

Nature's Web

Issue No. 51

Autumn 2018

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The underwings of a Common Blue butterfly (see page 3)

Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

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Editor's Page

Hiding in Plain Sight!

The Flower Crab Spider on an Ox-eye Daisy, about to catch its prey.



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

All spiders can spin silk but not all spiders make webs. One spider that doesn't is the Flower Crab Spider. My brother Robbie came across one this summer when he was photographing Ox-Eye Daisies. Not only do these spiders walk in a crab-like way, but when they are about to attack they also stretch out their front legs just like crabs stretches out their front pincers.

The Flower Crab Spiders can be found in gardens, meadows and hedgerows. The males are small and are greenish-brown in colour, with white markings. The much larger female however is a master of disguise. It can change colour from white to yellow and this form of camouflage is ideal for hiding on certain flowers (mostly those that are white and yellow). When unsuspecting insects, such as bees, flies and butterflies, land on the flowers to feed, the spider, with its legs outstretched, will pounce!

AS GAELGE! 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/lion-dulra/>

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Nature's Web!



Dear Reader,

Welcome everyone to the Autumn 2018 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue Lucy Hunt, who runs the Sea Synergy Marine Awareness & Activity Centre in Waterville, Co. Kerry, tell us all about her work and how she wants to connect people with the ocean. The shores around Ireland are fascinating places. One fish you will find there is the blenny and in this issue you can find out more it and its family. We also explain how balloons released into the wind can affect life in the sea and in the countryside and we suggest alternative ways to celebrate or mark occasions. Also in this issue you will find a great way to reuse old cotton t-shirts to make something new. Check out nature news from around the world on page 12 and enjoy a giggle with the jokes on page 13.

We would love to hear your views and comments and suggestions for future articles. Have a good read!

Susan

Email: editor@naturesweb.ie
Web: www.naturesweb.ie
Editor: Susan Murphy Wickens
Layout and Design: Susan Murphy Wickens
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Foreign Correspondent: Michael Ludwig

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Photo courtesy of www.bordbia.ie

Thai Style Fish Curry

What to do:

- Pour the coconut milk and stock or water into a heavy-based pan and bring to the boil. Reduce to simmer and allow to cook, stirring occasionally, until the milk thickens and reduces a little.
- Stir in the red curry paste and cook for a further 2-3 minutes. Then add in the cucumber slices and continue to cook for 2 minutes. Add in the fish and simmer very gently for 3-5 minutes. Very carefully stir in the lime juice and rind and a pinch of sugar. Be careful not to break up the pieces of fish. Taste and season with a little salt and black pepper.
- To Serve: Sprinkle over the fresh coriander and serve with rice or noodles and sautéed spinach or stir-fried pak choi. Serves 4

Brought to you by Bord Bia www.bordbia.ie

What you need:

- 700g whiting, skinned, boned and cut into 2½ cm chunks
 - 400ml tin of coconut milk
 - 200ml fish stock or water
 - 2-3 tablesp. Thai red curry paste
 - 1 large cucumber, peeled, deseeded and chopped into 2cm slices
 - Rind and juice of 1 lime
 - A pinch of sugar
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- To Serve:*
- Chopped fresh coriander
 - Rice or noodles
 - Sautéed spinach or stir-fried pak choi

Common Blue Butterfly

Scientific Name: *Polyommatus icarus*

Irish Name: Gormán coiteann

The Common Blue butterfly can be found throughout Ireland. Other blue butterflies found here, though less common, are the Holly Blue and Small Blue. Of all of them, the Common Blue is the most brightly coloured.

Male and female Common Blue butterflies look different. From above, the male is violet blue and the female is brown with tinges of violet blue on the wings and orange crescent shapes at the edge.



The female Common Blue.



The underside of the Common Blue.

The eggs of the Common Blue are laid singly by the female and the caterpillars hatch out after nine days. These are short, green and furry and feed on young leaves.

The Common Blue usually has two lifecycles in one year. The butterfly lays eggs in May and these will mature into butterflies, which in turn will lay eggs in August or September. The caterpillars which emerge at the end of the summer hibernate over winter and pupa in the spring, beginning the cycle again.

In its caterpillar stage of life, the Common Blue has a honey gland on its body, to which ants are attracted and on which they feed. In return for the honey the ants tend the caterpillar and help protect it from predators. When the caterpillar moves into the pupa stage, ants sometimes bury it, which helps to protect it further.



Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy

The Common Blue is a small butterfly, with a wingspan of about 3 cm.

How to identify butterflies

To learn about Ireland's 32 resident and 3 common migrant butterfly species, the National Biodiversity Data Centre have a 'crash course' in butterfly identification, which can be downloaded for free from their website:

<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/butterfly-monitoring-scheme/about/how-to-identify-butterflies/>

A handy pocket-sized identification guide can be purchased directly from the Data Centre.

FACT FILE:

Wingspan: 2.5 – 3 cm

Colour: Male is violet blue with a fine black line and white fringe around the edge; underside greyish beige with black, white and orange spots.

Diet: Caterpillar feeds on clover and bird's-foot-trefoil.

Winter Hibernating stage: Caterpillar.

Caterpillar: Green with a darker line down its back and yellow stripes along its sides.

Habitat: Grasslands, gardens, meadows, coastal regions, heaths.

Flight Season: May to September.

Animal Life



Image courtesy of Nevit Dillman (CC BY-SA 3.0)
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hippopotamus_amphibius_in_Tanzania_4041_Nevit.JPG



An Animal Under Threat

The hippopotamus is native to Africa and can be found south of the Sahara Desert. The main population is in the east of the continent but overall the population is in decline. The animal is listed as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List, a special list that keeps a record of world species. Humans are the hippopotamus's biggest threat. Not only is it hunted for its skin and meat but since the trading of elephant ivory became illegal, hunters have turned to hunting the hippopotamus for its ivory teeth, some of which can measure 60cm in length. Habitats are also decreasing in size. The hippopotamus is known to damage crops and many farmers resent the animal. It is also an aggressive and dangerous animal and has been known to attack humans.

