

Nature's Web

Issue No. 63

Autumn 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editor's Page

Black John—
The Bogus Pirate:
The Loch Ness
'Dinosaur'?

Storing Food

Colour In:
Foraging for Food

Activity Page: Make
Insect Chess Pieces

All in a Day's Work:
Amy Geraghty—
Natural History
Museum

Decanting a Museum

Heather

Autumn Harvest

The World
Around Us

Fun Page

Learn More

Autumn Wordsearch

Nature's
Noticeboard



HARVEST MOON

A Harvest Moon over
Baltimore Village, Co Cork.
(Photo courtesy of Robbie Murphy)

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Editor's Page

Delicate But Deadly!



I came across this beautiful insect one day, sitting in a car. It looked delicate, with its lacy wings and beautiful colouring and I imagined it could easily be preyed upon by other insects. When I read more about it I found I was mistaken! This is a lacewing and despite its delicate appearance, it is an effective predator in the garden and is loved by gardeners. Aphids, such as greenfly or blackfly, can be really troublesome for gardeners, but lacewings love to eat them!

A lacewing goes through different stages in its life. First it is a tiny egg, then a larva, then a pupa and finally the adult lacewing emerges. It is when the lacewing is in its larval stage that it is a real predator to other insects. Sometimes lacewings are bred especially to be let loose on a crop or in a greenhouse in order to control aphids in a natural way and to avoid the use of chemicals.

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/>

Welcome to the
Winter Edition of
Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome to the Autumn 2021 issue of Nature's Web.

In this issue Amy Geraghty, Zoology Curator with the National History Museum in Dublin, tell us all about her work looking after the spirit collection, which is any specimen in alcohol or liquid. Amy also explains what is involved in the Decant Project—a huge task for the museum. Autumn is a time of harvest and a time for animals to get ready for the cold winter months ahead. We find out what animals store food and what they do with it. Black John the Bogus Pirate looks into whether or not the Loch Ness Monster could have been a dinosaur? You have the opportunity to make your very own insect chess set, or 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!

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Foreign Correspondent:

Michael Ludwig

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Crab, Spinach and Potato Frittata



What you need:

- 400g cooked crab meat
 - 450g potatoes, peeled and diced into small cubes
 - 2 tablesp. rapeseed or olive oil
 - 1 medium onion, peeled and finely chopped
 - 200g baby spinach leaves
 - 8 large eggs
 - 2 tablesp. milk
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 40g cheddar cheese, grated
- To serve: Green salad

What to do:

Place the potatoes in a saucepan and just cover with cold water, bring to the boil and simmer for 6-8 minutes or until soft. Drain and set aside.

Meanwhile, heat a tablespoon of oil in a large, deep, non-stick frying pan, approx. 28cm, over a medium heat. Add the onion and fry until soft and transparent. Add the drained potatoes, cook gently for two minutes stirring all the time. Add the spinach and cook until wilted.

Check through the crab meat and discard any pieces of shell. Drain off any liquid. In a large bowl whisk the eggs with the milk, stir through the crab meat and season with salt and pepper. Take the frying pan off the heat and add the potato and spinach mixture into the bowl with the eggs and stir to combine.

Heat a little more oil in the frying pan and add the egg mixture. Move the pan around to let the egg mixture run in under the potatoes and get to the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle over the cheese.

Turn the heat to low, then cook for about 10 minutes until nearly set. Place under a medium grill, and cook for about another 10 minutes until the top is set and golden. Remove from the pan, slice into wedges and serve with a green salad. Serves 6-8.

Brought to you by Bord Bia www.bordbia.ie



Black John - the Bogus Pirate



The Loch Ness 'Dinosaur'?

By John Joyce

Avast there, Mateys! Find out about the unlikely battleground of a single drop of seawater.

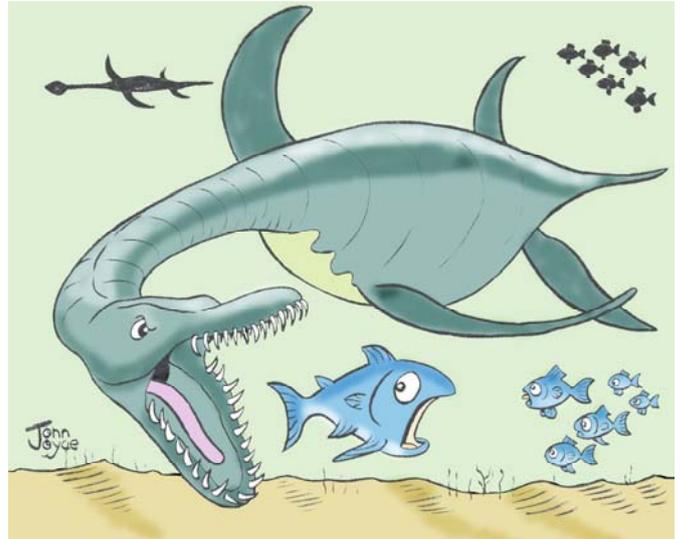
The 'Loch Ness Monster' is known throughout the world. Thousands of people travel to Scotland's most famous Loch hoping to catch a glimpse of this elusive creature. 'Nessie' – as the creature is now called – has also created popular and scientific speculation worldwide as to what it might actually be. This has boosted Scottish tourism and supported a local industry of avid 'monster watchers', books, movies and documentaries for hundreds of years. As long ago as the sixth century, the Irish monk Saint Columba reported that a man swimming in Loch Ness was attacked by a 'water beast' that injured him and pulled him underwater to his death.

