

Nature's Web

Issue No. 57

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LOVELY LADYBIRDS

Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

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Editor's Page

A Visit to Mizen Head Visitor Centre

Recently we made a family trip to Mizen Head. I hadn't been there since the reconstructed footbridge was opened in 2011. The bridge spans a huge gorge between two rocks, leading to the Mizen Head Signal Station, and it felt very safe and sturdy. I've realised I'm still afraid of heights so I walked steadily down the centre without looking either side and made it across! It is a stunning location and standing at the most south westerly point on mainland Ireland there are fine views of the rugged coastline and expanses of sea.



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

The bridge and signal station at Mizen Head.

Many of us hoped we would spot a passing whale but the weather wasn't great. We also wanted to see Fastnet Rock as we can't see it from Sherkin Island—it is obscured by Cape Clear. On that particular day, visibility was poor and we could only imagine it. Nonetheless, we loved our trip.

To travel from Malin to Mizen Head, Ireland's most northerly and most south-westerly points, is a journey of about 600 km. Driving out the Mizen Peninsula, you can get a sense of the excitement someone might feel as they approached the end of their journey.

In the Spring 2016 issue of Nature's Web, we featured someone who has worked at Mizen Head Visitor Centre. That is worth reading if you would like to get an idea of what the visitors centre is like.

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/>

Savoury Pancakes with Smoked Salmon and Crème Fraîche and Crème Fraîche



Photo courtesy of www.bordbia.ie

What you need:

- 100g plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- 1 egg
- 300 ml milk
- 1 tablesp. melted butter or sunflower oil

To Serve:

- Smoked Salmon
- Crème Fraîche
- Green Salad

What to do:

Sift the flour and salt into a mixing bowl and make a well in the centre. Crack the egg into the well; add the melted butter or oil and half the milk. Gradually draw the flour into the liquid by stirring all the time with a wooden spoon until all the flour has been incorporated and then beat well to make a smooth batter. Stir in the remaining milk. Alternatively, beat all the ingredients together for 1 minute in a blender or food processor. Leave to stand for about 30 minutes, stir again before using. To make the pancakes, heat a small heavy-based frying pan until very hot and then turn the heat down to medium. Lightly grease with oil and then ladle in enough batter to coat the base of the pan thinly (about 2 tablesp.), tilting the pan so the mixture spreads evenly. Cook over a moderate heat for 1-2 minutes or until the batter looks dry on the top and begins to brown at the edges. Flip the pancake over with a palette knife or fish slice and cook the second side. Remove from the pan, add smoked salmon, a few spoonfuls of crème fraîche and season with black pepper.

Brought to you by Bord Bia www.bordbia.ie

Welcome to the
Spring Edition of
Nature's Web!



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Spring 2020 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue Gill Weyman, who runs the *All Ireland Ladybird Survey*, explains what her work is about. She also points out that there are lots of different species of ladybirds and tells us where we might find them.

Learn to draw a pirate with Black John, who also explains how plaice and other flatfish can blend in with their surroundings. Find out about the Yew tree and Reenadinna Yew Woodland, one of the sites of The People's Millennium Forests. Make your own parliament of owls and work out the collective nouns for a number of animals. 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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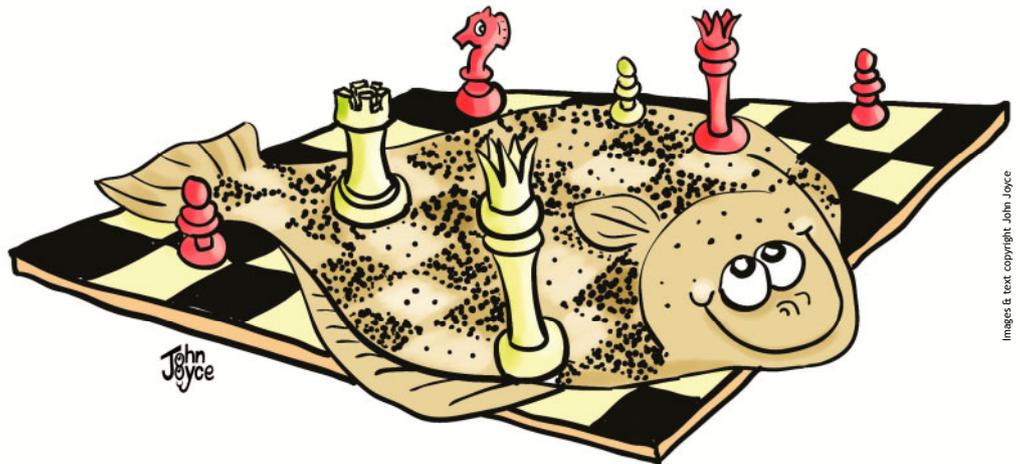
Black John - the Bogus Pirate



A Hiding Plaice!

By John Joyce

Avast there, Mateys!
Over the next few issues we're going to look at the 'Masters of Disguise' of the underwater world. So keep your eyes peeled, and let's go . . . !



Images & text copyright John Joyce

When an animal is attacked by a predator it has three options – to escape, to fight and defend itself or to hide! Fast swimming marine fish such as tuna and mackerel move quickly through the water and simply speed away to escape predators. Animals with strong teeth, such as sharks, defend themselves by attacking. But many other marine animals have developed very sophisticated camouflage to merge almost seamlessly with their background and hide.

