

Nature's Web

Issue No. 59

Autumn 2020

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editor's Page

A Whole Sea
of Seaweed

Apples

Out of This World!

Colour In: A Mine
of Information

All in a Day's Work:
Sue Cahalane—
Librarian, Sherkin
Island Library

What should I do
when I hear a
Flood Warning?

Raining Cats & Dogs!

Explorers
—SEA how to Draw

Activity: Fabric Beads

The World
Around Us

Fun Page

Learn More

Autumn Wordsearch

Nature's
Noticeboard

Far into the Night

Comet Neowise in
the night sky over
Sherkin Island
July 2020

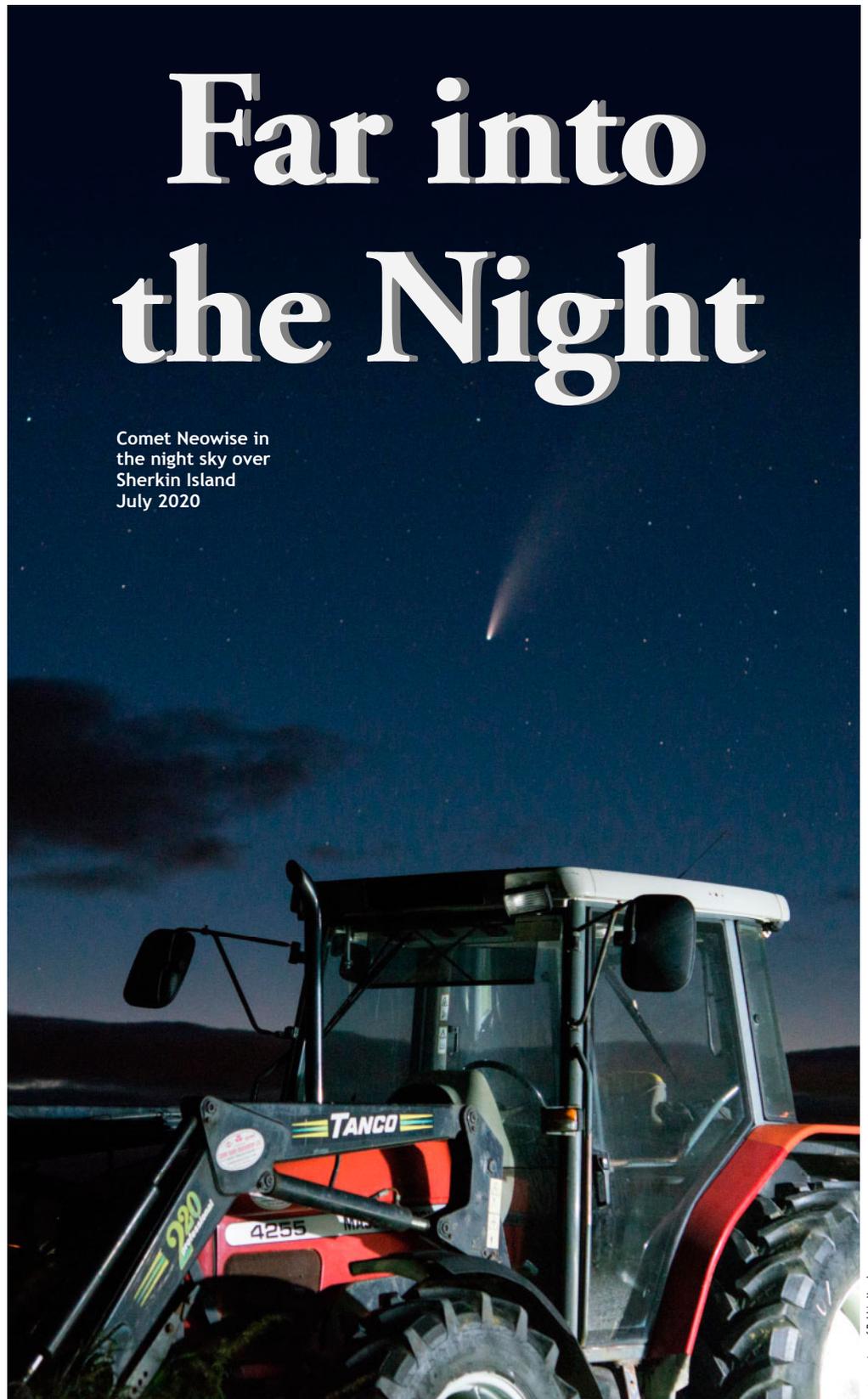


Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

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Editor's Page

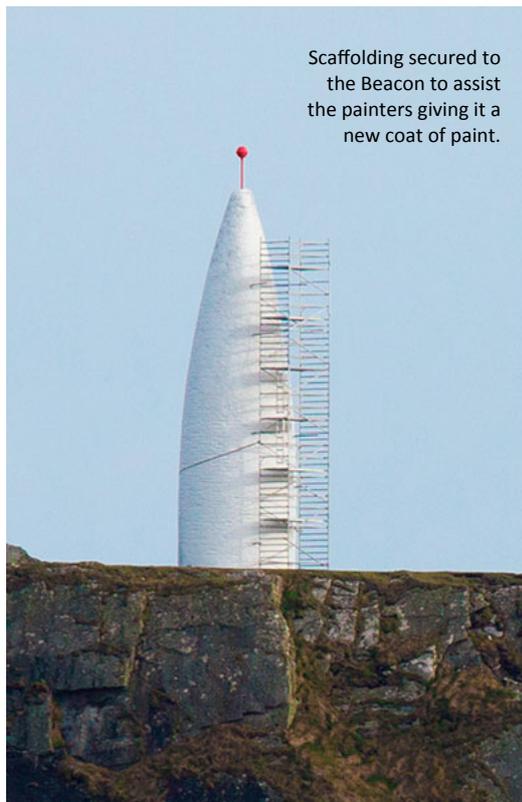
A Painting Job with a Difference!