Reports were also received in the 1800's of an object resembling an upturned boat 'wriggling and churning in the water' and of a 'large stubby-legged animal' surfacing in the loch which appeared to resemble a salamander.

Later, in 1933 a man called George Spicer reported 'A most extraordinary form of animal crossing the road in front of his car. The animal had a long wavy neck and lurched across the road to the loch, leaving a trail of broken undergrowth in its wake.

Photographic 'evidence', such as the famous 'Surgeon's Photograph' taken in 1934 by the London gynaecologist Robert Kenneth Wilson, has been disputed. There have also been many deliberate hoaxes, including one which used a toy submarine fitted with 'neck' and 'head'.

Theories abound as to what kind of creature the 'monster' might be, but one favourite idea – which seems to be the most 'plausible' – is that the creature is a thought-to-be-



extinct dinosaur from the Jurassic Age which rejoices under the name of *Plesiosaurus dolichoderius*.

The first complete skeleton of this marine reptile was found near the seaside town of Lyme Regis in Dorset on the south coast of England by Mary Anning in December 1823. Its small head, long slender neck and two pairs of paddle-like fins, corresponded to many of the eye-witness accounts from Loch Ness of what 'Nessie' – the world-famous monster – appeared to be. The only disappointing feature (from the monster-hunters' point of view) was that the fully grown creature was only three metres (or just under ten feet) long.

Nevertheless, it was an important enough find to be purchased by the Duke of Buckingham for 150 guineas and transported to a meeting of the Geological Society in London in February 1824. Ironically, even though this would be considered a 'small' dinosaur, it was too large to be fit inside the Society's meeting room and had to be displayed in the hallway downstairs.

For all its size however, experts have suggested that the animal fed on nothing larger than snails, clams and fish – hardly the diet of a world-famous monster!

HOW TO DRAW THE LOCH NESS MONSTER



Draw the head



Draw the humps



Add the hat !

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

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Storing Food

Autumn is a time of harvest. Humans collect vegetables that have been growing all summer, pick the ripened apples and pears from the fruit trees and the blackberries from the hedgerows. Some of these foods we eat straightaway and some are stored for eating later. Food that we save for later might be frozen in our freezers, dried and stored in containers or made into jams or chutneys and kept in jars.

There are animals that behave in a similar way to humans and store food for later. In autumn, there is a plentiful supply of food for animals and some animals will store food away for when it is in short supply in the colder months, or even just to eat a few days later. This is known as hoarding or caching food.

Here are some of animals that store food:

Honeybees

When honeybees are unable to fly in the cold winter months, they feed on honey they have stored in their hives.



Hamsters

It is in a hamster's nature to hoard food. Hamsters in the wild are from warm, dry areas. They live in burrows underground, where they also store their food.



Squirrels

Squirrels store nuts and seeds in different hiding places, burying piles of food just below the surface.

Acorn Woodpeckers

The Acorn Woodpecker in North America, collects acorns and stores them in granaries. They can pick thousands of holes in tree trunks or poles and store the fruit inside.



Foxes

Foxes dig holes in the ground with their front paws, burying and covering food to eat later.

Their diet includes rodents, rabbits, frogs and earthworms.



Wood mice

Wood mice fill underground chambers with seeds and fruit, to help them survive the winter months.



Rooks

Rooks and other relatives hide food, such as acorns, berries and roots. They hammer food into the ground or place it in a pre-dug hole and cover it over. They will remember all the hiding places and collect the food later.



Moles capture earthworms alive and keep them prisoner underground in chambers in the burrows! They bite their head to injure them, preventing them from escaping.

Moles



Beavers

Beavers fill their pond with trees and bushes so they will have food in the winter.

Wildcats

Wildcats bury small animals they have caught, such as mice and under leaves. Larger prey they keep in trees.



Colour In

FORAGING FOR FOOD



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Activity Page

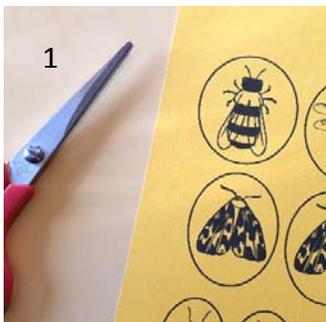


You will need:

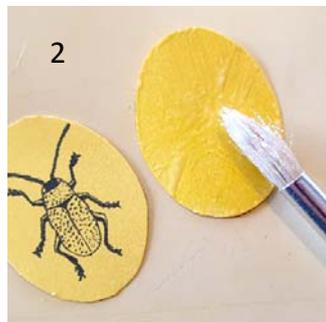
- Five sheets of card, three of each colour
- Scissors
- Glue & brush
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Template on page 17

Use a readymade chess board or make or draw one on a large sheet of card. You will find the rules of chess in the local library or online.

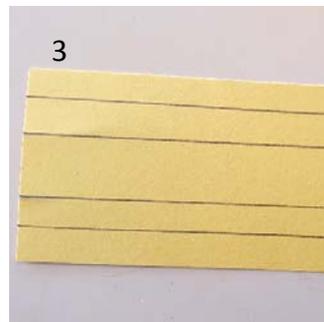
Make Insect Chess Pieces



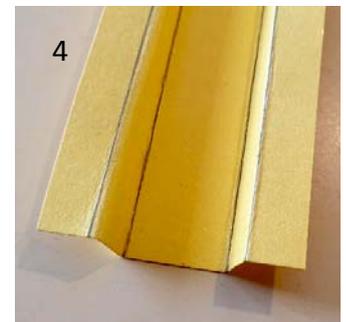
1. Print two sheets of the template in one colour, and two in the other colour. Cut out all the shapes.



