

EAST – Ebenezer All Saints Together

On Thursday, 15 June a lively group of eight pupils from All Saints met for the first time with a group of seniors from Ebenezer Baptist Church to begin to find out what life was like in Coalville in the past. The three sessions this term were intended to be a taster and if the club proved popular we would go ahead in September, drawing on the experiences of these three weeks.

Over a glass of squash and a piece of cake the children suggested various names for the club. The name, EAST which is the initial letters of Ebenezer All Saints Together came out top in our vote. It was the brainchild of one of the girls who spotted the potential for a short but meaningful name.



We talked about school clothes and compared what the children wear today with what the seniors wore in the 1960's. From here we were able to draw the uniforms and begin our display board.

The second week continued the theme of schooling, with two of the team dressed in academic caps and gowns. The museum loaned us some items from their collection including an 1890's "laptop" with real ink in the ink bottles. The children loved the pens which had to be

dipped in ink and soon were able to copy some of the exercises from the pre-war copy books. Photos of classes from schools around Coalville from Edwardian times were a popular talking point.

The idea of punishment that was metered out in the past proved amusing with several children actually wanting to write lines – but only if they could use the "dippy pen". The cane was also something of a draw with the children practicing their skills on a cushion.

The final week saw an end of term party, with a bit of a difference. Stuart and Steve from the Coalville Heritage Society brought in a variety of record players ranging from one of the earliest wind-up machines, through to the record players of the 1960's. They even had a reel to reel tape recorder which proved as popular with the adults as it did with the children.



To a background of Sgt Pepper, the children sampled delicacies from the 1960's including coconut pyramids and twiglets. Kate had made a hedgehog with cheese, pineapple, grapes and sausages on cocktail sticks. Then it was party games and dancing the twist to round off our trial period.



When asked if they would be coming back next term, the chorus of "YES" was deafening. So, we will be back at Ebenezer in September. We know our founding members will be coming along, but new members, young and old, are always welcome to join us. All you need is an interest in the past and a willingness to join in.