Flatfish, such as the Plaice can detect the colour of the sea floor where they are resting with such accuracy that they seem to merge with it and disappear. This ability is so sophisticated that these fish can mimic the black and white squares on a chessboard placed in their habitat and take on its black and white pattern. Many flatfish also use their fins to stir up the sand around them so that it settles on their

bodies, giving even more camouflage protection so that only their eyes, gills and mouth can be seen from above. . . and even then, only with careful observation.

Strangely, when larval plaice hatch from the egg their eyes are on opposite sides of the body, as they are in most fish. It is only later on in life, at around 40 days, that one eye migrates to the same side as the other, allowing the juvenile to settle onto the seafloor on one side while still looking upwards with both eyes.

Plaice stocks in the North Sea and Irish Sea account for 75% of the total European catch and are in no danger of being over-fished. In fact the numbers of adult plaice in the Central North Sea is currently at a record level, while the numbers of young plaice growing to catchable size last year (2019) has been estimated as the second highest ever recorded.

HOW TO DRAW A PIRATE



DRAW A NICE BIG NOSE



PUT IN THE EYES



DRAW THE BEARD AND MOUTH



PUT IN THE EYEBROWS AND EARS



GIVE HIM A NICE BIG HAT AND KERCHIEF

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

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Special Feature

The People's Millennium Forests



A long time ago, Ireland was almost covered in forests of mixed native trees, such as oak, ash, elm, Scots pine, yew and birch. Over thousands of years, these forests were gradually cleared to make way for agriculture land. Twenty years ago, to celebrate the beginning of the third millennium, The People's Millennium Forests project was set up to help restore the native woodlands of Ireland for future generations to joy. The project was, and is, the largest ever carried out to restore these woodlands, and is being managed by Coillte, in partnership with Woodlands of Ireland, and sponsored by AIB, the National Millennium Committee, and The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Marine and Food.

Sixteen sites around the country were chosen. Some are known to have been the remains of native Irish forests of ancient times. Other sites are old natives woodlands that are located in areas in which people can appreciate them.

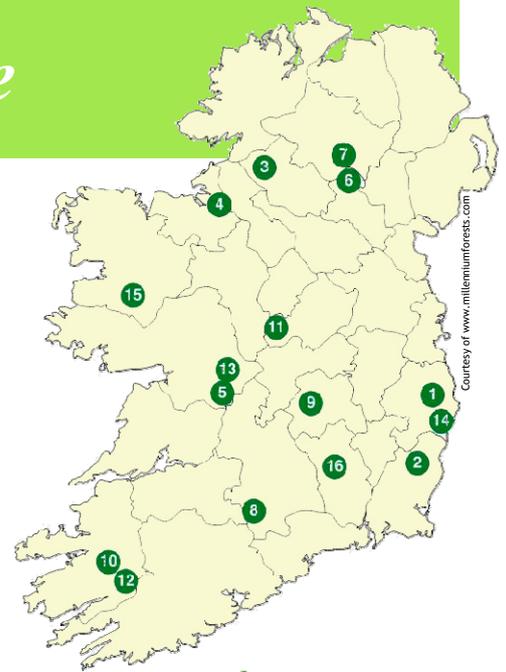
To mark the millennium, a tree was planted for each household in Ireland and a certificate issued to let us know in which forest the tree was planted. Though

these trees are not individually marked, as over time some have to be thinned out to allow others to grow, each household can identify with a forest.

This project is a long-term one. Time is needed to allow these native woodlands to mature. They will look wild because that is how woodlands would naturally grow — developing freely with all the plant and animal life you would expect to see in a natural forest.

These forests are dedicated forever to the people of Ireland.

www.millenniumforests.com



16 sites of the People's Millennium Forests

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Ballygannon, Co Wicklow | 9. Lacca, Co Laois |
| 2. Camolin, Co Wexford | 10. Muckross, Co Kerry |
| 3. Castle Archdale, Co Fermanagh | 11. Portlick, Co Westmeath |
| 4. Cullentra, Co Sligo | 12. Rossacroo na loo, Co Kerry |
| 5. Derrygill, Co Galway | 13. Rosturra, Co Galway |
| 6. Derrygorry, Co Monaghan | 14. Shelton, Co Wicklow |
| 7. Favour Royal, Co Tyrone | 15. Tourmakeady, Co Mayo |
| 8. Glengarra, Co Tipperary | 16. Woodlands, Co Kilkenny |

Some of the work carried out on the woodlands

- ❁ Non-native conifers, which had been planted at some of the sites, were removed.
- ❁ Seeds were collected from native woodland trees in Ireland and were grown at Coillte nurseries until they reached sapling stage (i.e. young tree or shrubs).
- ❁ Saplings of 1.3 million trees and shrubs were planted to expand the native woodlands.
- ❁ Fencing was erected to around the woodlands to prevent grazing animals (mostly deer and livestock) from damaging the saplings.
- ❁ Invasive shrubs, such as Rhododendron and cherry laurel, were removed from the woodlands.

The Yew Woodlands of Reenadinna, near Muckross, Killarney National Park



Reenadinna is also known as the Mossy Wood.

Reenadinna Wood in Killarney National Park, is situated near Muckross Lake, and is part of the People's Millennium Forests. It is the largest area of Yew woodland in Ireland and Western Europe, covering an area of about 60 acres. The soil on the forest floor is very thin but fertile and the yew trees root into fissures in the limestone. Yew is slow-growing and can live for up to 2000 years. Those in Reenadinna Wood are between 200-250 years old.