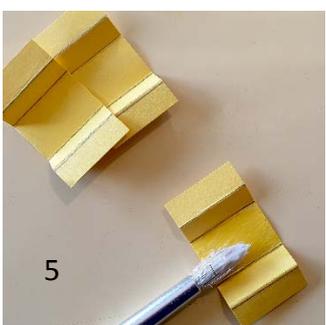
2. Match each insect with its pair and glue. Make sure they are same colour. Repeat for all the insects.



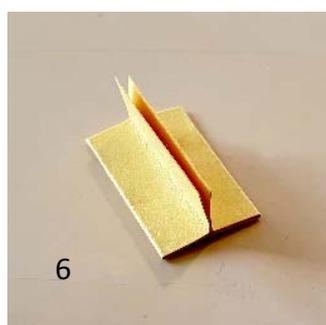
3. Cut a long strip of 6 cm wide of card. Draw straight lines along the strip, at 1 cm, 2 cm, 4 cm and 5 cm.



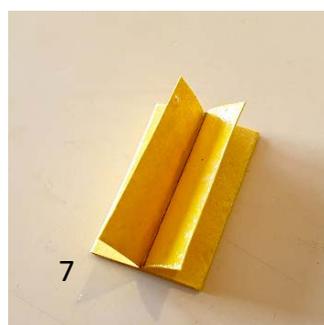
4. Fold along the lines as in the picture above.



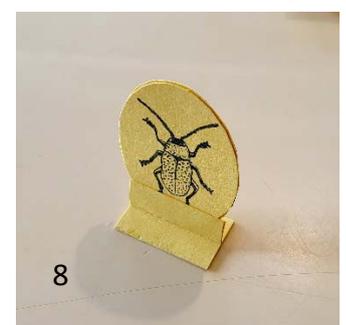
5. Cut the card into 3 cm pieces. Glue the centre section only.



6. Press down the outer sides into the glue.



7. Fold back the centre tabs and glue the inside of both tabs.



8. Place an insect between the tabs (the same colour as the stand) and press the tabs closed. This will secure the insect and create the piece. Repeat for all pieces.

All in a Day's Work

Amy Geraghty — Zoology Curator, Natural History Museum

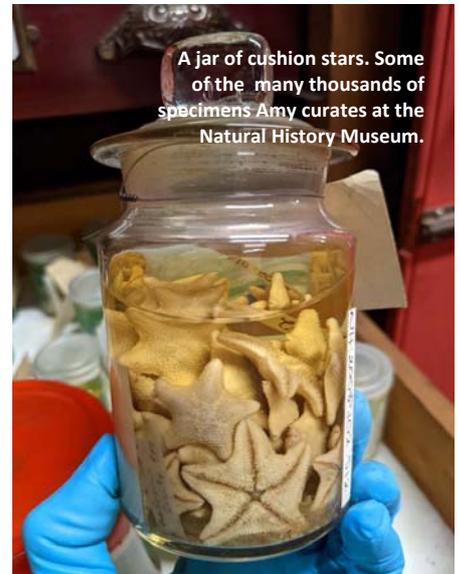


Amy Geraghty

Hi! My name is Amy Geraghty and I am a zoology curator in the National Museum of Ireland (NMI) Natural History Division. I've worked here for over a year now.



Images courtesy of Amy Geraghty



A jar of cushion stars. Some of the many thousands of specimens Amy curates at the Natural History Museum.

Where are you based?

I am based in Dublin. I work and travel between the Natural History Museum on Merrion Street and its two storage buildings.

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Yes, I have always been interested and enthusiastic about this kind of work. I grew up curious about nature and had to be dragged out of any zoo, aquarium or museum I visited.

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

I studied zoology in University College Dublin, Ecosystem-based management of Marine Systems in St. Andrews and marine biology in University College Cork. I've worked for Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) as a technical assistant and a schools' project facilitator. In BIM, I was lucky enough to be trained in first aid, sea safety, truck driving and how seafood is farmed. In my current role I have learnt many techniques from my colleagues and a course on how to care and manage collections in natural history museums.

What is a day in your life like?

Varied! Over the last year I've been helping with the Decant Project and to maintain some of the museum's collections. The Decant Project is the process of either moving or protecting specimens in the museum building itself to allow for roof repairs. Specimens have to be moved carefully and an exact record must be kept of

where they were moved from and to. The museum collection I mainly look after is the spirit collection which is any specimen in alcohol or liquid. This means I can spend the day checking on specimens, their containers, lids, and the type and amount of alcohol surrounding specimens. For the collections I accept and prepare animals donated by researchers or the general public. These specimens can then make their way into the display or research collections of the museum. I could also have to answer queries people have about animal identification or on specimens in the collection.

What is your main aim?

My main aim in my job is to follow the aims of the NMI. The NMI aims to provide access to museum collections, educate and raise awareness of our natural environment, culture and history, and undertake research.

What is the best thing about your job?

It is hard to pick just one! So far I've really enjoyed working with and learning from passionate and resourceful people.

What is the worst thing?

Sometimes it can feel like there is too much to do in too little time.

Do you work alone or on a team?

I work on a team. In the Natural History Division (NHD) there is the Keeper Nigel Monaghan, the Zoology curator Paolo Viscardi, the Entomology curator Dr Aidan O'Hanlon, the Documentation

Officer Eimear Ashe and the Education Officers Geraldine Breen and Emma Murphy. There are also so many people outside of the NHD who work on the same projects.

What advice would give someone wanting to do your job?

