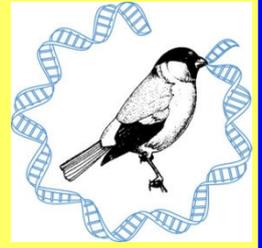


The Darwin Centre Canolfan Darwin

Charity No. 1038170



Alice McCosh Trust Report 2009



Report by
Marten Lewis

THE *Alice* 
McCOSH
TRUST

The Programme

3 Pembrokeshire, out-of-school summer clubs joined the Darwin Centre to explore the natural history and historic highlights of St. Brides Haven, Pembrokeshire. The clubs were made up of young people aged between 5 and 16. The visits began with a guided walk around the coastal fringe of the bay as well as the woodland and Victorian ruins of the old village. The orchards of the old manor house, the old walled garden and former ponds were explored. The groups then observed the old grave yard which is being eroded into the sea. There are medieval tombs protruding from the cliff, the site has previously been excavated for archaeological study. There is an old lime kiln at the cliff edge which allowed for discussions on the geological aspects of Pembrokeshire and the importance of the varying geological features of the county; igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks. The coal fields of the county were also discussed.

After a picnic at lunch time the group enjoyed a rocky shore ramble. There is a large variety of marine life at St. Brides due to its sheltered position on the south side of the Milford Haven estuary. The geological aspects of the rocky shore and the action of the sea were discussed. The majority of the afternoon was spent rock pooling, collecting as many different species as possible (under supervision). The event was concluded with a handling session and explanations of the adaptations, food chains, life cycles, habitats and interactions of the various species.

The event was funded by a generous donation from the Alice McCosh Trust and time in-kind from the Darwin Centre. Without the Alice McCosh funding the events would not have been affordable. The pictures and feedback in this report speak volumes for the impact that the Alice McCosh Trust has made on the lives of the many young people that participated. There was a palpable sense of wonder of the natural world. Many of the children were excited about telling their families all about what they had experienced.

Additional Aspects Outside of the Proposal

The project benefited hugely from the generous voluntary participation of Dr. Peter Connell. Peter is a resident of the Haven's area that St. Brides belongs to, and has studied the history and natural history of the area in his retirement from General Practice. Peter assisted on the walk around the old village, church yard, lime kiln, woods, ponds, and orchards of St. Brides.

Peter has been a supporter of the Darwin Centre for many years, attending various lectures and workshops. We mentioned the Alice McCosh project and he gleefully offered his support and time. The walk which he assisted on as part of the day was very informative and well delivered and had a great response from the children and group leaders.

Evaluation

The Evaluation form is shown below.



**Darwin Centre Pupils Evaluation
Canolfan Darwin**



Name: _____ Group: _____ Age: _____ Girl / Boy

How interesting was the day?

How enjoyable was the day?

How well did you understand the presenters?

| Excellent | Good | Average | Poor | V. Poor |
|-----------|------|---------|------|---------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Do you think that other groups should attend events like this?

