

## Bridlington School First To Take Part In New Harbour Initiative



**Pupils at Hilderthorpe Primary School in Bridlington will be the first to take part in a new community initiative examining the important role the harbour plays in the economy and life of the town.**

Around 80 children aged seven to nine will take part in the programme, which has been launched by the Bridlington Harbour Commissioners and is due to run throughout the current half-term.

The project was launched this week by the chairman of the Commissioners, George Traves, on a visit to the school.

A highlight of the programme will be a visit to the harbour later this month when the pupils will be split into groups of around 20 and take part in four half-hour sessions looking at The history of the Harbour, Boat Building and Repair, Business and Employment and Traditional Skills.

They will be asked to produce items of work – artwork, photography and various forms of writing – and prizes will be awarded to the top two entries in four sections. In November, an exhibition of the work is due to be staged at the Bridlington Library in King Street.

George Traves said: “This is an exciting

project for the Commissioners, the like of which we have not done before, and we believe it will help to show the youngsters and hopefully their families just how important the harbour is to Bridlington.

“It remains the foremost factor in Bridlington’s history and dates back to the time of Henry VIII. Today, it is the most successful shellfish port in the United Kingdom, providing a base for around 100 businesses and employment for 400 people. It also acts as a magnet for the many thousands of day trippers and holidaymakers who visit Bridlington each year.

“Our aim has been to launch a genuinely educational initiative that will help us to give the youngsters a greater understanding of the harbour’s past as well as its current and future role in the economy and life of Bridlington. At the same time, we think the youngsters will have some fun visiting the harbour and working on their competition entries”.

Sue Kirke, Deputy Head Teacher at Hilderthorpe Primary School, said: “When the Commissioners approached us to become involved in this project we immediately saw the value of the general idea and the specific theme. As part of

our curriculum at Hilderthorpe, we like to include specific topics each year and the harbour and what it means to Bridlington people is ideal.

“The children know the harbour well but will they know how many people work there, what fish and shellfish are landed here and how it all fits together to the benefit of the town? It’s an excellent opportunity for community education and out-of-school teaching”.

Judging is due to take place during week commencing 21 October.

## TV Presenter Sets Sail From Brid

It was a case of ‘spot the celeb’ in Bridlington Harbour during the summer. Ade Edmondson, tv comedian turned documentary presenter, visited the resort on a number of occasions to carry out filming and interviews for a forthcoming series on Britain’s coastal communities.

He and his crew boarded the recently restored Bridlington sailing coble, the Three Brothers, and set sail for some ‘at sea’ shots.

Ade didn’t stop to talk to any of the day trippers looking down from the pier and one onlooker commented: “He looked a bit nervous. It was a bit choppy that day and one or two of the tv crew looked decidedly unsure about their trip. Let’s hope the cameraman had a steady hand”.



## Monthly Profile: Rob Fletcher Baitman Rob - One Of The Harbour's Real Characters



**To describe Bridlington's baitman, Rob Fletcher, as one of the harbour's true characters is perhaps an under-statement.**

A larger than life figure, he has more stories to tell than most, often giving chapter and verse about some of the more colourful events in his life.

But as the baitman – his official company name is Turnstone Baits Limited – Rob provides a vital service to the many fishermen who work out of and fish from the harbour.

Inside his premises on the 'chicken run' is a fisherman's Aladdin's cave, packed with scores of leads, baits and rods, not to mention the coffee mugs. To the first-time visitor it might look as though chaos reigns, but be sure, if it is chaotic it is certainly organised.

Rob knows where everything is, instantly, but beware ..... few people are given the chance to walk in, buy their bait and disappear without a good chat first with the proprietor. You can't help feeling it would be impolite not to engage with Rob in one of his tales of yore before going about your business.

Across the way, at the head of the harbour, Debbie Lee manages the kiosk,

presenting a smiley face and a bright welcome to all-comers.

Born in Bridlington's Old Town, Rob started his working life at the age of 14 when he left school to train as a butcher at local firm, Horsleys. He said: "I suppose that life wasn't for me. I've worked in and around the harbour ever since. I was out of work for a while when the kiosk became available and like so many of us Brid lads I'd dug worms since I was a kid.

"I love sea fishing and seven years ago I took over the kiosk and with a lot of encouragement and help from Margaret Hyland (now Chief Executive of the Harbour Commissioners) and her colleagues I ended up being in the bait business.

"Today, customers come from all over the country. Obviously, summertime is when I make my money but I have to more or less lasso passers-by in the winter".

He added: "As for Bridlington's future, the harbour is the heart and soul of the town but Bridlington certainly needs more to attract greater numbers of holidaymakers and day trippers. That doesn't mean letting someone else get their hands on the harbour. It's fine as it is".



## The Store That Never Shuts (Almost)

**T**ime and tide wait for no man, as they say, an adage that reflects the non-stop life of our harbour.

Even in the most severe weather conditions, there is usually something going on here.

The same can be said for one of the harbour's busiest stores, C & M Marine on the South Pier.

Run by David Cooper and his wife, Julie, the store is packed with literally hundreds of items, mostly chandlery essentials, sold primarily to fishermen and yachtsmen.

C & M Marine has been an established name on the harbour for more than 30 years but David and Julie only took over the business four years ago. The couple have three children, Ryan (11), Declan (10) and Kaydee (3), and live in Flamborough and are well and truly part and parcel of the harbour's life.

David has what he describes as a varied background which includes a City and Guilds qualification in wood machining and a degree in chemical processing and engineering. Julie is from a showman background, brought up in the amusement business and later working in the retail industry, no doubt putting those skills to good use in the chandlery.

David said: "We carry a huge stock and we are able to order other items at short notice and at very competitive prices. We're also an agent for Honda, supplying engines from 2.3 h.p. to 250 h.p."

He added: "Being close to the pier we're very handy for fishermen needing anything from rods to rigs, while Julie deals with the clothing and gift-wear, specialising in nautical gift-wear and beach goods".

At C & M Marine, life is about as busy as the tide with the store being open seven days a week, all year round, closing only for Christmas Day.