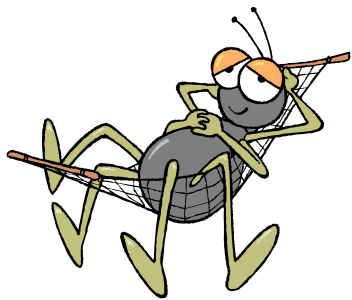




Nature'sWeb

Issue No. 61

Spring 2021

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Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

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Editor's Page

Cargo Ship of a Different Kind



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

Here is an image by Robbie Murphy of the International Space Station (ISS) passing over the tower of the Abbey on Sherkin Island in the early morning of 22nd February 2021. It appears as a streak of bright light due to the 30 second exposure that Robbie used on his camera, and the Abbey is lit up by a torch.

What makes this an special image is the fainter streak of light just beneath the ISS. This is the *Cygnus* (cargo) spacecraft, which docked with the Station a few hours later. The *Cygnus* is an unmanned resupply craft that carries crew supplies, spare equipment and scientific experiments to the ISS.

AS GAELGE! 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/>

Poached Hake with a Simple Tomato Sauce



Photo courtesy of www.bordbia.ie

What you need:

For cooking fish:

- 6 x 150g skinless and boneless hake fillets
- 2 tablesp. fresh parsley leaves
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

For making sauce:

- 2 tablesp. rapeseed or olive oil

- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 400g tin of chopped tomatoes
- A pinch of sugar
- Grated zest of half a lemon
- ½ teasp. turmeric
- ¼-½ teasp. chilli flakes
- 100ml water

To serve: Mashed potatoes and a green salad

What to do:

To make the tomato sauce:

Heat a large frying pan over high heat. Add all the sauce ingredients to the pan. Stir well and bring to the boil then reduce the heat and simmer for a couple of minutes.

To cook the fish:

Season the fish with a little salt and black pepper. Then place the fillets on top of the gently simmering sauce. Cover and leave to cook for 15 minutes until the fish is cooked through. Sprinkle over the parsley.

To serve:

Serve the hake with the tomato sauce, mashed potatoes and a green salad.

Brought to you by Bord Bia www.bordbia.ie

Welcome to the
Winter Edition of
Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome to the Spring 2021 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we learn all about beekeeping. Gearoid Mac Eoin, from Creagh near Baltimore in Co Cork, tells us how he became a beekeeper and what that involves. We look at the make up of a beehive and what a beekeeper needs to get started. If you would like to follow the work of the beekeeper throughout the year, play the boardgame on page 8, or why not make your very own frame for the beehive? Rhubarb is an easy to grow plant and you can read all about it on page 4. For those who might have come across a cuttlebone on the seashore, you can find out exactly what it is on page 5. You can even test your knowledge of birds on page 10.

Check out nature news from around the world on page 12 and enjoy a giggle with jokes on page 13.

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

Susan

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Michael Ludwig

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Black John - the Bogus Pirate



The First Submarine Attack

By John Joyce

Avast there, Mateys!
Believe it or not, a submarine was deployed against war ships
in the American War of Independence...

The first submarine to ever be deployed against surface warships was not a modern vessel equipped with explosive torpedoes, but a wooden shell little bigger than a coffin and powered by the strength of its one operator. During the American War of Independence (1775-83) the British Navy had blockaded Charleston Harbour, South Carolina, causing food shortages and paralysing commerce. David Bushnell, who lacked a formal education until he was considered bright enough to enter Yale College at the age of 31, was interested in demonstrating how a gunpowder charge exploded under a warship would have a far more devastating effect than one exploded on the deck. Sponsored by the local Freemasons, who were losing fortunes thanks to the blockade, Bushnell developed the one-man submarine *Turtle*, designed to deliver an explosive 'time bomb' against the side of a warship and then escape.

The attack took place at Long Island Sound on the night of 6th September 1776 when, using his own muscle power and endurance, Sergeant Ezra Lee manoeuvred the *Turtle* beneath the British warship HMS *Eagle* and began turning the screw that would bore an anchor pin into the hull of the ship above from which the explosive mine would hang.

Unfortunately for Lee however, the hull of the British ship had been clad with thick copper sheeting to protect it from boring shipworm. Even after several attempts, Lee was unable to secure the explosive and had to withdraw abandoning the *Turtle*, which then sank.

Bushnell himself went on to develop other marine weapons, including floating mines—designed to drift down river, snag in the anchor cables of blockading warships and then explode. In practice, these tended to be released too far upstream from the target and were then spotted, upon which they could be destroyed with musket fire. Dispirited by his failures with the *Turtle* and the floating mines, Bushnell changed his name to Bush. He went on to study medicine and moved to Warrenton, Georgia, where he practiced as a doctor until his death in 1826. Though he would not live to see it, other ideas of Bushnell's, including a screw propeller and the use of water as ballast to provide stability in ships, are still in use today. Full-sized models of the *Turtle* are on display at the US Submarine Museum in Groton, Connecticut, the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco and in the Royal Navy Submarine Museum in Portsmouth in the UK.



