

Nature'sWeb

Issue No. 40

Winter 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editor's Page

A Flutter of Snow

Reindeer

Vanilla

Sponges

All in a Day's
Work:

Terri Kearney,
Skibbereen
Heritage Centre

Lapland

Colour In: After
the Snow Fall

Black John – the
Bogus Pirate

Activity:
Penguin Prints

The World
Around Us

Learn More

Fun Page

Wordsearch

Nature's
Noticeboard



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy www.naturespicsonline.com

© 2015 Sherkin Island Marine Station & its licensors. All rights reserved.

Editor's Page

Lunar Eclipse of a Supermoon

On the morning of Sept 28th 2015 a total Lunar Eclipse was visible in the clear skies over Sherkin Island, Co. Cork. The eclipse began just after 1am and lasted for over 5 hours, with the total eclipse lasting just over one hour. The mid-point of the eclipse occurred at approximately 3:45am. The Lunar Eclipse occurred at the same time as a Supermoon, which is when a full moon will seem larger and brighter in the night sky. This happens when the moon is at its closest point to the earth in its elliptical orbit (see *Nature's Web* - Autumn 2004). To have these two events coinciding is a rare event - the last one occurred in 1982 and the next will not take place until 2033. To make sure this one was captured on camera, my brother Robbie stayed up all night, taking a sequence of photographs. So while we were tucked up in our beds, he made sure we could still enjoy this celestial event.



A time lapse image of the Lunar Eclipse, which occurred over a 5-hour period.

(Photo courtesy of Robbie Murphy)

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

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

Chunky Fish Soup with Leeks & Bacon

Ingredients

700g whiting, skinned, boned & cut into 3cm chunks
1 tablesp. olive oil
4 streaky bacon rashers, smoked if possible, finely diced
A knob of butter
3 medium leeks, finely sliced
2 cloves garlic, chopped
500g potatoes, cut into small cubes (approx 1½cm)
1 litre fish or chicken stock
Grated rind of 1 lemon
600ml whole milk
340g can of sweetcorn, rinsed & drained
Handful chives, chopped
4 tablesp. cream (optional)
Salt & freshly ground black pepper

To Cook

Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add in the bacon and sauté over a high heat until crispy. Remove to a plate. Add a knob of butter to the saucepan, reduce to a medium heat then add in the leeks and garlic. Fry gently for 5 minutes until softened, but not coloured. Add the potatoes and cook for a further minute. Pour in the stock and lemon rind, cover and simmer for 12-15 minutes or until the potatoes are tender. With a slotted spoon, remove half the potatoes and leeks from the stock and set aside. Transfer the remaining potatoes, leeks, stock and milk into a blender or food processor and whizz until smooth. Pour back into the saucepan, add the sweetcorn, bacon, fish and the potatoes and leeks you have set aside. Cover and gently heat for 3-4 minutes until the fish is just cooked through - don't boil. Stir in chives and cream, if using, then season to taste.

Photo: © Bord Bia - Irish Food Board



Courtesy of Bord Bia - Irish Food Board
www.bordbia.ie

Serves 6

Welcome to the
Winter Edition of
Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome to the winter 2015 issue of *Nature's Web*. In this issue, we meet Terri Kearney who works at Skibbereen Heritage Centre in Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Terri's job is varied and she tells us about her involvement with Lough Hyne, the Great Famine and the genealogy of the area. Borbála Vízkelety tells us about Lapland, the Sami people and one of its famous wildlife inhabitants - the Reindeer. We learn about the a plant that gives us one of the most popular flavours in the world, the vanilla plant and we see how to print your own cards. You can check out nature news from around the world on page 11 and enjoy a giggle with the jokes on page 14.

We would love to hear your views, 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

Photographs & Clipart:

Copyright © 2015 Sherkin

Island Marine Station & its

licensors. All rights reserved.

Foreign Correspondent:

Michael Ludwig

© Sherkin Island Marine
Station 2015

© 2015 Sherkin Island Marine Station & its licensors. All rights reserved.

A Flutter of Snow!

In this season of winter, we are looking at five birds that have 'snow' in their name:

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiaca* Ulchabhán sneachtúil
Snowy Owls breed in the Arctic region of Europe, Asia, and North America. Owls are mostly nocturnal, feeding at night but the Snowy Owls are diurnal and will feed both day and night. They are rare visitors to bogs in the West of Ireland.



Snow Goose *Chen caerulescens* Mionghé shneachta
Snow Geese are found in North America. They spend winter in southern areas of the continent and once winter is over, they fly north to their breeding grounds in the Arctic. Though they are known for the white plumages, some Snow Geese are darker, with grey-brown plumage. Snow Geese are rare visitors to Ireland.



