

**EDUCATION:** Middle Age pupils experience Danish blast from past

# All's wool for history girls

By Tony Collins

**A GROUP of Birmingham schoolgirls swapped the 21st century for the Middle Ages after embarking on a school outing with a difference.**

The five pupils from King Edward's High School for Girls in Edgbaston travelled to the Centre for the Middle Ages in Denmark to experience life as a wool merchant's family from 1396.

They were joined on the ten day trip by five boys from the Living History group at neighbouring King Edwards' School.

Together, the group worked as volunteers at the centre during which they were required to stay in character and costume for the entire duration.

As preparation for the trip, the



■ IN A SPIN... teacher Lindsey Burnett.

Living History group spent weekends at Avoncroft Museum in Bromsgrove and Cosmeston Medieval Village, Cardiff. A further trip to Avoncroft is taking place this weekend, starting on Saturday.

Pupils were told they would need to provide authentic costumes for their stay but, fortunately, one of King Edward's High School's moth-

ers proved very handy with a needle and thread and created the outfits using traditional needlework techniques.

Assistant group leader and King Edward's history teacher, Lindsey Burnett, said: "The practice weekends were hard work, but great fun as the girls learnt an enormous amount about the types of tasks which would be involved in recreating a wool merchant's family for a week.

"Typical days included spinning, trading wool, cooking and sleeping in the wool merchant's house. The traditional costumes kept us warm, but were incredibly heavy by the end of the day – we were glad to get to bed at sunset."

The Living History group actively encourages involvement with local state schools in Birmingham.



■ SEW RETRO... pupil Aimee Andrews in 14th century period costume.