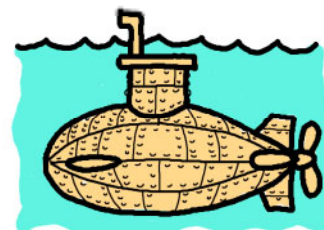
HOW TO DRAW A SUBMARINE



**DRAW
THE HULL**



**PUT ON THE
CONNING TOWER**



**ADD THE PLATING
AND PROPELLER**

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

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Rhubarb

Scientific Name: *Rheum rhabarbarum*

Irish Name: Biabhóg

Rhubarb is a vegetable, though we mostly eat it like a fruit. The part of the rhubarb plant that we eat are its edible stalks, known as petioles. These stalks can be very tart and often need plenty of sugar to make them palatable. They grow from a thick rhizome, called a crown, and each is topped with a large triangular leaf. The leaves are not edible as they contain high levels of oxalic acid, which can be toxic to the body if consumed in large amounts. Oxalic acid is also present in the stalks but in very low amounts.

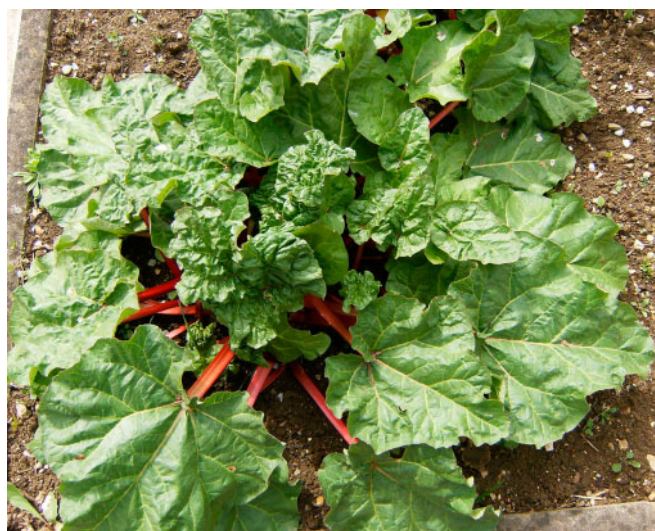
Growing

Rhubarb is easy to grow in the Irish climate. It is a hardy plant and will grow in any garden soil. Adding some well-rotted manure when planting will give it a good start and make sure to keep it well watered as it grows or else the plant can become stressed. Rhubarb is propagated by dividing the crown or by growing from seed.

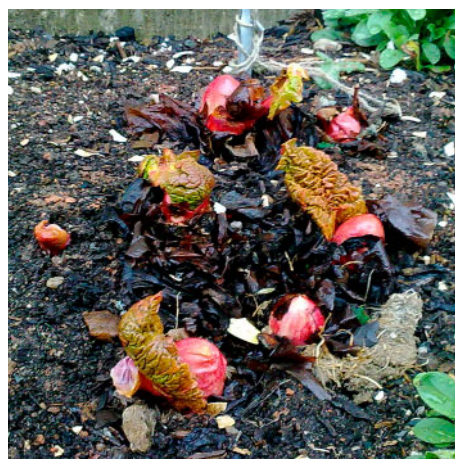
Harvesting

Rhubarb is harvested in late spring/early summer and rather than cutting the stalks from the crown, it is best to gently pulled them. In the first year after planting it is important not to pull any stalks from the plant. This is to allow a healthy root systems to develop and the leaves help with this. Harvesting usually stops around mid-June to allow the plant to store up energy for the following year.

Rhubarb can also be forced to grow earlier in the season. By keeping the plant in darkness, it will think it is winter. Heat will then force the plant to produce tender bright red stems, which are sweeter and more tender than plants left to grow naturally.



Above: Rhubarb plant, with its large triangular leaves and reddish green stalks, depending on the time of year; **Right:** Shoots appearing on a rhubarb crown; **Small flowers of the rhubarb plant.** **Below:** Rhubarb stalks, known as petioles.



Nice as Pie!

Rhubarb really needs to be cooked to make enjoyable to eat. It is delicious in tarts, crumbles, and jams or stewed with custard. It can also be made into cordial for drinking. Two classic foods that work well with rhubarb are strawberries and ginger.

Rhubarb can also be eaten in savoury dishes. Its tartness complements foods such as pork and fish and can also be used to make chutney as an accompaniment to cheese.

Common Cuttlefish

Scientific Name: *Sepia officinalis* **Irish Name:** Cudal coiteann



Common Cuttlefish live on sandy and muddy seabeds. In autumn and winter, they live offshore in waters about 100-200 metres deep. To breed, they move inshore to shallow waters in spring and summer. Common Cuttlefish can be found in European waters and in some waters around Africa. They have a lifespan of about 2 years.

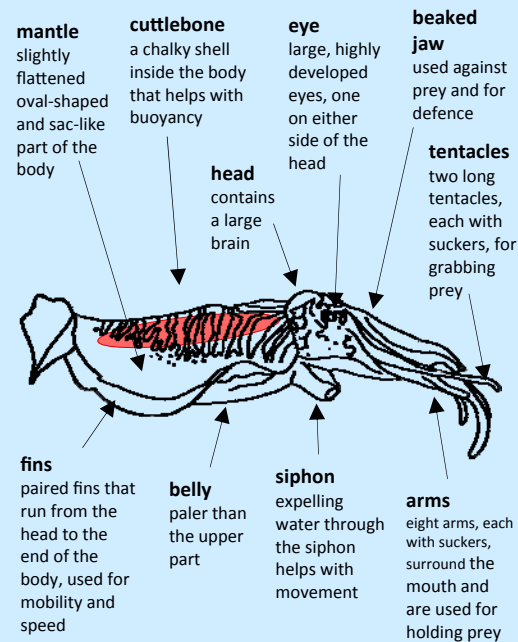
The cuttlefish can change the colour and texture of its skin. Not only can it put on a pulsing display to attract a mate, but it means it is able to blend in, or camouflage, with its surroundings. It will do this to hide from predators such as fish, sharks, seals, dolphins and seabirds. Another means of defence is a ink sac, from which it can squirt ink in an attempt to reduce visibility and confuse attackers.