If you can afford to, try to volunteer and be open to unusual jobs. I have volunteered with the Natural History Museum and the NGOs Marine Dimensions and Irish Wildlife Trust. I have worked for an education company STEAM Education Ltd and got to carry out scientific experiments in schools. The experiences from the above allowed me to gain skills and figure out what kind of work I liked.

What would you do if could do something else?

If I couldn't work in my current role I think I would like to work in fisheries or as a science teacher.

What is the best piece of advice you have ever had?

My mom has always said "if you got yourself into it, you have to get yourself out of it". I thought it was about learning to rely on yourself. It turns out I just got my head stuck in railings a lot as a kid. Either way it's still the best advice.

<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Engage-And-Learn>

Natural History Museum



The Keeper of the museum Nigel Monaghan moving some taxidermy specimens. The cases were then either moved or encased for their protection.



The Keeper of the museum Nigel Monaghan discussing how to move The Irish elk (*Megaloceros giganteus*) specimens with Niall from Maurice Ward Art Handling.

Decanting a Museum

By Amy Geraghty

Zoology Curator in the National Museum of Ireland, Natural History Division

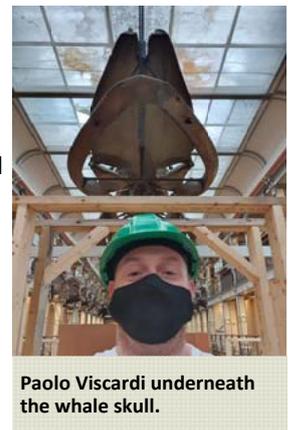
Over the last year staff at the Natural History Museum in Dublin have been removing and storing thousands of bones, fossils, stuffed animals, dried insects and wet collections, as part of a decant project to clear the Museum building for roof repairs. This is a big job. If you want to see how many specimens are on display in the museum (about 10,000!) there is a virtual tour available on www.museum.ie

Paolo Viscardi, the senior zoology curator, was the lead on the decant project and so was the one in charge of coordination and planning. Some specimens were easier to move than others. For example, in the upper balconies there were insects smaller than the nail of your little finger and right beside them were specimens bigger and heavier than a man! Before the cases of specimens on the floor could be moved or encased they had to be emptied. You can see how the Keeper of the Museum Nigel Monaghan carefully moved some specimens from a glass case!



Paolo Viscardi (NMINH) with Niall, Gina and Brian from Maurice Ward Art Handling discussing how to encase and move the whale skull.

The tough job of how to move the suspended whale skeletons was taken on by Paolo and the Dutch company Inside Out Animals. You can learn more about how they did this from the talk "Tales from the Decant: How to Dismantle a Whale?" (see link below). Some taxidermy specimens were so big a window had to be enlarged. They were then passed outside, transported and placed in storage.



Paolo Viscardi underneath the whale skull.



The team and how the suspended fin whale skeleton was moved. Karen and David from Inside Out Animals working on the fin whale's tail



Tales from the Decant: How to Dismantle a Whale? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UY1G-K9qUig&ab_channel=NationalMuseumofIreland

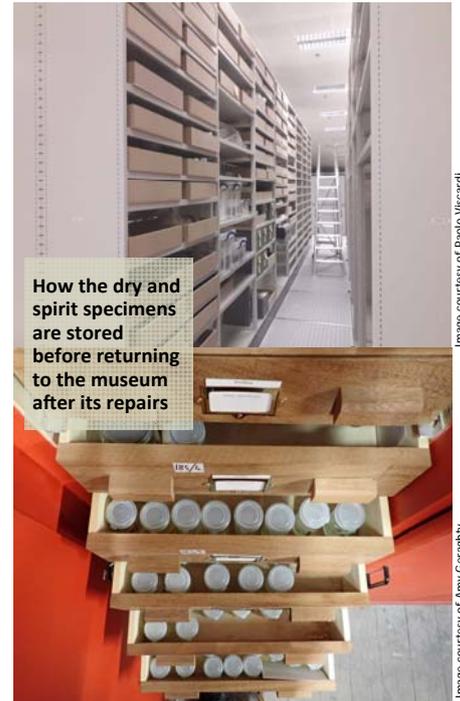
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Natural History Museum



How the large specimens and parts of large specimens were moved from the museum to the truck. First they were encased or had a protected frame built around them. Then the specimens were covered, picked up by a crane and carefully placed in a truck below. Then specimens were transported to one of two storage locations.

Image courtesy of Paolo Viscardi



How the dry and spirit specimens are stored before returning to the museum after its repairs

Image courtesy of Paolo Viscardi

Image courtesy of Amy Geraghty

Dr Aidan O'Hanlon, the entomology curator, and I moved a lot of specimens in liquid. You can see how we moved these specimens from the pictures. First we carefully placed the specimens into black boxes, secured them and placed the box in a leak proof crate. William Tracey & Sons Ltd Removal brought the crates to the storage location where Aidan and I unpacked and sorted the specimens. Aidan and Maurice Ward Art Handling also bagged, moved and unpacked dry insect and arthropods in the upper balconies.



How the spirit or fluid specimens were packed and moved. Then the specimens were transported to one of two storage locations.

Images courtesy of Amy Geraghty



Image courtesy of Amy Geraghty



Image courtesy of Paolo Viscardi



Image courtesy of Paolo Viscardi

How the game heads were transported, protected and unpacked when they were in the store. The game heads were taken down from their hooks or mounts. The ears of the game heads were covered in protective tissue paper, their horns were covered with foam and then the specimens were sealed in plastic. When they arrived to the storage location they were frozen, thawed, unpacked and mounted on a wall.