The word 'hippopotamus' is Greek for 'river horse'.

Hippopotamus

Scientific Name: *Hippopotamus amphibious* **Irish Name:** Dobhareach

The hippopotamus is a large animal, with a barrel-shaped body and four short legs and a short tail. On each foot are four toes. It has a huge head and a wide mouth and it can open extremely wide, revealing large curved teeth. Its ears, nostril and eyes are high up on its head so that when most of its body is submerged in water, it is still able



to hear, breath and see. When it dives, it can close its nostrils and ears. As an amphibious animal it needs to take regular dips in water as its body loses water quickly. Because of this, it must live near a water source, such as a lake or river. A hippopotamus can hold its breath under

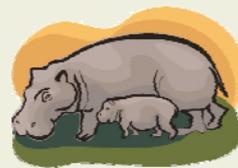
water for up to five minutes. Though it can move quickly through water, it is not really a swimmer, instead moving about by pushing off the bottom.

A hippopotamus will also live near pastures as its main diet is grass. It consumes about 35 kg of grass each night. During the day it will digest its food, rest on sunny river or lakeside banks and socialise with other hippopotamus.

The skin of the hippopotamus is thick and almost hairless. It was once thought that the hippopotamus sweated blood, but it is actually a pinkish oil secrete from the skin, which is thought to have healing properties, protect it from the sun and helps keep the skin moist.

Family

A female hippo has one calf at a time and carries its young for 8 months. The calf, which weighs approximately 25-45kgs when born, will stay with its mother for a number of years. This family unit might also include other siblings. Mothers some times leave their young in crèches with other cows while they go off to feed.



A male hippo is called a bull, a female a cow and a baby a calf. Female hippos usually live in groups within a certain area, led by a dominant male. There are a number of collective nouns for a group of hippopotamus: school, crash, bloat, herd, pod, dale or siege.

FACT FILE:

Length: 3.5 - 4m

Height: 1.6m

Weight: Up to 3.2 tonnes

Colour: Greyish-brown.

Diet: Grass, but also some small animals.

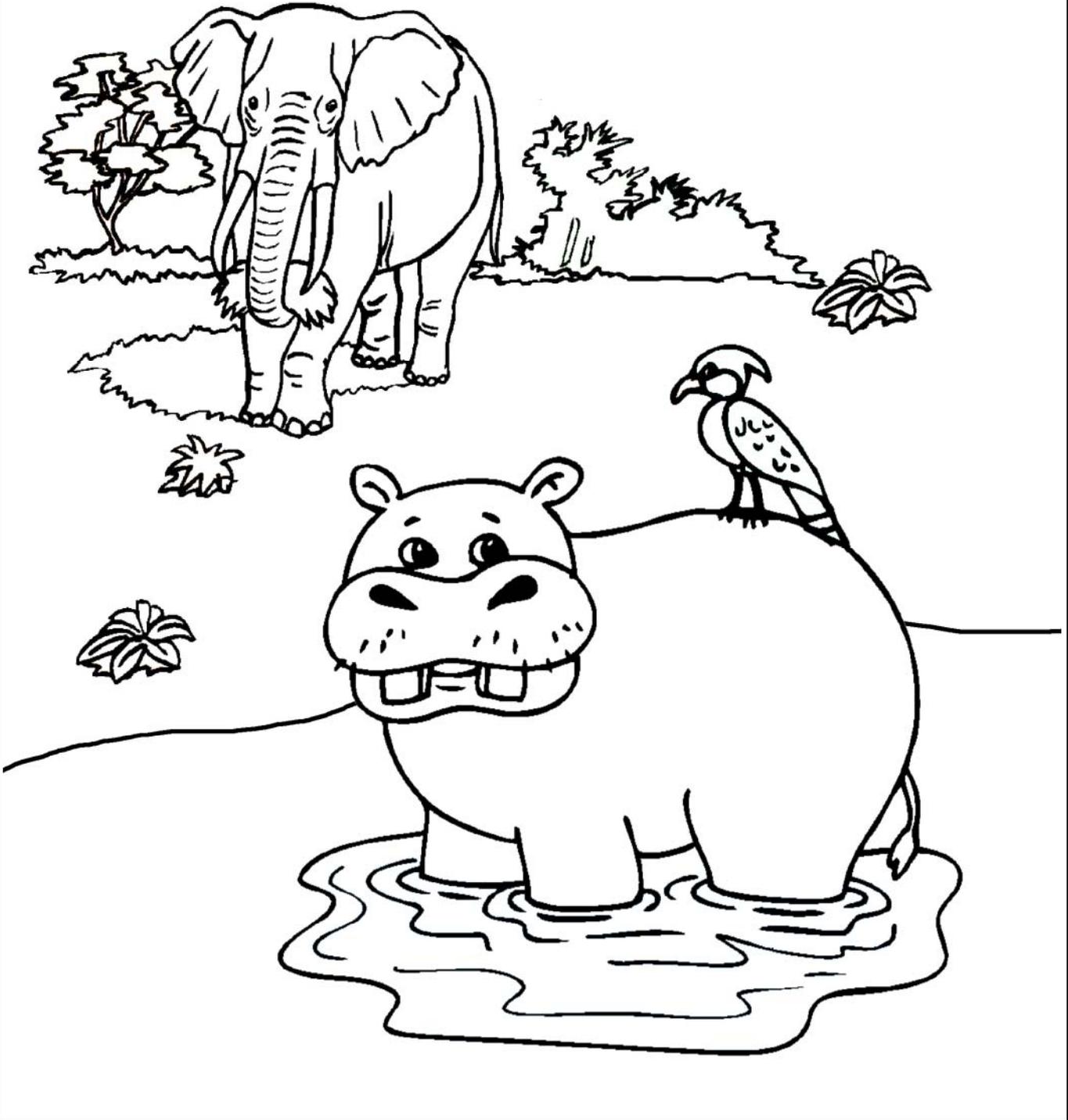
Habitat: Grasslands near a water source.