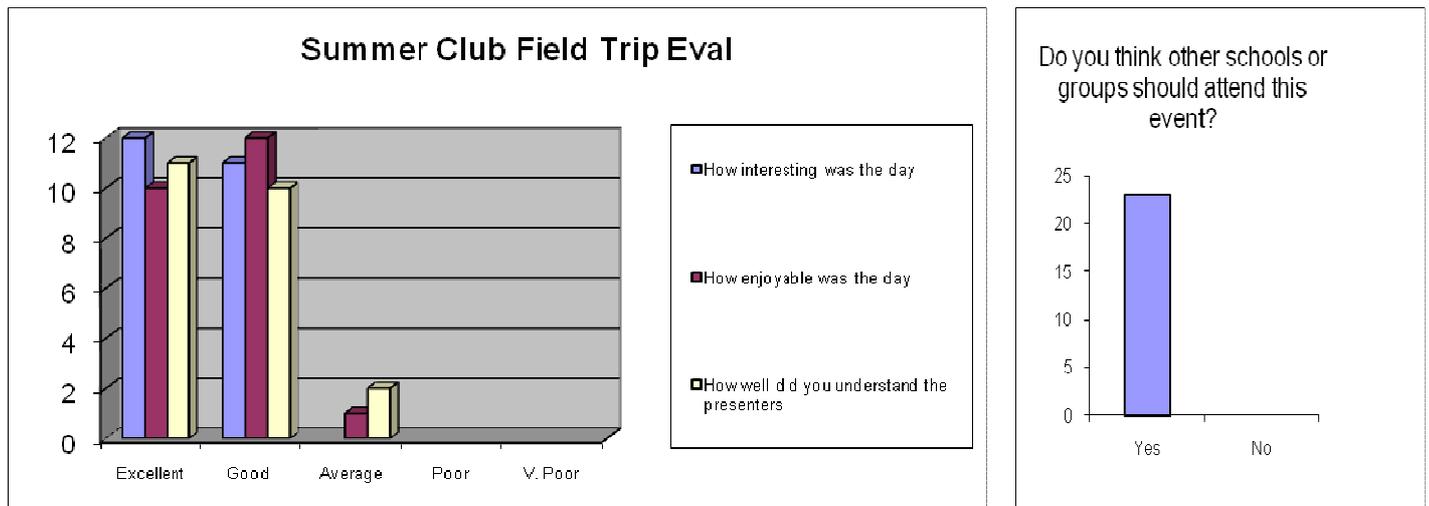
Yes / No

Why do you think other groups should attend these events?

What one thing excited you most about the day?

Do you have any ideas that could make the event better?

Evaluation Data



One group failed to return the evaluation data. The forms could not be returned because the club had finished and the next time they meet is next summer. In future when working with summer clubs Darwin will make every effort to have forms filled out on the day.

Comments made on the evaluation forms are shown below. Adult comments are in bold.

RED HILL SUMMER CLUB

- **This event made the children more aware of interesting things in this local area**
- **Even though most of the children regularly go to the beach they had not been rock pooling and were very excited with what they found**
- We found a pipe fish
- You can learn a lot
- Seeing the ruins was the best bit
- It is fun and you learn a lot

FUNHOUSE SUMMER CLUB

- **It gave the children an insight into the history and wildlife in the area**
- It would be nice to do it again
- It is fun and educational
- It was amazing
- Finding a crab was the best part of the day

The Darwin Centre view the project as a success, all of the groups involved have requested future natural history type events with the Darwin Centre. Other groups have also enquired about such events in response to the newspaper story and word of mouth.

Project Manager, Marten Lewis would like to thank the Alice McCosh Trust for their support and on going excellent work.

Press

Contact the Mercury newsroom on 01646 698971 Page 3



PUPILS from Roch school summer club show off their crab catch at St Brides Haven, with Marten Lewis of the Darwin Centre.

Enjoy the beauty on your doorstep

THE Darwin Centre is encouraging Milford youngsters to come forward following a successful summer.

The centre has recently run three educational day trips to St Bride's Haven, for school summer clubs in Pembrokeshire.

All three trips were attended by Dr Peter Connell and were aimed at promoting the natural beauty of the Pembrokeshire coast. The trips were sponsored by the Alice McCosh Trust.

The Darwin Centre runs events for holiday clubs each year and is looking for groups in the Milford area.