Cuttlefish are predators themselves and use their eight arms to grasp prey such as fish, crabs and shrimp, which it captures with its tentacles. They feed mostly at night.

Cuttlefish are very intelligent animals and have a very large brain in relation to their body size.

Head Foot!

The Cuttlefish is not fish, it is a cephalopod (sef-a-lo-pod). Cephalopod is a Greek word and translates as “head foot”, describing how the head is directly attached to the arms. Cuttlefish are closely related to octopus and squid, which are also cephalopods. They all belong to the large group of invertebrate animals known as molluscs. There are about 100 species of cuttlefish around the world but the Common Cuttlefish is the largest in our waters.



The Cuttlebone

It is likely that all you will ever see of a cuttlefish is its cuttlebone. This is an oval-shaped, chalky shell inside the cuttlefish's body. Hard, but brittle, it is full of tiny holes which the cuttlefish fills with liquid or gas, depending on whether it wants to float or sink. When the cuttlefish dies, the cuttlebone drifts in the sea and is sometimes washed up on the shoreline.

Cuttlebones are often given to pet birds as they are rich in calcium and good for grooming beaks. Cuttlebone is also used for carving and making moulds for jewellery making.



FACT FILE

Length: Its mantle can be from 30-48 cm in length.

Colour: It can be black/brown, striped or mottled on top and pale underneath, though it can change its colour to match its surroundings.

Diet: Fish, crabs, shrimp, small fish

Habitat: Sandy or muddy seabed

Distribution: The Common Cuttlefish is found in European waters and some waters around Africa.

Feature

BEEKEEPING BASICS!

To become a beekeeper, you need special equipment and clothing: a place to house the bees, clothes and tools to help you work with the bees, and equipment for extracting the honey and storing it.

The veil keeps bees away from the face.

The suit protects the body and is white in colour as it is calming for the bees.

The tool helps clear resin from around the edges of the frames and is used to lift the frame out of the hive.

Experienced beekeepers often do not wear gloves as they know their bees well. Beginners are advised to wear gloves!

The smoker produces a thick cool smoke that is blown into the hive for 5-10 minutes before working on the hive. This helps to calm the bees.

This style of hive is known as a commercial hive. It has a brood box at the bottom and supers stacked on top. A lid on top keeps the rain out. A small entrance at the bottom of the hive allows bees to fly in and out of the hive.



The brood box, at the bottom of the hive, is the living area for the bees. The Queen bee lays the eggs here and the worker bees collect honey to feed the hive. Inside the brood box are wooden frames containing wax forms, on which the bees create wax pockets, in which they store nectar, and in other areas where the queen lays eggs.



The honey is sieved through fine mesh, to remove any impurities, and the honey is jarred and labelled for selling.



The wax caps are removed from the frames to allow the honey to pour out of the honeycomb. The frames are then slotted into the extractor and it spins, forcing the honey out and it collects at the bottom of the extractor.



When each honeycomb cell is full of honey, the bees seal it with wax. When it comes to harvesting the honey, the excess is brought in for extraction but some is left in the hive to provide food for the winter months.



Above the brood box are the supers. These boxes are separated from the brood box by a barrier to prevent the queen bee from laying eggs in the supers. Inside the supers are frames containing sheets of hexagonal-shaped wax. From these the bees build wax honeycomb, storing the honey inside.

All in a Day's Work

Gearoid Mac Eoin — Beekeeper

My name is Gearoid Mac Eoin and I have a beekeeping business, selling beehives and producing honey, in Creagh, between Skibbereen and Baltimore, Co Cork.

www.maceoinhoney.com



Gearoid Mac Eoin

Images courtesy of Gearoid MacEoin



How did I start beekeeping?

I have been beekeeping for nearly 50 years. My father moved to Skibbereen in 1959 and soon after moving to West Cork, he took up the hobby of beekeeping. We had a large garden in Skibbereen town and he had about 20 beehives in the orchard at the bottom of the garden. All of the Mac Eoin children would have to help with the beekeeping and honey harvest. My father retired from the Garda in 1975 and increased the number of beehives over the next few years to about 100. After school and in the school holidays I would be working with him. After finishing secondary school I decided not to go to college and became a full time beekeeper, in partnership with my father. Over the next few years we gradually increased the number of beehives, reaching a maximum of 700. We also started to sell the beekeeping equipment to other beekeepers around this time. The beekeeping equipment shop is now my main job and I also have about 50 beehives producing honey.

What do I do each day?

My work each day can be very different. My busiest times are during the spring and summer. I usually spend the mornings in the shop, packing up parcels containing beehives, beesuits, bee smokers, wax sheets, etc., and the carrier van calls around

*Right: Wood waiting to be turned into beehives.
Far Right: Gearoid checking one of his hives.*

three o'clock to collect them and deliver them to beekeepers all over Ireland. After this I get in my van and go out to mind my bees.

