



SHOW: Gresham Village School pupils use the puppets to stage the fishing story. Pictured from left: Errin Palmer, Maddison Teagle, Imogen Batey, James Gregory, Tom Massingham and Ethan Palmer.

Pictures: MARK BULLIMORE

Puppets helping teach sea tradition

By **HAYLEY JOHNSTON**
hayley.johnston@archant.co.uk

Puppets are taking centre stage as part of an effort to educate and interest primary school pupils in the fishing trade.

A cluster of 10 schools from across north Norfolk is each providing 30 children to be puppeteers to put on a show inspired by a book that teaches characters all about fishing.

The three children in the book, *The Mystery of the Mystery Mist*, are all real children from Gresham's school, Holt - Isla Millward, 15, who illustrated the book, and her siblings, Mollie, 10, and Louie, 13.

It is narrated by Charles Hickman, 5, who is also a student at Gresham's. *The Mystery of the Mystery Mist* was written by puppeteer Karen



Crane (pictured with a copy), who is also organising the show.

"The book is to enthuse children about fishing and point them to the educational and heritage sites that exist, of which there is a list in the book," Ms Crane said.

"We felt there was a gap within primary schools where they learnt about fishing, and puppets are a great way to engage the pupils."

Pedlars Barrow, Ms Crane's shop in West Runton, is providing puppets such as fishermen, dolphins, seals and crabs for the play.

It is being funded by the North Norfolk Fisheries Local Action Group (Flag), which aims to help ensure a sustainable future for fisheries.

The group's Neil Featherstone said: "The project is part of the engagement that will reach a younger audience.

"It will give children a better understanding of fishing in regards to the tides, the water cycle and things like net building."

The show, which took three years to develop, will be filmed so that each school can receive a copy of their pupils' puppetry skills.

The films will also include pre-recorded extras, such as the children singing a sea shanty on the beach.



BOOK INSPIRED BY THIS OLD PHOTOGRAPH OF CHILD FROM 1910

The story begins on the day of the 2015 spring equinox and the solar eclipse when the children meet a mysterious child in the mist. They experience various fishing adventures and sail in boats, through a storm, to catch lobsters and fish.

Just before the end of the tale, the ghost boy walks along the beach, with children singing sea shanties in the distance.

It finishes with a Railway Children-style ending, where everyone stands and waves. The book was inspired by this photograph of a child standing in front of a traditional crab boat on East Runton beach in 1910.

In Brief

£10,000 for sports group

Sheringham and District Sports Association has been given a windfall to spend on its Sheringham Recreation and Social Club.

The £10,000 Big Lottery Fund grant will ensure there is access for all to its building on Cliff Road. It will pay for the installation of ramps, handrails and parking bays for disabled visitors. Association chairman Charles Sanders said they were delighted and thankful.

Caravan torched

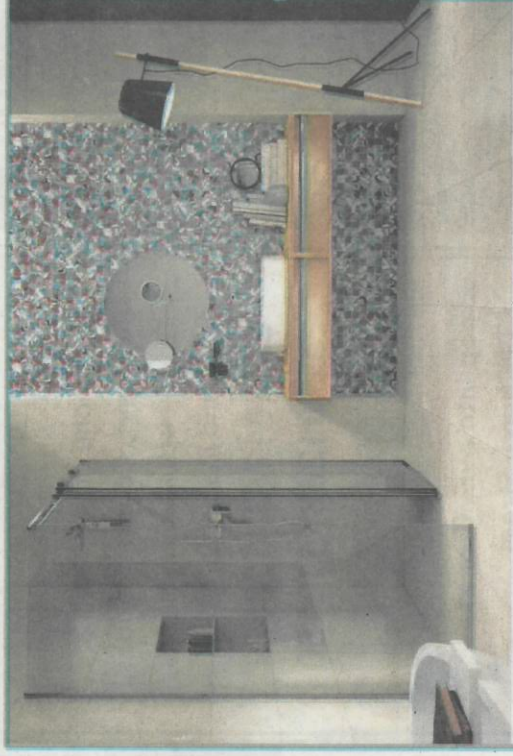
A parked caravan was destroyed in Knapton after being set alight. It happened on Hall Lane, sometime between 6pm and 7.10pm on October 19.

Contact PC William Harlow at North Walsham Police Station on 101 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Tickets winner

Mrs L Pitcher, of Central Road, Cromer, is the lucky winner of our competition, published in the News on October 29.

She wins a family ticket to the Cromer Pier Christmas Show, open from November 28-December 30.



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