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis* Gealóg shneachta
Snow Buntings breed in the arctic, around Scandinavia, Siberia, Greenland, Alaska and Canada. In winter they migrate to lower latitudes. They are uncommon in Ireland but can be found in a few places, such as Mayo and Donegal. Snow Buntings are related to the sparrow.



Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*
Snowy Egrets are very elegant, medium-sized Herons. In the 1800s they were widely hunted for their beautiful feathers, which damaged the population. No longer hunted, their population has recovered and are found throughout North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, living mainly along the coast but also inland in wetlands.



(Photos courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturesonline.com)

© 2015 Sherkin Island Marine Station & its licensors. All rights reserved.

Reindeer

By Borbála Vízkelety

Scientific Name: *Rangifer tarandus*

Irish Name: Réinfhia

Reindeer, or caribou in North America, is a species of deer that inhabits Greenland, Russia, the Scandinavian countries, Alaska and Canada. In Europe reindeer have been domesticated for approximately 3000 years and are farmed for their milk, meat and hides.

Antlers are one of the most important characteristics of reindeer and normally both males and females grow them. They are the only species of deer where females also have antlers. Males have longer antlers of up to 1.2 m, while the females' only

reach about 0.5 m. Antlers grow from the frontal bones of the skull and have a main beam and many branches. Reindeer drop their antlers every year, re-growing them each time.



Reindeer have special **hooves** that adapt to the season. In the summer, when the ice and snow have melted and the weather is rainy, their footpads become spongy. This is useful for walking in marshy fields. In winter their hooves harden up, helping them dig into the snow and ice as they search for food. It also prevents them from slipping.

Reindeer's **nose** is specialised for the extreme cold weather: it warms up the incoming air before it enters the lungs.

Their **eyes** are also adapted to the special weather conditions: part of the eye changes its colour from gold to blue for the dark winter months, making the animal's vision more sensitive.

As reindeer mostly spend their lives in cold weather they are covered in **hair** from their nose to the bottom of their feet. Their fur varies in colour depending on the species, where they live, whether male or female and on the season. Colours range from brown, white, tan to grey and are darker in summer and lighter in winter. Reindeer

have two layers of hair: a thick and woolly undercoat with fine fur and a top layer of long, hollow guard hairs that trap the air and hold the body heat. This protects the animal against wind and cold.



Reindeer are ruminants and have a four-chambered stomach. Their diet includes lichens, grasses, sedges, leaves of willow and birch.

Part of the Herd

Reindeer live in herds of 10 to a few hundred and they migrate towards the



south in the winter when food is hard to find. Some populations of reindeer travel the furthest of any land mammals, migrating up to 5000 km a year. Others only migrate locally. Reindeer can run as fast as 80 km/h and they normally travel between 19 -55 km a day during migration.

Family

A male reindeer is known as a **bull**, a female is a **cow** and their young is a **calf**. Reindeers mate from September until early November and males will fight each other for females, using their antlers as weapons. Females give birth in May and June, usually to one calf but twins do occur. A reindeer's life span is between 12 and 15 year but sometimes for up to 20 years.



Vanilla

By Yolanda Aze

Vanilla ice cream, vanilla milkshake, vanilla flavoured biscuits and cakes, vanilla-scented candles - vanilla is one of the most popular flavours in the world and it is a flavour or scent that most of us will recognise. But what is vanilla and where does it come from? Real vanilla comes from the dried fruit of some orchids, most often the orchid *Vanilla planifolia*. This species is native to Central America and Mexico, but is now farmed in many other countries such as Madagascar, China, and Indonesia. It was first used by the Aztec people to flavour cocoa.

In the wild, vanilla plants are pollinated by bees and hummingbirds but when vanilla plants are farmed, they need to be pollinated by hand. The fruits, which are called 'pods', take four weeks to develop. After the pods are picked, they are soaked in hot water and then left to dry for between two and six months before the seeds in the pods are ready to be used. This process is very expensive, which is why most vanilla flavouring today is man-made, coming from synthetic sources rather than plants. After saffron, vanilla is the next most expensive spice.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mmaw/6409863957/in/photostream/> CC BY 4.0

Vanilla planifolia is an orchid, which grows in tropical forests. It is a vine that can reach up to 30m in length.