A dense canopy stops light getting down to the woodland floor. Because of this, vegetation in the wood is limited to a few species: mostly mosses, lichens and liverworts, creating a special atmosphere in the wood. Visitors can access the forest on a 6km looped trail, taking you along paved paths with mountain and lake views, before heading into the woods.

This forest has special status in Ireland, including being a Special Area of Conservation and a Natural Heritage Area.

Yew Tree

Scientific Name: *Taxus baccata*

Irish Name: lúr

The Common Yew is one of the few native evergreen trees in Ireland and is found throughout the country. It is a conifer and has thin, flat, pointed leaves, which are dark green in colour and have no smell. It grows to about 10-20 metres in height and has a reddish, scaly bark.

A yew tree prefers well-drained soil and a sheltered position. It can live for thousands of years but can be hard to date. While parts of a tree might die, its branches can grow downwards to touch the ground and produce roots. This new growth becomes part of the tree and surrounding the dead wood in the centre. Because of this, there are no rings to count inside the tree.

Only the male trees produce woody cones - the female trees produce red fruit that contain seed, which are poisonous, as is much of the tree. The yew provides shelter and food for birds, which are not harmed by the berries, but livestock are known to have died after eating only a small amount of yew tree. It is important that cuttings of yew are disposed of carefully. Though the toxic substance in the tree is poisonous, it is used to produce medicine for the treatment of cancer.

The wood of the Yew is pliable and is an excellent type of wood for making bows. It is also used for making items such as furniture, musical instruments and for woodturning.



Yew tree by the grotto at the Brandon Mountain walk in Co Kerry.



The fruit of the Common / European Yew.

The Irish Yew & Trees in Churchyards

The Irish Yew is thought to have developed from the Common Yew. All Irish Yew trees come from a cutting taken from a single yew tree found growing in Co. Fermanagh in the 1700s. That tree was cultivated from two trees and produces a smaller, more upright tree than the Common Yew.

Many of the yew trees in churchyards around the world are Irish Yew trees. One reason they may be planted there is that they are seen as a symbol of immortality.



Old St. Mary's Church and Graveyard, Balscaddan, Co. Dublin.

The Oldest Tree in Ireland & its significance in Ireland

At approximately 750 years old, the Silken Thomas Yew tree in the grounds of Maynooth University is believed to be the oldest tree in Ireland. There is one only native yew tree forest in Ireland and that is Reenadonna Wood in Muckross, Co. Kerry (see page 4). The yew tree has an important association in Ireland and many placenames reflect this, having the yew in their name. For example, Terenure or Tír an Iúir, means "Territory of the Yew" and Mayo or Mhaigh Eo means "Plain of the Yew Trees".

Some examples of the ladybirds found in Ireland:

Where to look for ladybirds

By Gill Weyman

Ladybirds are often difficult to find because they are so small. Some can be as little as 3 mm in size while the largest is 8 mm. There have been 21 species of ladybird recorded in Ireland and four of these are rare, with few recorded sightings.

Ladybirds can be found in many habitats. Some species are found across a wide range of habitats and these are called **generalist** ladybirds. Others can only live in specific habitats and are called **specialised** ladybirds.

Generalist ladybirds include the 7 spot (*Coccinella septempunctata*), 10 spot (*Adalia decempunctata*) and 14 spot (*Propylea quatuordecimpunctata*) ladybird. These eat aphids, pollen, moulds, mites and can be found in gardens, on wild flowers and branches of trees.

Specialist ladybirds include species such as the 22 spot ladybird (*Psyllora vigintiduopunctata*), Kidney Spot ladybird (*Chilocorus renipustulatus*) and Larch ladybird (*Aphidecta oblitterata*). The 22 spot ladybird feeds on mildews

and can be found on grasses and flowers where moulds are present. The Kidney Spot ladybird can often be found on Ash and deciduous trees, while the Larch ladybird is found on conifers and mixed woodlands.

It can take some time to find a ladybird but it's worth the wait. Places to look include grasses and wild plants. Take care around some plants where ladybirds like to hang out, such as on hogweeds and nettles, as they might irritate the skin or sting. Trees are also a good place to look, particularly on the bark and low branches that can be viewed from the ground.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Remember whenever you see a ladybird, take a photo and either submit it on the android app *Irish Ladybird Survey* or go to www.biology.ie and click on the 2020—All Ireland Ladybird Survey. Alternatively, you can email ladybird@fotawildlife.ie

10 spot ladybird



Saxifraga-Ab H Baas

10 spot ladybird (alternative colour)



Saxifraga - Frits Bink

14 spot ladybird



Saxifraga-H Baas

Larch ladybird



Saxifraga-Gilles San Martin

Kidney Spot ladybird



Saxifraga-Rugger Barendse

The Non-Native Harlequin Ladybird

In addition to the ladybirds listed above, there is a new one in town—the Harlequin ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*). This ladybird is not native and originates from China but can be found in over 22 European countries, North America, South America, Egypt and South Africa.

The Harlequin ladybird is a large ladybird and can be either red with black spots or black with red spots. The red version has a characteristic “w” on its front plates. The black version has white large patches on its front plates and two or four spots on the wing case. They are commonly found in urban areas.

One tip to help you distinguish the Harlequin ladybird from native ladybird species: if it is less than 5 mm in length it is definitely not a Harlequin ladybird.



Saxifraga-Ab H Baas



Saxifraga - Ab H Baas



Saxifraga-Frits Bink



Saxifraga-Ab H Baas

The Harlequin ladybird is so called because its wing cases can have many colours.

