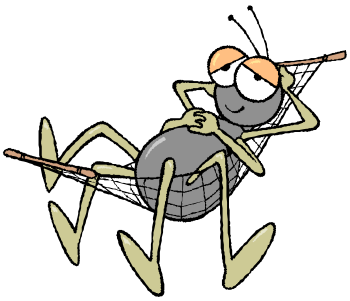
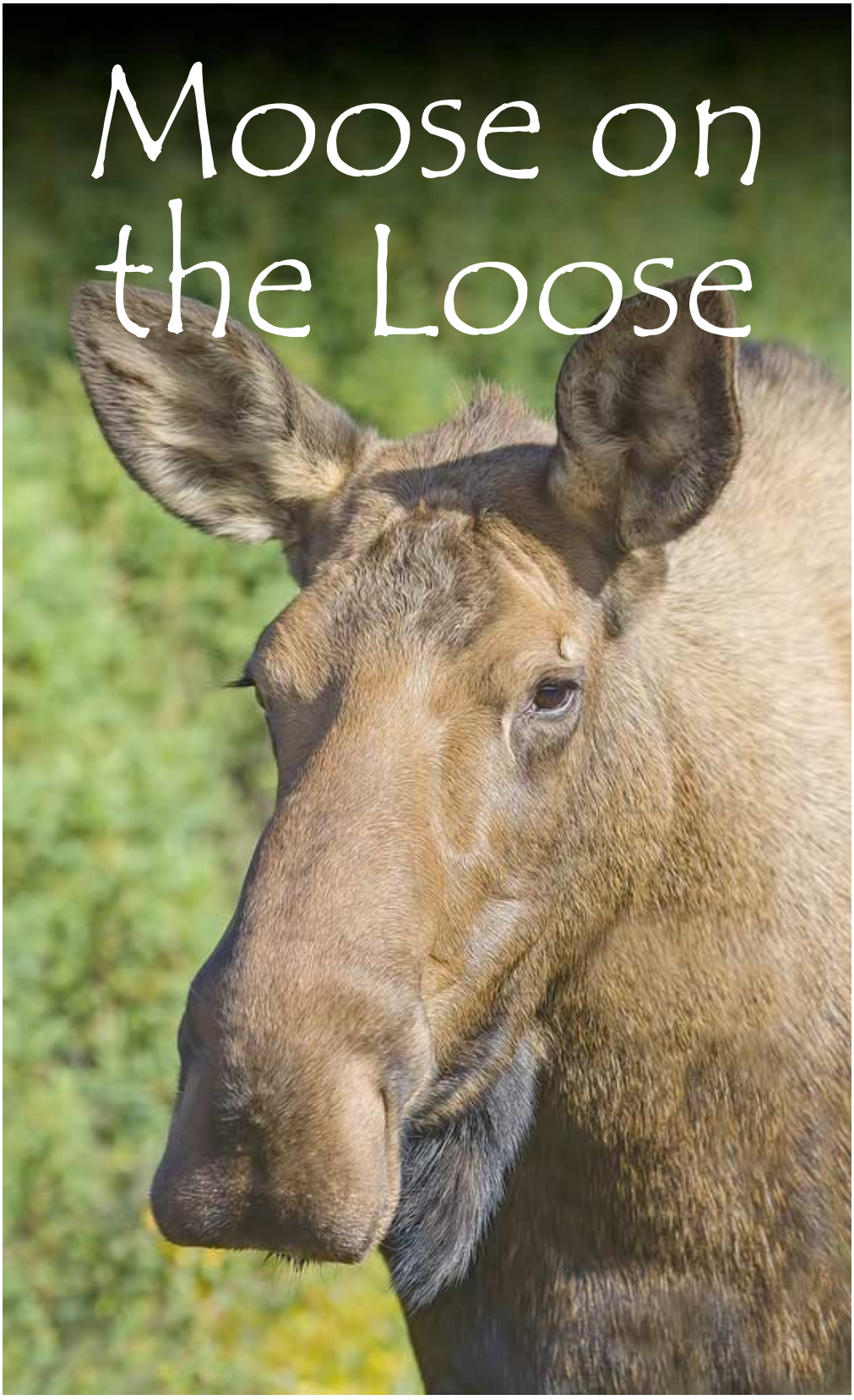


