

Kidnap attempt left girl shaken

A teenage girl was left badly shaken yesterday after a man in a white van tried to abduct her as she approached the gates of her school.

The 13-year-old was walking towards Cliff Park High School, along Kennedy Avenue, Gorleston, at about 8.50am when she noticed the van which drove past more than once.

The driver, who she did not know, waved at her and then pulled up and asked her to get into the vehicle.

The youngster ignored the approach and made her way to school where she reported the incident.

The suspect is described as in his 30s, with ginger hair and wearing a blue or black round-necked jumper.

The van, smaller than a Ford Transit, had black lettering on the side about 3in high.

Police spokesman Jon Smith said: "There were several people in the area at the time and it is therefore possible that someone will have seen the van and the driver."

"We wish to praise the common sense displayed by this girl in correctly ignoring the man and continuing to school to report the incident."

"Any member of the public seeing something suspicious is also urged to take the vehicle's registration number."

Witnesses or anyone who has any information is asked to contact PC Lee Simmons on 0845 4564567. Alternatively contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

HISTORY: Local project combines archaeology with a taste of university life

Pictures: COLIN FINCH



SCRATCHING THE SURFACE: Carezza Lewis (from Channel 4's Time Team) with some of the youngsters at Wiveton.

Pupils look into the past to see the future

By RICHARD BATSON

Students scratched away at the surface of a Norfolk village to get a flavour of its history and a taste of what their own futures might hold.

A Time Team-style dig has been taking place in the gardens, orchards and allotments of Wiveton, near Blakeney.

Helped by experts from the television series, youngsters from four high schools unearthed fragments which will help redraw the local history map.

But the project will also show them that university study can be fun - in a bid to encourage more youngsters to set their sights on higher education.

Over two days, armed with trowels and clipboards, they painstakingly stripped away layers in 10 1m square holes across the village, and recorded their finds.

Early discoveries included a tiny piece of 1,000-year-old Thetfordware cooking pot, some medieval pottery from Grimston and some pieces of 13th century stained glass - found just over



CLOSE UP: Paul Blinkhorn examines a find.

the churchyard wall, and believed to have come from a forerunner of the current parish church.

Time Team archaeologist Carezza Lewis said the glass pieces were exciting, and looked to have come from a window which featured a saint in a niche with drapes.

The Wiveton test pits were part of a University of Cambridge research programme which was helping to fill in "black holes" of history in rural spots which did not provide major dig sites, due to the lack of supermarket or

motorway developments.

But the scheme - involving 500 students across 11 sites in the region - also gave students a chance to get involved in university level research. As well as two days in the "field", they spent another in the colleges - sampling university conditions and lifestyles.

"They feel involved - and we hope that at a time when more and more jobs demand a degree, it will encourage more of them to consider university," added Carezza.

Archaeology was a great vehicle for targeting youngsters' ambitions, because it "captures people's imaginations, covers so many academic subject areas, and can make learning about history and the environment truly exciting".

The 37 students, from high schools at Aylsham, Stalham, Wells and Fakenham, said they were enjoying the unearthing of history, while teachers noticed that they "slowed up" and became more methodical in their work.

Fire crews bemused by swimmer

A senior firefighter spoke of his bemusement yesterday after being called to rescue a horse stuck in a swimming pool.

Fire crews from East Harling and Norwich received the call out at about 5pm on Tuesday after the 10-year-old horse fell though its owner's pool cover at an address in Eccles Road, Wilby, near Attleborough.

They arrived to find stuck in about 3ft of water.

Peter Edwards, watch manager for East Harling fire station, said it was "very fortunate" that the horse was unfazed by spending more than an hour in the pool. "I have been here nine years and this is the first time I have had an incident like this. We received a report of a horse in a

swimming pool and, sure enough, when we arrived there was a horse standing in the shallow end. It was quite calm and did not to move or do anything," he said.

"It was very lucky it didn't fall into the deep end."

Firefighters pumped the water out of the pool and built a ramp out of straw bales.

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