All in a Day's Work

Gill Weyman – All Ireland Ladybird Survey

Gill Weyman works in Fota Wildlife Park and is studying “The status, threats, protection and conservation of ladybirds in Ireland.”



Images courtesy of Gill Weyman

Gill Weyman



Where do you work?

I work in Fota Wildlife Park as a research scholar on a joint project with University College Cork. I am studying ladybirds and also run the All Ireland Ladybird Survey.

Why are ladybirds being studied?

We want to help improve our understanding of where ladybirds are located in Ireland, which will increase the knowledge on ladybirds. We do not currently know much about our ladybirds. The arrival of the non-native Harlequin ladybird in Ireland in recent years, and its threat to native ladybirds, makes this an important survey.

Have you always been interested in what you do?

Yes from the early age of

17, when I became interested in the local environment. I was brought up on a farm and was always fascinated by wildlife. Now, as an adult, I am lucky to be able to work with wildlife. I would be bored doing something else.

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

I studied Environmental Science at college. I have also volunteered with a number of organisations such as the Conservation Volunteers and I helped on wildlife projects in New Zealand looking at the Little Spotted Kiwi and Hochstetters Frog. I have also worked on the Corncrake in Ireland and am chair of Cork Nature Network, a wildlife charity.

What is the best thing about your job?

Other than being able to study ladybirds all day, one of the best things is that my desk overlooks the cheetah enclosure so I can watch the cheetahs while I work!

What do you like least about your job?

Ladybirds are very small and are often hard to find—that can be frustrating. Wildlife just isn't there when you



The 7 spot ladybird.



Gill holds a net under the foliage, which she beats or shakes with a stick. Any ladybirds that fall into the net will be counted and identified.

want to see it. You have to be patient and look for it.

What equipment do you use to collect ladybirds?

I have a sweep net, a beating tray and a beating stick, which all help to find ladybirds on shrubs and trees. These are not as gruesome as they sound! The beating tray is a stretched cloth that is held under the tree or shrub. I then shake or beat the foliage with a stick so that the insects fall from the plant and land on the cloth.

This allows me to identify and count the ladybirds.

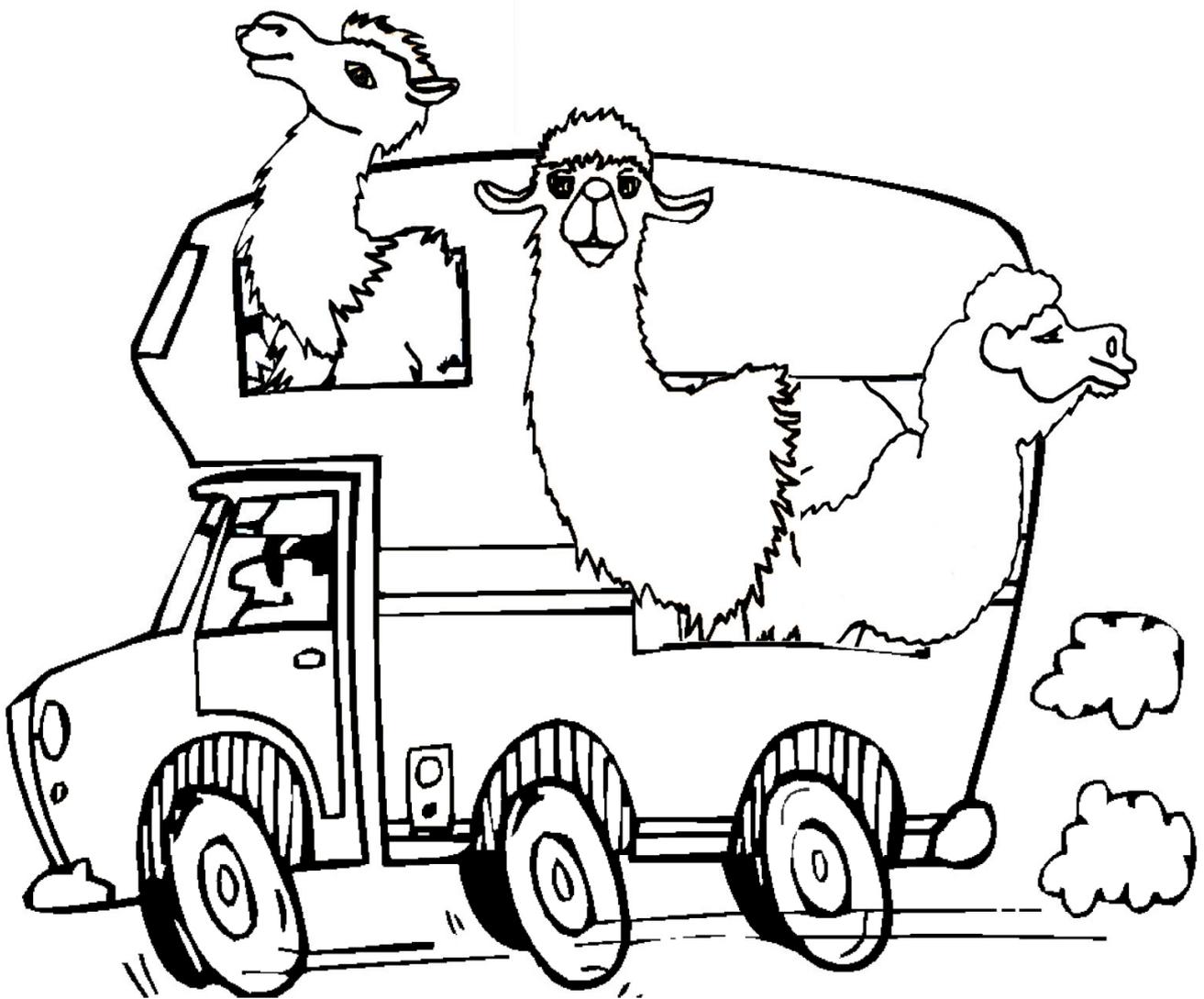
Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I usually work alone but you can help! If you see a ladybird, I would love if you could take a photograph and send it to me (see details on page 6).