# Nature's Web

Issue No. 36 Winter 2014

## Inside This Issue...





# Moose on the Loose

Image courtesy of Alan D Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

# Editor's Page

## Goodness, Gracious, Great Balls of Fish!

You don't always have to be out in a boat or take up diving to see interesting fish behaviour. My sister-in-law Jackie was walking along the pier in Baltimore, West Cork, at the beginning of December, when she saw this 'bait ball' of fish circling near the pier. The fish had been chased in shore by a cormorant, which was obviously looking for its lunch. When hunted by predators, such as birds, whales, dolphins and larger fish, small fish have very few places to hide in the open sea. One type of defence they have against these predators is to form into a tight circle called a 'bait ball'. On their own, the fish are more likely to be eaten, but when in this group it is hard for a predator to focus on a single fish.

Courtesy of Jackie Murphy

As Gaeilge! 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/ForasnaGaeilge/An_Bhunscoil.asp

Photo: © Bord Bia - Irish Food Board

## Pan-fried Hake with Lemon & Herb Butter Sauce

### Ingredients

- 4 x 175g hake fillets, skin on & boned
- 1 tablesp. olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 50g butter
- ½ lemon, pips removed
- 1 tablesp. chopped mixed herbs

*Tips*: Above all be careful not to overcook the fish. To check, gently prod the thickest part of the fish with a small knife. If it is cooked, the flesh will look opaque and the flakes will separate easily. If it isn't done yet, it will still have the translucent look of raw fish.

### To Cook

- Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan and add the seasoned hake fillets, skin side down. Cook for a couple of minutes until the skin is just beginning to crisp, then add little knobs of butter to the pan around each hake fillet and cook for another couple of minutes until the skin is crisp.
- Turn the hake fillets over and cook for another 3-4 minutes until cooked through. This will depend on the thickness of the fillets. Transfer to warmed plates while you make the sauce.
- Add the rest of the butter to the frying pan and allow it to gently melt over a moderate heat. When it has melted, add a squeeze of lemon juice and the herbs, swirling to combine. Season to taste. Spoon this sauce over the hake fillets and serve with steamed broccoli and some sautéed new potatoes.

*Other fish you could use: Whiting, haddock or trout*

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

### Welcome to the Winter Edition of Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the winter 2014 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue, we meet with Mervyn Horgan of the Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks in Cork City and learn about his working day and what you can do at the Lifetime Lab. With the help of Captain Cockle, we find out about the most dangerous animals in the ocean, which may be surprising to some!. With the festive season approaching, we learn more about a relative of the reindeer, the moose and also moss, a plant that helps to make Ireland green.

You can check out nature news from around the world on page 11 and enjoy a giggle with the jokes on page 13.

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

Susan

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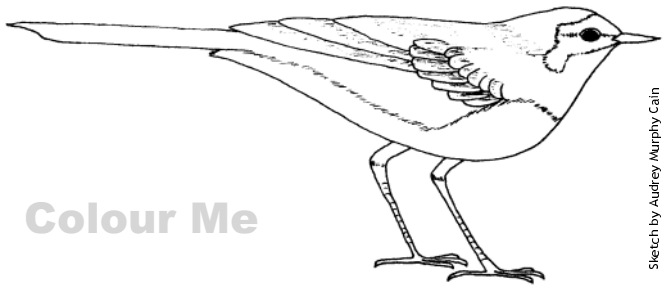
TIME FOR DINNER! An adult Pied Wagtail (left) passing over insects to a juvenile (right).

Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

# Pied Wagtail

**Scientific Name:** *Motacilla alba yarrellii*
**Irish Name:** Glasóg shráide

This small bird can be found all around Ireland. With its black and white colouring, it is quite easy to pick out. The male and female are slightly different in colour - the female has a grey back whereas the male's is nearly black. The pied wagtail, as part of its name suggests, has a long, slim tail that it wags up and down in a distinctive way. It is a bird that is constantly moving. It is commonly seen searching for insects along the roadside and when it calls out, it makes a loud, sharp 'chissick' noise.
Like Stonechats, Pipits, Wrens and Robins, Pied Wagtails are perching birds (also known as passerines). Over half of the world's bird species are passerine birds. They all have specially-adapted feet, each with three toes, used for gripping onto branches, twigs and wire.
The female pied wagtails builds their nests in holes in walls, ditches, buildings and even in ivy. They line these nests with wool, hair and feathers and lay 5 to 6 in each clutch. Generally, Pied wagtails do not migrate but some do go to southern France and Iberia for the winter.



