

Nature'sWeb

Issue No. 39

Autumn 2015

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Editor's Page

A Monster Mushroom!

There are many thousands of species of mushroom in the world and they come in all shapes and sizes. Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies of some fungi, which are living organisms that reproduce by releasing spores. Everyone is familiar with the button mushrooms for sale in supermarkets but there are many less familiar species - some that are small and dainty and others that are quite big. The largest I had ever seen on Sherkin is a field mushroom about the size of my outstretched hand but a Dryad's Saddle, recently seen on the island, tops that. In the photograph above, you can get an idea of its size when you see the Euro coin in the centre. Dryad's Saddle likes to grow in woodland, particularly on decaying trees. This species of mushroom is actually edible but remember never to eat any mushroom growing in the wild unless you are absolutely sure it is safe to eat. There are many mushrooms that if eaten can be deadly and some of those that are safe to eat can be confused with ones that are not!



As GAELIGE! We are delighted to have teamed up with An Gúm, who are translating Nature's Web into Irish. Issues are now available, as gaeilge, at:

<http://www.gaeilge.ie/maidir-le-foras-na-gaeilge/an-gum/ion-dulra/>

SEAFOOD RECIPE

Fish Burgers

with Tomato Salsa & Chunky Guacamole

WHAT'S ALSO NEEDED:

Tomato Salsa

4-6 tomatoes, diced
1 red onion, peeled and diced
1-2 garlic cloves, peeled & finely chopped
1 tablesp. basil or coriander, chopped
Juice of ½ lime
1 tablesp. olive oil
A little salt & black pepper

Chunky Guacamole

2 ripe avocados, peeled & chopped
Juice of ½ lime
2 scallions, finely sliced
½ red chilli, deseeded

Serves 4

WHAT'S NEEDED:

700g hake, skinned, boned & finely chopped
2 tablesp. fresh parsley, chopped
½ red chilli, deseeded & finely chopped
2cm piece of fresh ginger, grated
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 egg, beaten
2 tablesp. mayonnaise
1 tablesp. fish sauce
Zest and juice of 1 lime
40g stale breadcrumbs or Panko breadcrumbs

What to do:

To Cook: Place the fish in a large bowl with the parsley, chilli, ginger, garlic, beaten egg, mayonnaise, fish sauce, lime zest and juice and the breadcrumbs and mix together.

Shape the mixture into 6 x 8cm burgers, put them on a plate, cover with cling-film and chill for an hour if you have time. This will help them to hold their shape when you are cooking them.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan. Add the fish burgers and cook over a medium heat for 4 minutes on each side, until crisp and golden.

To make the Salsa: Mix all the ingredients well together, taste and season with a little salt and black pepper. Set aside until ready to serve. **To make the Chunky Guacamole:** In another bowl mix the avocados, lime juice, scallions and chilli. Using a fork roughly mash everything together, taste and season. **To Serve:** Toasted baps, lettuce leaves, 2 tomatoes sliced, extra mayonnaise

Serving Suggestions: Spread a little mayonnaise over each bap then layer with lettuce leaves, some slices of tomato and then the burger. Spoon a little mayonnaise on top of each burger and sprinkle on a little black pepper. Serve the tomato salsa and chunky guacamole on the side.

Photo: © Bord Bia - Irish Food Board



Courtesy of Bord Bia - Irish Food Board.

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome everyone to the Autumn 2015 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we find out about the work of marine life photographer, Paul Kay, who has lots of tips for those interested in taking similar pictures. With the arrival of autumn, we learn a little more about the pumpkin, a traditional symbol of the season and of Halloween. You can even make your own (see page 11)! We are also introduced to "Black Jack - the Bogus Pirate", who is sailing the seas to find his long lost family. With his help, we can learn how to draw cartoons and happy, sad, angry and surprised faces. Check out nature news from around the world on page 10 and enjoy a giggle with the jokes on page 14. We would love to hear your views and comments and suggestions for future articles. Have a good read!

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Pumpkins

Scientific Name: *Cucurbita pepo*

Irish Name: Puimcin



By Vicky West

More often than not, we think of pumpkins, or winter squash, as being large and round with smooth orange skin. However, there are about 26 different species in the squash family, producing a wide range of fruit sizes, shapes and colours. Pumpkin plants produce bright yellow male and female flowers, which are pollinated by insects, often honey-bees. Once pollinated the female flowers produce fruit that can range in size from 0.5kg to 1,054kg - the largest ever recorded pumpkin. The extra large pumpkins are the largest fruit in the plant kingdom. Pumpkins are native to North America, where they are grown commercially and are one of the most popular crops. Usually planted in early July, this warm-weather crop grows in temperatures of around 15°C and in soil which holds moisture.

Pumpkins as a food source

The pumpkin and its seeds are most commonly used as a food source and are eaten all over the world. In America pumpkins are strongly linked to Thanksgiving and are the main ingredient for pumpkin pie, a traditional dessert. The seeds are an excellent source of fat and protein for humans and are used in many forms of baking and cooking. They are also used as a dietary supplement for dogs and cats, as well as a feed for chickens and other animals.