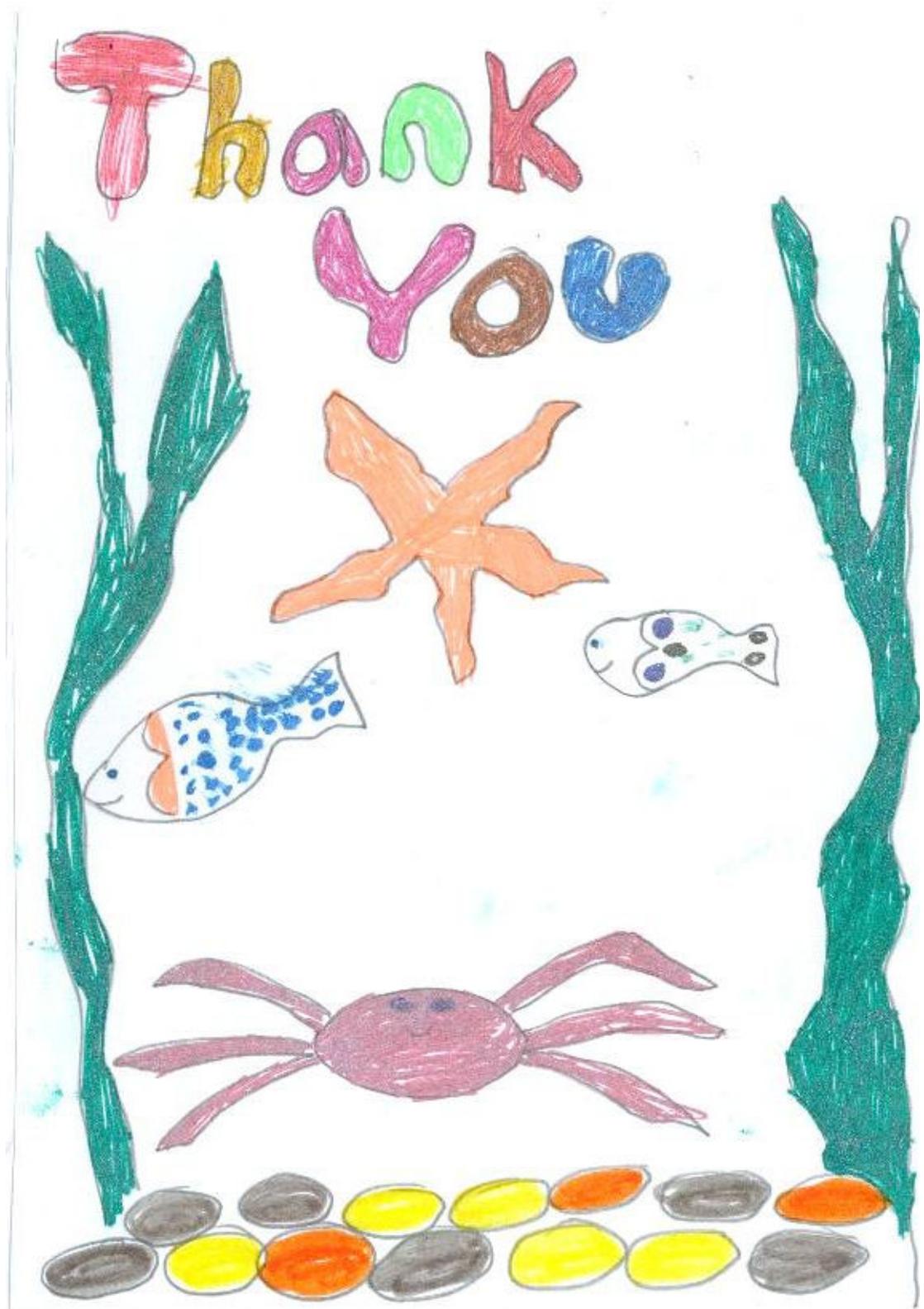
For more information contact 01437 753 193 or email darwin@darwincentre.com.



Costs

| Event | Education Presenter | Education Assistant | Bus | Fuel | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----|------|------------|
| Rocky Shore study day | 70 | 66 | 90 | 7 | 233 |
| Rocky Shore study day | 70 | 66 | 90 | 7 | 233 |
| Rocky Shore study day | 70 | 66 | 90 | 7 | 233 |
| | 210 | 198 | 270 | 21 | 699 |

Thank You cards from the FUNHOUSE



Beckie
LEAH
Rachel

Sarah
ASHLEY
Ashley
Vee

Don
THOMAS

Humphrey
Alex
JAT
ELIX

Best trip
of the year
Thanks
Debbie

TO
MARTIN & Debbie
Thank you for ~~BAKING~~
US to ST. BRIDES.
We had a FANTASTIC
time, Au of the
Children are still
talking about it.
love from
The fun house
Prendergast Kids Club.

Thank
you

12/11/11
Diana

Celtic Cross



Dear Peter
Just a short note to let
you know a few of the
children are taking their
parents to St. Bricks
to show them all the
places you took us too!

How Cool is that!

Denise ☺

Denise

THANKS

Ella-Hay Swan

Thomas

Samuel

Rachel

Doshy Luke EHD

Sammy Amelia

So much knowledge that was so interesting and very enjoyable. + steph

Aless

TO DR. Peter

Thank you so much for talking us around St. Brides we learnt so much and the children are still talking about it!

Love The Funhouse from The Funhouse Prendergast Kado Club

Gallery