Location: Native to Africa, south of the Sahara Desert.

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Colour In

Cooling Off!



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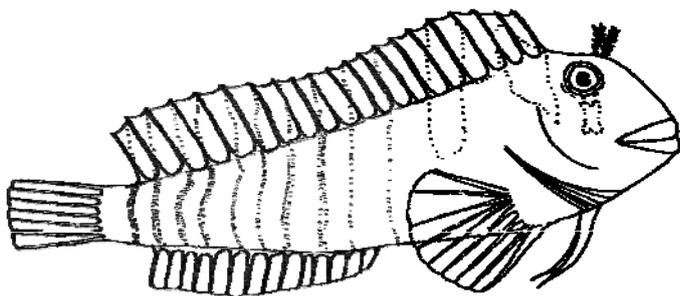
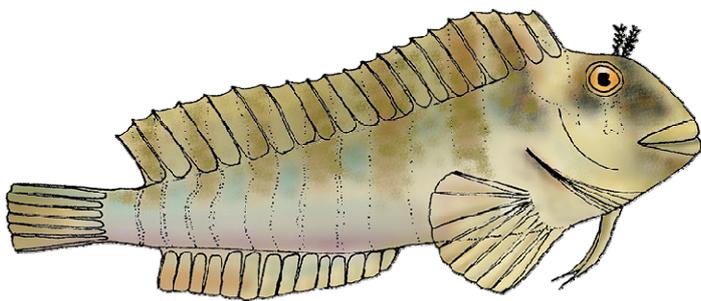
Blennies



Images courtesy of Paul Kay

The Tompot Blenny is larger than other blennies and can be found in deeper waters. Note the tentacles on its head, which is a typical feature of many blennies.

Colour in the Tompot Blenny



Sketches courtesy of Audrey Murphy, Cain/SIMS

Blennies are very shy fish. They are usually found in rockpools and under seaweeds on the seashore, in an area known as the intertidal zone, which is between high and low tide.

Though there are only a few blenny species in Irish waters, there are hundreds of species found around the world, both in tropical and cold waters. Most of them are quite small, usually less than 10cm in length. A few are larger, such as the Tompot Blenny, which measures up to 30 cm in length. Most of the species are found in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, but there are a number in Europe, particularly around the Mediterranean, with some in Irish and UK waters.

Their bodies are typically long and rounded. They have no scales and their skin is slimy to conserve water in their bodies. Most have blunt noses and long fins running along their backs and bellies and have pelvic fins at their throat. These pelvic fins are used to grip rocks in the intertidal zone, when strong waves come in. Many of the blenny species have tentacles on their head. They have comb-like teeth for eating food, such as barnacles and crabs.

Following spawning, when the female has deposited the eggs, the male will look after them for about a month, fanning them to produce a current of water over them so that they receive enough oxygen.



The Shanny or Common Blenny

Scientific Name: *Lipophrys pholis*

Irish Name: Ceanruán

The Shanny is the most common blenny around Ireland's coast. It has similar characteristics to other blennies, but it has no tentacles on its head. With big eyes and lips, these blennies have a clown-like appearance. It has brown to green mottled skin, which helps it blend in with its surroundings.

A fish out of water

Believe it or not, blennies are capable of living out of water for many hours. If caught out of a rockpool when the tide goes out, they can hide in crevices or under seaweeds until the tide comes in again, or even move over the rocks to another rockpool.



All in a Day's Work

Lucy Hunt—Sea Synergy Marine Awareness & Activity Centre

Lucy Hunt studied marine biology and zoology and then went on to study more by doing a Masters in Marine Environmental Protection. She started her marine biology business called Sea Synergy Marine Awareness & Activity Centre in her hometown Waterville, Co. Kerry in 2014. This was quite a different thing to do in her hometown as she was the first marine biologist in the area since Maude Jane Delap who was around in the 1950's! She also works as the Sustainability Education manager of the Volvo Ocean Race and has created a great Ocean education programme online that is in 7 languages and being used in 38 different countries! You can download fun booklets and worksheets here <http://volvoceanrace.com/education>



Images courtesy of Lucy Hunt

Lucy Hunt in the Sea Synergy sea life exhibition.

Check out www.seasynergy.org and Facebook: [LH Marine & Sea Synergy](#)

Where do you work?

All around the world, the ocean is everywhere so its a good job to travel with, but a lot in my hometown of Waterville or elsewhere around Kerry!

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Ever since I was a kid I was interested in the sea. When I was very young I even had a cat that would come to the beach with me and go paddling in the rockpools!

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

I have done lots of different training including two degrees as mentioned before, some extra Science communication courses too. I worked offshore and had to do offshore safety courses where I learnt how to rescue myself if a helicopter crashed in the water!! I also did lots of volunteerships in the Indian Ocean and gained loads of experience there in research and education on beautiful coral reefs.

What is a day in your life like?

A day in my life could be anything from teaching in class in schools to being out

on a boat looking for whales and dolphins or doing a TV show on marine life. I love my job because every day is different.

What is your main aim?

My main aim is to help connect people and the ocean so they realise how important it is in our everyday lives. The hope is they will fall in love with it and want to protect it.

What's the best thing about your job?

I love my work and how it changes all the time. I might be writing a report on my computer and next thing I have an alert to go look for a stranded dolphin



Lucy showing celebrity chef Neven Maguire around for his Irish TV show.

or that there are sharks in nearby waters. Also, I love travelling and I get to travel a lot with my work and meet lots of interesting people all the time, which is great.

What's the worst thing about your job?

I sometimes end up working very long hours and sometimes a lot of it can be computer based, depending on the job. I much prefer to be working outside, even if the weather is not always good!

What equipment do you use?