Jack-o-lanterns & Halloween

Another well-known use of pumpkins is as Jack-o-lanterns at Halloween. The tradition of carving a pumpkin and lighting it at Halloween came about through an old Irish folktale. Irish immigrants brought the tradition to America, home of the pumpkin, and it became an integral part of Halloween festivities. Original jack-o-lanterns were carved from turnips, potatoes or beets.



Carving Pumpkins

To carve a pumpkin:

1. Cut a hole in the top of the pumpkin.
2. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
3. Draw a design on a sheet of paper (why not use some of the tips on page 9 for facial expressions?).
4. Tape the design onto the pumpkin and transfer the outline of the design onto the pumpkin with a skewer.
5. Remove the paper and, with the help of an adult, carefully cut out the design with a small serrated knife.
6. Place a tealight into a jar and put it into the carved pumpkin. Remember to leave a hole in the lid to allow the heat escape. A safer alternative is to use a battery-operated tealight.



The River Danube



Image courtesy of Philip Weigell CC BY 3.0

By Borbála Vízkelety

The River Danube is 2860 km long, which makes it the second longest river in Europe. Located in Central and Eastern Europe, it originates in the Black Forest in Germany, where several smaller rivers join to become the Danube. After passing through or alongside 10 countries the river empties into the Black Sea at the Danube Delta in Romania and Ukraine. The countries that the Danube flows through or borders are Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Moldova and Ukraine.

The River Danube is not only significant for its rich flora and fauna but is also one of Europe's most important shipping routes and supplies drinking water to millions of people.

Above: The Danube Bend is a curve of the Danube in Hungary, near the city of Visegrád.

Below: Map of the countries through which the Danube flows.



Image courtesy of NASA

The Danube River Delta, where the river meets the Black Sea.

The Danube's Wildlife

The River Danube is home to many mammals, birds and fish species, including numerous endangered ones, most of which are aquatic or water-dependent. Important bird species are cormorant, pelican species, white-tailed eagles, saker falcons, mute swans and the European kingfishers.

The Danube River Delta is among the largest and best preserved of the European deltas and consists of numerous lakes and marshes. The

delta is home to more than 300 species of birds and 45 freshwater fish species as well as several water plant species. During the winter months various goose colonies visit the delta, as it is a very important habitat for several migratory bird species.

Many mammal species live along the shores of the River Danube and in the higher areas of the Danube Delta, which are not reached by water. Otters, weasel, minks, foxes, wolves and black bears can be found, along with turtles and colonies of snakes.

The Danube River Basin is home to the longest marshland of the European continent and has one of the greatest stretches of reedbeds in the world to grow on the bed of a river. Along with other important plants many different water lilies species grow in the river.



Pelicans on the Danube Delta



Protecting the River

Despite its importance the river's unique aquatic biodiversity is under threat by invasive alien species, overfishing and increasing water pollution.

Native Danube species can be reduced by the 'killer shrimp' that originally lived in the Caspian Sea region, while the Chinese Mitten Crab can transmit diseases fatal to native European crayfish.

The countries along the river are now working together to protect the River Danube from pollution and to restore it back to its original condition. Several projects are targeting specific parts of the river or particular species, such as one to conserve the White-tailed Sea Eagle.



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The Kingfisher

Scientific Name: *Alcedo atthis*

Irish Names: Cruidín

In Ireland there is no other bird like the Kingfisher. It is a small yet striking bird, with electric blue upperparts and orange-red underparts. Males and females are the same colour, though females have a reddish colour to the lower part of the bill during the breeding season. It likes to feed on small fish and aquatic insects so it lives near lowland and slow-flowing streams and rivers, along canals and beside lakes. The Kingfisher can be hard to see as it sits motionless in the shade waiting for its prey to pass by. Then it will move quickly - either plunging into the water or hovering on the surface, grabbing the food with its strong, dagger-like bill. The Kingfisher must eat at least 60% of its own body weight every day. If it catches a fish it will kill it first by beating it on its perch. It also eats fish head first so that the fins do not open and get stuck in its throat.

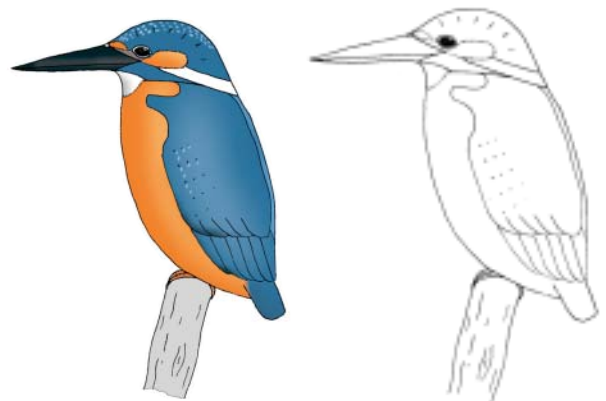
Kingfishers' nests are called burrows, which they tunnel out in river banks. The average clutch has 3-6 eggs and both the male and females help to incubate the eggs. In very cold weather, when water freezes, Kingfishers may not be able to feed and will either die or migrate to areas of unfrozen water.

