

All in a Day's Work

Dr John Joyce – Marine Biologist, Author & Cartoonist

John Joyce is a marine biologist, author and cartoonist. He met his wife Jane in 1977 when they were running a seashore biology course together in Cork. His 'Black John the Bogus Pirate Cartoon Workbook on Marine Beasts' was published during the summer and his next novel 'Fire & Ice' comes out on 1st October. See: www.spindriftpress.com

Have you always been interested in what you do?

I've always been interested in learning about the sea. As a child I spent hours mucking about in rock pools. When I saw Walt Disney's movie '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea' I realised I wanted to be a submarine captain or a marine biologist.

I worked for the Marine Institute we used cartoons as part of our 'Explorers' primary school programme. Now that I am retired, I use cartoons as part of my 'Funderstood' books to teach people to draw and show them what goes on in the sea.

What is a day in your life like?

Busy! Some days I may be working on a book, talking to printers, book shops or drawing cartoons. On other days I may be working on marine education projects in Ireland or overseas, or talking to teachers, pupils or experts in marine science and education.

Do you enjoy your work?

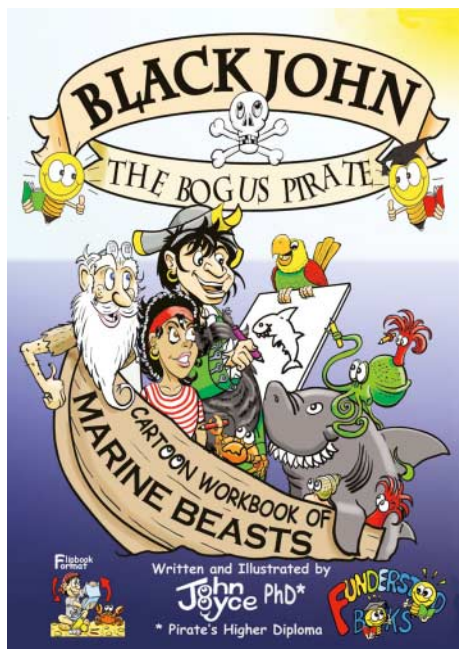
I can't call it 'work'! It's more about doing all the things I always wanted to do with people I like and respect. Creating the 'Black John Cartoon Workbook' meant I could work with artists, scientists, teachers, pupils, and education experts. Writing the novel 'Fire & Ice' meant Jane and I could go on board a submarine, climb down into the Grand Canyon, visit Las Vegas and fly in a helicopter. That's not 'work' that's having fun!

How important is education in protecting the seas?

Most children



John Joyce giving a cartoon workshop on Marine Beasts!



What training did you do to get where you are today?

I couldn't be a submarine captain because I was short sighted, so I trained as a marine biologist. I taught myself to write and draw cartoons using books and watching other people.

What is your main aim?

To use writing and cartoons to teach people about the sea. When

choose their future careers (as I did) when they are young. So learning about the sea at an early age is vital if we are to care for our oceans and ensure the future of this planet.

What is the best piece of advice you ever had?

'There are no mistakes - only results!' If you don't get the result you want first time, keep trying new things and eventually it will work out the way you want it to.