If you have ever visited Baltimore in Co Cork, it is hard to miss the Beacon—a distinctive white signal “tower” that marks the entrance to Baltimore Harbour. Every few years, the Beacon needs a coat of white paint and at 15.2 m high, with a diameter of 4.6 m, it is a huge task. This March scaffolding was secured to the Beacon to enable the painters to reach the top. It's not a job for the fainthearted, particularly when you see the cliffs below where the Beacon stands. The gleaming white Beacon now stands even more proudly in Baltimore Harbour.



The Beacon is located over steep cliffs.

Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy



Scaffolding secured to the Beacon to assist the painters giving it a new coat of paint.

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/leon-dulra/>

Hake, Broccoli and Cheddar Cheese Bake



Photo courtesy of www.bordbia.ie

What you need:

- 700g hake, skinned, boned and cut into 4cm chunks
- 200g broccoli, cut into small florets
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 300ml light cream
- 200ml fish or vegetable stock
- 1 tablesp. Dijon style mustard
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 150g grated cheddar cheese
- 1 tablesp. capers

What to do:

Place the broccoli florets in a saucepan of salted boiling water. Bring back to the boil then reduce the heat and simmer for one to two minutes until the broccoli is just tender. Remove from the heat immediately and drain well. Transfer to an ovenproof baking dish (approximately 24cm x 24cm). Set aside while you prepare the sauce.

Add the cream, stock, mustard, garlic and bay leaves to the saucepan and bring to the boil. Add the hake and simmer very gently for 4-5 minutes. Remove from the heat and gently stir in most of the grated cheddar cheese, keeping aside 2 tablespoons for the topping. Add in capers and season with salt and pepper. Then spoon this mixture over the broccoli. Combine gently.

In a separate pan melt the butter then add in the breadcrumbs, reserved cheese and chopped parsley. Mix together then sprinkle over the top of the hake and broccoli mixture. Brown under a hot grill and serve with steamed potatoes and a tomato salad.

Brought to you by Bord Bia www.bordbia.ie

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Autumn 2020 issue of Nature's Web.



In this issue the librarian in Sherkin Island Library, Sue Cahalane, tells us what it is like to work there and what she enjoys about her job. We take a closer look at a fruit that we all know and love — the apple. Comet Neowise flashed across our skies this summer. We learn what a comet is and if or when we might expect to see Comet Neowise again. Would you know what to do if there was a flood warning? Water Safety Ireland give us some really important advice. John Joyce, a regular contributor to Nature's Web, has been working with Explorers.ie to produce some excellent videos to show us how to draw all things marine. Check out nature news from around the world on page 12 and enjoy a giggle with jokes on page 13.

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

Susan

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Michael Ludwig

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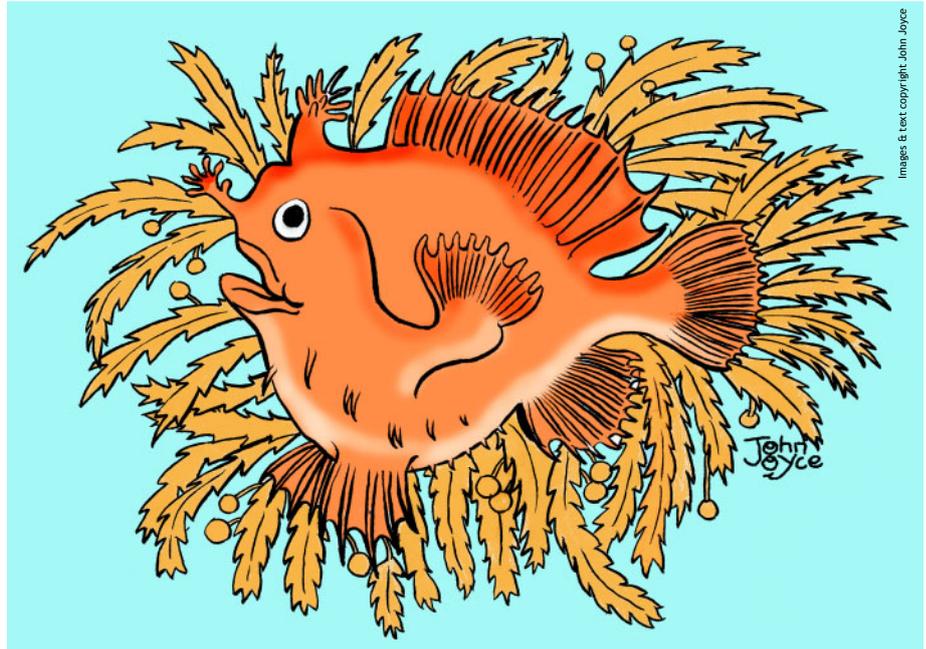
Black John - the Bogus Pirate



A Whole Sea of Seaweed

By John Joyce

Avast there, Mateys!
The seas around the world are fascinating places. Listen while I tell you about the Sargasso Sea!



Images & text copyright John Joyce

A species of 'frogfish' that blends in with seaweed found in the Sargasso Sea.

In the Western Atlantic, off the coast of America, four ocean currents flow in a circular clockwise motion, creating the North Atlantic Gyre. This vast body of water is over a thousand kilometres from North to South and 3,200 kilometres from West to East.