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

If you have a problem, take your time and think it through.

A CARAVAN of Camels!



Collective Nouns

A **noun** is a word that names a person, place, animal or thing. A **collective noun** is a word that is used to name a group of those people, places, animals or things. For example, you could have a crowd of people, a range of mountains, a herd of cows or a bunch of keys.

There are many interesting collective nouns to describe groups of specific animals. Some we hear all the time—a flock of sheep, a litter of pups, a flock of birds. Can you work out the collective noun for each group of animals below, by unravel the letters on the right and fill them into the boxes on the left? The green boxes will spell out the collective noun for a group of starlings.

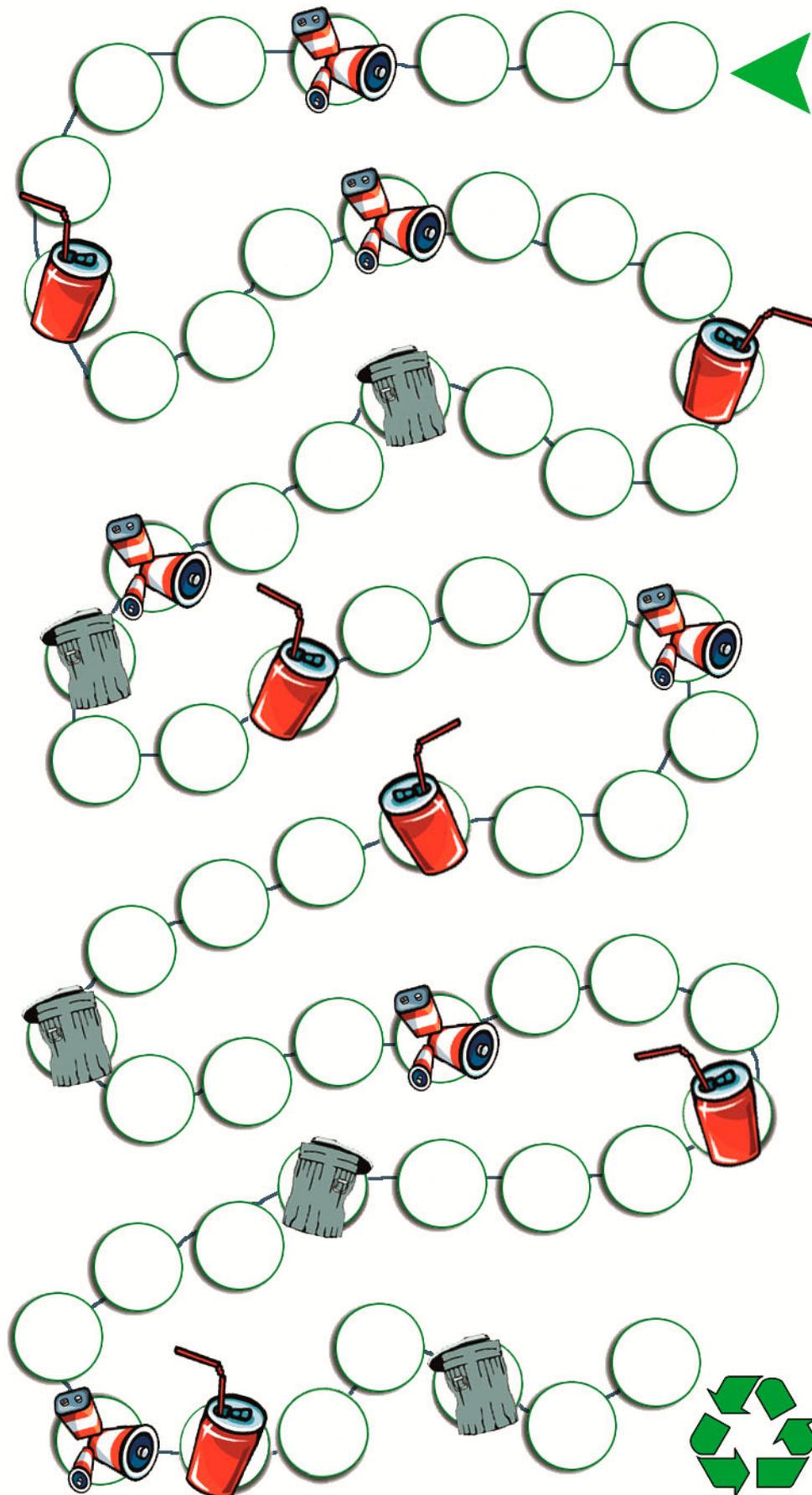
1	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of bees		(MASWR)
2	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of crows		(RRDUME)
3	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of giraffes		(WORTE)
4	A	<input type="text"/>	of owls		(LEPMANITRA)
5	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of locusts		(PEAGUL)
6	A	<input type="text"/>	of porcupines		(CELKIRP)
7	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of wolves		(CPKA)
8	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of mice		(SENT)
9	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of lions		(RIEPD)
10	A	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	of dolphins		(DPO)
11	A	<input type="text"/>	of camels		(VAACARN)

From top to bottom, the coloured squares will spell out the collective noun for a group of starlings.