Lots of different equipment depending on the job: binoculars—for whale and dolphin surveys; scuba gear—for reef survey; stand up paddle boards, snorkelling gear and kayaks—for ecotours; my computer—for reports!

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I work both ways, as part of a team and alone, which is always nice!

What advice would you give someone wanting to do your job?

Get some work experience to see what side of it you like. Marine biology is so diverse there are lots of different ways to be involved.

What would you do if you weren't doing what you do?

I think I would be a journalist or news reporter, reporting on environmental issues.

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

'Life is not a rehearsal - its the real thing - do what you love.' 'We all have the power to make a difference.'



Lucy in the Arctic where she worked offshore surveying for whales and dolphins.

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Conservation

What goes up must come down!



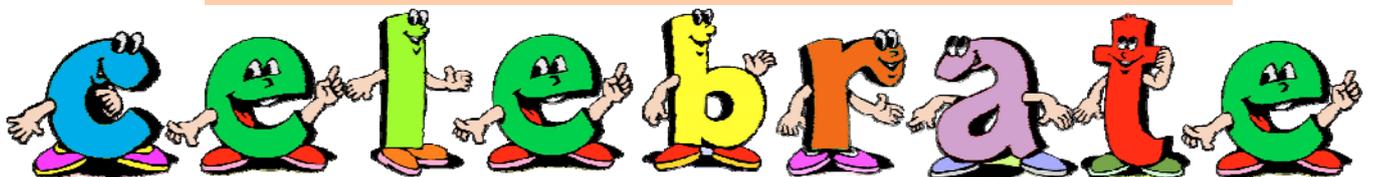
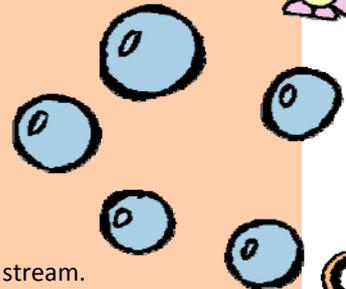
Balloons can brighten up any celebration but they can be very harmful to wildlife if released into the air. They look great blowing away in the wind but they will eventually fall back down to earth and become unsightly litter. Some animals can confuse a burst balloon with food and if consumed it could harm or even kill them. The ribbons attached to balloons are also a threat. Not only can they litter the countryside or the sea, creatures that become tangled up in them may be unable to free themselves.



Image courtesy of Russ Lewis NOAA.gov

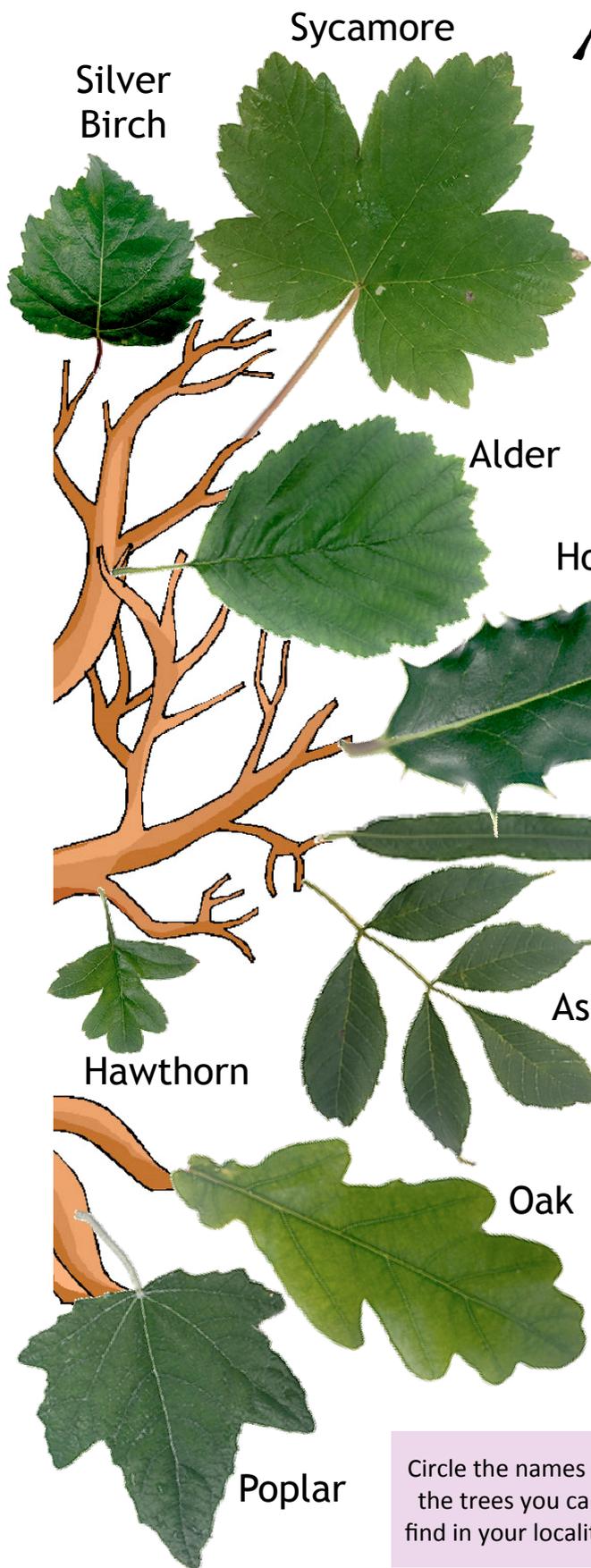
If you are planning a celebration or an occasion where you are thinking of releasing balloons, consider these alternatives:

- For a graduation—use bedding plants to represent each person that is graduating and plant them in a special part of the garden, in the shape of the year they graduate. This bed can change each year.
- Blow bubbles—give each person a bubble stick and soapy water. It can be very effective if everyone is blowing bubbles at the same time.
- Wave ribbons on a stick—tie a metre length of ribbon on a short stick, to wave in the air.
- Fly a kite—if there is a large area without overhead wires, flying kites would be fun.
- Flower heads—let flower heads go, to float down a river or a stream.
- Group photograph—take a group photograph, with everyone standing to form the shape of the numbers of the year, or in the form of a word or shape that is significant.
- Pinwheel—everyone holding a pinwheel would make a colourful picture.
- If using balloons, either hold on to them or tie them up when outdoors or let them go inside, where they can be collected afterwards.