There are many different species of kingfisher around the world but the only species to be found in Ireland and most of Europe is the Eurasian Kingfisher, where it is also known as the Common Kingfisher.



The Kingfisher is a small, striking bird, with a high-pitched call.

A Kingfisher to Colour



FACT FILE:

Colour: Blue-green head and wings.
Orange belly, with white patch on each side of the neck and under long bill. Red feet.

Length: 17-19.5 cm

Diet: Fish and large aquatic insects.

Habitat: On a branch over a river or stream.



If you want to start taking photographs of marine creatures then you can do so on the shore. Creatures can be found and photographed at low tide but you will need to learn about tides to find out the best time to visit the shore.

When you are taking pictures of marine plants and animals the most important thing to do is to know about what you are photographing. The more you understand about a subject, the more likely you are to get a photograph that shows it at its best. For example, the common beadlet anemone can just look like a blob of jelly on the rocks, but find one submerged in a small rockpool and you might see a row of blue 'beads' under its tentacles. Showing these makes for a much more interesting photograph. There are lots of books available which will tell you what creatures and plants are on the shore, including a pocket sized one published by the Sherkin Island Marine Station (see page 15).

YOUR CAMERA AND CARING FOR IT

Digital photography has made it much easier to take photographs so read how the camera works and experiment with it.

If you take a camera onto the shore do make sure that it doesn't get wet or even get damp hands on it - digital cameras (and phones) don't like salty seawater at all!

Some cameras are 'waterproof' and can even be used in rock pools or whilst snorkelling and these are the best to use.



Keep the camera (and yourself) safe if walking over rocks to get to a rockpool.

SAFETY

Knowing about tides will help keep you safe. Don't be caught by a fast, incoming tide. Keep back from the water's edge if photographing in rockpools. Watch out for unexpected waves.

Be careful on the rocks. They can be slippery.



Photographing Marine Life

By Paul Kay

Tips for taking photographs on the shore

KNOW YOUR SUBJECT

Knowing an animal's habits can help you get a better picture.



Some animals move fast, particularly when spooked - you may need to move slowly so as not to frighten them.

Some creatures look different when out of water, such as anemones.



Photograph creatures in rockpools, on the rocks, on the sand, at the edge of the tide line.

LIGHTING

Sunshine and cloud cover will affect the light and the quality of photographs. Very bright sunshine can make photographs look very pale.

Check where the light is coming from. Do you need to use a flash?

It is easier to photograph life in a rockpool on overcast days as bright sunshine reflects off the surface of the water.



USING THE CAMERA

Hold your camera so that it doesn't shake and distort the photograph.

Use the camera's macro settings for up close shots.

Try to have a focal point in the photograph to make it more interesting.

Take lots of photographs but from different angles and using different settings on the camera. Study them at home to see which ones work the best.



All in a Day's Work

Paul Kay – Marine Wildlife Photographer

Paul Kay is a marine wildlife photographer and specialises in taking photographs of marine life in the cool waters around the UK and Irish coasts. He lives in North Wales.

www.marinewildlife.co.uk



Paul Kay

Image courtesy of Paul Kay

How did you become interested in underwater photography?

I studied photography in college because I enjoyed taking photographs but didn't really know what sort of photographs I wanted to take. Then I volunteered to work at Sherkin Island Marine Station where I got hooked on capturing images of marine life. I went away and learned to scuba dive and have now been taking underwater photographs for over 30 years.

Why do you like photographing marine life?

Our marine environment is very important and we have to look after it. It supplies us with oxygen - healthy plant life in our oceans is essential for this - and food. As few people can scuba dive and even fewer take underwater photographs, I feel it is important for underwater photographers to use their skills to show people what lives below the surface. This will encourage people to protect the marine environment and help keep it healthy.

Why do you scuba dive?

Scuba diving is something that I simply have to do so that I can take photographs underwater. The skills

involved for diving have become second nature and the people that I dive with have to be qualified and experienced too.

What special equipment do you need?

Around the Irish and British coasts the water can be cold so we have to wear drysuits, which keep us dry. These suits have watertight seals around the neck and wrists. I wear a one piece under suit, which looks like its made from sleeping bag material - that keeps me warm. Our diving equipment is heavy, weighing 40-50 kilos and the camera another 5-10 kilos. Underwater of course it all becomes weightless, which is a relief! We tend to dive in relatively shallow water (down to about 30m) and for around an hour which is how long our tank of compressed air will last.

What type of camera do you use for taking underwater photographs?

My camera is the same one that I use above water, but in a strong and waterproof aluminium casing. It has a waterproof flash attached on an arm so that it can be moved and positioned just right for each photograph.

The quality of digital images that good cameras now produce is very high. I use either macro lenses for close up photography of small creatures or wide angle lenses to take underwater scenery. Long lenses such as those used for birds or sport are of no use underwater.

Do you always know what you are going to photograph on a dive?