The decant so far has been achieved through careful planning and teamwork between Maurice Ward Art Handling and William Tracey & Sons Ltd Removal, museum staff and the Office of Public Works. Once the specimens were removed from the museum, they were checked, unpacked and safely stored. The project is ongoing but when the repairs to the building are finished we will start to move specimens back in. If you are interested in visiting the museum please keep an eye on the website for more information and in the meantime keep looking for #deadzooiary on social media.

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In Ireland, we have two types of heather—one is called Bell Heather and the other is called Ling. Bell Heather is a deep purple (but occasionally white) and grows earlier in the summer. Ling is a paler purple and grows later in the year, from July to October.

Heather is a low-growing shrub, which grows in acid and peaty soil on heathland, bogs and mountains. It is often seen growing alongside gorse, painting beautiful purple and yellow landscapes.

Heather is also grown as an ornamental plant in gardens and it comes in a variety of colours. Gardeners love heather because, not only is it a hardy plant, but for every month of the year a cultivated flower variety can be found.



Bees love heather and it is a great source of nectar. The honey bees produced from heather nectar is dark in colour and is known as heather honey.

Heather

English Name: Bell Heather **Scientific Name:** *Erica cinerea*
Irish Name: Fraoch cloigíneach

English Name: Ling, Heather **Scientific Name:** *Calluna vulgaris*
Irish Name: Fraoch mór



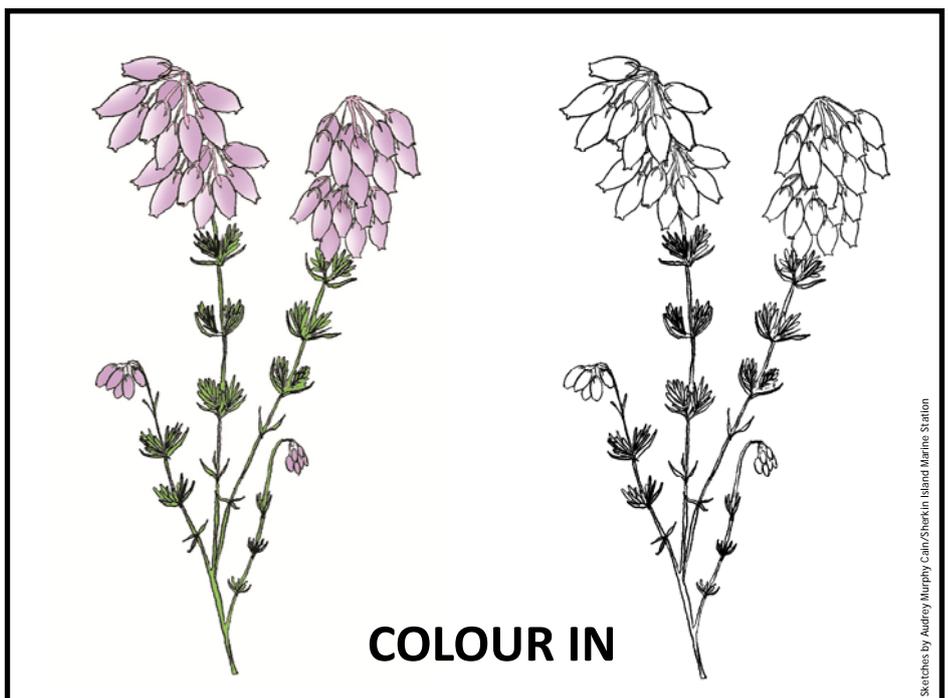
Bell Heather



Ling Heather

Loved or not?

If you find white heather growing in the wild, it is said to be lucky. In ancient times, Scottish people even thought heather had magic powers. Sadly, heather is not always well loved. In New Zealand, *Calluna vulgaris* or Ling is considered to be an invasive species. It was introduced there in 1910 and since then it has flourished due to favourable conditions and can outcompete New Zealand's native plants.



COLOUR IN

Quiz

Autumn Harvest

Test your knowledge and circle the correct answer:

1. What type of machine do farmers use to harvest their crops?



- a. Combine Harvester
- b. Plough
- c. Lawnmower

2. In the Autumn Equinox, how do lengths of daylight and darkness compare:



- a. Daylight is longer
- b. Darkness is longer
- c. They are equal

3. What can you plant outside now so it will grow in Spring:



- a. Lettuce seed
- b. Daffodil bulbs
- c. Sweetcorn

4. Oak trees produce what in the Autumn:



- a. Acorns
- b. More leaves
- c. Berries

5. What tool can a farmer use to cut hay:



- a. Scythe
- b. Scissors
- c. Pitch fork

6. Farmers use scarecrows to:



- a. Dry their clothes
- b. Give birds a home
- c. Frighten birds

7. Fallen leaves can be collected and turned into leaf mould for:



- a. Growing plants
- b. Feeding animals
- c. Clearing footpaths

8. A full moon that appears near the Autumn Equinox is called a:



- a. Farmer's Moon
- b. Corn Moon
- c. Harvest Moon

9. Which berries are collected in the hedgerows to make jam:



- a. Blackberries
- b. Gooseberries
- c. Raspberries

10. Which animal collects food in the Autumn to eat in the Winter:



- a. Polar Bear
- b. Foxes
- c. Dolphin

11. What is Autumn also known as:



- a. Jump
- b. Stumble
- c. Fall

12. During which months does Autumn fall in Australia:

- a. June, July, August
- b. September, October, November
- c. March, April, May



13. Which of these grows on a tree:



- a. Peanuts
- b. Apples
- c. Pineapple

14. Which fruit, eaten as a vegetable, is popular at Halloween:



- a. Courgette
- b. Pumpkin
- c. Tomato

15. For which vegetable is Ireland most famous:



- a. Potato
- b. Onion
- c. Turnip

Answers on page 13

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The World Around Us

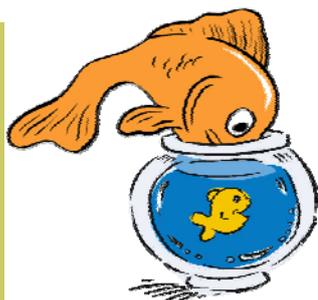


“Foreign Correspondent”
Michael Ludwig reports on
some interesting goings on
in the natural world.

