



Sun safety competition winners, left to right, Liam Bailey, 3, Neve Allen, 10, and Max Wrench, 7, received their prizes from the campaign's mascot, Louis the lobster.

(Picture by Tom Tardif, 5774934)

# Prizes for sun safety awareness

CHILDREN have been treated by Louis the lobster for their knowledge of sun safety.

Neve Allen, 10, Liam Bailey, 3, and Max Wrench, 7, showed they understood the dangers of the sun when they produced creative designs onto pictures of Louis.

The health promotion unit had been running the summer-long competition to raise awareness and get young people involved.

Neve's lobster found shade under a large umbrella, wore a hat and sunglasses, used plenty of sun cream and covered up with a very long striped tunic.

'You must always wear sun cream because you can get skin cancer,' she said.

Max chose a design that had complete coverage with a blue UV suit, an umbrella, sun cream, hat and sunglasses.

He said it was great to win and spread the message about sun-safety.

'It can be fun in the sun, but it can be dangerous,' he said. 'You should always wear sun cream.'

The competition sheets were handed out at beaches and other outdoor locations and the entries were judged by Louis, who wanted to find the most sun safety aware young people.

by Paul Ainsworth

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The health promotion unit warned that sunburn doubled the chances of developing melanoma.

Director of public health Dr Stephen Bridgman reiterated the importance of staying sun safe.

'While summer sunshine provides a great opportunity for people to get active outdoors and boost their levels of vitamin D, it is important and possible to be sun safe at the same time,' he said.

The youngest winner was Liam, who designed a multi-coloured hat and put long sleeves on the lobster's arms.

His mother, Charlotte Froome, said it was an important message to get across.

'I think it is good for children to know about safety in the sun and it is something fun to do as well in the holidays,' she said.

The winners all received a voucher, certificate and ball.

■ For more information about sun safety or the early detection of skin cancer call Di Mathews at the health promotion unit on 707311.