Autumn Leaves

Leaves begin to fall from many of Ireland's trees in autumn. Before they disappear for the winter, here are a few to see if you recognise them.



1. Which two of the trees on the left are NOT on the list of trees native to Ireland?

2. A hurley is made from the wood of which tree?

3. The fruit of which tree is the acorn?

4. Which tree has a long, slender leaf?

5. As its name suggests, which one of these trees has a white/silver bark?

6. Which of these trees does not lose its leaves in winter and is often used as a decoration?

Circle the names of the trees you can find in your locality.

Trees Native to Ireland

- Alder
- Ash
- Aspen
- Birch (Downy)
- Birch (Silver)
- Cherry (Wild)
- Cherry (Bird)
- Blackthorn
- Crab Apple
- Hazel
- Hawthorn
- Holly
- Juniper
- Oak (pedunculated)
- Oak (Sessile)
- Rowan or Mountain Ash
- Scots Pine
- Strawberry Tree
- Whitebeam
- Willow
- Wych Elm
- Yew

For further information native trees visit the Tree Council of Ireland's website at: www.treecouncil.ie

Answers on page 13



Black John - the Bogus Pirate



Jean Lafitte was an infamous pirate who lived from 1780 to 1823. He and his brother Pierre started their lives of crime as smugglers in New Orleans until they were forced out by the US government and moved to Barataria Bay, Louisiana. When his ships and crews were captured, Lafitte used his diplomatic skills to bargain for their release with the American general (and later US President) Andrew Jackson in return for fighting with him in the War of Independence against the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

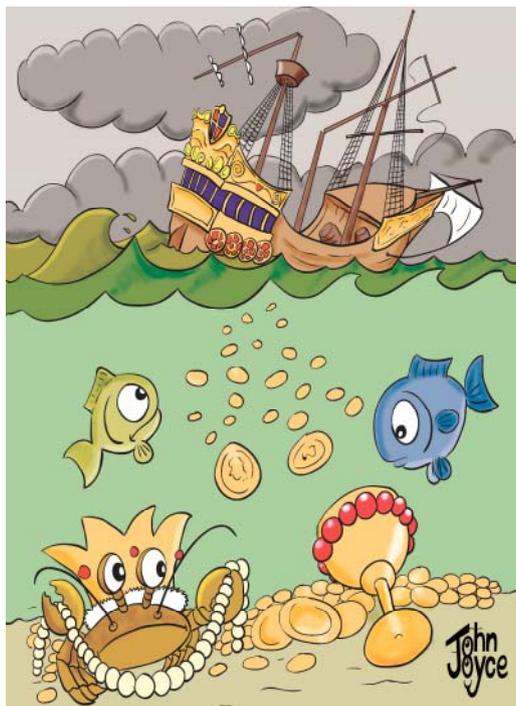
During his career, Jean Lafitte not only acted as a soldier, a sailor and a pirate, but also showed great ability to act as a businessman and criminal mastermind. He used these skills to set up an entire pirate colony called 'Campeche' on Galveston Island, off the shore of Texas. At its peak, this 'pirate city' contained some 120 separate buildings, housing an estimated two thousand people and earned around \$32 million a year (at today's value) from piracy. Lafitte's exploits raised so much anger amongst the local shipping community that the congressional delegation in Louisiana demanded the federal government do something about him. More US Navy ships were sent to the Gulf and in 1821 Lafitte's ship was ambushed. Lafitte was captured, but escaped to set up another base on the coast of Cuba, where he simply bribed the local government with a share of his plunder.

Jean Lafitte was killed in 1823 while trying to capture a number of heavily armed Spanish ships off the town of Omoa, Honduras. To this day, the city of Lake Charles, Louisiana holds an annual festival called 'Contraband Days' dedicated to Lafitte's exploits, and an entire nature reserve in the Louisiana Mississippi River Delta is named after him.

The Exploits of Jean Lafitte



Images & text - John Joyce



'Arrgh! Thar be treasure!'

The *Whydah Galley* was a passenger, cargo and slave ship captured by the pirate captain 'Black Sam' Bellamy, who used her for piracy along the coast of colonial America. On the 26th April 1717, she was caught in a violent storm and sank, leaving only nine survivors – two from the original pirate crew and seven prisoners who had been captured earlier that day.

The wreck remained hidden until 1984, when it was found buried under the seabed of Cape Cod in only four metres of water off the Bay of Massachusetts. It was authenticated by the discovery of its inscribed ship's bell and placard. Along with the wreck, 200,000 items were recovered, including 4.1 tons of gold and silver valued at around 400 MILLION U.S. dollars!

Along with the treasure recovered from the Spanish treasure ship *Our Lady of Atocha*, which sank in a hurricane off the Florida Keys in 1662, this makes the *Whydah Galley* discovery one of the largest treasure hauls (and certainly THE largest pirate haul!) ever recovered from the Ocean.

Follow 'Black John the Bogus Pirate' on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

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Activity

Making a Mat from Old T-shirts



Images courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens & Eimear Murphy

YOU WILL NEED:

- 4-5 old cotton t-shirts
- A ruler
- A sheet of cardboard — approximately 50 cm x 54 cm
- Chalk
- Twine or wool
- Scissors
- Pen or pencil



Gather a number of old and unwanted cotton t-shirts. Cut off and discard the bottom hem.



Using a ruler and chalk, draw a line 4 cm up from the bottom edge and cut.



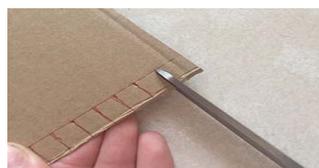
The 4 cm strip will be a loop so cut at both sides to make two single strips. Pull tight to make them long and narrow.