Once we get underwater we never know exactly what we might see. We may know what the seabed will be like - whether its a rocky reef, sand or muddy - but there will always be something unexpected. It might be a brightly coloured fish, a sea slug 30 cm long or a passing shark. Underwater scenery can be dramatic too, especially when conditions are really good. The Fastnet Rock off the West Cork coast is an extraordinarily colourful, jagged rock covered in kelp and brilliant jewel anemones. The Aran Island

in Galway Bay have tunnels through their limestone, one of which opens into a natural 'swimming pool' in the sloping southern coast - swimming into this is quite surreal.

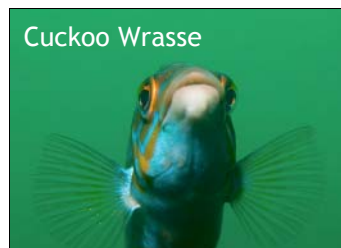
Is it easy to take photographs underwater?

Conditions underwater can vary, which is the biggest problem we face. In calm, sunny weather, with water as clear as can be, we might see for up to 30m. It is then the undersea world becomes like a fairyland and a photographer's dream, with lots to see and photograph. Often though the water is disturbed and murky and may even become so bad that we can see no more than a few centimetres ahead. It is impossible for the photographer to work in such conditions.

When conditions are good however, I can think of nothing that I would rather do than take underwater photographs - after all these years it is still a passion.



Common Starfish



Cuckoo Wrasse



Jewel Anemones

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Black John - the Bogus Pirate

A Story by John Joyce

Black John the Bogus Pirate



John Black was a young sign-writer in Baltimore, County Cork when Barbary pirates raided the town in 1631. John was forced to work on one of the pirate ships and his family were taken as slaves to the Caribbean. Things got even worse when he was captured by the Spanish and John was to be brought to Spain in chains on a treasure ship to be hung as a pirate.



With him were other prisoners including 'Smithy' - a mad English shipwright who dreamed of crazy inventions, Zelda - an apprentice voodoo witch who was to be burned at the stake along with her brother Amos who she had accidentally turned into a cat. There was also 'Molly' - a young Spanish lady from the Spanish colonies in the

Caribbean being forced to marry an ugly old Duke back in Madrid.

Molly had the idea of tricking the Spanish crew to abandon ship by pretending to set it on fire near the island of Lanzarote. Then John, Molly, Zelda and Smithy, together with Smithy's parrot 'Loppy' who always mixed up his words, sailed back to the Caribbean to find John's family.

But the Spanish captain had heard Loppy call John Black 'Black John' and, to save face at having his ship and its treasure stolen, spread the story that 'Black John' the dangerous pirate had done it. Soon every ship in the Caribbean was searching the seas for 'Black John' to get the gold for themselves.

So Molly told John that the only way to find his family was to pretend he REALLY WAS 'Black John' the dangerous pirate. She made John a false beard to cover his face and stuffed a pillow up his shirt to make him look fierce and strong.

Now 'Black John - the Bogus Pirate' sails the waters of the Caribbean with his rag-tag crew, each with their own personal quest. John wants to find his long lost family. Zelda wants to be a real witch. The Zombies want to be men again. Smithy wants to be famous for his crazy inventions and Molly wants to find someone to love.

Join them on deck of 'The Mucky Duck' for fun, adventure and a new way of looking at the Sea? For more about 'Black John' go to <http://www.spindriftpress.com/childrens-books/black-john-the-bogus-pirate/>

Black John - the Bogus Pirate

Zelda, the apprentice Voodoo witch, can only cast a proper spell if someone draws her a picture of what the spell has to do - and even then her magic doesn't always work exactly the way she wants it to !!!

Luckily John Black is a good artist and this is how you can learn to draw as well.

Look at yourself in the mirror and watch what happens your mouth, eyes and eyebrows when you make Happy, Sad, Angry and Surprised faces.

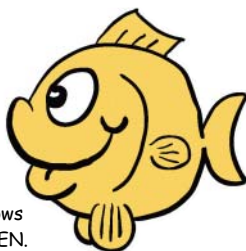
Once you know how to draw the four simple faces below, you can make a cartoon character out of ANYTHING!

Try it yourself by copying the four fish that Black John has drawn for Zelda - but don't dare try any magic!



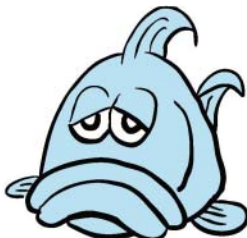
HAPPY

Corners of mouth and eyebrows go UP and eyes are WIDE OPEN.



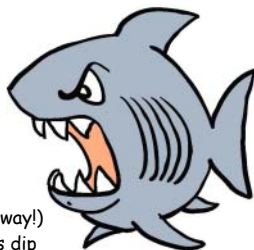
SAD

Corners of mouth, eyelids and eyebrows go DOWN.



ANGRY

Mouth OPEN (but not in a good way!) so teeth can be seen. Eyebrows dip in the middle, like the wings of a



SURPRISED

Mouth and eyes are WIDE OPEN - so that you can see tongue - and eyebrows are UP.