How I look after my bees

The beehives are in six or seven different places around West Cork. The name for a place where the bees are kept is an Apiary, and each apiary contains about eight beehives. From May to August I have to open up and examine each beehive once a week. I smoke the beehive gently before opening it to calm the bees and I examine each of the frames for swarm cells, diseases, healthy eggs and brood and honey. The Queen bee should be busy as she lays 2000 eggs every day. If I spot her (she is a bit longer than the worker bee), I will put a spot of paint on her back and clip one of her wings. The spot of paint on the Queen bee's back helps me to find her again in the middle of the other 60,000 worker bees and drones in each beehive. If the bees have been busy gathering nectar and pollen from the flowers I put extra new boxes on each beehive for the bees to store their honey.



In the Autumn I harvest the honey boxes from the bees and make sure that the bees have enough food for the winter and treat them for any diseases or mites that they might have. I bring the honey boxes back to my extracting room at Creagh. I put each frame of honeycomb in a honey extractor that spins it until all the honey comes out. Then I strain the honey through a very fine cloth to remove any specks of dust and put it in jars for sale.

In the winter time I repair any damaged beehives and manufacture new beehives in my workshop and assemble all the frames that go inside them.

What is the best thing about my job?

There are lots of good things about my job. I get to work outdoors, helping nature by keeping bees and helping to pollinate the countryside, while the bees are struggling to survive all over the world, due to habitat loss, diseases and pests. Probably the nicest thing, is to visit an apiary late in the evening, during a honey flow. There is a wonderful scent of nectar and you can hear a loud humming from the bees as they fan their wings to blow dry air through the beehives. They do this each night in order to evaporate water from the freshly gathered nectar and thicken it into the lovely honey.

What is the worst thing about my job?

The worst thing about my job is

probably the backache I get from beekeeping. It is part of the job to be bent over a beehive in the same position for a long time each day, and this is bad for the lower back.

Where did I train?

I didn't have any formal training for my job. I learned beekeeping from my father, looking over his shoulder as he worked and we both learned woodworking from another beekeeper who was a carpenter. Looking back I would probably advise any young person thinking of starting a business to finish their college education first and then make a decision of what to do for the rest of their life.

What would I do if I wasn't doing what I do?

If I hadn't become a beekeeper, I would most likely have gone to UCC and I would have become an accountant. I would have earned more money as an accountant but I would probably live in a city somewhere instead of beautiful West Cork.

The best advice I've got

As a carpenter, making beehives, the best bit of advice I got was to measure twice, cut once. Whenever I fail to heed this great advice I usually end up with a mess.



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Boardgame

Help the beekeeper look after the hive throughout the season and see who can get to the prize winning honey first. Using a marker for each player take turns to throw the dice and move the required number of spaces. Follow the directions as you go.

BEEKEEPING



Activity Page

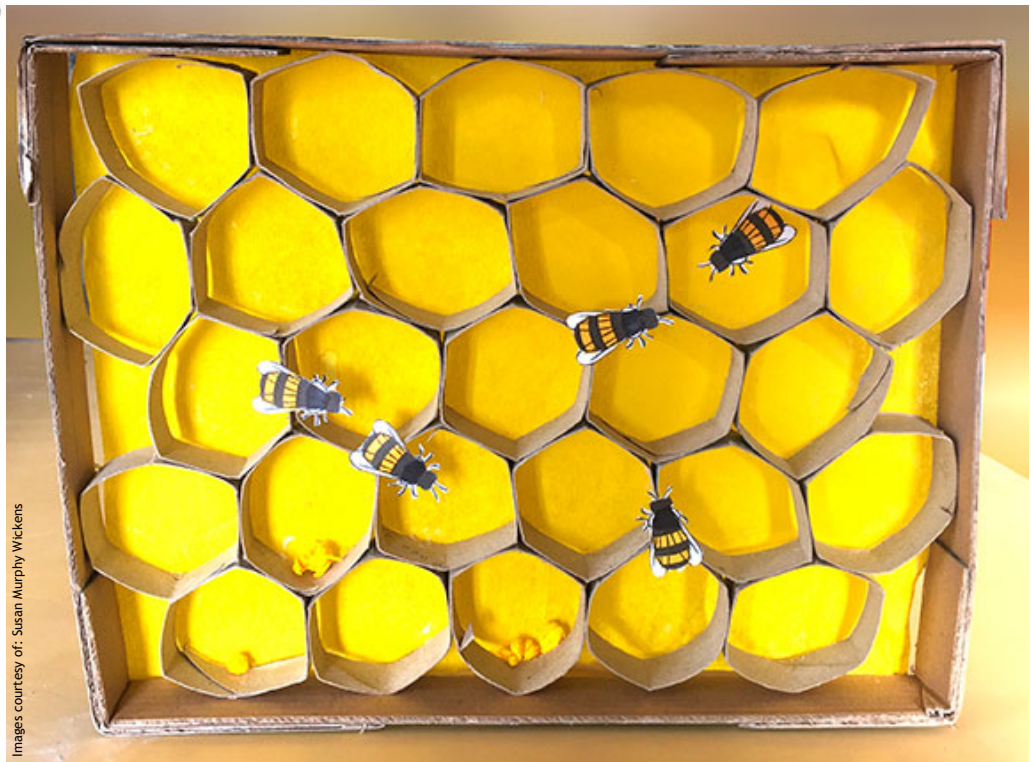
In The Frame!