Contained within this body of water is the 'Sargasso Sea', named after the floating Sargassum seaweed that grows there. This floating seaweed, buoyed up by gas-filled nodules on its fronds, is a vast floating nursery for three species of eel – the European, American and American Conger eels, as well as a peculiar species of 'frogfish' that is uniquely adapted to blend in perfectly with the seaweed where it hides (see illustration). The

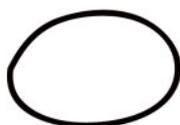
seaweed also provides a floating habitat for shrimp, crab and fish, as well as a spawning site for eels, white marlin and porbeagle shark. Many commercially caught fish such as tuna, migrate through the Sargasso Sea and many seabirds depend on it as a source of food.

As well as seaweed however, the gyre that creates the Sargasso Sea also concentrates floating manmade objects such as plastic debris – forming what has become known as the 'North Atlantic Garbage Patch'. This has led to the creation of the 'Sargasso Sea

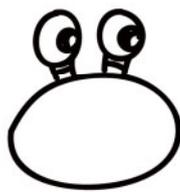
Commission' which was established in 2014 by the governments of the Azores, Bermuda, Monaco, the UK and the United States of America to protect this unique habitat.

The Sargasso Sea has also been the subject of many books and films including Jules Verne's classic book *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, and the 1968 Hammer Horror 'B movie' classic *The Lost Continent* in which voyagers battle giant crabs, carnivorous seaweeds and descendants of Spanish pirates who were trapped there centuries before.

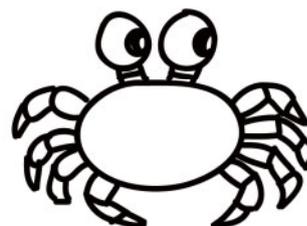
HOW TO DRAW A CRAB



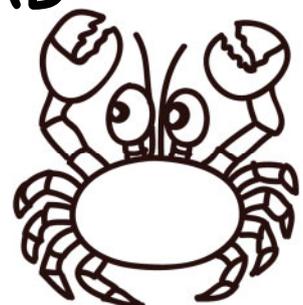
Draw the Body



Put on the Eyes



Draw the Legs



Put on Nice Big Claws!

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

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Apples



Scientific Name: *Malus domestica* **Irish Name:** Úll

Apples are the fruit of the domesticated tree *Malus domestica*, which descends from wild apple trees that grew in central Asia thousands of years ago. There are other species of apple trees other than *Malus domestica*, known as crab apples, wild apples and crabtrees.

An apple is a type of fruit known as a pome. A pome has a core of seeds, surrounding by a tough membrane, which is then surrounded by an edible fleshy layer. It is this fleshy layer that we enjoy eating. There are over 7,500 varieties of apples around the world and that number is always on the increase, with growers cultivating more and more varieties. The main characteristics that apples are grown for are taste and texture, colour, purpose, yield, disease resistance and storage. Broadly speaking, there three types of apples: Cooking Apples, Dessert Apples and Cider Apples.

COOKING APPLES:

These are apples that are suitable for cooking or baking. Cooking apples are generally not sweet enough to eat fresh. An example of a cooking apple variety is the Bramley.



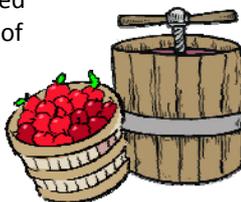
DESSERT APPLES:

These apples can be eaten fresh from the tree or after a period of storage. Sometimes apples can be used for cooking early in their growing season. Granny Smith, Golden Delicious, Gala and Pink Lady are examples of varieties of eating apple.



CIDER APPLES:

Cider apples have a bitter taste due to their high concentration of a substance known as tannin. These apples are ideal for making cider—an alcoholic drink made from fermented apple juice. Non-alcoholic versions of cider are now becoming popular, where the alcohol is removed. Cider is also used for making cider vinegar, which is used in cooking.



Apple blossoms.
Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens



Grafting other varieties of apple tree onto a different tree.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Apple_tree_grafting_2.jpg

The Apple Tree

Apple trees need free-draining, fertile soil and a sheltered area in which to grow. In spring the tree produces apple blossoms, which are pollinated by insects. Some apple trees need to be planted near different varieties of apple trees for pollination to take place. Throughout the summer, the fruits develop and are harvested from September to November in the Northern Hemisphere.



Apple trees do not grow well from cuttings and varieties do not grow 'true' from seeds. Therefore, apple trees are produced by grafting a cutting onto a rooted part of an apple tree, known as rootstock, and that dictates how tall the tree will grow—anything from 1.5m to 4.5m. Apple trees need to be pruned each year to maintain the optimum tree shape for growing apples. The wood of the apple tree is a dense wood that is used for furniture making.

Why does an apple turn brown when you cut it open?

When an apple is cut open or your bit into one, the flesh is exposed to the oxygen in the air. As the oxygen interacts with enzymes in the apple, it causes a chemical reaction in the flesh of the apple and turns it brown. Enzymes are proteins that speed up the rate of a chemical reaction in a living organism. One way of preventing the apple from going brown is to coat the flesh with lemon juice as soon as it is cut.



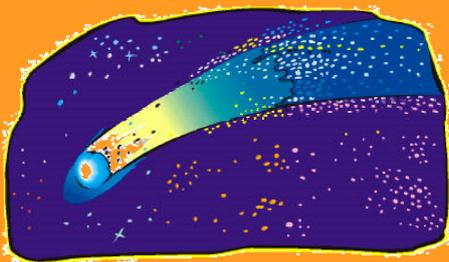
Out of This World!



What is a Comet?

Comets are believed to be remnants left over from when the solar system formed about 4.5 billions years ago. Like the planets, comets orbit the sun, though their orbits are more elongated (think of a very squashed oval). Depending on the type of comet, they can take from around 200 years or more to orbit the Sun. Sometimes their orbital path will bring them particularly close.

