found some pottery which predates the 18th century, so it is almost certainly a house site."

"Wimpole: silent voices and deserted homes' is supported by the All our Stories Heritage Lottery Fund and will continue until Sunday.

The test pits are open for public view as part of the Council for British Archaeology's Festival of Archaeology and the finds recovered are being washed, processed and displayed in a tent

within the formal garden area of Wimpole Hall.

Jenny Middlehurst, visitors experience ranger at Wimpole Estate, said: "The project was very well received over the weekend. We had a lot of visitors going up to the site and asking questions.

"There were a lot of local people interested in knowing more about Wimpole Estate in the 17th century."

News report: Courtesy of Royston Weekly News



Picnic time at Mr Neale's house.



Some of the many, clay pipe of Ann Cleever, mid 19th C



Please can I get my ball out of your hole?



Another interested visitor waddles by



Wow! Found something at last



Let us out. We've done our quota today.



...sure it's not over there?



Panning for gold?



There's not room in this hole for the both of us!



It's a good job we don't get paid by the weight of finds.



How much further down?



We don't need no edukashun. Pottery class in action



You meet such nice people at these pot washings.



Base camp 2013, pot washers in action.



Test pitters and metal detectorist at work.



Field walking - oh joy!