Volcanic Eruptions on La Palma, Canary Islands

The island of La Palma, one of the Canary Islands, is currently experiencing volcanic eruptions from the Cumbre Vieja volcano. Lava flows and boulders spewing out of the volcano have caused destruction in their path, with hundreds of homes destroyed and causing thousands of people to flee.

Humans are not the only life affected by these eruptions. Livestock were removed from the area around the active volcano and brought to safer ground. It was reported that some livestock has become very unsettled leading up to the first eruption, suggesting they may have been able to sense the seismic activity.



A “giant” in the fish bowl?

Goldfish fish are easy to look after as long as they are fed regularly and the water and bowl are kept clean. Sometimes though even caring for these tiny fish may get too much for some. So what to do with this unwanted pet? Probably the best plan is to find a willing neighbour or friend, perhaps with children, to adopt it. Pet shops are unlikely to take the fish as it might cause cross-contamination with other fish they have in the tanks. One thing you should not do is release it into a local river. In one community in Minnesota, USA, officials have asked local residents not to release goldfish into the wild as nearly 30 goldfish, some bigger than 45 cm and weighing up to 1.8 kg were removed from a local lake. Goldfish are a relative of carp, which is an invasive species there and can outcompete the native fish.

Free at last!

Imagine wearing a car tyre around your neck for two years?! In 2019, officers from Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the USA, spotted a bull elk with a tyre around its neck. They think before the elk grew antlers it must have put its head through a stack of tyres left outside and that one got stuck. The officers eventually managed to capture the bull but as the tyre had a steel ring through it, they could not cut through the tyre. Their only option was to remove the elk’s antlers so they could slip the tyre over its head. Antlers are very important to a bull elk, as they use them during the rutting season to fight other males so they can mate with the female elks. Without antlers the elk will not be able to fight for a female so will have to wait until next year, when its antlers have grown back. Thankfully he will be without the tyre, which left surprisingly little the damage, the officers were able to report.



A delicate touch

Dr Meaghan Barrow, a vet at the RSPCA’s Wacol facility in Brisbane, Australia, recently performed successful surgery on a tree frog that measured only 2 cm in length! The tiny frog was found on some leaves outside the RSPCA and had what appeared to be a lump on the side of its body. The lump turned out to be a little hole, but given that that the frog was only 2 cm long, a little hole was a big hole to the little frog. Because of its size, fixing the wound was tricky. It was put to sleep using diluted medication and the tiny instruments and suture material were used to close the hole. The frog survived and was released a week later!

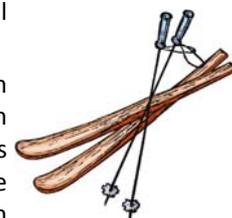


Iron Age Skis Reunited

Two glacier archaeologists have found the second of a pair of wooden skis that had been buried under ice 1,300 years ago. These Iron Age Skis were buried at the Digervarden ice patch in Reinheim National Park in southern Norway.

The first ski was found in 2014. The binding which held the ski to the skier’s foot, was still intact. The second ski, found in September, was buried about 5 m deeper than the first, was even better preserved. Its binding was more complete, with three twisted birch pieces, a leather strap and a wooden plug that fit in a hole on the ski.

Hunting artefacts found on the mountain suggest the skis may have belonged to a hunter. These are exciting finds and the archaeologists hope there is more to be found within the ice patch.



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 What did an elk in Colorado Parks and Wildlife, USA, have stuck around its neck?
- 2 What two items were reunited after 1,300 years, having being buried in a Norwegian glacier?
- 3 What colour is a lacewing?
- 4 Where does Amy Geraghty work?
- 5 What green vegetable is in the recipe for a frittata?
- 6 Which animals can you see in question 8 of the Autumn Harvest quiz?
- 7 Who is The Keeper of the Natural History Museum?
- 8 Name the store in which Acorn Woodpeckers keep their acorns.
- 9 How long was the tree frog on which Dr. Meaghan Barrow performed surgery?
- 10 Why did the Natural History Museum in Dublin have to empty the building?
- 11 Who found the first complete skeleton of a *Plesiosaurus dolichodermus* in Lyme Regis, Dorset, UK, in 1823?
- 12 Where did Amy Geraghty study zoology?
- 13 Where is *Calluna vulgaris* or Ling Heather considered an invasive species?
- 14 On which group of islands is La Palma?
- 15 Which insect represents the Knight in the insect chess pieces?

HOW MUCH DID YOU LEARN? 1. A tyre; 2. Iron Age Skis; 3. Green; 4. The Natural History Museum, Dublin; 5. Spinach; 6. Bats; 7. Nigel Monaghan; 8. Granary; 9. 2 cm; 10. Its roof needed fixing; 11. Mary Amning; 12. University College Dublin; 13. New Zealand; 14. Canary Islands; 15. Beetle.

AUTUMN HARVEST (Page 11): 1-a; 2-c; 3-b; 4-a; 5-a; 6-c; 7-a; 8-c; 9-a; 10-b; 11-c; 12-c; 13-b; 14-b; 15-a.