Colour Me

Sketch by Audrey Murphy Cain

## Other Wagtails

There are two types of wagtail in Ireland, the Pied Wagtail and the Grey Wagtail. The Grey Wagtail has a blue-grey back and a yellow underside. Pied Wagtails are actually a sub-species of the White Wagtail, which is found throughout Europe, Asia and north Africa. Pied Wagtails have darker backs and are particular to Ireland and Britain.

## FACT FILE

**Colour:** Black and white body.
**Length:** 16.5-19 cm
**Diet:** Flies and moths.
**Habitat:** Near water on farms, towns and cities all around Ireland.
**No. of eggs:** 5-6

# The Moose

**Scientific Name:** *Alces americanus*
**Irish:** Mús


A male moose

The moose, found in the northern parts of North America, is the largest member of the deer family. It is very closely related to the Eurasian Elk, which can be found in Northern Europe and Northern Asia. There is some debate as to whether the moose and the Eurasian Elk are the same animal but there is no denying that they are very similar.

The moose is a tall animal, with a hump on its shoulders, a short tail, long slim legs and large hooves. These hooves act like snow shoes in the snow and also help to spread the animal's weight in soft or boggy ground. The moose's face is long and most have a flap of skin underneath the throat, which is called a bell. Though the moose has very poor eyesight, it has good hearing and sense of smell.

The males and females are of similar size but the males are much heavier. The male also grows large, flat antlers to attract females and to ward off attacks from other males and predators, such as bears and wolves. These antlers grow from early spring until late autumn but fall off before winter. New and bigger ones will grow back the following year.

Despite being such big animals, moose can move very fast - up to 56 kph/32 mph. Moose like being in the water and are good swimmers. They can often be seen paddling and swimming in the water for miles at a time.

Moose are herbivores and their diet consists of grass, plants, flowers, twigs, leaves and bark.

## The Family

A male moose is called a **bull**. A female is called a **cow** and their young is a **calf**. The males are solitary animals and only gather during the mating season. Females have one or two calves in the spring and these calves will stay with their mother until the following year. The moose have a lifespan of 15-20 years.