Beekkeepers put wooden frames in their beehives to give the bees a place to build a store for their honey. These frames contain sheets of wax on which the bees create cells of hexagonal-shaped wax and the honey is placed inside each cell. Here is how you can make your own frame.



You will need:

- ✿ Five cardboard rolls (all the same size)
- ✿ Thick card
- ✿ Ruler
- ✿ Pencil
- ✿ Scissors
- ✿ Double-sided tape
- ✿ Yellow crepe paper

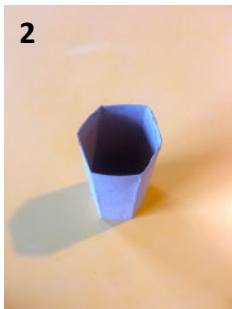


Images courtesy of: Susan Murphy Wickens

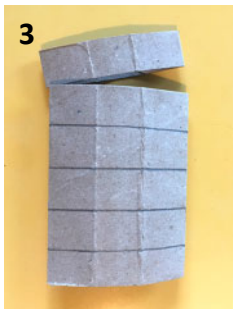
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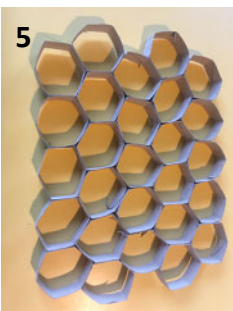


4



1. Flatten a cardboard roll and mark the top edge of one side, so it's divided evenly in three parts. Fold the roll vertically along each marking, flattening the folds well.
2. Once folded, the roll should have six equal sides. Repeat for all rolls.
3. Cut the rolls into equal horizontal strips, until you have 28 strips.
4. Use double-sided tape to join one side to another. Glue can be used but may be trickier.
5. Keep joining sides together to form a rectangle with five rows of "honeycomb".
6. Cut 4 strips of thick card, each approx. 2.5 cm x 38 cm. Measure the "honeycomb" to work out the length and width of the frame, folding at each end to make corners. Overlap corners and join with tape, to complete the frame.
7. Place the "honeycomb" in the frame and use tape to attach where sides meets the frame.
8. Cut yellow crepe paper to the size of the frame and tape to the back of the "honeycomb". Decorate with bees.

5



6



7



8



Bird Life

Can you work out which bird words fit with which description?