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

Think of a Title

Can you think of a caption for this photograph of a Douglas Squirrel, taken in British Columbia, Canada?

Nature Jokes



What's orange and sounds like a parrot?
A carrot

Why didn't the pony sing in the choir?
It was a little hoarse.



What do you call a funny mountain?
Hill-arious.

Why did the banana go to the doctor?
Because it wasn't peeling well.



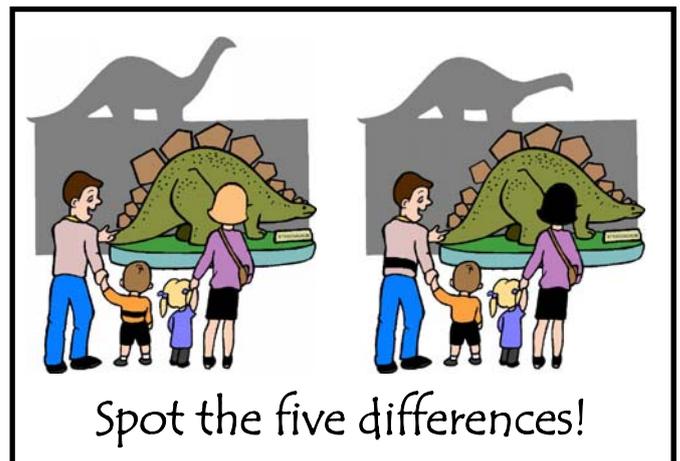
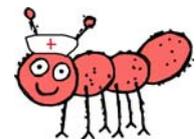
What did the tornado say to the washing machine?
Want to go for a spin?

What do you call a dog magician?
A labracadabrador



What did Mama cow say to Baby cow?
It's pasture bed time.

What kind of insect can kill germs?
A disinfect-ant!



Spot the five differences!

Learn More



Only €2.95 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €3.40 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.

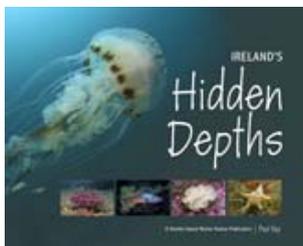
A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

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

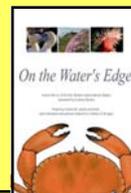
Only €16.00 including postage

Sea Life DVD:

"On the Water's Edge"

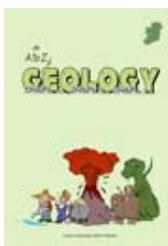
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

Presented by Audrey Murphy, it includes 6-10 hours of interactive material for children of all ages. Only €3.00 plus €2.00 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 €2.50 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. (Prices correct at time of uploading—please check website for up-to-date prices)



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:

Lacewing: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/other-garden-wildlife/insects-and-other-invertebrates/flies/lacewing/>
<https://www.thegardenshop.ie/organic-pest-control/>

Black John—the Bogus Pirate and the Loch Ness 'Dinosaur': <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-49495145>
<https://www.visitinvernesslochness.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

Storing Food: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/animals-that-hoard-their-food.html>

Insect Chess Pieces: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/Natural-History-Collections/Collections-List/Insects>
<https://biodiversityireland.ie/where-have-all-the-insects-gone/> <https://biodiversityireland.ie/taxonomic-groups/insects/>

Amy Geraghty and the Natural History Museum: <https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Visitor-Information/3D-Virtual-Visit>
<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Engage-And-Learn>
<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Museums/Natural-History/Events/202103/Tales-from-the-Decant-How-to-Dismantle-a-Whale>

Heather: <https://www.irishwildflowers.ie/pages/83a.html> <https://www.irishwildflowers.ie/pages/95a.html>

Autumn Harvest: <https://www.littlegreengrowers.ie/post/what-to-grow-for-autumn-winter-crops-in-ireland>

La Palma, Canary Islands: <https://www.volcanodiscovery.com/lapalma/sep2021seismic-crisis/current-activity.html>

'Giant' Goldfish: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/nearly-30-football-sized-goldfish-caught-minnesota-lake-180978178/>

Elk: <https://www.rte.ie/news/world/2021/10/12/1253340-elk-tyre-free/>

Surgery on Tree Frog: <https://blog.therainforestsite.greatergood.com/vet-performs-surgery-tree-frog/>

Iron Age Skis: <https://secretsoftheice.com/news/2018/10/04/skis/>

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 2021 Wordsearch

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



- Amy Geraghty
- Autumn Harvest
- Bord Bia Recipe
- Decanting a Museum
- Elk
- Foraging
- Goldfish
- Heather
- Insect Chess
- Iron Age Skis
- La Palma
- Lacewing
- Loch Ness 'Dinosaur'
- Natural History
- Storing Food
- Tree Frog
- Volcano
- Zoology Curator



(OVER,DOWN,DIRECTION): Amy Geraghty (1,9,E); Autumn Harvest (4,1,SE); Bord Bia Recipe (12,2,S); Decanting a Museum (16,15,W); Elk (15,11,NW); Foraging (14,9,N); Goldfish (2,8,NE); Heather (1,10,E); Insect Chess (16,1,S); Iron Age Skis (11,11,W); La Palma (8,7,NW); Lacewing (13,8,N); Loch Ness 'Dinosaur' (1,16,E); Natural History (17,1,S); Storing Food (11,17,W); Tree Frog (10,8,NW); Volcano (15,10,N); Zoology Curator (1,18,E).

Nature's Noticeboard

Autumn 2021

Find on a map:

La Palma, Canary Islands.
Loch Ness, Scotland.
Lyme Regis, Dorset, UK.
Merrion Street, Dublin.
Reinheim National Park, Norway.
Brisbane, Australia.
Colorado, USA.