Comets are composed of ice, rock, and dust. They can range from a few miles to tens of miles wide. As they approach the Sun, the ice is heated, causing vapour to fizz from the surface. Dust and gas creates a long tail of debris, known as a coma. The coma stretches millions of miles and is lit by Sun.



COMET NEOWISE OVER ROARINGWATER BAY, WEST CORK: Comet Neowise was visible for a number of nights over Sherkin Island and Roaringwater Bay. The image above, taken on 15th July, is looking north over Kinish Harbour (aka Cúinne) with the lights of Heir Island and Cunnamore Piers in the distance. It was captured using a shutter exposure of 15 seconds and very high ISO—these are settings on a camera which reveal more colours and detail than is visible to the naked-eye.

Comet Neowise's long tail of debris, known as a coma.



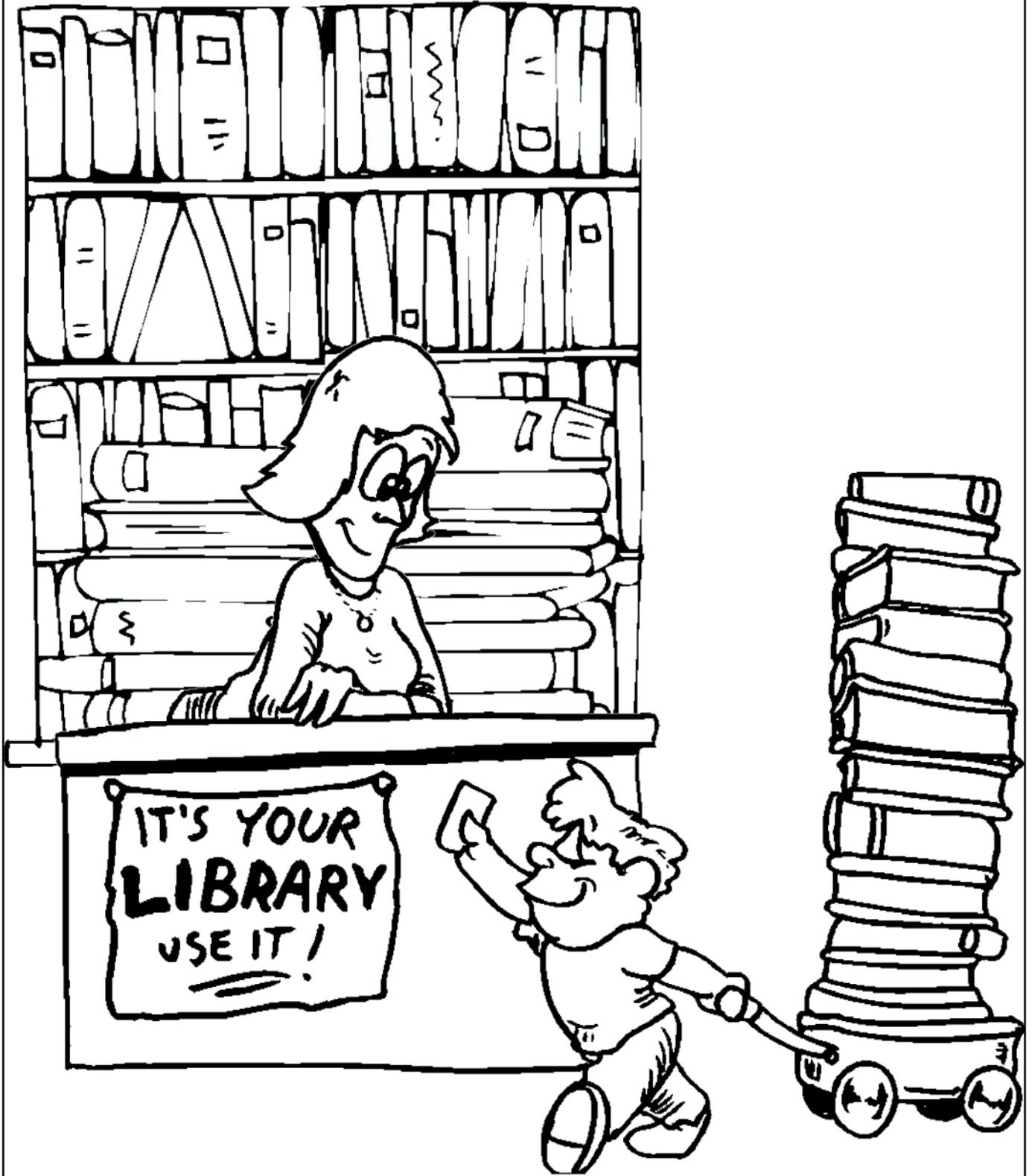
Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy

What do we know about Comet Neowise?

Comet Neowise was discovered on 27th March 2020 by NASA's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) mission. It came from the most distant parts of our solar system. As it zipped through the inner solar system, Comet Neowise was visible in the Northern Hemisphere skies from 15th to 23rd July, being closest to Earth on the 23rd. It survived the intense heat from the sun and sped away into the depths of space. It will not be seen from Earth again for another 6,800 years.



A Mine of Information



All in a Day's Work

Sue Cahalane – Librarian, Sherkin Island Library

Hello, my name is Sue Cahalane and I am the librarian in Sherkin Island Library off the coast of County Cork.



www.corkcoco.ie/library



Sue Cahalane

Images courtesy of Cork County Library Services



From top to bottom: The book club meeting outdoors!; Learning about the “red planet” with Leo Enright; Poetry Day 2017; Sherkin Island Library.