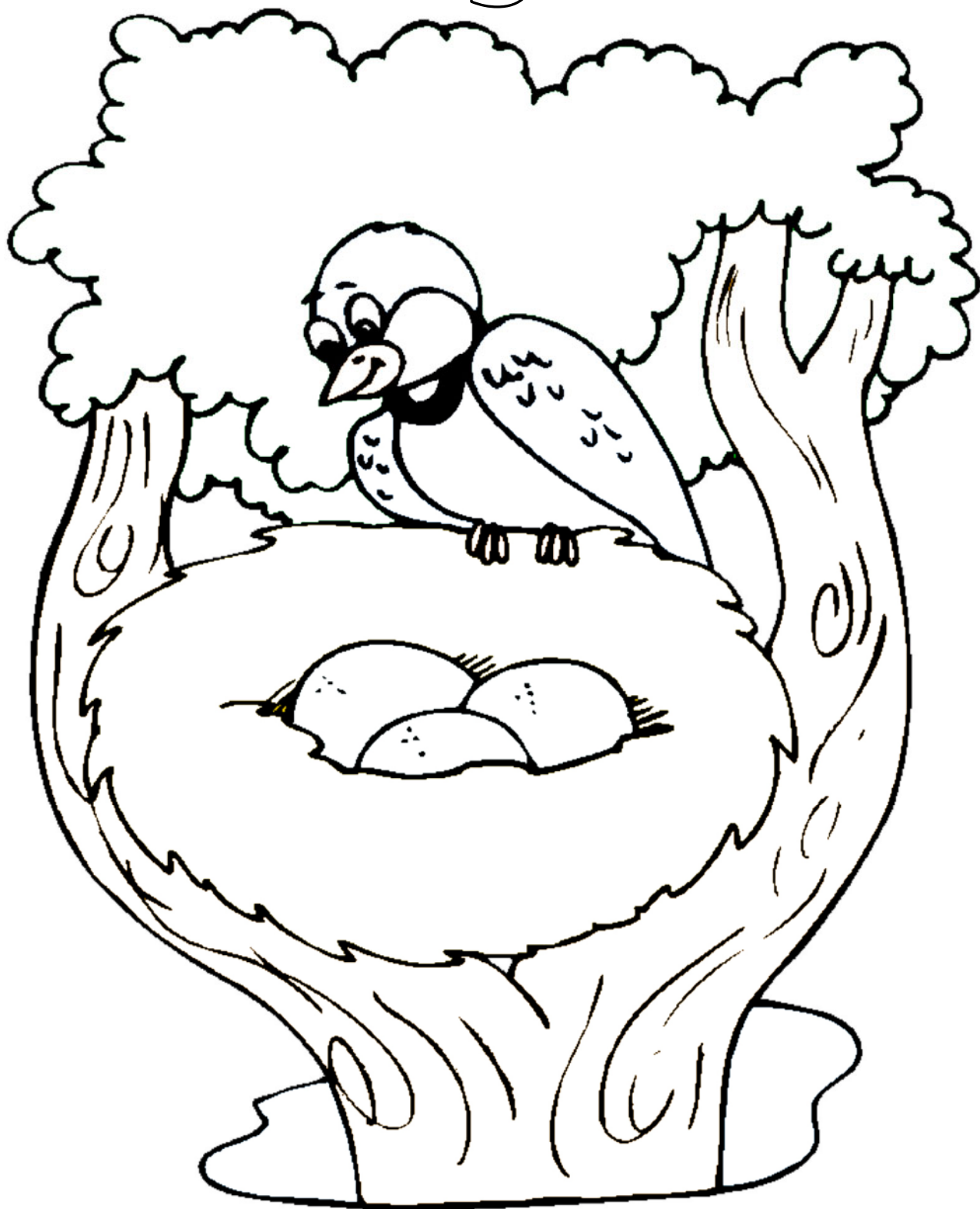
Answers on page 13

A to Z of BIRDS

Albatross
Birdwatching
Chick
Duck
Egg
Feathers
Goose
Head
Incubate
Jackdaw
Kestrel
Legs
Migrate
Nest
Ornithologist
Pigeon
Quail
Rookery
Swallow
Tail
Upper Beak
Vulture
Wing
waxwing
Yellowhammer
razorbill

- On the heron, these are very long.
- A male one of these is known as a drake.
- Eggs are laid in one of these.
- These are soft and light and help a bird fly.
- A small, brightly coloured bird.
- A bird that is related to the crow.
- You would call a young bird this.
- A bird's limb, covered in large feathers and used to fly.
- On birds of prey, this is hooked to help tear meat apart.
- Some birds do this to avoid very cold winter weather.
- At the back of a bird and made up of long feathers.
- The small eggs from this bird are eaten in restaurants.
- An acrobatic bird that arrives in Ireland in the spring.
- A bird known for its racing ability.
- The name for a colony of breeding birds.
- A bird that gets its name from a red tip on its wing.
- A bird of prey.
- Some birds have a crest on top of this.
- A seabird with the largest wingspan in the world.
- This bird is known for feeding on dead animals.
- The male of this bird is known as a gander.
- A black and white seabird that nests on cliffs.
- Sitting on eggs to keep them warm and until they hatch.
- An oval or round object laid by birds.
- A hobby which involves looking for birds.
- The name given to a person who studies birds.

Nesting Birds





The World Around Us



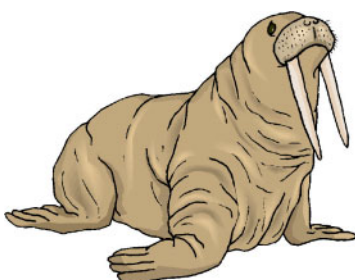
"Foreign Correspondent"
Michael Ludwig reports on
some interesting goings on
in the natural world.

A Surprise Visitor to Valentia Island

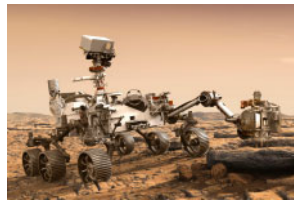
On Sunday, 14th March 2021, Alan Houlihan and his daughter, Muireann, were out walking on Valentia Island, Co Kerry when, to their surprise, they spotted an Arctic walrus washed up on the rocks. They realised pretty much straight away that it was a walrus, with Alan telling RTÉ Radio One's Morning Ireland that it was the size of a cow or a bull in the water.

A local marine biologist could see that it was very tired and thin. It is believed the walrus may have come from its natural habitat of Greenland, along the Gulf Stream, over to Ireland.

The walrus was seen the following week on rocks off the coast of Wales.



Mars and "Perseverance"



NASA launched the Mars 2020 *Perseverance* rover from Earth on 30th July 2020 and after a six month voyage through space it landed on Mars on 18th February 2021.

Having successfully travelled through the Martian atmosphere, it safely land in the Jezero Crater. NASA chose Jezero Crater as the landing site as scientists believe the area was once flooded with water and was home to an ancient river delta—a delta is an low flat area that forms at the mouth of a river. It is hoped *Perseverance* will explore the area for signs of fossilised microbial life, for at least a year.

You can keep up-to-date with the mission at:

<https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>



Left: The remains of an ancient delta in Mars' Jezero Crater. Right: This image was taken by the "left eye" of Mastcam-Z, the rover's zoomable pair of cameras. The left and right cameras are next to each other and point in the same direction, providing a stereo view similar to what human eyes would see.



Wisdom with a chick in 2011.

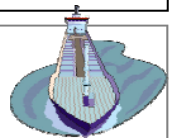
Image courtesy of: John Klavitter/U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
http://gallery.uss.gov/tags/NR2011_03_08

"Wisdom" still having chicks at 70!

In 2013, it was reported that a Laysan Albatross known as "Wisdom", then aged 63, was the world's oldest recorded wild bird. She was also still hatching chicks on Midway, a remote island northeast of Hawaii, where over a million albatross return to nest each year.

It has recently been reported that "Wisdom" is still alive and hatched another chick at 70 years of age in February 2021.

In 1956, "Wisdom" was given an identification band, which has been replaced a number of times since then. This has enabled scientists to keep track of "Wisdom" over all these years.



