

Harbour visit proves a real success as children get a quayside teach-in



Boat Building: Children looking on with curiosity as Ken Newby shows them pictures of boat-building and some of the traditional tools used by the craftsmen



Dave McCandless shows one little girl how to handle a live crab.

Bridlington Harbour was alive with the sound of chatter and laughter as more than 80 excited local school children paid a visit to find out what life down by the water's edge is all about.

As part of a new educational initiative launched this summer by the Harbour Commissioners, the Year 3 and 4 pupils from the Hilderthorpe Primary School spent a few hours meeting harbour officials and characters to gain a different perspective to a day at the seaside.

Split into five groups and

accompanied by teachers and teachers' assistants, the children took part in a two-hour rotation 'class' only this time the subjects took on some rather unusual themes. Their subjects were:

The History of the Harbour – a talk with George Traves, chairman of the Harbour Commissioners, looking back to the early days of the harbour and emphasising its important role as part of the town's heritage

Harbour Walkabout – a lesson on the move as the Commissioners' Chief Executive, Margaret Hyland,



Done it!

took them on foot to point out the key business elements of the harbour, stressing the vital role it plays in generating revenue for the port and employment for the town

Boat Building – Ken Newby, a member of the Commissioners’ team, showed the youngsters some of the traditional tools used in coble building and the nails used for fastening the planks with roves. Just behind Ken, the restored Three Brothers, the last of the Bridlington sailing cobsles, was tied up and a few lucky youngsters had the privilege of stepping onto the pontoon for a close look.

All Tied Up – Brian Jewitt caused a few furrowed brows as he tried to get the children to tie some of the simple everyday knots used on fishing boats and yachts. As Brian said: “One or two could tie a granny knot but very few had ever tried to tie a knot. It’s just not something that youngsters are taught today, which is a real shame”.

and finally, but certainly not least...

Creatures of the Deep – David McCandless, Chief Fishery Officer at the North Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority, probably got the biggest reaction of the day with his tank containing live crabs and lobsters. David talked to the youngsters about the minimum landing sizes, how the escape gaps in the pots allow the juvenile to escape and, perhaps most important, demonstrated how to hold a crab, very useful on those summer days rock-pooling with mum and dad.

After a couple of hours of curiosity and questions, the children went off to enjoy a proper seaside packed lunch in the fresh air.

During this half-term, they will be tasked with producing items of work – artwork, photography and various forms of writing – all demonstrating the important role the harbour plays in the life and economy of Bridlington and its people.

Prizes will be awarded to the top two entries in four sections and in November an exhibition of their work is due to be staged at the Bridlington Library in King Street. Judging will take place on



Brian Jewitt showing one attentive youngster how to tie a knot.



Having spent the past few minutes watching Brian Jewitt demonstrate the art of knot tying, more than one of the youngsters are no doubt thinking of practising on Dad.

Thursday 7 November.

George Traves said: “The harbour day was even more successful than we had imagined. It was especially rewarding to see so many youngsters show a real interest in the harbour’s history and what goes on here today.

“We hope they will go home and tell mum and dad how much fun it was and how much they learned

and perhaps in the not too distant future some of them will want to earn their living at the harbour. At the very least, they will have a better understanding of its importance”

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