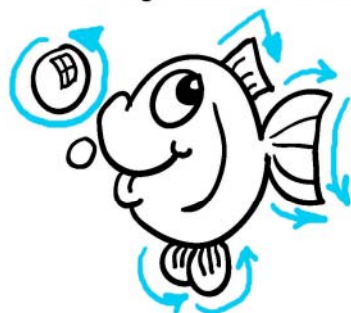
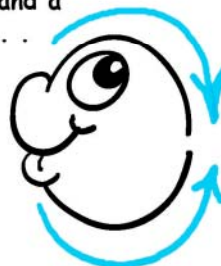


Help Zelda Cast Her Spell !



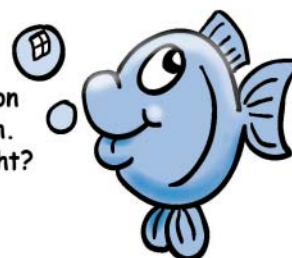
1. Draw Zelda a fish by drawing a curved smile, chubby cheeks, and a nice big eye . . .

2. Then put in the bottom lip and a fat little body curving round to the tail.



3. Draw on the tail, the dorsal fin on top and the pelvic fins below . . . and a nice big bubble !

4. Then colour in your cartoon and you have a friendly fish. Do you think Zelda got it right? Look and see !!!!!



The World Around Us



"Foreign Correspondent"
Michael Ludwig reports
on interesting news
from the natural world.

Unique Surgery for a Yellow-billed Kite

Veterinarians in Wiltshire, the UK, went to new lengths to save the life of a Yellow-billed Kite chick. While incubating in its shell the chick, which became known as Beaky, grew too big for his egg, forcing its growing beak to bend and become deformed. Nine days after he hatched they performed reconstructive surgery on Beaky. They put it under anaesthetic, then broke both sides of the chick's lower jaw to correct it, surrounding it with an acrylic support to keep it straight while healing. Beaky recovered well and is expected to live a normal life with a very nice beak! The lifespan of a Yellow-billed Kite is up to 25 years.



Name a Storm!

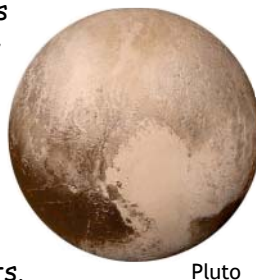
Met Éireann in Ireland and The Met Office in the UK



are asking the public to provide names for storms that will strike Ireland and the UK this autumn and winter. They hope that getting people involved in naming them will raise awareness of the dangers of storms and encourage people to protect themselves and their property before one of them strikes.

Journey to the Edge of our Solar System

Nine years ago, in 2006, NASA launched the spacecraft *New Horizons* on a journey to Pluto and beyond. This summer it reached the dwarf planet Pluto, which was more than 4.8 billion km from Earth. Pluto orbits the Sun in an oval so sometimes it is closer to the Sun and sometimes further away. As *New Horizons*, which is about the size of a piano, rushed past Pluto it captured stunning photos of its surface, showing mountains and craters, frozen ice plains, a big heart, and vast haze. It also took images of Charon, the largest of Pluto's five moons. *New Horizons* sends back all of its data using a radio transmitter and its 2m diameter radio antenna. It receives commands over this link, and returns both science data and information on the spacecraft's health. It will take about 16 months for all the information gathered by *New Horizons* about Pluto to be beamed back to Earth. Talk about a slow internet connection! *New Horizons* is currently journeying on to the Kuiper Belt, which is a big belt of asteroids beyond the planets.

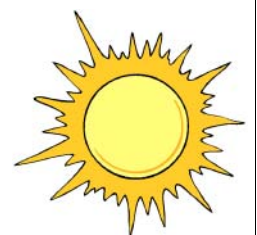


Pluto

Flying Around the World powered only by the Sun



Solar power pioneers, Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg, attempted something that would seem impossible: they began the First Round-The-World Solar-powered Flight, using solar batteries charged by the sun to power their motors and eliminating fuel and polluting emissions. They were demonstrating what alternative energy sources and new technologies can achieve. Taking turns piloting the single seated aircraft, they began their journey in March of this year, taking off from Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. They landed in Oman, Myanmar and China making an unplanned stop in Japan, after high winds damaged a wing. The trans-Pacific crossing from Japan to Hawaii took 118 hours and when André Borschberg landed the aircraft near Honolulu he broke the record for the world's longest non-stop solo electric flight. This was just one of many records that the aircraft has broken. The single-seater aircraft, *Solar Impulse 2*, is made of carbon fibre and has a 72 metre wingspan. It weighs just 2,300 kg, equivalent to that of a car. The 17,000 solar cells built into the wing supply four electric motors with renewable energy. During the day, the solar cells also recharge lithium batteries, allowing the aircraft to fly at night. Unfortunately the second half of their adventure has been delayed until April 2016 as the lithium batteries overheated and must be replaced. We look forward to hearing about their progress next year.

