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# Puppets help teach traditions of the sea

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

Ten schools from across north Norfolk are each providing 30 children to be puppeteers to put on a show inspired by a book that teaches its characters all about fishing.

The three children in the book, *The Mystery of the Mystery Mist*, are real children - Isla Millward, 15, who illustrated the book, from Sidestrand Hall School and her siblings Elodie, 10, and Louie, 13, who are home schooled.

**“The book is to enthuse children about fishing and point them to the educational and heritage sites that exist**

Karen Crane

It is also narrated by Charles Hickman, 15, who is a student at Gresham's School in Holt.

The book was written by puppeteer Karen Crane, who is organising the show which will also be filmed.

“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



Children at Gresham Village School taking part in the puppet show for the FLAG project. Pictured (from right to left) are Errin Palmer, Maddison Teagle, Imogen Batey, James Gregory and Tom Massingham.

Pictures: MARK BULLIMORE AND KAREN BETHELL

Norfolk Fisheries Local Action Group (Flag), which aims to help ensure a sustainable future for fisheries.

Each school will receive a copy of their pupils' puppetry skills.



Above, Sheringham fisherman Jim Lingwood with one of Karen Crane's puppets for her puppet school about the life of a fisherman. Left, North Norfolk fisherman Peter McKaespiey with his puppet alter-ego.

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