Vanilla is a very popular scent for use in scented candles.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vanilla_6beans.JPG CC BY-SA 3.0

The vanilla plant produced long fruit pods, which look like runner beans. These dried fruit pods are the vanilla pods from which the flavour is extracted. Inside the pods are thousands of tiny black seeds, sometimes visible in richly-flavoured vanilla ice-cream.

Vanilla in Food

In cooking, vanilla is considered a spice. The main vanilla flavour is in the seeds, though the pod also has flavour. Vanilla sugar can be made by putting a vanilla pod into a jar of sugar for a couple of weeks.

Vanilla flavour is usually found in the baking section of supermarkets. **Vanilla essence** is a synthetically produced vanilla flavouring while **Vanilla extract** is produced from soaking vanilla pods in a solution of ethyl alcohol and water.

Most things we eat that are vanilla-flavoured are not made using real vanilla but with synthetic flavouring.



Vanilla extract.



Sponges

Scientific Name: Porifera

Irish Name: Spúinse

Sponges are very simple animals. They are usually found on the lower shore, underneath rocks and in damp crevices. They feed by taking water into the body and filtering out the tiny particles of food, which they then absorb. The shape of the body varies, but basically consists of an internal skeleton supporting a series of canals which carry water to all parts. These canals are connected to the outside by a number of openings. The food-filled water enters through many tiny surface pores, called inhalant openings, and the waste is pumped out through a few larger openings, called exhalant openings.

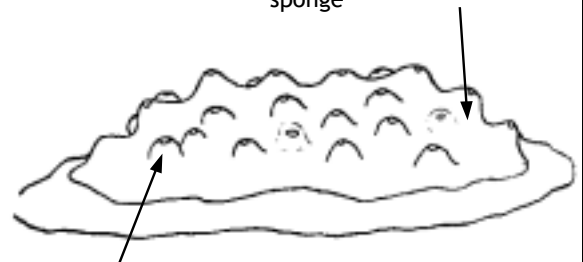
The adult sponges live permanently attached to rocks or shells, but have free swimming larvae (eggs) which enable the young to spread to other areas. In exposed areas where there are strong water currents or breaking waves, sponges tend to grow with rounded or flattened shapes, to avoid damage. In more sheltered areas, they can grow more upright, often with delicate branching shapes.



This deep orange-coloured sponge (*Hymeniacidon perleve*) is often found alongside the Breadcrumb Sponge. It can be distinguished from it by its colour, its lumpy surface and the fact that the openings are not usually volcano-shaped.

A Typical Sponge

tiny inhalant openings - where water enters the sponge



larger exhalant openings - where waste water leaves the sponge



(Photography courtesy of Paul Kay)

The Breadcrumb Sponge is one of the most common sponges to be found on the seashore. It forms encrusting patches on rocks and on the stems of kelp seaweeds.



Bath Sponges

While most sponges we use for washing are synthetic, some are actually natural sponges that have been harvested from the sea.

All in a Day's Work

Terri Kearney – Skibbereen Heritage Centre

PROFILE

Terri Kearney works at Skibbereen Heritage Centre, in Skibbereen, Co. Cork. She has also written a number of books and provides a genealogy service. www.skibbheritage.com



Images courtesy of Terri Kearney

Where do you work?

I work at Skibbereen Heritage Centre mainly but I do lots of other work too! At the Heritage Centre, we have exhibitions on the Great Famine and Lough Hyne, (a local salt-water lake), and we also provide a genealogy service.

I've written some books about this area - two about Lough Hyne and one on the Great Famine. Writing books about your locality is a rewarding thing to do because you learn so much about your own place and its people.

We do lots of other things at the Heritage Centre too. We've carried out surveys of local graveyards and also produced an app and a TV documentary. We organise events for Heritage Week every year too. Doing all these different things keeps the job interesting and I have lots of plans for future projects.

What is a day in your life like?

There are no two days the same in my work and that's what makes it so interesting. We welcome visitors to the Heritage Centre from all over the world. It is really lovely to meet new people every day and there is always some fun to be had! Some of them come to research their family tree and we hear extraordinary stories about what their ancestors went through after emigrating from Ireland. I give guided tours for groups during the summer and usually learn something new on every tour.

In the wintertime, when it's quieter, we work on new projects. Last year we produced a book and an app called 'Skibbereen: The Famine Story'. While it was a sad subject, it's important to remember our ancestors and tell the story

of what they went through during that awful time.

Sometimes we have TV crews coming to the Centre too. This year I was interviewed for BBC3 and BBC4 talking about the Great Famine as well as PBS in the USA. There was also a programme on UTV Ireland all about Lough Hyne, which came about because of one of my books and the *Famine Story* app featured on RTE Radio One's *History Show*.