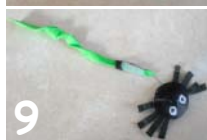
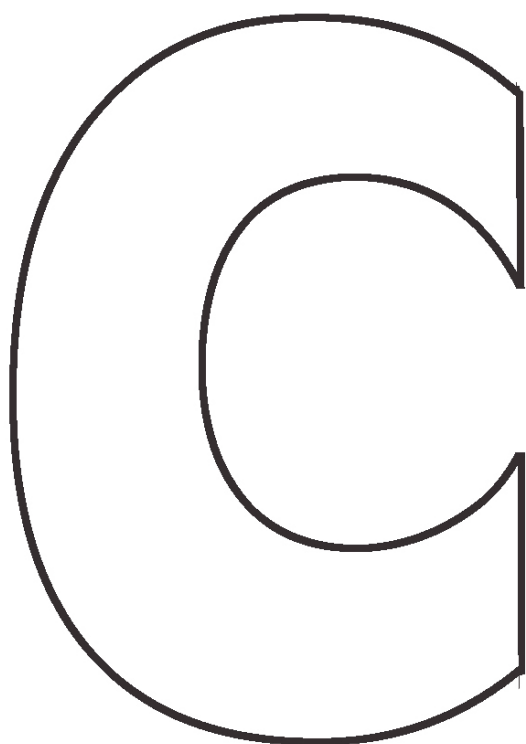


Activity Page

Paper Pumpkin

What you need:

4 x A4 sheets of orange card
1 x sheet of green card
Pencil
Scissors
Glue stick
Black card and thread for spider



1. Cut the A4 sheets of orange card in half. Fold each smaller sheet in half.

2. Cut out the 'C' template and lay along the folded edge. Draw an outline on to the card in pencil.

3. Cut out the shape on each card.

4. & 5. Glue one side of outline to the next until you have a stack of shapes.

6. Cut a piece of green card, approx. 4cm x 10 cm and then cut diagonally to produce a triangle.

7. Glue one side of a triangle and roll lengthways, finally twisting it to create a stalk.

8. Cut two thin strips and curl around a pencil to make tendrils.

9. Make a little spider and secure to the stalk with thread.

10. Glue the stalk and tendrils to the top of the stack and glue in place. Finally glue the remaining two sides together to form the pumpkin.



A smaller pumpkin can be made from the card cut from the centre of the "C".

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THE PERFECT PUMPKIN!



Learn More



Only €2.10 each including postage or €11.00 (plus €2.00 p&p) for all seven!

Sherkin Island Marine Station has published a range of colouring books, guides and activity books for children. Each 32-page *Colouring & Guide Book* gives you the chance to colour, identify and learn about the wildlife around Ireland. *My Nature Diary* contains lined pages to fill in a daily record of sightings and nature news.

A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

Flowers With the help of this pocket-sized guide, beginners of all ages will be introduced to the many common wild flowers found around Ireland. 206pp

Only
€8.50 inc
postage



Ireland's Hidden Depths

is another Sherkin Island Marine Station publication. Ireland's amazing marine life, glorious kelp forests and spectacular undersea scenery are featured in over 200 spectacular photographs by nature photographer Paul Kay. 277 x 227 mm 160 pps
Only €13.00 including postage



Sea Life DVD:

"On the Water's Edge"

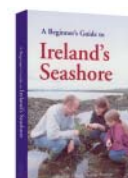
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD '*On the Water's Edge*', features a short film on life beside the sea.

Presented by Audrey Murphy, it includes 6-10 hours of interactive material for children of all ages. Only €6.00 plus €1.30 p&p.



A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Seashore is a pocket-sized guide, suitable for beginners of all ages. This book will help you to explore the wonders of marine life found on the shores around Ireland. 206pp

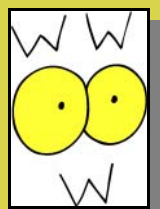
Only €8.00 inc postage



"An A to Z of Geology" explores the fascinating world of rocks and geology - a world of volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, diamonds, gold and even dinosaurs! Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Only €5.99 plus €1.00 postage

To order books, send your name and address along with a cheque or postal order made payable to Sherkin Island Marine Station to: Sherkin Island Marine Station, Sherkin Island, Co.Cork. Ireland. Or visit: www.sherkinmarine.ie and pay by Paypal.



Useful Web Addresses

There are lots of websites to be found on the internet that will give you further information on topics we have covered in this newsletter. Here are a few that may be of interest:

A Monster Mushroom:

<http://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/interactives/science/microorganisms/mushroomstructure/>

Pumpkin:

<http://www.allaboutpumpkins.com/ourfarm.html>
<http://www.garden.ie/howtogrow.aspx?id=1033> <http://www.morton-il.gov/morton-pumpkin-festival>

The River Danube:

<http://www.icpdr.org/>
<http://www.rivercruiseadvisor.com/articles-europe-river-cruises/cruises-on-the-danube-river/>

The Kingfisher: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Kingfishers/Kingfisher/tabid/1098/Default.aspx>
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/k/kingfisher/>

Paul Kay and Photographing Marine Life: <http://marinewildlife.co.uk/>
<http://marinewildlife.co.uk/photography/marine-life-temperate/>

Black John the Bogus Pirate: <http://www.spindriftpress.com/childrens-books/black-john-the-bogus-pirate/>

Yellow-billed Kite: http://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/13506682.Emergency_surgery_saves_life_of_yellow_billed_kite/

Met Éireann: <http://www.met.ie/>

Journey to the Edge of our Solar System: <http://pluto.jhuapl.edu/>

Flying Around the World powered only by the Sun: <http://www.solarimpulse.com/>

We cannot be responsible for the content of external websites, so please observe due care when accessing any site on the internet.