A young moose

## FACT FILE

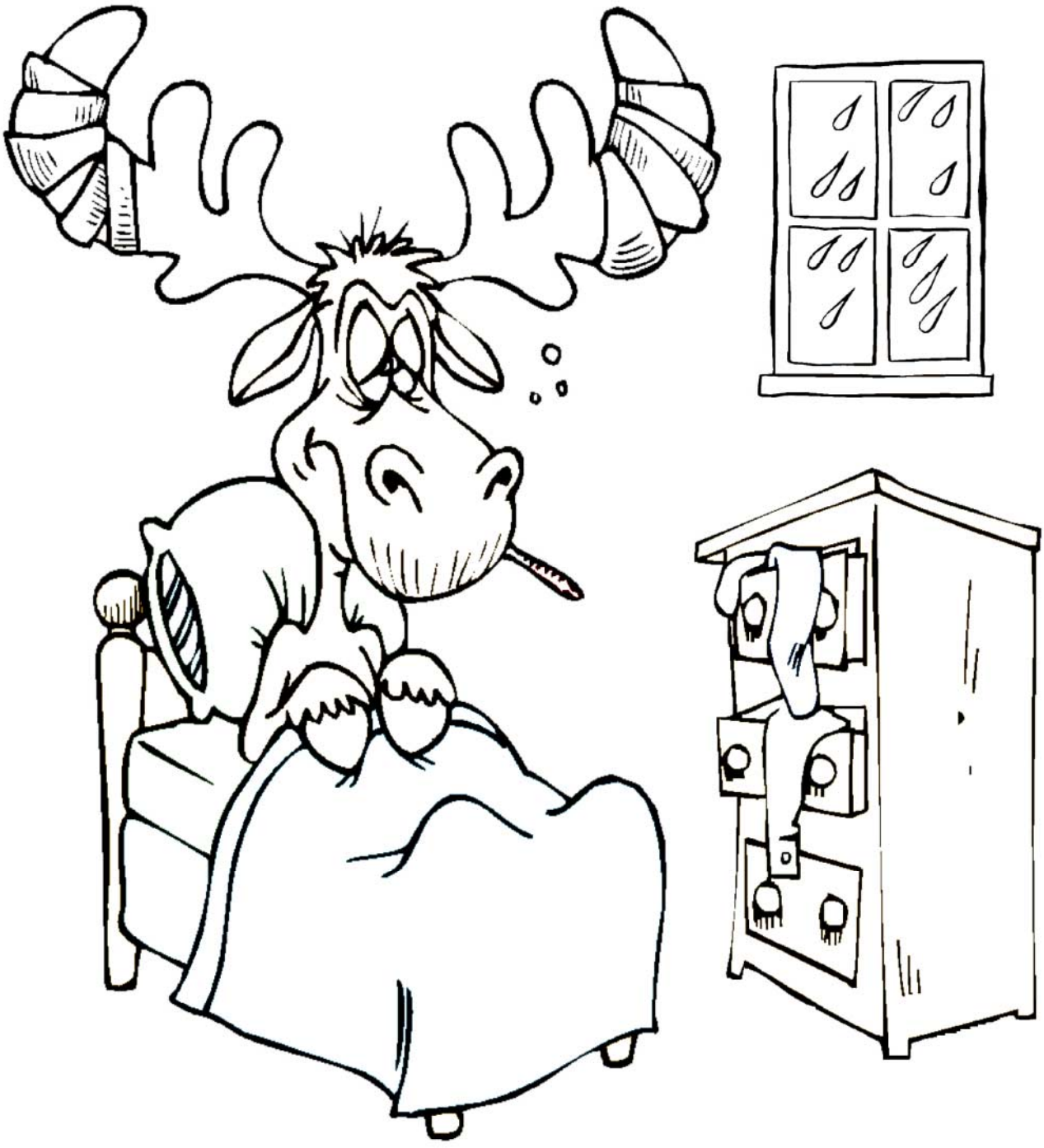
**Length:** 2.4 to 3.2 m
**Height to shoulder:** 1.8 to 2.1 m
**Weight:** Males - 360 to 600 kg; Females - 270 to 400 kg.
**Colour:** Brownish grey to reddish brown to dusty black. Lighter coloured legs.
**Food:** Grass, plants, flowers, twigs, leaves & bark.
**Habitat:** In woods and close to lakes, swamps and other sources of water.
**Range:** Moose - Alaska, Canada, Northern USA.
Eurasian Elk - Northern Europe & Northern Asia.


A female moose

Images courtesy of Alan D Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

# Colour In

## A Miserable Moose

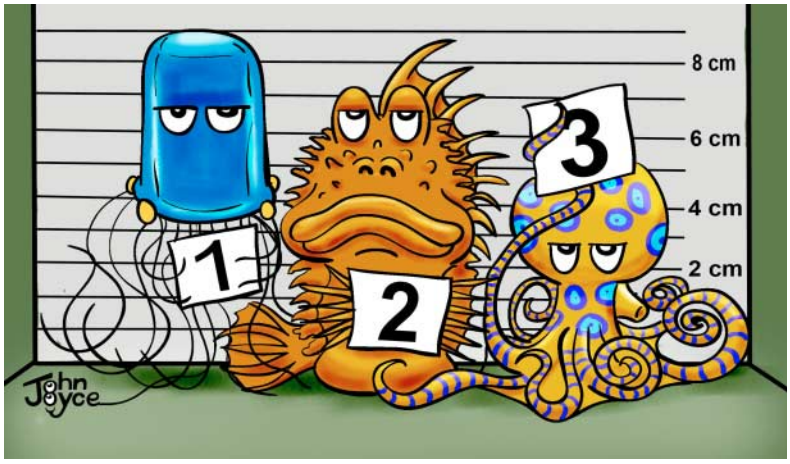


# Captain Cackle

by John Joyce

For more Fun Facts check out www.spindriftpress.com

## The Unusual Suspects




While Great White Sharks have been portrayed in books and films as the most dangerous marine predator, the animal which kills the most people in the sea each year is the humble Box Jellyfish of which the most dangerous is the Australian species *Chironex fleckeri*. This little animal has dozens of tentacles, each up to five metres long and enough toxin to kill around 60 people each in as little as three minutes. Anecdotal evidence suggests that 100 people die every year because of box jellyfish stings, more fatalities than those caused by sharks, crocodiles and stone fish combined. Another small bottom-dwelling animal with a bad reputation is the Blue-ringed Octopus of Australia, which grows to only about 20 cm across but carries enough venom to kill around 30 people and whose bite can kill a human in about five minutes.