A traffic jam like no other

The Suez Canal is one of the world's busiest trade routes. It is a manmade canal linking the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. It was opened to navigation in 1869 and in 2015 it was expanded so larger ships could travel through the canal. In March 2021, a sandstorm and strong winds caused a large cargo ship, the "MV Ever Given", to veer diagonally across the canal, blocking it to all traffic for nearly a week. The blockage of this important trade route, held up about €7.6 billion worth of global trade per day!

Volcanic Eruptions

There is always a volcano active somewhere in the world. The tectonic plates that make up the Earth's crust are constantly moving, producing seismic activity where these plates meet.

Iceland is known for its earthquakes and volcanic activity. On 19th March 2021, it saw more activity when there was an eruption at Geldingardalur valley in Reykjanes peninsula, southwest of the capital Reykjavík. It is the first volcanic eruption in 800 years on the Reykjanes peninsula.

Another area of regular activity is the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean. On the island of Hawai'i, eruptions continue on the summit of Kilauea and the giant Mauna Loa, which last erupted in 1984, is gradually waking.

Mount Etna, on the island of Sicily, Italy, is one of the world's most active volcanoes. It has been largely quiet for the last two years but began spewing lava in mid February 2021.



Image courtesy of: Icelandic Meteorology Office

Lava flow at Geldingardalur valley in Reykjanes peninsula, Iceland.

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 Why must some honey be left in the hive for the winter?
- 2 The cuttlebone of the cuttlefish is square. True or false?
- 3 Who taught Gearoid MacEoin how to be a beekeeper?
- 4 What starts with "O" in the A to Z of Birds?
- 5 Which canal was recently blocked by a large ship?
- 6 What animal paid a surprise visit to Valentia Island?
- 7 Name the supply craft that brings supplies to the ISS.
- 8 What was the name of the one-man submarine developed by David Bushnell?
- 9 What is the lifespan of the Common Cuttlefish?
- 10 How long has Gearoid MacEoin been a beekeeper?
- 11 Name the rover that recently landed on Mars.
- 12 What substance is in rhubarb leaves in such high doses that make them dangerous to eat?
- 13 Which herb is used in the fish recipe?
- 14 What type of bird is "Wisdom"?
- 15 Which Italian volcano is one of the world's most active?
- 16 Why is the beekeeper's suit white?

HOW MUCH DID YOU LEARN? 1. To feed the bees, 2. False, it is oval, 3. His father, 4. Ornithologists, 5. Suez Canal, 6. An Arctic walrus, 7. Cygnus, 8. Turtle, 9. About two years, 10. 50 years, 11. Perseverance, 12. Oxalic Acid, 13. Parsley, 14. Laysan Albatross, 15. Mount Etna, 16. To help calm the bees, A TO Z OF BIRDS (page 10): 1. Legs, 2. Duck, 3. Nest, 4. Feathers, 5. Yellowhammer, 6. Jackdaw, 7. Chick, 8. Wing, 9. Upper Beak, 10. Migrate, 11. Tail, 12. Quail, 13. Swallow, 14. Pigeon, 15. Rookery, 16. Waxwing, 17. Kestrel, 18. Head, 19. Albatross, 20. Vulture, 21. Goose, 22. razorbill, 23. Incubate, 24. Egg, 25. Birdwatching, 26. Ornithologist.



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

Think of a Title

Can you think of a caption for this photograph of a small mountain-dwelling mammal known as a Pika? The photograph was taken in British Columbia, Canada.

Nature Jokes

What do you call two cuttlefish that look exactly the same?
Itentacle!



What kind of bug makes a good detective?
A SPY-der

Why did the giraffe get bad grades?
He had his head in the clouds.



What do you get if you cross a bee with a skunk?
An animal that stinks and stings.

What kind of jewellery do rabbits wear?
18 carrot gold

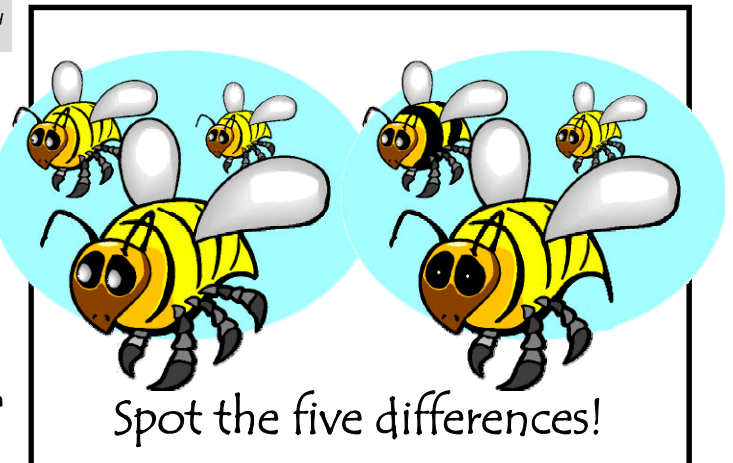


What do gardeners put on rhubarb?
Custard.

What kind of bee can't make up its mind?
A maybe!



What fruit would you find in a fish cake?
Ocean currants.



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Learn More



Only €2.95 each including postage or €12.00 (plus €3.10 p&p) for all eight! 32pp each

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

A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

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

Only €8.50 inc postage



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



Only €15.00 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

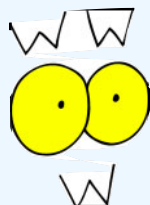
Only €8.00 inc postage



"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.