Fun Page

How much did you learn?

The answers to all these questions can be found in the newsletter...see if you can remember!

1. How long has Paul Kay been taking underwater photographs?
2. Where did John Black, the young signwriter, live?
3. Name the NASA spacecraft that sent back images of Pluto.
4. What animal features in the "Paper Pumpkin" activity?
5. What two organisations are asking for help in naming storms?
6. Into which sea does the River Danube flow?
7. What did they nickname the Yellow-billed Kite that had surgery on its beak?
8. What vegetables were originally used instead of pumpkins to make Jack-o-lanterns?
9. Does a Kingfisher eat fish head first or tail first?
10. Who is "Black John - the Bogus Pirate" hoping to find as he sails the waters of the Caribbean?
11. What does Paul Kay use to protect his camera underwater?
12. Name the extremely large mushroom photographed on Sherkin this summer.
13. Pumpkins are native to North America. True or false?
14. Who needs someone to draw her pictures before she can cast a proper spell?
15. Where did "Solar Impulse 2" begin its attempt at making the first round-the-world solar-powered flight?
16. Which large river flows through Hungary?

Answers: (1) 30 years; (2) Baltimore, Co. Cork; (3) New Horizons; (4) A spider; (5) Met Eireann & The Met Office, UK; (6) Black Sea; (7) Beaky; (8) Turnips, potatoes & beet; (9) Head First; (10) His long lost family; (11) A strong & waterproof aluminium case; (12) Dryad's Saddle; (13) True; (14) Zelda; (15) Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates; (16) River Danube.

What a Picture!

Have fun with your friends making up a caption for this picture of a Belted Kingfisher. Belted Kingfishers are found in northern United States and Canada.



Courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

Nature Jokes



What is a pumpkin's favourite sport?
Squash.

If you cross an Electric Eel with a Sponge what do you get?
A shock absorber.



Where do little fish go every morning?
Plaice school!

What animal always goes to bed with its shoes on?
A horse.

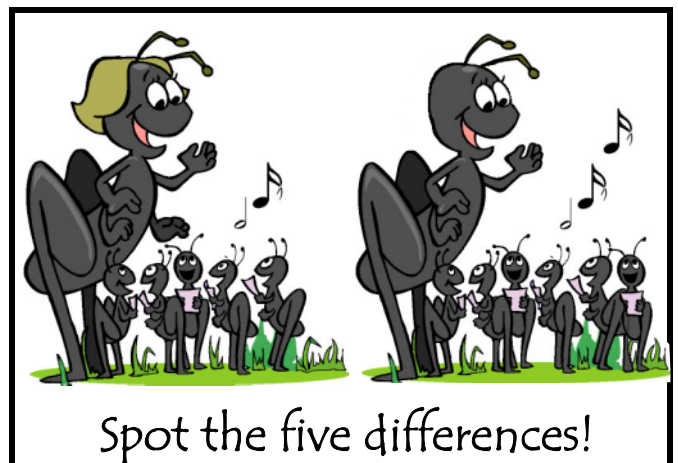


What animals are on legal documents?
Seals.

How did the chewing gum cross the road?
On the bottom of the chicken's foot!



What do you get when you cross a fish with an elephant?
Swimming trunks.



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Nature's Web Wordsearch



Nature's Web Autumn 2015

Try out this giant wordsearch containing words found in this issue of the newsletter.

E B D O F R B S O N L R U Y Q M N E
K T R G D I L L E X E V H R E G T J
I T A B W P S E A H I P X T Q I D K
N S L R J N W H P C A M E W K E R E
G G M S I O R A B R K I V D S F Y B
F H C J L P R E G U R J E F T I A U
I Y N L C G S O T E R L O H Y L D N
S U A L O Y T U A N L G B H I E S A
H H I T V O C N G I A O E H N N S D
E R O V H R N Y B O U L N R Z I A R
R H D P C G Z W Z W B S O W S R D E
P P Y B L E O P L U T O A K N A D V
Z A R Q L L C J O G S N L Z C M L I
T U V D L J R R O C A A N H I A E R
S L A E S O L A R P O W E R E D J Q
R K Y M O N S T E R M U S H R O O M
I A N C X C X E K P W H K B K Y K Z
A Y N Y A G R E P Z L I E N K X F F

SOLUTIONS: (Over, Down, Direction) Black John (7,1,SE); Bogus Pirate (11,11,NW); Dryad's Saddle (17,3,S); Fish Burgers (5,1,SE); Halloween (2,9,NE); Jack-o-lantern (17,15,NW); Kingfisher (1,2,S); Marine Life (16,13,N); Met Éireann (16,1,SW); Monster Mushroom (4,16,E); Paul Kay (2,12,S); Photographer (1,12,NE); Photography (4,11,NE); Pluto (8,12,E); River Danube (18,14,N); Solar-powered (5,15,E); Yellow-billed Kite (3,16,NE); Zelda (7,11,SW).