What would you do if you didn't do this job?

While writing about the history of marine research at Lough Hyne I made many friends among the scientists. Since then I've worked with some of them carrying out surveys etc at the Lough.

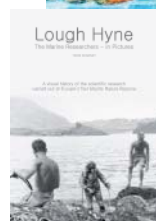
I also love the 'Touch Tanks' at Lough Hyne that

we organise as part of Heritage Week every year. At that event, UCC scientists talk about and hand around species from the Lough and it is great fun and very interesting. So if I were not an historian, I think I'd like to be a marine scientist - actually I'd like to be both!

What is best piece of advice you have ever had?

I think the best advice I've ever had is to work at something that you would do for nothing. I would be happy to share the history of my locality with others as a hobby so I am lucky to be paid for it.

The next best piece of advice I've had is that the best work is done while you're having fun - I certainly agree with that!



Publications about Lough Hyne.



Terri at the touch tank at Lough Hyne, during Heritage Week.



Skibbereen Heritage Centre, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.



Lough Hyne, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.

Special Feature

Lapland

A view from the mountain Galtispouda in Arjeplog, Sweden.

By Borbála Vízkelety

Lapland is the northernmost part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, stretching across four countries: Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia. It is approximately 388,350 km² in size, roughly the size of Norway. Most of Lapland lies north of the Arctic Circle and its landscape is extremely diverse. The western part has fjords, deep valleys, glaciers, and mountains, while other parts of Lapland are characterised by great rivers or several marshes and lakes.

Lapland has areas of large forests, mostly consisting of pine and birch trees. Approximately 50 varieties of wild berries grow under the trees of the forests and in the boglands, such as blueberries, lingonberries or a special delicacy – the cloudberry. Several moss and lichen species also grow throughout Lapland. Further northward the trees of the forests become shorter, thinner and rarer because of the low temperature and short summer. This area is called the tundra.



Wildlife

Lapland's fauna does not include many species of mammals as the area is cold and the weather conditions are often rough. The most important species are reindeer and moose, which are the largest of all. Bears and wolves are also common in the region. Smaller mammals are the lynx and arctic fox, both of which are protected. Lapland is also home to several bird species, some of which cannot be seen anywhere else in Europe. Important bird species in the region include the Great Grey Owl and the Siberian Jay.

Aurora Borealis

An interesting phenomenon in Lapland's sky is the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights. These beautiful and colourful effects are due to collisions between particles released from the Sun's atmosphere and particles in the Earth's atmosphere.

Lapland stretches across Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia.



The Sami People

Inhabitants of Lapland are the Sami people, or Lapps in English. The Sami people call their homeland Sápmi and there are approximately 70,000 Sami people living there.

Ten different languages and dialects make up the Sami languages. Gákti is

their traditional clothing and it is originally made of reindeer leather. The colours and patterns of the clothing indicates where the person is from, if the person is single or married, and sometimes even indicates the specific family to which they belong.



Climate and Weather in Lapland

There are climatic differences from south to north in Lapland but mild, fairly short summers and long, cold, snowy winters are dominant in the whole region. Winter starts around October or November and lasts until March or April, during which the average temperature ranges between - 16 °C to 3 °C depending on location; with occasional lows of about - 30 °C or colder with wind chill. Thanks to the dry air the temperatures feel warmer than they actually are.

Due to the northern location, daylight is limited to a few hours during winter, usually from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., while in the summer there is the polar phenomenon of the midnight sun. From approximately mid-May to late July the sun does not completely drop below the horizon, so the nights are bright. The summer is 1.5 - 3.5 months long depending on location and the temperature varies between 10 °C and 20 °C.



AFTER THE SNOW FALL





Black John - the Bogus Pirate

Black John the Bogus Pirate

CALLING ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!

Avast there, Mates! Did you know that the ocean covers 70% of planet Earth and creates 50% of the oxygen in the atmosphere - enough for 'Every Second Breath' that we take?



Did you know that more people (12) have WALKED on the Moon that have even SEEN the deepest part of the ocean directly? Or that plastic waste - when dropped into the ocean - never **EVER** goes away! 'Ocean Literacy' is all about 'understanding the ocean's influence on YOU and YOUR influence on the ocean'. It is based on SEVEN PRINCIPLES:

1. THE EARTH HAS ONE BIG OCEAN WITH MANY FEATURES
2. THE OCEAN AND LIFE IN THE OCEAN SHAPES THE FEATURES OF EARTH
3. THE OCEAN IS A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON WEATHER AND CLIMATE
4. THE OCEAN MADE EARTH HABITABLE
5. THE OCEAN SUPPORTS A GREAT DIVERSITY OF LIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS
6. THE OCEANS AND HUMANS ARE INEXTRICABLY INTERCONNECTED
7. THE OCEAN IS LARGELY UNEXPLORED

Over the next few issues of *Nature's Web* we'll be looking at these seven principles, finding out where you can learn more about them and have a lot of fun along the way.