Have you always liked books?

I grew up in London and as a child I loved reading and looking at atlases and pictures of faraway places. I still remember going up the steps of our local redbrick library with my mother on a Friday after school when I was probably only 5 years old—though I may also have been attracted to the chocolate milk machine they had!

What does your work entail?

Contrary to popular belief librarians do not spend all day reading! There is a lot to do, and everyday is different. I am part of a team of librarians in the county who are all working on the same programme, but on Sherkin I work alone so am responsible for everything that happens in this branch. Apart from dealing with the people who come in to borrow books and DVDs, or to find out information, I would also order new stock for the branch, and request items for borrowers that are on shelves in other branches. All the public libraries of Ireland are connected by the Sierra computer system so stock can be shared by everyone wherever they live and all for free. Of course I also have to keep the library clean and tidy as it is important that people can easily find the item they need. All the fiction goes on shelves in alphabetical order by author surname, and the non-fiction, including books on wildlife and the environment, are catalogued by a library cataloguing system known as the Dewey system.

Is the library just about books?

The library is not just about books—it is also a place for information on local events, general citizens information and a place to access the internet. It also provides audio books and ebooks online,

via the Borrowbox App.

I also have to organise branch events, like the Tiny Tots Storytime and the monthly Book club, and the annual Children’s Summer Workshops. With the Covid restrictions most of these have not taken place this year. For now, Library HQ in Cork organise a lot of online competitions for children of all ages to do from home—even the Sherkin poetry sessions are on Zoom! I think we are all hoping to get back to the old ways soon, but until then there is nothing like sticking your head in a good story book and taking your mind somewhere else.

What’s the best thing about your job?

I love it—it’s like Christmas everyday! People often come into the library not being sure what they want but usually leave with a smile on their face and a pile of books and DVDs under their arm. Sherkin Library is also only about 30 feet from the sea and when the tide is in a seal often pops his head up to say hello. From my window I also get to see fabulous sunsets on a Tuesday when the library is open until 8.30pm.

What the worst thing?

Sometimes if there is a gale blowing the ferry may not be able to run for a few hours. If this happens on a Thursday then I won’t get the weekly delivery of new and requested books, which is disappointing when you know that something you are expecting is in the box. Of course, patience is a virtue and they will come in the next week.

What training did you do for your job?

Most recent recruits to the library service have a 3rd level qualification. I think it is important to study something that you really enjoy rather than something you think might lead to a job.

The library needs staff with a wide range of interests and expertise as it caters for the general public.

What’s the best advice you’ve ever got?

Something not book related—whether going to school, work or to sports, pack your bag the night before. Then next day you can focus on your task and not be distracted by stuff that got left behind.

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What should I do when I hear a Flood Warning?

Hheavy rains can bring flash flooding and flood conditions can mean we could be exposed to dangers. Water Safety Ireland (www.watersafety.ie) have important advice for you. For example, if you are attempting to cross fast moving water, you should be aware that it can exert pressure of up to four times it's speed against your legs. The deeper a person becomes immersed in water, the less a person weighs so the more difficult it is to remain upright. Never put your feet down if swept away in floodwater, because your feet and body could become trapped or pinned down and you could drown.

People travelling in cars need to be particularly careful to avoid flooded areas on roads, but particularly near rivers. Especially at night or in poor light, it is not always possible to know how deep the flooding is. Fast moving water will carry cars and other vehicles away and possibly lead to drownings.



You might be curious when there is flooding about you but you and those looking after you should be cautious as floodwater can hide the true depth. Manhole covers may also be open and small streams when swollen are very fast and deeper than normal.

What should people do when they hear a Flood Warning?

- Listen to the national and local radio for Met Éireann updates and AA Roadwatch updates.
- Check on neighbours particularly if they are elderly, infirmed or families with young children.
- Move vehicles to higher ground
- Move animal stock to higher ground
- Check small craft to ensure they are well secured or moored.
- Make sure you have warm clothes, food, drink, a torch and radio.
- Block doorways and airbricks with sandbags or plastic bags filled with earth. Floodgate products will work effectively also.
- Switch off gas and electricity supplies if flooding is imminent.
- Check the time of high water in the newspaper or online.



This information is courtesy of Water Safety Ireland. For further information on water safety visit: www.watersafety.ie



Personal Safety

- Avoid flood waters.
- Carry a mobile phone at all times in case you need to call for help – call 112 or 999 in emergency.
- Wear suitable protective clothing & a lifejacket in on or around water.
- Avoid fast flowing water.
- Never put your feet down if swept away by fast flowing waters.
- Flooding on roads will be deeper at dips and around bridges.
- Stay away from sea and flood defences.
- When walking or driving, be aware of manhole covers and gratings that may have been moved due to the heavy flow of water.
- Take care when using electric appliances in damp or flood conditions.
- Remember that during the hours of darkness the dangers are multiplied.

After the flood

- Avoid eating food that has been in contact with flood water.
- Run water for a few minutes and wash your taps.
- Check gas and electricity supply.
- Leave wet electrical equipment alone to dry and have it checked prior to use.
- Ventilate your property well.
- Check out www.Flooding.ie for more detail on general flooding.
- Check on elderly neighbours.



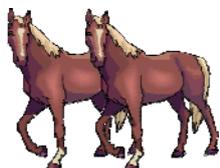
Word Play

Raining Cats and Dogs!

Sometimes we use words or phrases that are not meant to be taken literally. These are known as **idioms** and is a word or phrase that is not meant to be taken literally. For example, if you said "it's raining cats and dogs", it doesn't mean it is actually raining cats and dogs—it just means it is raining heavily.