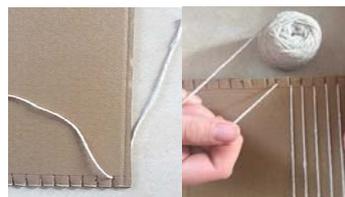
Cut as many strips as necessary. The mat above needed approximately 56 single strips.



Lay out the strips in a rough pattern. Use an even number of strips for knotting later.



On the longer side of the card, draw a 1cm line in from the edge. Then from the edge, cut up to the line at 1 cm intervals along the length of card. Repeat on the opposite side.



Slide the string into the first slot, leaving 12 cm. Pull the string over to the slot on the opposite side, loop around to the next slot and repeat to string the board.



After weaving the first strip through the string, tie the start of the string to the strip.



Following the pattern you laid out, weave each strip through the string, alternating the weave for each row, as in the image above.



When you have woven in the last strip, tie the end string onto the last strip.



When finished, begin on one side and double knot the first two strips on either side of the twine. Continue until all are tied. Repeat for other side.



Unloop the twine from the card and spread out the rug. Move the weave where necessary and trim any extra long tassels if needed.



The World Around Us

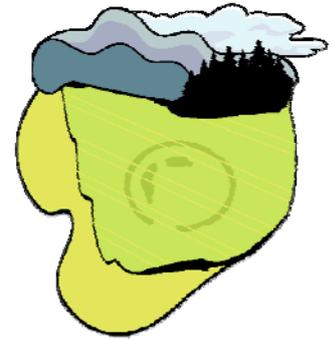


"Foreign Correspondent"
Michael Ludwig reports
on some strange
goings on in the
natural world.

A Heatwave Shows Off Our History

For archaeologists, this year's hot summer revealed many archaeological features in fields across Ireland. In some cases, as the soil dried out, a little bit more moisture was left behind in these features, making any crops growing overhead greener than crops growing in the drier ground.

One of the more striking archaeological finds was a circular enclosure or 'henge', near Newgrange in Co. Meath, thought to date from 2,500 BC. A historian, Anthony Murphy, has been studying the archaeology of the area for many years and uses a drone to capture images and video footage from the area. He had never seen the circular enclosure before and if it hadn't been for the dry weather, it may never have been discovered!



Hosepipe Ban & Water Conservation

Another consequence of the extremely dry conditions this summer was Irish Water putting a hosepipe ban in place across the country to help protect water supplies. Normally a short spell of dry weather doesn't cause drought or shortages but Ireland has experienced low rainfall over the past 6-9 months, with last winter being very dry compared to other years. There is now less raw water available to treat and supply which has put pressure on water supplies across Ireland. We can all help conserve water by making small changes. To see how you can help visit: <https://www.water.ie/conservation/>



The Ocean Cleanup 'System 001' floating in the lagoon in front of the assembly yard.

Image courtesy of <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/>

Hoping to Rid Our Oceans of Plastic

When Boyan Slat was 16 he was scuba diving in Greece and was surprised to see more plastic than fish. Back home in The Netherlands, he devoted his high school science project to understand the problem and research how it might be cleaned up.

He went on to found an organisation called The Ocean Cleanup, a non-profit organisation developing advanced technologies to rid the oceans of plastic. This September, it launched the world's first ocean clean up system from the San Francisco Bay in the US. The clean up system "System 001" is heading to a location 240 nautical miles offshore for a two-week trial. It will then continue its journey toward the Great Pacific Garbage patch, the world's largest accumulation zone of ocean plastics, 1,200 nautical miles offshore, to start the clean up.

'System 001' consists of a 600-metre-long U-shaped floating barrier with a three-metre skirt attached below. The system is designed to be propelled by wind and waves, allowing it to passively catch and concentrate plastic debris in front of it. Due to its shape, the debris will be funnelled to the centre of the system. Moving slightly faster than the plastic, the system will act like a giant Pac-Man, skimming the surface of the ocean. If it works, The Ocean Cleanup expects that the first plastic will be collected and returned to land within 6 months and recycled into products that can be sold to help fund the cleanup operations.

The Ocean Cleanup's ultimate goal is to reduce the amount of plastic in the world's oceans by at least 90% by 2040.

Flying Fish—literally!

The restocking of remote mountain lakes by Utah Division of Wildlife Resources puts a different perspective on flying fish! In the US, many states stock lakes for recreational fishing. Some of these lakes are often far from any road and can take a long time to reach by land, making it too stressful for the fish. Though an aerial drop may seem stressful, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources explain that at least 95% of the fish are expected to survive the drop. The young fish are so small (2.5cm to 7.6 cm) long and fall to the water like leaves. The pilot will fly just above the tree line to drop the fish, getting as low as safely possible. If the lakes were not stocked this way, many would be stockless.



Giant Irish Elk antlers found in Lough Neagh

Thinking they had snagged a dead tree in their nets, fishermen in Lough Neagh have discovered the antlers of an extinct Irish Elk. It is believed the antlers, which could be about 10,000 years old, are a special find as they are still connected to the facial skeleton.



The giant Irish Elk is not really an elk but more closely related to deer species. They became extinct about 7,000 years ago and the find is important as it may help provide further information on these animals.

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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 If released into the wind, what will eventually fall to earth as litter?
- 2 On which flower was the Flower Crab Spider photographed?
- 3 What did Irish Water have to put in place this summer because of the dry weather?
- 4 In which US city did the pirate Jean Lafitte begin his life of crime?
- 5 Where is Lucy Hunt's hometown?
- 6 Which is larger, the Common Blenny or the Tompot Blenny?
- 7 What is The Ocean Cleanup organisation hoping to collect from the ocean?
- 8 The mat on page 11 is made from what item of clothing?
- 9 Lucy Hunt's main aim is to connect people with what?
- 10 What did this year's hot summer reveal in fields across Ireland?
- 11 What is the young of a hippopotamus called?
- 12 How many leaves appear on page 9?
- 13 In which Lough did fishermen recently find the antlers of a Giant Irish Elk?
- 14 The hippopotamus is a very gentle animal. True or false?

