

'The Reaper'

May 2009

The refurbished herring boat/drifter 'The Reaper' which is the flagship of the Scottish Fisheries Museum, visited Oban and Tobermory on 15th & 16th May as part of a west coast 'Homecoming 2009' tour.

The boat is open for visits from the public and to enhance/augment the boat's stay, CAST successfully applied for funding from the Scottish Booktrust Live Literature scheme for a storyteller to visit each of our 7 Mull primaries and Tobermory High. We contracted writer/storyteller Ian Stephen from Lewis to undertake the tour of schools and deliver a one hour-long session in each school with a total audience of 190 pupils. In tandem with Ian's Mull schools visits, Oban Library was also successful in gaining similar funding for him to hold storytelling sessions in Oban. Cast co-ordinated visits throughout Friday morning to both the boat and the stories for 124 children from the following primary schools: St Columba's, Barcaldine, Park, Luining, Kilninver and Dalmally.

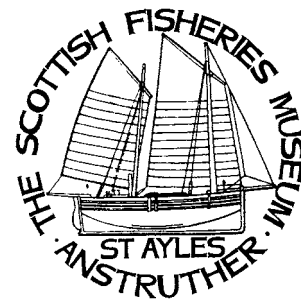
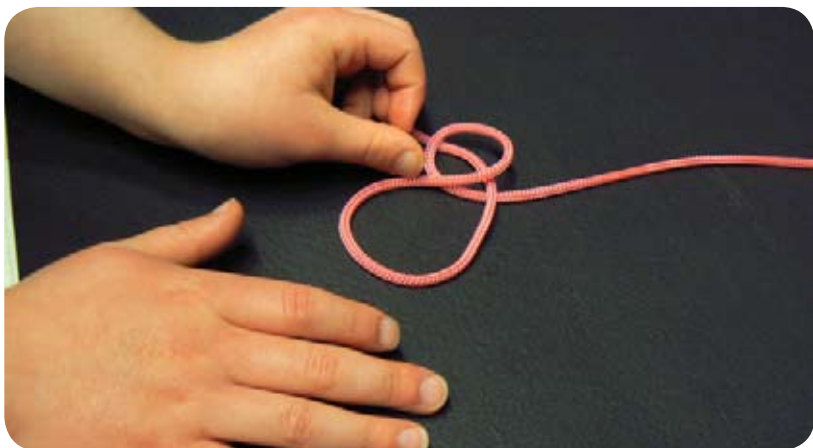


Prior to Ian's visit, the schools were provided with a Reaper resource pack compiled by CAST and the Fisheries Museum with information about the boat and fishing industry. Ian used to crew on the boat and delivered sessions which focused on maritime tales and boat poems. Along with the stories, he passed on his knowledge of knots and at the end of each school session the pupils had learned some basic knots and were able to remember at least one story.



Reaper on tour
11- 28 May 2009

Anstruther - Fraserburgh
Inverness - Fort Augustus
Corpach - Oban
Tobermory - Mallaig
Knoydart - Kyle of Lochalsh
Portree - Grimsay
Stornoway - Scrabster
Fraserburgh - Anstruther



Through storytelling Ian brought an imaginative, creative element to the visit with the following benefits: he developed learning opportunities about this specific topic in creative/imaginative ways, engaged primary pupils with this local maritime event, developed an understanding of and interest in poetry/storytelling, improved and developed literacy skills in this age group, provided the opportunity to understand the relevance and application of literacy skills.

The outcomes included developing links across the curriculum, specifically english language and social studies.

"Now that the dust has settled, I would just like to offer my sincere thanks for all your efforts which contributed so much to making REAPER's tour a success. The enthusiasm with which we were received, and the kindness and generosity shown to the crews everywhere we went, were quite overwhelming. Arduous though the trip was, it was more than compensated by the tremendous satisfaction one gets from a venture like this - the look on the faces of any of the classes of children aboard is a reward in itself.

For the statisticians amongst you, in the 8 ports we visited we took aboard no less than 3,868 visitors, including 672 schoolchildren from 26 separate schools. That latter figure in itself represents an enormous amount of work by the co-ordinators in each venue."

J S Main

Chairman, Boats Club

The Scottish Fisheries Museum Trust Ltd