There are many idioms that include animals. Can you match the correct animal with the idioms in the yellow box. Then pair the idiom with it's meaning in the grey box



horses



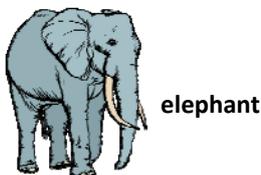
butterflies



lion



fly



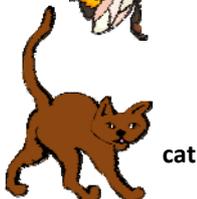
elephant



rat



bee



cat



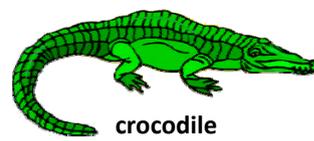
fish



ants



hawk



crocodile



crow

A. Have a _____ in your bonnet

B. Like a _____ out of water

C. Wouldn't hurt a _____

D. _____ tears

E. The _____ in the room

F. Have _____ in your stomach

G. As the _____ flies

H. Watch something like a _____

I. The _____ 's share

J. Hold your _____

K. Let the _____ out of the bag

L. _____ in your pants

M. To smell a _____

1. An obvious topic or fact that everyone is ignoring or avoiding talking about

2. To feel nervous or excited about something

3. To suspect that something is wrong or you are being deceived

4. Watching someone very carefully

5. Not being able to sit still because you're too excited or worried

6. To be obsessed with an idea or thought

7. The most direct path between two points or places

8. Tears that are fake or insincere

9. Not feeling comfortable or relaxed in a situation

10. The largest part of something

11. To be too gentle to hurt anyone

12. To reveal something by mistake or on purpose

13. To ask someone to slow down or wait or stop

Answers on page 13

Marine Life



EXPLORERS

SEA how to Draw...



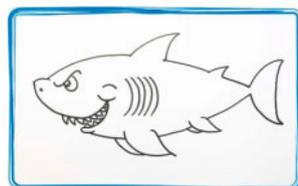
Images courtesy of www.explorers.ie

Watch the Explorers 'SEA How to Draw' classes, where you can follow some of our favourite cartoonists create fun characters, marine animals, research vessels, surfers, divers and lots more online. The series starts with popular cartoonist and author **Dr John Joyce**, drawing fun fishy faces, dolphins, whales, ships and research vessels, as well as surfers, divers and more. Here are details of some of the videos available from the Explorers Education Programme (link below).



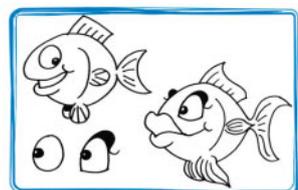
A Scuba Diver

Learn how to draw a SCUBA diver and imagine discovering lots of animals, caves and shipwrecks while diving under the sea. Follow John as he draws a cartoon of a SCUBA diver and all of the equipment a diver needs to discover what lies under the ocean.



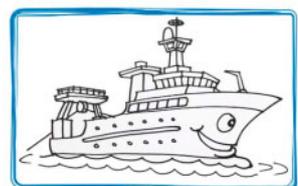
A Scary Shark in the Movies

Sharks are often represented as the scary villain in the movies. Watch and follow John draw a shark character and learn some fun facts about sharks around the world. Don't forget to share the fun fact about sharks with your friends and family.



Boy and Girl Faces

Have you ever wondered how to draw a male or female cartoon character? Watch and follow John draw girl and boy faces creating fun fishy characters.



The Marine Institute's research vessel RV Celtic Explorer

If you are looking at drawing a cartoon that is a little more challenging, follow John while he draws the Marine Institute's largest research vessel, the RV *Celtic Explorer*. There are lots of details including the vessel's hull, bridge, observation post, as well as the trawl gallows and winches. There are also lots of interesting facts to also learn about the RV *Celtic Explorer* from mapping the seabed, making new discoveries and learning about the fish in our sea.



The Marine Institute's ROV Holland I

Follow John draw the Marine Institute's remotely operated vehicle, ROV *Holland I*. While drawing along with John, you can also find out about some of the exciting discoveries scientists have made while using the ROV *Holland I*.

Websites: www.explorers.ie and <https://vimeo.com/explorerseducation>

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Activity Page



Images courtesy of Jackie & Eimear Murphy

YOU WILL NEED:

- Strips of fabric
- Scissors
- Wooden skewer or toothpick
- PVA Glue
- Ruler
- Pen
- Brush
- Wool or thread
- Needle

A great way to recycle something old and create something new, is to make fabric beads. These beads can be used to make necklaces and bracelets, as well as mobiles, wall hangings and many other objects. The beads are quite easy to make and you can vary how they look, depending on the size and shape of fabric you cut. A narrow triangle will make a narrow bead and a wide triangle will make a wider bead. See what works best for you!



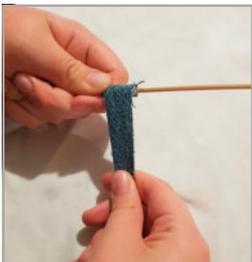
1. Bring together the items you need. Thicker fabric, such as denim, will make a bigger bead and may be easier to work with.



2. Draw a triangular shape on the fabric, using the template as a rough guide – it doesn't have to be exact. Cut out the shape.



3. If you would like to add additional interest to the necklace, cut a variety of different triangular shapes and use contrasting fabric.



4. Curl the wider end of the triangle around the skewer and tightly roll. Brush glue on the last few inches of fabric and stick in place.



5. Brush glue over the whole bead to help secure the layers and prevent fraying. Leave to dry.



6. For a necklace, cut wool or thread as long as required (allow extra for tying) and thread the beads using a needle.



You could make a snake by varying the size and shape of the beads. Tie a large knot at each end of the wool to prevent the beads from coming off the wool. Attach eyes and a tongue to the head.