ANSWERS to How Much Did You Learn? : 1. Balloons; 2. Ox-eye Daisy; 3. A hosepipe ban; 4. New Orleans; 5. Waterville, Co Kerry; 6. The Tompot Blenny; 7. Plastic; 8. Old t-shirts; 9. The ocean; 10. Archaeological features; 11. A calf; 12. 9; 13. Lough Neagh; 14. False—it is aggressive and dangerous.
ANSWERS to "Autumn Leaves" Page 9 : 1. Sycamore & Poplar; 2. Ash; 3. Oak; 4. Willow; 5. Silver Birch; 6. Holly.

Think of a Title

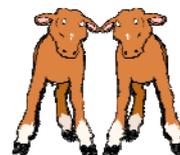
Have fun with your friends making up a title for this photo of a male Bighorn Sheep seen in Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada.



Image courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

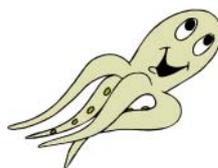
Nature Jokes

What two members of the cow family go everywhere with you?
Your calves!



What falls down but is never injured?
The rain.

What do dolphins need to stay healthy?
Vitamin Sea



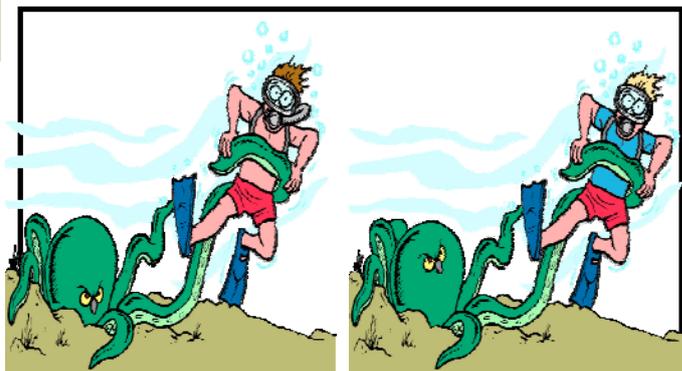
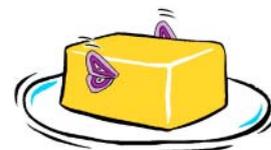
How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?
Tentacles.

What do you get when you cross a porcupine with a balloon?
POP!



What do you get when you cross spiders and corn?
Cobwebs.

What is the greasiest insect?
A butter-fly!



Spot the five differences!

Learn More



Only €2.95 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €3.10 p&tp) for all eight!

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. *Safety Sam's Activity Book* is filled with activities to encourage safety for children. *My Nature Diary* contains lined pages to fill in a daily record of sightings and nature news.

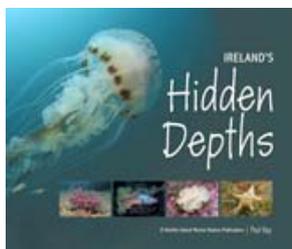
A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild Flowers

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



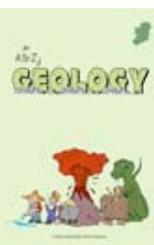
Sea Life DVD:

"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&tp.



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
Only €8.00 inc postage

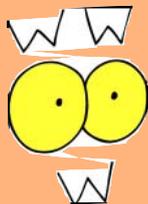


"An A to Z of Geology" explores the fascinating world of rocks and geology - a world of volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, diamonds, gold and even dinosaurs!

Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, in association with the Geological Survey of

Only €5.99 plus €2.00 postage

To order books, email sherkinmarine@eircom.net and we can arrange payment via Paypal. Alternatively, 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. Visit: www.sherkinmarine.ie



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:

Crab Spider: <https://www.arkive.org/crab-spider/misumena-vatia/image-A19840.html>

Common Blue Butterfly:

<http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/record-biodiversity/surveys/butterfly-monitoring-scheme/about/how-to-identify-butterflies/>
<https://butterflyconservation.ie/wp/butterflies/gardening-for-butterflies/>

Hippopotamus: <https://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/hippopotamus>
<https://www.arkive.org/hippopotamus/hippopotamus-amphibus/>

Blennies:

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/primary-students/3rd-+4th-class/3rd-+4th-class-enviromen/watery-wonders/the-seashore/blennies/>

Lucy Hunt: <http://www.seasynergy.org/> <https://www.volvoceanrace.com/en/sustainability/education.html>

Balloon Releases: <https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=TMIWQkz67J0%3d&tabid=128>
<https://www.mcsuk.org/seachampions/seachampion-resources> <https://blog.marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

Trees: <https://treecouncil.ie/tree-advice/native-species/>

Black John the Bogus Pirate: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

The Ocean Cleanup: <https://www.theoceancleanup.com/>

Water Conservation: <https://www.water.ie/conservation/>

Archaeological Features:

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/drone-footage-shows-henge-uncovered-by-heatwave-near-newgrange-854651.html>

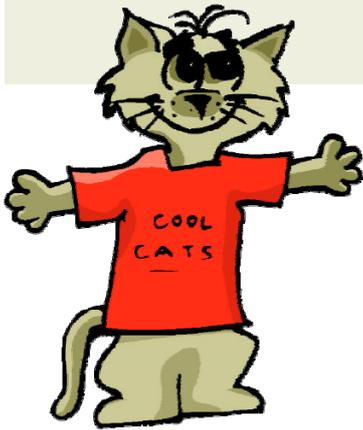
Giant Irish Elk in Lough Neagh:

<https://www.rte.ie/news/player/2018/0906/21428082-antlers-of-giant-irish-elk-discovered-in-lough-neagh/>