In the meantime, here are some resources to get you started:

www.explorers.ie - The Marine Institute's Education page for schools
<http://oceanliteracy.wp2.coexploration.org/> - Great ocean literacy site with lots of resources and information.
<http://www.emsea.eu/> - Home of European Marine Educators Association
And, of course, the excellent Sherkin Island 'Children's Corner' at:
<http://www.sherkinmarine.ie/childrenscorner.htm>

Or join me - 'Black John the Bogus Pirate' - on Facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>



Sketches & Text John Joyce

Bringing the Ocean to the Classroom

While few countries have 'Ocean Studies' as a dedicated subject on their school curricula, it is possible to 'marinise' existing curriculum strands by using marine examples.

A good example of this is the 'Explorers' Education Programme is supported by the Marine Institute, and is funded under the Marine Research Programme by the Irish Government. It is tuned to the Irish SESE curriculum.

1st PRINCIPLE - The Earth has One Big Ocean with Many Features

While we talk about 'The Seven Seas', planet Earth has only ONE ocean to which every sea is connected. This not only makes it possible to sail from one 'Sea' to another all over the



world, but for every sea to influence all the others. The Ocean is the largest single feature on the planet. It contains mountains higher than Mount Everest and canyons many times longer and deeper than the Grand Canyon. It regulates the world's climate by stabilising the temperature of the Earth and by creating an atmosphere, which protects life on Earth from the most dangerous forms of radiation from the Sun including intense ultraviolet light. The atmosphere, created by the Ocean, also protects us from small meteorites, which burn up due to friction with the atmosphere before hitting the surface.



The World Around Us



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

Sky Watch

The National Oceanic Atmospheric and Administration (NOAA) and Vancouver Aquarium have been using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV or "drones") to carry out research on Southern Resident Killer Whales. These really endangered whales are found in waters around the San Juan Islands north of Seattle, USA. There are only 81 of them left in the wild. Scientists were unable to count them until they used the UAV to photograph and monitor the health and reproductive success of the population. We know a lot more now!



Naming Our Winter Storms

We have had Storm Barney and Storm Desmond so far this winter. So what will the next few storms be called? The National Meteorological Services of Ireland and the UK, Met Éireann and the Met Office, teamed up to ask the public to submitted suggestions and the following is the list of storm names that they finally agreed upon. These names will be used to name medium and high-impact windstorms that will affect Ireland and/or the UK over the coming months:

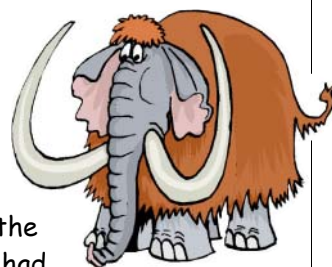
Abigail
Barney
Clodagh
Desmond
Eva
Frank
Gertrude
Henry
Imogen
Jake
Katie
Lawrence
Mary
Nigel



Orla
Phil
Rhonda
Steve
Tegan
Vernon
Wendy

Woolly Mammoth Discovery

As a farmer, you might expect to dig up vegetables or even stones but imagine digging up a mammoth! Two farmers in the state of Michigan, USA, recently came across the partial skeleton of a woolly mammoth while digging a drain in a field of soybeans. Scientists from the Museum of Paleontology at the University of Michigan had to remove the skeleton in just a single day as the farmers had to bring in the harvest. The skeleton, one of the most complete ever found in the state, belonged to a mammoth that walked on the earth about 15,000 years ago.



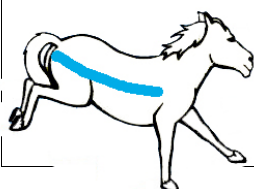
Build a Bridge

Every year, 50 million Christmas Island red crabs migrate from the island's forests to the sea to spawn. The islanders go to great lengths to protect the crabs from harm on their trip. They use more than 20 km of plastic barriers and 31 crab road underpasses to guide the crabs away from danger. While the migration of the crabs is a major tourist attraction on the island, the 5m high "crab bridge", which carries the crabs over a busy section of road, is itself becoming a tourist attraction on the island. Where else can you walk with the crabs?