Answers on page 13

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Boardgame



A Race to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

This game is for two players. You will need a marker each and a dice. Decide beforehand who will be the rechargeable batteries and who will be the aluminium can.

Each of you throws the dice in turn, moving the required number of spaces. If you are the rechargeable batteries and you land on batteries then you move forward 3 spaces. However, if you land on an aluminium can you go back 2 spaces. If you are the aluminium can and you land on an aluminium can then you move forward 3 spaces. However, if you land on batteries you move back 2 spaces. If either of you lands on a rubbish bin, then you miss a turn. The first player to reach the "Reduce, Reuse & Recycle" logo wins!

USING RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES AND RECYCLING ALUMINIUM CANS PRODUCES LESS WASTE

Rechargeable batteries are capable of being reused nearly 500 times.

95% of the energy used to produce aluminium from raw material, is saved when a can is recycled.

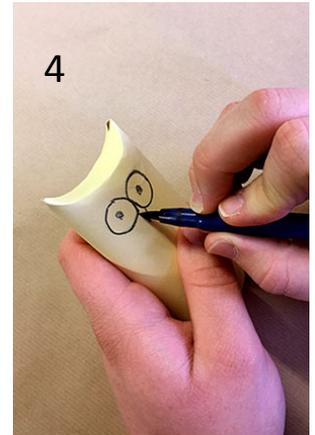
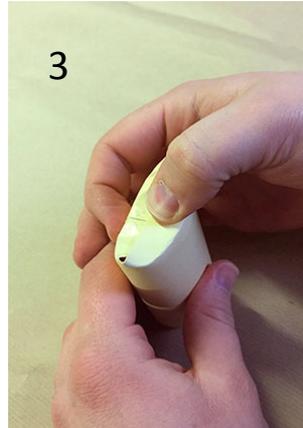
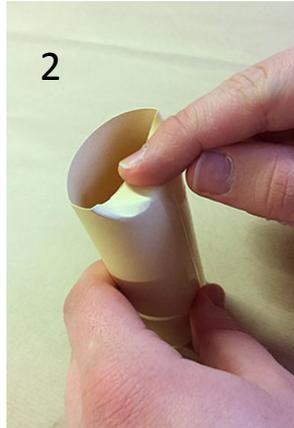
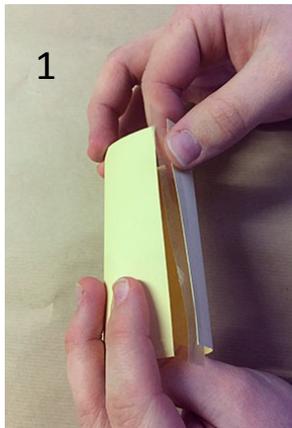


Activity Page



A Parliament of Owls

Here is a very simple activity for making your own parliament of owls.



1: Cut a rectangle of card 12 cm x 9 cm. Slightly overlap short edges and tape/glue together to create a tube.

2: With the taped or glued part facing you, fold in the top edge of the tube until it is crescent shaped.

3: Turn the tube around and fold in the other half of the edge over the previous one. Glue in place.

4: Decorate the owl as you wish. You can use markers or paints and stick on wings or googly eyes.



TIP: Increase the size of the card to make a bigger owl.

You will need: Card; Tape; Markers or paints; Scissors; Ruler; Glue



The World Around Us



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

The Witch’s Yew Tree—A Winning Tree

The Witch’s Yew Tree in the grounds of Blarney Castle, Blarney, Co Cork, has been nominated for European Tree of the Year 2020. In 2019, this specimen tree was voted Ireland’s Tree of the Year. The ancient Witch’s Yew Tree is situated on the grounds of Blarney Castle Estate in Co. Cork and is believed to be 600 years old. Situated in the Rock Close Garden, the tree sits on a natural outcrop of limestone on top of the Witch’s Kitchen. Legend has it that it’s home to the Blarney Witch who first told mortals about the Blarney Stone and its ability to grant the gift of eloquence—or as some say “the gift of the gab”.



The competition in Ireland is organised by the Tree Council of Ireland and the Irish Tree Society. The competition for the European Tree of the Year is organised by the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation. The winner will be announced on 17th March 2020. <https://www.treeoftheyear.org/vote>



Image courtesy of NASA

Australian Wildfires

For over six months, since last September, devastating wildfires burned in the southeast coast of Australia. These fires destroyed millions of acres of forest and burned towns and suburbs and tragically resulted in the loss of life. Sadly, other casualties of the fires were the animals. Researchers are estimating that more than 1 billion animals may have perished. The Australian government set up the Wildlife and

Threatened Species Bushfire Recovery Expert Panel to help with a recovery plan. They have now identified 113 species of animal that need urgent help because of loss in numbers and loss of habitat. This list of species includes: 13 bird, 20 reptile, 5 invertebrate, 19 mammal, 22 crayfish and 17 fish. Some are these are critically endangered. The government have so far pledge AU\$50m to wildlife and habitat recovery.

It’s Raining Iguanas?!

The state of Florida in the USA is known for its warm weather. On occasion, however, temperatures do drop, resulting in unusual warnings from the National Weather Service — that frozen iguanas are expected to fall!