Template



The World Around Us



“Foreign Correspondent”
Michael Ludwig reports on
some interesting goings on
in the natural world.

Footprints in the Sand— from 313 million years ago!

Scientists have recently published details of tetrapod footprints, formed about 313 million years old in the Grand Canyon National Park, USA. As well as being the oldest fossilized animal tracks in the Grand Canyon, they are the earliest evidence of a vertebrate’s footprints in sand dunes. They were discovered by a Norwegian geology professor, Allan Krill, who was hiking in the area with his students. The fossil footprints were on a boulder, which at some point had fallen off a nearby cliff. The rock in this cliff had formed in a period known as the Manakacha Formation.



What is unusual about the footprints is that they were formed in sand. Its thought a large reptile-type animal crawled over coastal sand dunes. Moist air could have dampened the sand and set the footprints in place. Later dry sand must have blown into the tracks and buried them and over time layers formed above the tracks, compacting them into rock over millions of year.



Did you know that here are tetrapod footprint tracks in Ireland? They can be found on Valentia Island, Co. Kerry, and are between 350 and 370 million years ago!



A Hero Rat

The African giant pouched rat has a remarkable sense of smell. The global non-profit charity APOPO has helped train some of them to detect landmines in Cambodia—landmines which were buried in the 1980s and 1990s during conflicts. Nicknamed HeroRATs, these rats can detect the scent of the explosive chemicals used in landmines and to alert their handlers to them. One HeroRAT in particular, Magawa, has been awarded a PSDA Gold Medal for his work. The medal is awards to animals that demonstrate “life-saving bravery and devotion to duty.” So far Magawa has discovered 39 landmines and 28 items of unexploded ordnance and has helped clear land equivalent in size to 20 football pitches, making it safe for local people.

No Knead to Waste It!

Ireland’s Environmental Protection Agency has found that bread is Ireland’s most wasted food, with 41% of people reporting they throw away bread. The main reasons for waste are food passing its Use-By date and forgetting to eat leftovers in time. After bread; vegetables, fruit and salad are the foods that are thrown out most often in the home. During the Covid-19 lockdown, 29% of people reported wasting less food. To find out more information about the survey, check out: <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/foodwasteprevention/>



A Fashion Conscious Fox!

A man living in Berlin’s Zehlendorf neighbourhood could not understand why one of his new shoes had disappeared from his doorstep. On investigating, he found that others in the area were also missing shoes. When a fox was spotted with two flip-flops in its mouth, Christian Meyer followed the fox into a bushy area and eventually discovered over 100 shoes, some just lightly chewed. It must be a fox with a real interest in fashion!



Unexpected Blooms

Bees are vital for pollination and the National Pollinator Plan encourages us all to do what we can to encourage bees into our gardens. Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) signed up to the plan and have designated various pieces of land as pollinator areas. They have limited how often these areas are mown and have let them turn into meadow. This has given wild flowers the chance to grow. Because of this initiative, a horticulture student Sean Deane discovered a rare bee orchid growing in one of the meadows this summer. These orchids tend to appear in areas where mowing has been reduced.

As part of their course, horticulture students are learning about the importance of land management. Yvonne Grace, a lecturer at the WIT said the discovery of the bee orchid was proof of how quickly nature can bounce back, when allowed.

There’s no better way to learn something than to see it in action.



image courtesy of Rebekah Murphy

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 In which US national park were fossilized prints found?
- 2 What rare plant was found in the grounds of Waterford Institute of Technology?
- 3 If it's raining cats and dogs, what's falling from the sky?
- 4 What should you not do with food that has been in contact with flood water?
- 5 What dictates the height of an apple tree?
- 6 In which ocean is the Sargasso Sea?
- 7 Robbie Murphy photographed Comet Neowise over which West Cork bay?
- 8 What structure was used to help with the painting of the beacon at the mouth of Baltimore Harbour?
- 9 The fox stole clothes. True or false?
- 10 Which app is used to read library books online?
- 11 If you were swept along by floor waters, what should you never do?
- 12 In the Explorers' "SEA How to Draw page", there is a drawing of a person scuba diving. True or false?
- 13 What is the award-winning HeroRAT Magawa is able to detect?
- 14 How old was Sue Cahalane when she remembers sitting on the library steps?
- 15 According to the EPA, what food do we waste the most?

HOW MUCH DID YOU LEARN?: 1. Grand Canyon National Park; 2. Bee Orchid; 3. Rain; 4. You must not eat it!; 5. The rootstock; 6. Atlantic Ocean; 7. Roaringwater Bay; 8. Scaffolding; 9. False; 10. Borrowbox; 11. Never put your feet down in flood water; 12. True; 13. Landmines; 14. She was five years old; 15. Bread.
ANSWERS TO "RAINING CATS AND DOGS": A-6-Bee; B-9-Fish; C-11-Fly; D-8-Crocodile; E-1-Elephant; F-2-Butterflies; G-7-Crow; H-4-Hawk; I-10-Lion; J-13-Horses; K-12-Cat; L-5-Ants; M-3-Rat.



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

Think of a Title

Can you think of a caption for this photograph of a Red-winged Blackbird taken in British Columbia, Canada?

Nature Jokes

What kind of apple isn't an apple?

A Pineapple.



What books do planets like to read?

Comet books.



Why did the fish go to Hollywood?

He wanted to be a starfish.

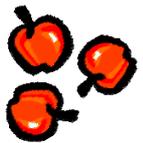


What do you do if your dog eats a dictionary?

Take the words right out of its mouth!

If there are three apples and you took away two, how many would you have?