Staying Safe on the Roads - for Animals

In Dartmoor, the UK, bad weather often brings poor visibility to the moors. This year so far, 74 animals have been hit on the foggy roads. In an effort to prevent other animals being harmed, some Dartmoor ponies have been painted with a special reflective paint so see whether or not it would make them more visible to motorists. The trial is progressing so well there are plans to extend it to see if it will also work with cattle. Thankfully us humans don't need to put on paint before we go out. We can just put on bright clothes and reflective material - unless you want to paint on a big stripe to make you safer!



Activity

Penguin Prints

Printing your own cards is fun. Here are instructions on how to print penguin cards using craft foam, an ink pad and a jar. This can be adapted for any design so have fun trying out other ideas.

You will need:

Foam	Jar
Paper	Glue stick
Pencil	Ink pad
Scissors	Colours



1. Print or trace the outline. Lay on the form and draw along the black lines with a pencil.



2. Draw around the impression left in the foam so the penguin outline becomes clearer.



3. Cut out the shape and then repeat the process to produce two outlines.



4. Glue both outlines together and then glue onto a jar to create a penguin stamp.



5. Using an ink pad, apply ink to the stamp. The double layer of foam makes the stamp higher, helping to prevent ink from hitting the jar.

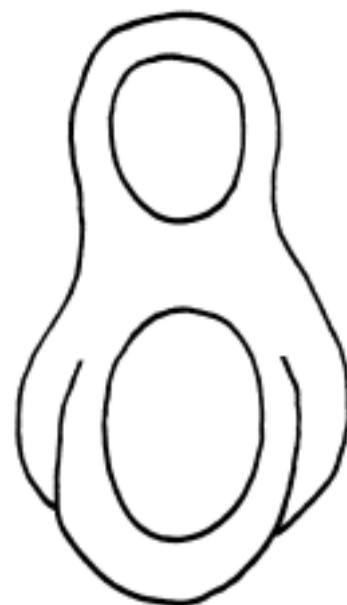


6. Print the stamp onto a card, rolling the jar to ensure all edges of the stamp hit the paper.

6. Repeat the pattern for however many times are necessary to fill the card.



7. Add features to the penguins: eyes, beaks, feet and hats.



© 2015 Sherkin Island Marine Station & its licensors. All rights reserved.

Learn More



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

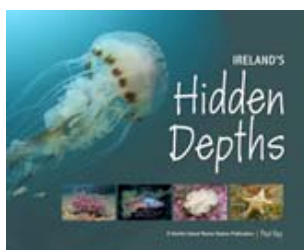
Sherkin Island Marine Station has published a range of colouring books, guides and activity books for children. Each 32-page *Colouring & Guide Book* gives you the chance to colour, identify and learn about the wildlife around Ireland. *My Nature Diary* contains lined pages to fill in a daily record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

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

Only €8.50 inc postage



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



Sea Life DVD:

"On the Water's Edge"

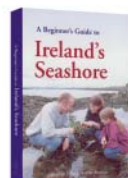
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

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



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

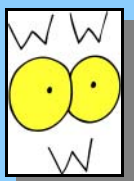
Only €8.00 inc postage



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

Only €5.99 plus €1.00 postage

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



Useful Web Addresses

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

Lunar Eclipse of a Supermoon: <http://www.space.com/30672-supermoon-lunar-eclipse-thrills-skywatchers-photos.html>

Snowy Owl: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Owls/SnowyOwl/tabid/1125/Default.aspx>

Snow Goose: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Geese/SnowGoose/tabid/1076/Default.aspx>

Snow Bunting: <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/Sparrowsfinchesbuntings/SnowBunting/tabid/1059/Default.aspx>

Snowy Egret: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy_Egret/id

Reindeer: <http://www.visitfinland.com/article/reindeer-ride/>

Sponges:

http://species-identification.org/index.php?selectie=15&hoofdgroepen_pad=%2C1%2C15&groep=Sponges&eerst_getoonde_soort=16

Skibbreen Heritage Centre: <http://www.skibbheritage.com/>

Lapland: <http://www.visitsweden.com/sweden/Regions--Cities/Northern-Sweden/Swedish-Lapland/>

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

Southern Resident Killer Whales: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/podcasts/2015/10/uav_killer_whale.html

Christmas Island Red Crabs: <https://www.christmas.net.au/experiences/red-crab-migration.html>

Staying Safe on the Roads: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-devon-34856151>
<http://www.rsa.ie/en/RSA/Road-Safety/Road-safety-for-kids/>

Vanilla: <http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/plants-fungi/vanilla-planifolia-vanilla>

Woolly Mammoth Discovery: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-34428963>

Naming Our Winter Storms: <http://www.met.ie/news/display.asp?ID=353>

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

Fun Page

How much did you learn?