Iguanas are cold-blooded animals, which means they get their energy from the warmth of the Sun. When temperatures begin to cool, they become less mobile and can lose their grip on trees, falling to the ground. If temperatures drop enough their bodies freeze but they can cope with these conditions. They keep breathing and their main body functions still work. Once the weather warms again, they thaw out and get back to basking in the sun. However, if temperatures stay cold for too long, iguanas can die.

Iguanas can grow up with 5 feet in length so a frozen iguana falling from a tree can be dangerous, hence the warnings!



Cappabue Rapping for Climate Change

The very talented pupils of Cappabue NS, Keakil, Bantry, Co Cork, with support from GMC beats, have written and recorded a rap music video for climate change. The rap song is called “One Small Change” is gripping. You can check it out at www.cappabue.ie



A “Bloom” of Ladybirds

In June 2019, meteorologists at the National Weather Service in Southern California noticed something strange on their radar. Even though it had been a relatively clear day and no rain was expected, a big green blob appeared on the radar. They called a local weather spotter that lived near where the blob was located and asked them to have a look outside. They discovered a giant “bloom” of ladybirds, about 10 miles wide, flying a mile above the ground. It is believed the species of ladybird responsible for the bloom was the convergent lady beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*). They are plentiful in California and are welcome guests in gardens as they eat pests. They are also a migratory ladybird, leaving the Californian valleys when temperatures rise, to move to the cooler mountains.



A Swarm of a different kind

In recent months, East Africa has been plagued with huge swarms of desert locusts. These insects, which are related to the grasshopper, have two phases of life. In one phase, they live on their own, but in the other phase, known as the gregarious phase, they come together in thick swarms and move as one unit. They can travel great distances, hungrily eating as they move, destroying vegetation, including crops. These recent swarms, caused by extremes in weather, are the worst invasion of desert locusts in the Horn of Africa in 25 years and in Kenya for 70 years. The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated one swarm in Kenya at around 2,400 square kilometres. It could contain approximately 200 billion locusts.



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 can cause iguanas to fall from trees in Florida?
- 2 What is the collective noun for a group of porcupine?
- 3 How many sites make up The People's Millennium Forests?
- 4 Which non-native ladybird is a threat to native ladybirds?
- 5 Which animals can Gill Weyman see from her office?
- 6 What colour are the fruit on a yew tree?
- 7 What famous rock can you see from Mizen Head?
- 8 In which National Park is Reenadonna Yew Woodland?
- 9 What two recyclable items are featured on page 12?
- 10 Which continent is seeing huge swarms of locusts?
- 11 Which flatfish does Black John feature in his article?
- 12 Most parts of the yew tree are poisonous. True or false?
- 13 What animals appeared on the weather radar in Southern California?
- 14 In the grounds of which famous castle is the Witch's Yew Tree?
- 15 What is the title of the Cappabue NS rap song?
- 16 How many eggs are used in the savoury pancake recipe?
- 17 What survey is Gill Weyman running?

ANSWERS TO ABOVE: (1) Cool temperatures; (2) A prickly; (3) 16 sites; (4) The Harlequin ladybird; (5) Cheaters; (6) Red; (7) Fastnet Rock; (8) Killarney National Park; (9) Recyclable batteries and aluminium cans; (10) Africa; (11) Plaque; (12) True; (13) Ladybirds; (14) Blarney Castle; (15) "One Small Change!"; (16) 1; (17) All Ireland Ladybird Survey.
ANSWERS TO "COLLECTIVE NOUNS" PAGE 9: 1. swarm; 2. murder; 3. tower; 4. parliament; 5. plague; 6. prickle; 7. pack; 8. nest; 9. pride; 10. pod; 11. caravan.
The collective noun for a group of startings is a MURMURATION.



Image courtesy of Alan D Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

Think of a Title

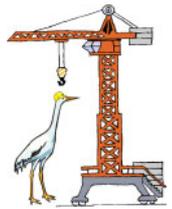
Can you think of a caption for this photograph of Red Fox cubs at play on San Juan Island, Washington, USA?

Nature Jokes

What pine has the longest needles?
A porcupine!



How many oranges grow on a tree?
All of them.



What kind of bird would you see at a construction site?
A crane.



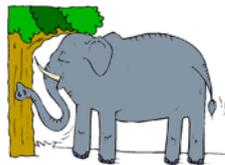
What can't be used until it's broken?
An egg.

What is as big as a Yew tree but doesn't weigh anything?
Its shadow.

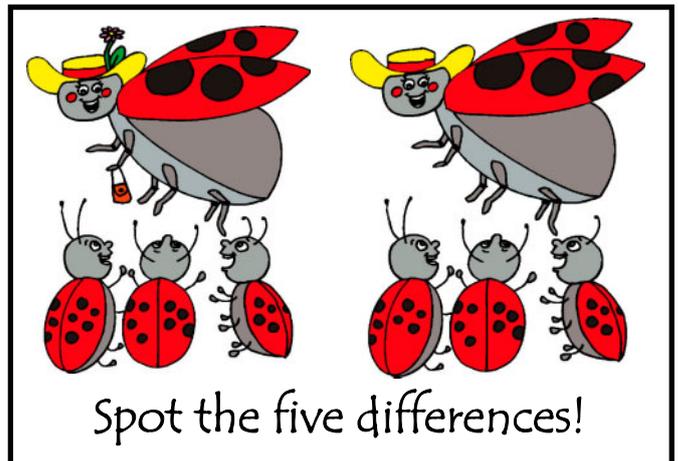


Why do bees have sticky hair?
Because they use honey combs!

