

Additional photographs 2007_230_002 to 005



2007_230_002



2007_230_003



Youngsters go potty about the past

AN ENTHUSIASTIC band of young would-be archaeologists turned up for a mock dig at the Historylinks Museum in Dornoch this week.

It was the first of two summer workshops organised by assistant curator Peter Wild and education and outreach officer Jacquie Aitken, and involved constructing a large rectangular sandpit on the green outside the museum to resemble a trench on a real excavation site.

On Tuesday morning the organisers were amazed to see a trail of budding young archaeologists turning up at the museum – all keen to dig up treasure from the past.

The morning's activities started with an introduction to the subject from keen amateur archaeologist Jacquie Aitken. She told the group about prehistory, working on an excavation site and finding artefacts from the past. They were also instructed on how to use a trowel to dig for objects under the ground. The young people were split into two smaller groups, one digging in the sandpit and the other learning about prehistoric pots, and they switched over activities half-way through the session.

An array of interesting finds was unearthed from the sandpit during the morning session, including flint tools, granite arrowheads, shards of pottery, medieval buckles, fossil ammonites, a glass perfume bottle and much more. All the participants filled in a question sheet and finds' register, just like professional archaeologists, and the objects were put on display for everyone to see and talk about. The morning's activities ended with the amazing piec-

ing together of a replica Bronze Age beaker pot. This was achieved by piecing back together five separate pieces of a pot that had come from the sand pit – it even held together without using glue!

The organisers were helped by Rick Bramley and Anne Coombs throughout a very busy morning. A great time was had by everyone, and every young archaeologist was given a certificate to show that they had completed all the tasks.

The next summer workshop at Historylinks, entitled Dornoch Detectives Uncover the Past, is due to take place on Tuesday, August 7, from 10.30am to 12.30am. Further information, available on 01862-811275.



Jacquie Aitken shows the children the 'Bronze Age' pot pieced together from the fragments they found during the dig.



Children record and draw pictures of their finds, just like real archaeologists.