

An Unusual Visitor



From time to time, we all get visits from wildlife in our homes. It might be a spider, an earwig, a mouse or even a very unwelcome rat. But imagine if it was a skunk! Thankfully we don't have skunks in this part of the world but they do in the US and that's what dropped in on our brother one night.

A few months ago he was lying in bed and heard a noise coming from the garage, which was next door to his bedroom. Looking out the window, he could see that the garage door was open about six inches and presuming it was a cat, he went back to bed. A few hours later he was woken by a terrible smell coming into the room! He decided to investigate further and slowly opened the garage door. There staring him in the face, with its striped back

arched and its tail up in the air, was a skunk. Both of them were so frightened they ran in opposite directions, our brother back into the house and the skunk to the back of the garage. Deciding to wait it out, our brother stood at his bedroom window for at least an hour. Finally he saw the skunk pop its head out of the garage door and wander down the street, so he rushed out and closed the door in case the skunk came back. The smell, a little like burnt rubber, stayed in the house for hours!

Every now and then, before he goes to bed our brother sees the skunk walking up and down the street looking for another open garage and another unsuspecting neighbour to visit. That's one visitor he'll never forget!

Welcome to the Spring Edition of Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome everyone to the Spring issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we look at the working day of Robbie Murphy, who farms Pacific Oysters on Sherkin Island with his brother Michael. We also look at the differences between these oysters and the native variety. There are some tips on creating an insect-friendly garden and you can find out a little more about the potato, as well as discover something about water pressure! Check out nature news from around the world on page 11 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!

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SALMON BURGERS

What you need:

450g cooked salmon fillet - flaked *
110g breadcrumbs
1 spring onion - finely chopped
1 clove garlic - finely chopped
Grated zest and juice of 1 small lemon
Salt and pepper
Little oil and butter to fry

To serve

4 burger buns
Shredded lettuce
Sliced tomato
4 tablespoons crème fraîche with lemon zest added
Chopped chives

Method:

- Add breadcrumbs, spring onion and garlic to salmon. Season and moisten with lemon juice
- Form into patties. Chill for at least 1 hour
- Fry burgers in oil and butter mixture or if preferred cook on barbecue
- Place on toasted buns with lettuce and tomato. Top with a spoonful of crème fraîche and sprinkle with chopped chives

**You can substitute trout*

To Serve

Serve with salad or baked potato

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