Check out www.seai.ie for energy saving tips for your home. For example, they say to use the washing machine and dishwasher at times when there is lower energy demand and avoid turning it on between 7-9 in the morning and 5-7 at night. It may not save you money but will help avoid excessive CO2 emissions from power stations.

By Autumn, many flower heads have lost their petals and swollen fruits are all that remain. Rose hips, hawthorn berries and blackberries are examples. Can you find some of these swollen fruits? Remember though, not all fruits are edible.

Check out www.met.ie for the names for storms in the 2021-2022 season.

The dormant season for a tree is between November and early April and it is a good time to plant bare root trees. Check out the www.treecouncil.ie for tips on planting trees, why it's important and which tree is best to plant in your garden.

Go for a walk in a forest or park and collect some fallen leaves. Make some leaf rubbings with paper and crayons to remember your outing.

Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank everyone who helped with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, Amy Geraghty, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Robbie Murphy, Jez Wickens and Alan D. Wilson.

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

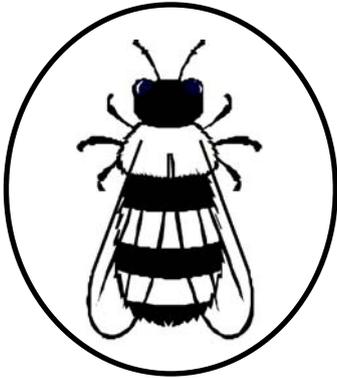


We appreciate support from the EPA toward the newsletter.

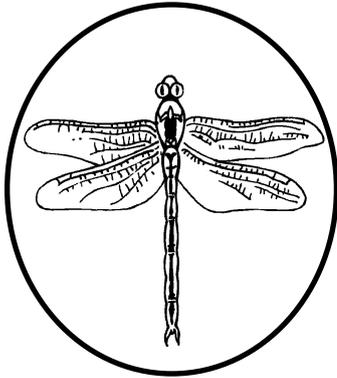
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Template

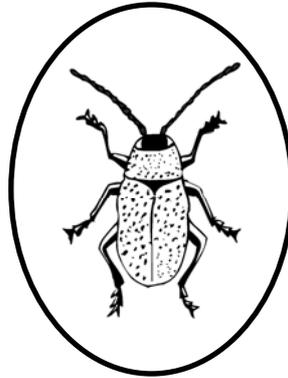
Template for Insect Chess Pieces (see page 6)



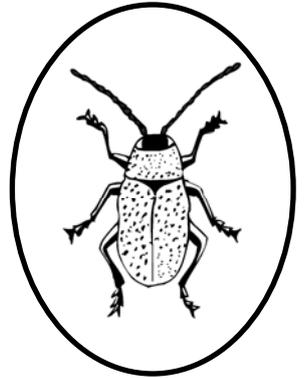
QUEEN: Bee



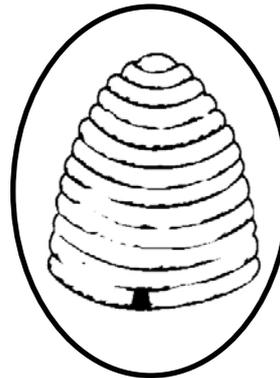
KING: Dragonfly



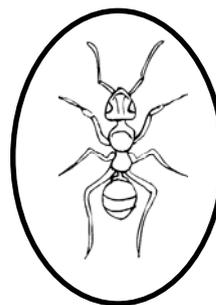
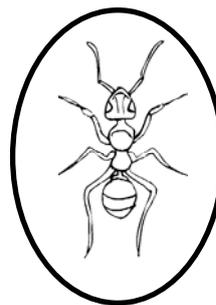
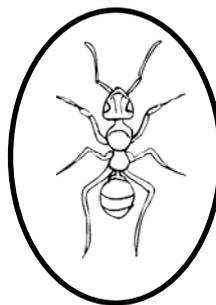
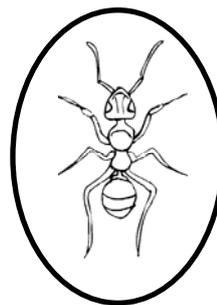
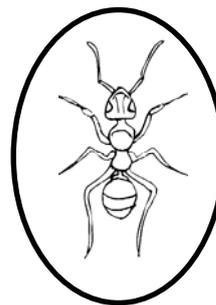
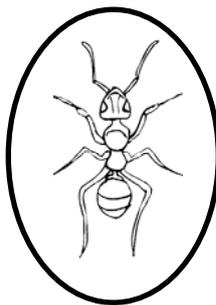
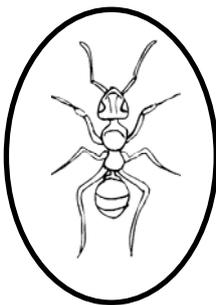
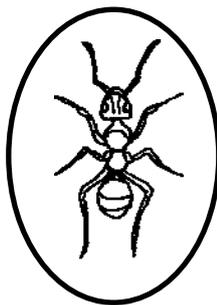
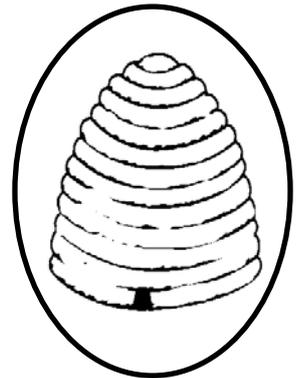
KNIGHTS: Beetles



BISHOPS: Moths



ROOKS: Beehives



PAWSN: Ants