Flying Fish: <https://www.livescience.com/63475-fish-fall-from-plane.html>

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

Wordsearch



Nature's Web Autumn 2018 Wordsearch

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

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

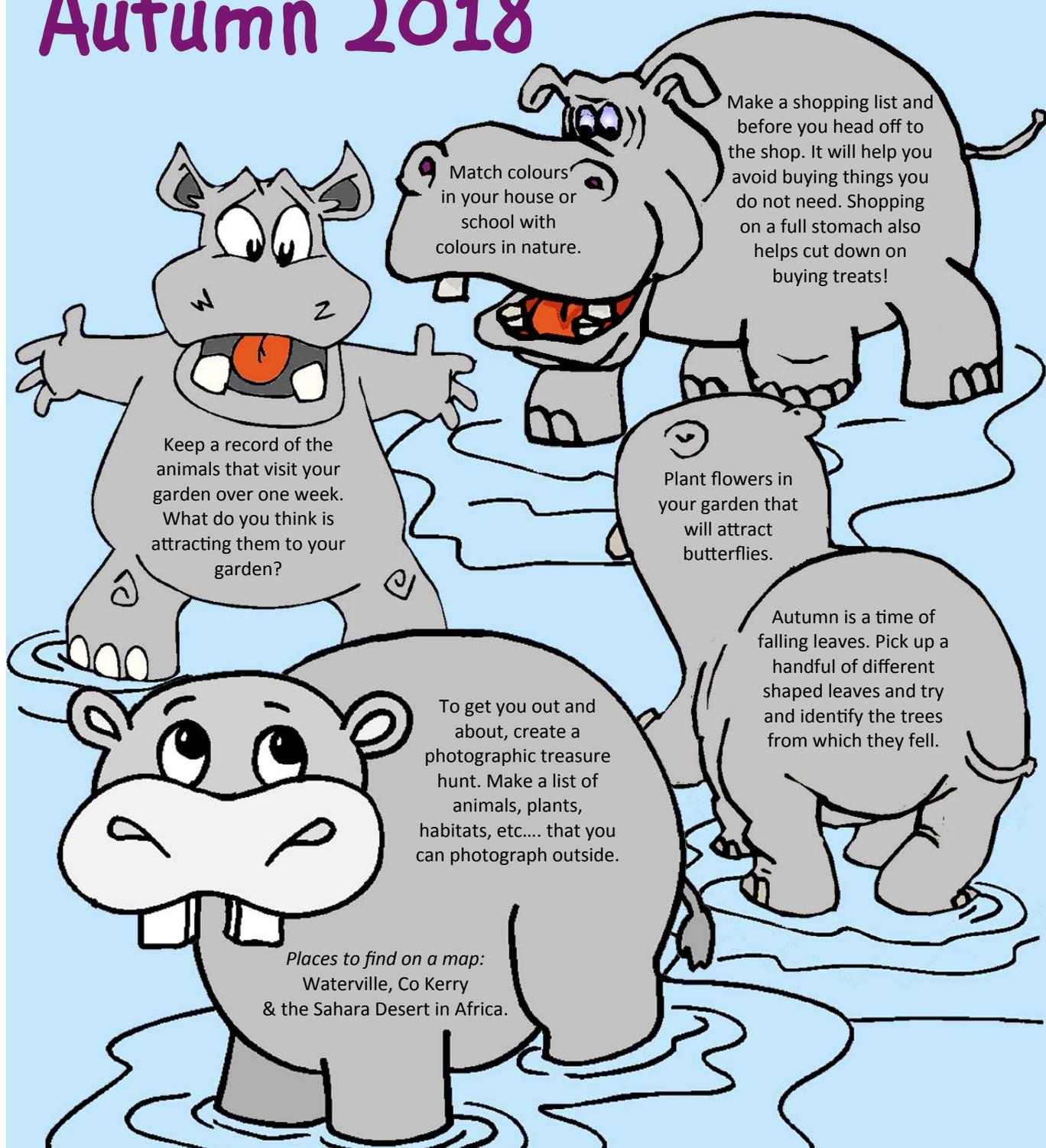
- Archaeology
- Autumn leaves
- Balloon releases
- Black Jack
- Blennies
- Bubbles
- Butterfly
- Common Blue
- Flower Crab Spider
- Flying fish
- Giant Irish Elk
- Hippopotamus
- Hosepipe ban
- Lucy Hunt
- Seasynergy
- Thai Style Fish Curry
- The Ocean Cleanup
- T-shirt Mat



(Over,Down,Direction): Archaeology (6,7,5); Autumn leaves (4,7,5); Balloon releases (3,6,W); Black Jack (15,9,E); Blennies (8,12,E); Bubbles (10,5,E); Butterfly (2,1,5); Common Blue (13,14,E); Flower Crab Spider (16,2,5); Flying Fish (16,2,E); Giant Irish Elk (18,14,N); Hippopotamus (12,15,E); Hosepipe ban (2,18,W); Lucy Hunt (9,3,E); Seasynergy (10,17,E); Thai style fish curry (18,10,E); The Ocean Cleanup (15,15,NW); Tshirt mat (11,4,E).

Nature's Noticeboard!

Autumn 2018



Match colours in your house or school with colours in nature.

Make a shopping list and before you head off to the shop. It will help you avoid buying things you do not need. Shopping on a full stomach also helps cut down on buying treats!

Keep a record of the animals that visit your garden over one week. What do you think is attracting them to your garden?

Plant flowers in your garden that will attract butterflies.

To get you out and about, create a photographic treasure hunt. Make a list of animals, plants, habitats, etc.... that you can photograph outside.

Autumn is a time of falling leaves. Pick up a handful of different shaped leaves and try and identify the trees from which they fell.

Places to find on a map:
Waterville, Co Kerry
& the Sahara Desert in Africa.

Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank the following for their help with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, Lucy Hunt, John Joyce, Paul Kay, Michael Ludwig, Eimear Murphy, Robbie Murphy, Jez Wickens and Alan D. Wilson.

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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