Two! Because YOU took away two.



What do you call a piece of wood with nothing to do?

Bored.

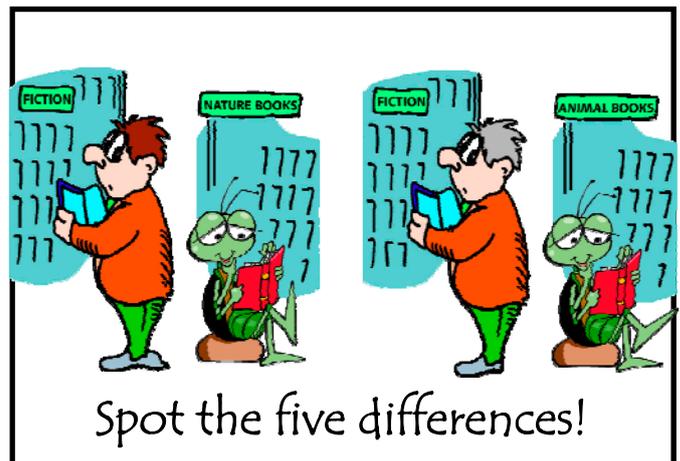
How are a dog and a marine biologist alike?

One wags a tail and the other tags a whale.



What falls but never hits the ground?

A: The temperature!



Spot the five differences!

Learn More



Only €2.10 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €3.10 p&p) for all eight! 32pp each

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.

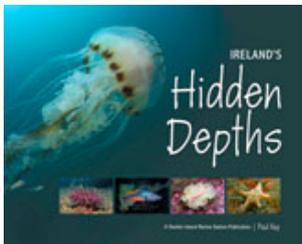
A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

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"

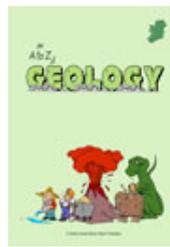
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

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

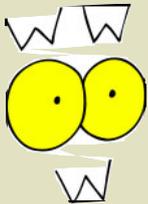
Only €8.00 inc postage



"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, visit: www.sherkinmarine.ie and pay by Paypal or 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.



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:

Baltimore Beacon: www.baltimore.ie

A Whole Sea of Seaweed: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/sargassosea.html> <http://www.seaweed.ie/sargassum/sargasso.php>
<https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/> <http://www.sargassoseacommission.org/index.php>

Apples: https://store.irishseedsavers.ie/Organic_Fruit_Trees_s/42.htm
<https://futureforests.ie/collections/apple-trees>

Comet Neowise: <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2020/hubble-snaps-close-up-of-celebrity-comet-neowise>
<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/146996/comet-neowise-brightens-the-night>

Cork County Library: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/library-services>

Water Safety Ireland: <https://watersafety.ie/>

Raining Cats and Dogs!: <https://www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/learning-activities/languages/words/idioms-game/>

SEA how to Draw: www.explorers.ie <https://vimeo.com/explorerseducation>

Bread Waste: <http://www.epa.ie/waste/nwpp/foodwasteprevention/> <https://stopfoodwaste.ie/>

HeroRATs: <https://www.apopo.org/en>

Footprints in the Sand:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/fallen-boulder-grand-canyon-reveals-ancient-footprints-180975646/>

Unexpected Blooms: <https://www.wit.ie/news/science/horticulture-student-sean-discovers-rare-bee-orchid-at-wit-campus>

A Fashion Conscious Fox:
<https://www.rte.ie/lifestyle/living/2019/0520/1050622-everything-you-need-to-know-about-urban-foxes/>

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 2020 Wordsearch

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



- Apples
- Beacon
- Bee Orchid
- Comet Neowise
- Crab
- Explorers
- Fabric Beads
- Flood Warning
- Food Waste
- Fossil Footprints
- Fox
- HeroRAT
- Idioms
- Library
- Raining Cats and Dogs
- Sargasso Sea
- Sue Cahalane
- Water Safety Ireland



(OVER,DOWN,DIRECTION): Apples (5,4,SE); Beacon (2,1,S); Bee Orchid (12,1,W); Comet Neowise (1,17,E); Crab (12,11,W); Explorers (12,15,NW); Fabric Beads (8,3,SE); Flood Warning (4,12,NE); Food Waste (17,9,N); Fossil Footprints (3,16,N); Fox (6,7,NW); HeroRAT (5,13,NE); Idioms (10,2,SW); Library (4,16,E); Raining Cats and Dogs (13,1,S); Sargasso Sea (1,3,S); Sue Cahalane (16,5,SW); Water Safety Ireland (18,18,W).

Nature's Noticeboard

Autumn 2020

Find a book in your local library that gives you more information about the different types of apples and how growers create new varieties.

Do you need to cover a copy book or school book? Why not recycle and use light cardboard or a paper shopping bag? You can make it even more striking by drawing something that relates to the subject you are studying.

Is there ONE thing you can easily change that will help the environment? Try to make the change and keep track of the difference it has made.

When you next visit your supermarket, write down the names of the apples you see. Look up these varieties and find out the history of this apple.

Can you find the following places on a map:

- Sargasso Sea
- Grand Canyon
- Cambodia
- Waterford Institute of Technology
- Sherkin Island

If you like crafting, autumn is a good time to collect things—e.g. pine cones, seedheads, dried flowerheads, leaves, shells, twigs, feathers, seeds and nuts.

Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank the following for their help with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, Sue Cahalane, Cushla Dromgool-Regan, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Eimear Murphy, Jackie Murphy, Robbie Murphy, Roger Sweeney, Jez Wickens and Alan D. Wilson.

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



We appreciate support from the EPA toward the newsletter.

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