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:

International Space Station & Cygnus: https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/structure/launch/northrop-grumman.html
<https://www.robziemurphyphotos.ie/>

Black John—the Bogus Pirate and the First Submarine Attack:
<https://connecticuthistory.org/david-bushnell-and-his-revolutionary-submarine/>

Rhubarb: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/grow-your-own/vegetables/rhubarb>

Common Cuttlefish: <https://www.mba.ac.uk/fact-sheet-cuttlefish>
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/camo/anat-nf.html>

Beekeeping Basics: <https://irishbeekeeping.ie/> <http://cocorkbka.org/>

Gearoid Mac Eoin—Beekeeper: <http://www.maceoinhoney.com/>

A to Z of Birds: <https://birdwatchireland.ie/irelands-birds-birdwatch-ireland/list-of-irelands-birds/>

Mars and "Perseverance": <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>

"Wisdom" the Laysan Albatross: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56281983>

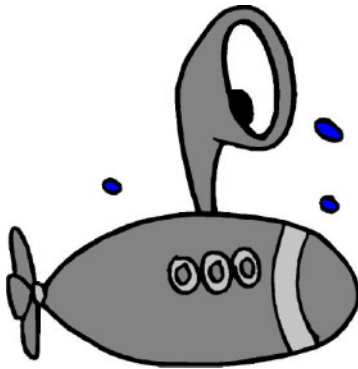
Arctic Walrus: <https://www.rte.ie/news/munster/2021/0314/1203982-arctic-walrus-valentia/>

Suez Canal: https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:5630138/mmsi:353136000/imo:9811000/vessel:EVER_GIVEN

Volcanic Eruptions: <https://en.vedur.is/about-imo/news> <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/exploringourfluidearth/node/1351>

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 2021 Wordsearch

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

S	H	B	K	Y	U	Z	G	L	R	E	S	U	I	C	T	K	X
F	D	I	R	F	Q	I	A	E	I	N	U	D	Q	O	S	M	E
R	Z	R	V	A	V	U	P	E	A	I	R	N	P	M	U	T	D
M	Y	W	I	E	B	E	H	T	C	R	L	A	S	M	R	U	O
A	Z	W	L	B	E	U	F	C	L	A	A	L	K	O	I	L	Q
R	Z	F	E	K	F	X	H	O	H	M	W	S	U	N	G	Y	C
S	Y	X	E	F	P	O	A	R	E	B	C	I	P	C	Y	I	C
X	K	E	S	B	S	O	Z	S	I	U	I	A	A	U	A	U	V
H	B	V	O	L	C	A	N	O	E	S	T	I	E	T	T	F	G
S	P	U	E	M	B	W	A	V	T	Z	C	T	J	T	F	B	I
B	E	E	K	E	E	P	I	N	G	A	R	N	L	L	R	F	A
L	J	M	O	Q	V	L	R	S	Q	C	A	E	N	E	S	A	C
D	Q	H	A	M	V	N	G	T	D	R	B	L	D	F	W	T	J
W	P	X	B	R	O	N	V	D	P	O	I	A	B	I	I	H	T
D	Z	F	K	P	F	U	J	X	N	K	M	V	U	S	P	H	O
C	E	C	N	A	R	E	V	E	S	R	E	P	A	H	F	V	X
U	W	G	E	A	R	O	I	D	M	A	C	E	O	I	N	T	W
T	L	N	P	O	Y	F	P	S	U	E	Z	C	A	N	A	L	W

(OVER,DOWN,DIRECTION): A to Z of Birds (11,11,NW); Arctic Walrus (12,12,N); Beekeeper (2,9,NE); Beekeeping (1,11,E); Common Cuttlefish (15,1,S); Cuttlebone (18,7,SW); Cygnus (18,6,E); Frames (6,15,NW); Gearoid MacEoin (3,17,E); Hive (2,1,SE); Mars (1,4,S); Perseverance (13,16,W); Rhubarb (9,7,NW); Submarine (11,9,N); Suez Canal (9,18,E); Valentia Island (13,15,N); Volcanoes (3,9,E); Wisdom (7,10,SE).

A to Z of Birds

Arctic Walrus

Beekeeper

Beekeeping

Common Cuttlefish

Cuttlebone

Cygnus

Frames

Gearoid MacEoin

Hive

Mars

Perseverance

Rhubarb

Submarine

Suez Canal

Valentia Island

Volcanoes

Wisdom



Nature's Noticeboard

Spring 2021



In Ireland, Spring traditionally begins on 1st February. However, for meteorological purposes, Spring is from March to May. Yet, in other parts of the world it is now Autumn! Can you find a country where this is the case?



Birds are building nests and laying their eggs all around Ireland. See if you can locate birds actively building or feeding chicks by watching for birds flying back to the same location with materials or food. Remember to keep your distance and not to interfere with them!



Spring is the time for apple blossoms to appear. Loosely tie a piece of string near some apple blossoms and visit the site throughout the season to watch the apples grow.



Spring is when the swallows arrive back in Ireland. Keep an eye out for these elegant birds and compare with family and friends when you notice their arrival.



Get involved with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and help them monitor some of the wildlife around you.
<https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>



In Spring, bees begin to fly in search for food. Look out for them and see if you can identify the flowers that they visit.



Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank the following for their help with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Gearoid Mac Eoin, 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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