Black John

Bogus Pirate

Dryad's Saddle

Fish Burgers

Halloween

Jack-o-lantern

Kingfisher

Marine Life

Met Éireann

Monster

Mushroom

Paul Kay

Photographer

Photography

Pluto

River Danube

Solar-powered

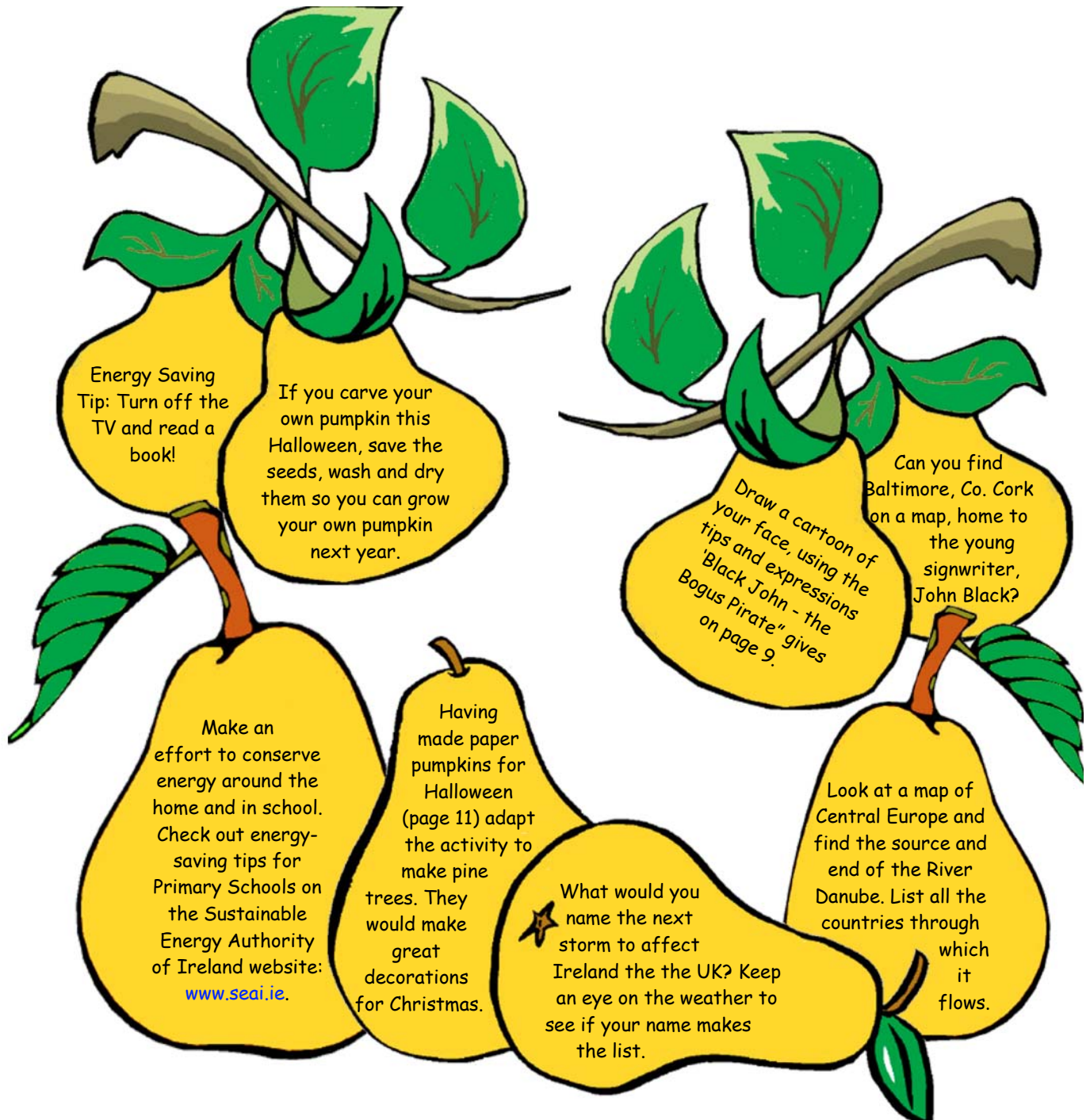
Yellow-billed
Kite

Zelda



Nature's Noticeboard

Autumn 2015



Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank those who have helped with this newsletter, particularly John Joyce, Paul Kay, Michael Ludwig, Robbie Murphy, Borbála Vízkelety, Vicky West and Jez Wickens.

Visit the Sherkin Island Marine Station website at www.sherkinmarine.ie



We appreciate support from the EPA and the Geological Survey of Ireland toward the newsletter.

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