The Great White Shark is the largest predatory fish in the sea and though it is portrayed as the most dangerous shark, that dubious honour goes to its smaller cousin the Tiger Shark which attacks less human beings than the Great White but causes more human fatalities. Tiger sharks will eat anything – seals, birds, squid, small sharks, dolphins and even old pieces of tyres.

It is worth noting however that the TOTAL number of human deaths in US coastal states caused by shark attack annually is still almost forty times less than those caused by lightning strikes and that only three species of shark – the Great White, Tiger and Bull Shark – have killed more than ten people.



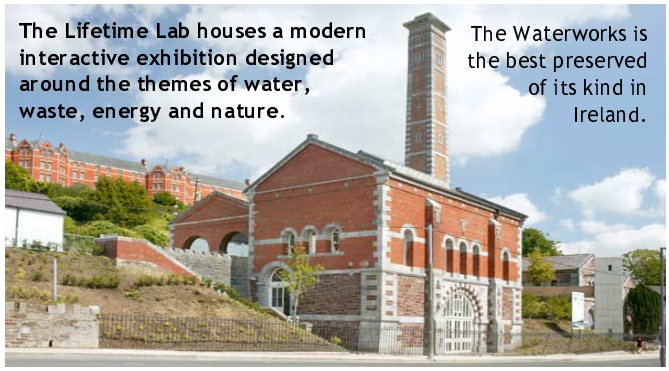
Keeping a very low profile is the most venomous fish in the sea – the Stonefish which, because of its incredible ability to mimic part of the seafloor, inflicts injury by accident when barefoot beachcombers step on it and trigger its venomous spines. These produce a sting so painful that victims of Stonefish poisoning have been known to demand that the affected limb be amputated rather than endure the pain. Luckily, the Stonefish itself does not attack human beings and stings are usually the result of a barefoot swimmer stepping on one of these fish by mistake. Stonefish are even consumed as food in some parts of Asia. Their venom is harmless once the fish is heated by cooking and its meat is consumed with ginger in a clear soup, or – for those who like to live on the edge - even raw as sushi or sashimi.

# All in a Day's Work

## Mervyn Horgan – Manager of Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks

### PROFILE

Mervyn Horgan is Manager of Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks, on the Lee Road in Cork City. It is a unique attraction for visitors of all ages with its modern interactive exhibition and beautifully restored buildings and equipment.



The Lifetime Lab houses a modern interactive exhibition designed around the themes of water, waste, energy and nature.

The Waterworks is the best preserved of its kind in Ireland.

Images courtesy of Lifetime Lab

**Where do you work?**

I work at Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks. We are fairly lucky as it's a beautiful venue. Some of the site dates back to the 1750s but most of what still stands dates to the 1840s and still retains many of the Victorian features. We have the added bonus of being next to the River Lee, alongside a salmon weir. As the seasons change, you can spot all the different wildlife that frequent the river. We even have a pair of otters close by and a Peregrine Falcon uses our chimney as an observation post from time to time.

**Have you always been interested in what you do?**

I have always had an interest in the environment and the sustainable aspect of business - more so as it's the right thing to do. I'm also a big believer in the role of education to help people make informed decisions.

**What training did you do for your job?**

I began way back working in hotels so picked up on people skills fairly early on, and to be fair received a lot of training and mentoring from Failte Ireland and others along the way. It wasn't until my late 20's that I looked at my qualifications and realised I needed to go back to college to keep up. Now I strongly believe in further training and education. It's important to keep yourself upskilled and aware of what a modern business requires to operate.