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

- 1 What is a male reindeer called?
- 2 Where does Terri Kearney work?
- 3 What colour are Christmas Island red crabs?
- 4 Where do vanilla plants grow naturally?
- 5 How long did the lunar eclipse of September's supermoon last?
- 6 What can people research at Skibbereen Heritage Centre - their family, the Great Famine or Lough Hyne?
- 7 What is the Irish name for a reindeer?
- 8 Name the storm beginning with 'B' on the Met Éireann/Met Office, UK, storm list.
- 9 What is Black John - the Bogus Pirate's first principle in 'Ocean Literacy'?
- 10 Which species of endangered killer whale lives near Seattle?
- 11 What job would Terri Kearney like to have had if she didn't work at Skibbereen Heritage Centre?
- 12 What are people from Lapland called?
- 13 In which state in the USA was a mammoth skeleton recently found?
- 14 Are sea sponges animals or plants?
- 15 The weather is hot in the tundra. True or false?
- 16 Which vegetable is in the title of the fish recipe from Bord Bia?

Answers: (1) Bull; (2) Skibbereen Heritage Centre; (3) Red; (4) Central America & Mexico; (5) Over 5 hours; (6) All three; (7) Réinphia; (8) Barney; (9) The Earth has One Big Ocean with Many Features; (10) Southern Resident Killer Whale; (11) A marine scientist; (12) The Sami People; (13) Michigan; (14) Animals; (15) False; (16) Leek.

Think of a Title

Can you think of a title for this picture of a Snowy Owl?



(Photo courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com)

Nature Jokes

Where can you find an ocean without water?
On a map.



What's worse than a worm in your apple?
Half a worm.

What do you call a reindeer wearing ear muffs?
Anything you want because he can't hear you!



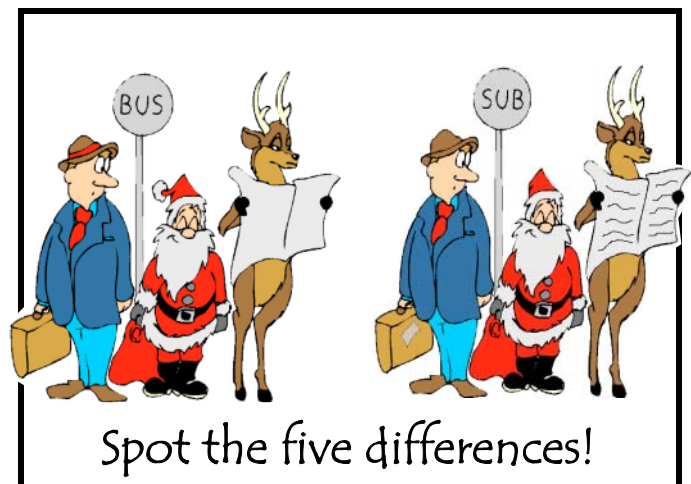
What do you get from a Lapland cow?
Ice cream.

How does a snowman get to work?
By icicle.



What runs around a farm but doesn't move?
A fence.

How long should a reindeer's legs be?
Long enough to touch the ground.



© 2015 Sherkin Island Marine Station & its licensors. All rights reserved.