What is a frog's favourite year?
Leap Year.



How are elephants and trees alike?
They both have trunks.



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Learn More



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.

Only €2.10 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €3.00 p&p) for all eight! 32pp each

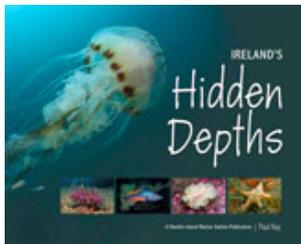
A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

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



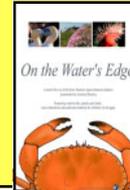
Station publication. Ireland's amazing marine life, glorious kelp forests and spectacular undersea scenery are featured in over 200 spectacular photographs by nature photographer Paul Kay. 277 x 227 mm 160 pps
Only €13.00 including postage

Sea Life DVD:

"On the Water's Edge"

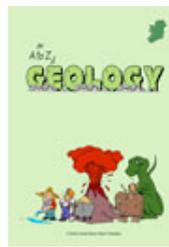
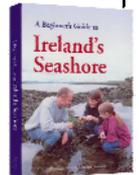
Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, the DVD 'On the Water's Edge', features a short film on life beside the sea.

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

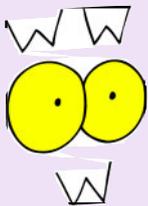
Only €8.00 inc postage



"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:

Mizen Head Visitor Centre: <http://www.mizenhead.ie>

Black John—Bogus Pirate & Plaiice: <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate> <https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/2172>

The People's Millennium Forests: <http://www.millenniumforests.com>

Reenadonna Yew Woodlands: <https://killarneyguide.ie/reenadonna> <https://www.killarneynationalpark.ie/explore/walking-hiking/>

Yew Tree: http://www.noticenature.ie/Yew_Tree.html <https://www.treecouncil.ie/nativeirishtrees>
http://www.wildflowersofireland.net/plant_detail.php?id_flower=426&wildflower=Yew

All Ireland Ladybird Survey: <http://www.biology.ie/home.php?m=ladybirds2>
<https://www.fotawildlife.ie/education/2016-all-ireland-ladybird-survey>

Collective Nouns:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/a-drudge-of-lexicographers-presents-collective-nouns/common-collectives>

Recycling: <https://www.mywaste.ie>

Owls: http://www.noticenature.ie/November_Species_of_the_Month.html

Tree of the Year: <https://www.treecouncil.ie/european-tree-of-the-year>

Cappabue NS—One Small Change: <http://www.cappabue.ie>

Animals and Australian Wildfires: <https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/bushfire-recovery/research-and-resources>

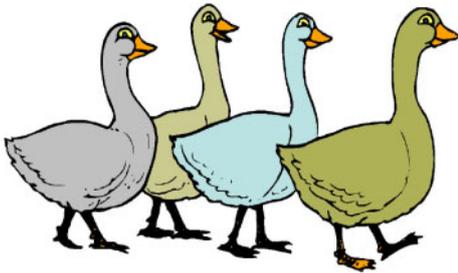
A bloom of ladybirds: <https://www.ecowatch.com/swarm-of-ladybugs-national-weather-service-2638728161.html>

Locusts in Africa: <http://www.fao.org/ag/locusts/en/info/info/index.html> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51547573>

Falling Iguanas: <https://phys.org/news/2020-01-degrees-south-florida-falling-iguanas.html>

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

Wordsearch

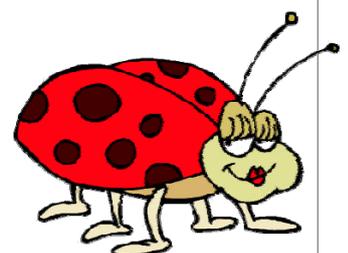


Nature's Web Spring 2020 Wordsearch

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



- Australian Fires
- Camouflage
- Cappabue NS
- Collective nouns
- Gill Weyman
- Iguanas
- Ladybird Survey
- Locusts
- Millennium Forests
- Mizen Head
- Parliament of Owls
- Pirate
- Plaice
- Reduce Reuse Recycle
- Reenadinna
- Savoury Pancakes
- Witch's Yew Tree
- Yew



(Over, Down, Direction): Australian Fires (16,18,W); Camouflage (3,16,E); Cappabue NS (5,11,E); Collective Nouns (13,1,S); Gill Weyman (4,14,E); Iguanas (1,9,E); Ladybird Survey (4,13,E); Locusts (12,3,S); Millennium Forests (17,10,W); Mizen Head (11,3,W); Parliament of Owls (1,12,E); Pirate (1,7,E); Plaice (8,5,E); Reduce Reuse Recycle (3,1,S); Reenadinna (3,1,E); Savoury Pancakes (16,2,W); Witch's Yew Tree (14,8,W); Yew (18,12,S).

Nature's Noticeboard

Spring 2020



Plan a journey on a map of Ireland, from Mizzen Head to Malin Head, travelling through where you live. How long would the journey be?

What is your favourite animal? Can you find out the collective noun for a group of them?

The next ladybird you see, count its spots and note its colouring. Now see if you can identify it the Ladybird link at: www.biology.ie

Follow the advice of Cappabue NS and make "one small change" to help the environment.

Have you questions about what to do with waste? Check out www.mywaste.ie for answers to many of your questions.

Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank the following for their help with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Dylan Murphy, Eimear Murphy, Jason Murphy, Keelin Murphy, Robbie Murphy, Gill Weyman, 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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