**Describe your typical day.**

It's very very varied from day to day. Lifetime Lab has school groups most days of the year, along with outreach visits and other events. This week I'm visiting schools with our MathWorks primary maths workshop. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we have a large conference on site. On Thursday a senior group has booked a tour in the morning, with a teacher's workshop and science club in the afternoon and a corporate group are in the conference room for a training course on Friday and Saturday.

**What are the best and worst parts of your job?**

I enjoy that our days are very varied and that no two days are really the same.

Sometimes we have to turn schools away from some of our programmes because we're full. That's never a nice thing to have to do.

**Do you enjoy your work?**

Immensely and even more so this year as it's our 10th anniversary in 2015. We are looking forward to hosting a few events to celebrate.

**What equipment do you use at Lifetime Lab?**

We can use everything from a piece of string and lemon for an experiment to driving an electric vehicle for our school visits. The different school visits all need a different set of equipment, depending on the theme. In February we have Engineers' Week so it will be lots of building and maths. For March we have the Explorers programme in partnership with Galway Atlantiquaria and the Marine Institute so we'll be using a lot of ocean props and maps, while our primary science workshop is going to focus on electricity for the rest of the year.

**Do you work alone or as part of a team?**

Again I'm very lucky to have such a strong team at Lifetime Lab. Their enthusiasm really makes the job enjoyable and we can achieve a lot more by working together. We also work closely with Discover Primary Science, SEAI, UCC, CIT, Cork Electronics Industry and we have a very interesting pilot robotics programme with EMC this year.

Educational programmes at the Lifetime Lab

**What advice would you give someone who would like to do the same job?**

I suppose don't be afraid to learn a new skill. The way the world works is changing at a very fast pace. Who would have thought we would be using mobile phones or mini computers to play music and search the internet? It seems phone calls are the last thing they are used for! I'd also say be prepared to listen to advice. You don't need to act on it, just be aware that people may have different approaches.

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

Always listen to the people with grey hair, take their advice on board and respect the experience in life they have amassed.

*Visit Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks* www.lifetimelab.ie

# Winter at Sea

By Captain John O'Sullivan

Winter is the hardest season to be working at sea especially in European waters. This is mainly due to the adverse weather. It is a period of wind, rain and cold conditions, often with frequent storms. In these conditions extra care must be taken to avoid accidents. As some of you may know I am the Captain of an Oil Tanker (see the Autumn 2014 issue of *Nature's Web*) and thus have full responsibility for the safety of the ship and the crew who sail on her. I also need to ensure the crew have full confidence in my decisions with regard to sailing in adverse weather. It is a busy time for us because due to the cold weather there is an increase in the consumption and demand for heating oil, petrol and diesel, which we deliver to many cities around Europe.

Preparation for each voyage requires all loose equipment be secured against movement due to rolling and pitching of the ship. Even inside the accommodation, the galley, mess room, cabins, engine room and bridge have to be checked for moveable objects. The first winter storm usually shows us where these objects are because after a good summer we sometimes forget how rough it can be. Blu-tac is one of the best inventions for use on a ship in the winter.

Fatigue is another thing we have to monitor carefully in winter as it's hard to get enough sleep when the ship is rolling heavily and so there is an increased potential for an accident to happen. Looking at past records, we appear to have fewer accidents in winter possibly because there is greater awareness and more care is taken.

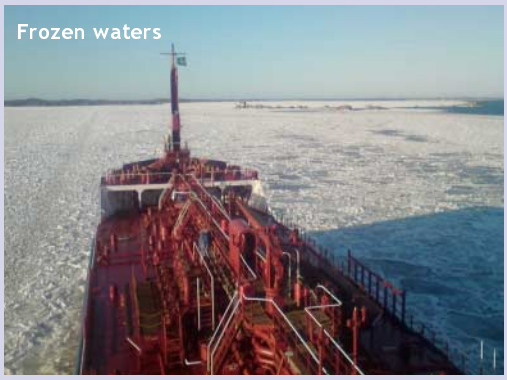
Sea conditions can vary greatly in winter as some days can be flat calm where we can see whales swimming in the distance and other days the seas are so high that dolphins can be seen directly out the bridge window swimming alongside us on a 30 foot wave. In the Baltic Sea we can encounter ice where huge icebreaking tugs are used to maintain open shipping lanes between ports.