Wordsearch



Nature's Web Winter 2015

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



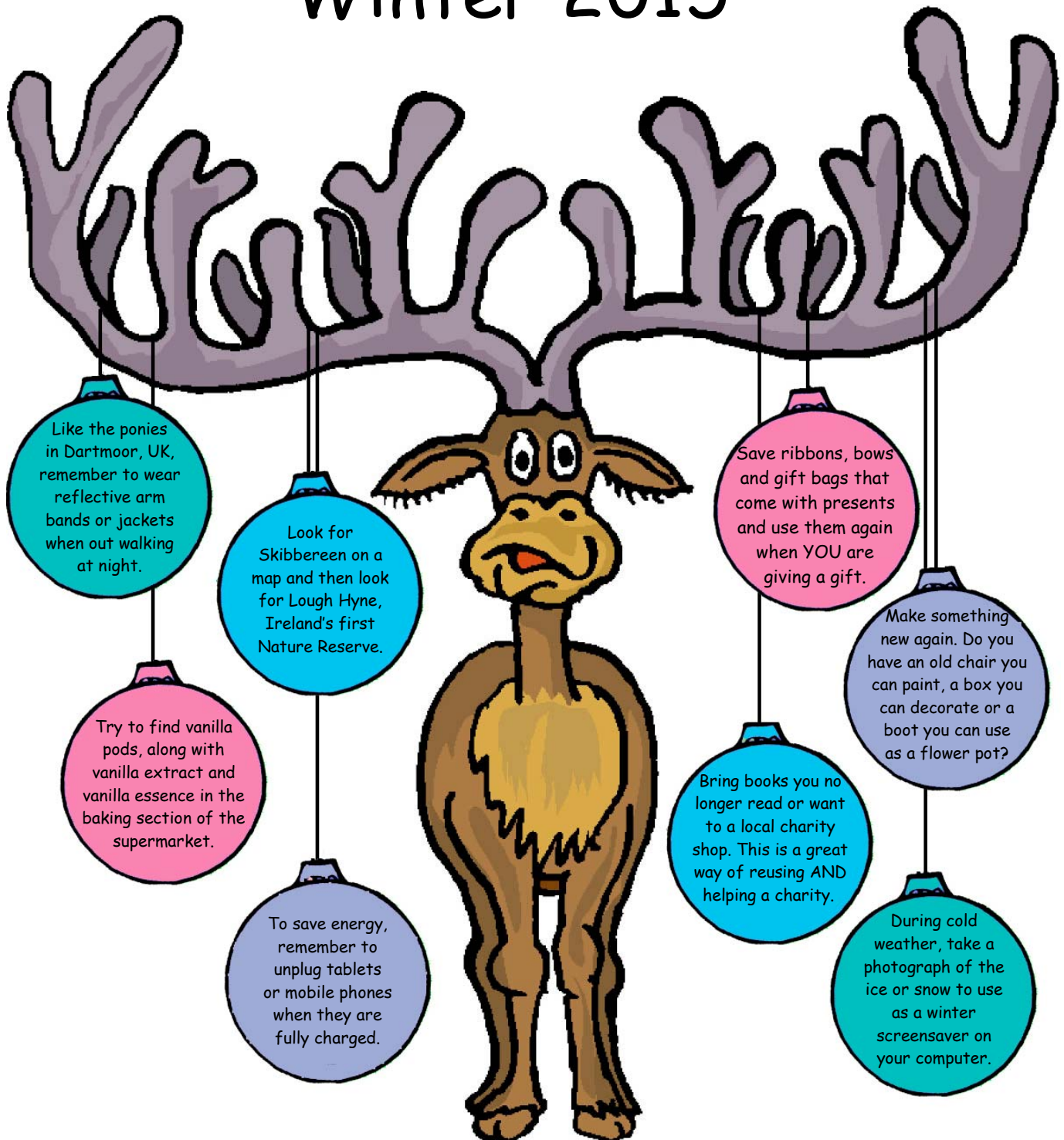
Black John
Chunky Fish Soup
Heritage Centre
Killer Whale
Lapland
Lunar Eclipse
Mammoth
Reindeer
Skibbereen
Snow Bunting
Snow Goose
Snowy Egret
Snowy Owl
Southern Resident
Sponges
Terri Kearney
Vanilla
Winter Storm



ANSWERS: (OVER, DOWN, DIRECTION): Black John (9,10,NE); Chunky Fish Soup (6,14,N); Heritage Centre (5,16,NE); Resident (16,16,NW); Sponges (14,8,NW); Terri Kearney (7,3,SE); Vanilla (5,8,N); Winter Storm (11,17,W).
(18,10,NW); Snow Bunting (15,2,SW); Snow Goose (9,15,E); Snowy Egret (3,11,N); Snowy Owl (2,1,S); Southern
Killer Whale (1,2,S); Lapland (14,1,SW); Lunar Eclipse (7,1,E); Mammoth (13,16,W); Reindeer (11,1,SE); Skibbereen
Mammoth (13,16,W); Reindeer (11,1,SE); Skibbereen
Snow Bunting (15,2,SW); Snow Goose (9,15,E); Snowy Egret (3,11,N); Snowy Owl (2,1,S); Southern
Resident (16,16,NW); Sponges (14,8,NW); Terri Kearney (7,3,SE); Vanilla (5,8,N); Winter Storm (11,17,W).

Nature's Noticeboard!

Winter 2015



Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank those who have helped with this newsletter, particularly Yolanda Aze, John Joyce, Terri Kearney, Michael Ludwig, Robbie Murphy, Borbála Vízkelety, Alan D. Wilson and Jez Wickens.

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



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

© 2015 Sherkin Island Marine Station & its licensors. All rights reserved.