Once February is upon us we can then start to look forward to calmer conditions for the summer to come.

## Weather Forecasts

In winter, we monitor the weather forecasts with greater intensity than in the summer months so that we can plan a voyage around the possibility of storms and heavy seas. This may mean we have to take a diverted route or possibly seek a sheltered anchorage at times to avoid the worst of these conditions. On occasion we may be caught out in bad weather as a predicted weather pattern can suddenly change.


Rough seas


Frozen waters


A White Christmas

Photographs courtesy of Capt. John O'Sullivan

## Christmas at Sea

Although it is hard to be away from loved ones and family over the Christmas we try to make it somewhat pleasant on board. We put up a Christmas tree and decorations and a little crib. Even the figures in the Crib are held in place with Blu-tac! Sometimes the Missions to Seafarers supply small gifts to the crew, which are put under the tree. We also try to plan a special Christmas dinner with turkey and all the trimmings.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Christmas!

Images by Susan Murphy Wickens

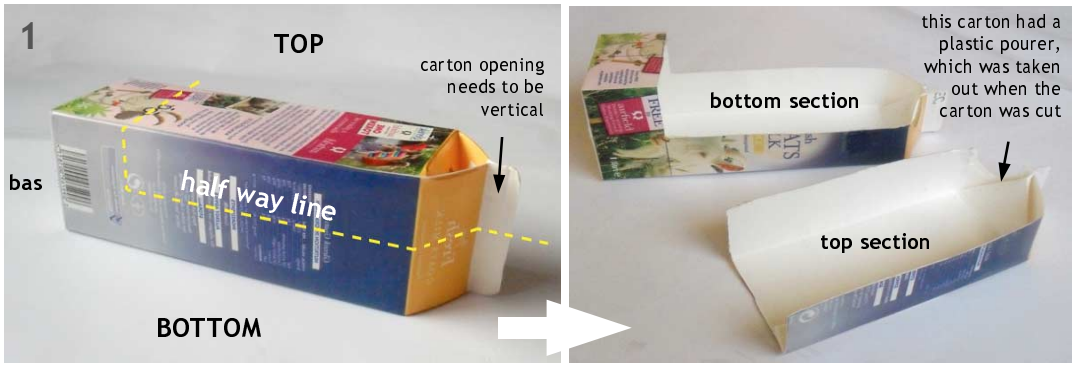
# A Milk Carton SHIP

Here is your chance to make your very own ship, just like the tanker Captain John O'Sullivan sails (see page 15) as it delivers heating oil, petrol and diesel to many cities around Europe. Your ship may not be able to go to sea but it should just about float in the sink!

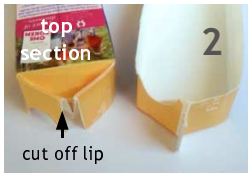
## You will need:

- 1 litre milk or juice carton
- ruler
- marker
- scissors
- masking tape
- small box
- lollipop stick
- match stick
- acrylic paints & brushes

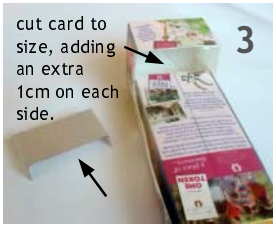
**1.** Cut out the shape marked in yellow *(right)*. You may need the help of an adult for this, as it can be a little tricky. Firstly, lay the carton flat. The carton must be cut a certain way, so make sure it is lying as it is in the photo, with the opening of the carton standing vertically.
Find the half way mark between the top and bottom *(as in the photo)* and using a ruler and a marker, draw a line lengthways all the way around the box.
Next, measure in approximately 4.5 cm from the base of the carton and draw another line widthways around the box. The markings will create the shape you need. Cut along the line as shown in yellow in the photo.




**2.** Cut the lip off the opening of the top section. Tuck the top section into the bottom section. The front of the top section should tuck neatly into the folds in the bottom section.
**3.** Cut a piece of card the size of the opening of the cabin, adding an extra 1 cm on each side. Fold these 1 cm flaps and slot the card into the opening and stick in place using tape.
**4.** Tape the two sections together, carefully taping where they join and also the hole created by the folds.
**5.** Tape the small box and the lollipop stick to the cabin. Make a tiny hole in the centre of the little box and insert the matchstick. Paint the ship.







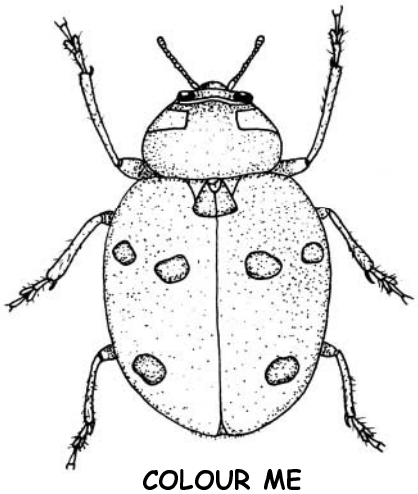
# Seven-spot Ladybird

By Jennifer Care

**Scientific Name:** *Coccinella septempunctata*
**Irish Name:** Bóín Dé sheachtbhallach

Ladybirds are flying beetles and are very beneficial to humans because they feed on the greenfly that eat the plants we grow. They hibernate during the winter under bark or stones and come out again in the spring when it gets sunny. There are different types of ladybird – some with only two spots and others with as many as 22 spots.

I'm a type of beetle!



COLOUR ME


Gilles San Martin CC BY-SA


Alvesgaspar CC BY-SA 3.0


Gilles San Martin CC BY-SA 2.0


Orangeaurochs CC BY 2.0

## FACT FILE:

**Lives:** Almost anywhere there are aphids for it to eat. Aphids are small insects that feed on the sap of plants e.g. greenfly.
**Size:** Adults are 5–8 mm long.
**Eats:** Both larvae and adults eat aphids.
**Behaviour:** Adults hibernate during winter and can be found in cracks and crevices, often in outbuildings and around window frames. Insect hibernation is called 'diapause'.
Adults live for 1 to 2 years in the wild.
The bright colours of ladybirds warn predators that they don't taste good. If threatened they can also secrete a fluid from joints in their legs which gives them a foul taste.

**You can record your sightings of ladybirds as part of a national survey at: www.biology.ie**

# The World Around Us

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

## The World's Largest Underwater Sculpture

Image courtesy of Jason deCaires Taylor

The Bahamas are now home to the world's largest underwater sculpture. Created by Jason deCaires Taylor, "Ocean Atlas" is a 5.49m high, 54.4 tonne sculpture of a Bahamian girl who appears to hold up the ocean. It is inspired by a story in Greek mythology of the Titan Atlas who, as a punishment from the gods had to hold up the heavens for eternity. The sculpture is intended as a reminder of all the environmental threats facing the world's oceans. Made from a material that does not harm the waters in which it sits, over time "Ocean Atlas" will attract local marine life on its surface, turning this sculpture into an artificial reef. The sculptor is now working on a new project with the local government in Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. Called "Museo Atlántico", it will be an underwater museum, which will include over 300 sculptures. The public can apply to become models for the sculptures and are being asked to cover the costs of the moulding materials. It's an interesting way to be immortalised!

## Comet Update!

On 12th November, the European Space Agency successfully landed the 'Philae' lander from the 'Rosetta' spacecraft on to Comet 67P/ Churyumov-Gerasimenko. Unfortunately 'Philae' bounced on landing and ended up in the shade so its batteries could not be recharged by the sun. Thankfully it managed to gather important data before running out of power and it is hoped that as the comet journeys around the sun, light will reach the lander from another direction and it will wake up.

## The Journey of a Loggerhead Turtle

In November 2013, Lorna King of Quilty, Co. Clare, discovered a loggerhead turtle washed up at Seafield in Quilty. The Irish Whale & Dolphin Group and the Shannon Dolphin & Wildlife Foundation helped to transport 'Leona' to Galway Atlantaquaria, where it was nursed back to health with the help of the County Council vet. In November this year it was finally time to release Leona into the warm waters off Gran Canaria. Transporting Leona from here to there was a problem as putting her in the hold of a plane for too long, without access, would be harmful for her. Aer Lingus came to the rescue and found a way of transporting her in a special container in the cabin. After a few days rest on Gran Canaria, Leona was released back into the ocean and thanks to Celestial Green Ventures, she was fitted with a GPS tracking device which means we can track her progress from now on (www.celestialgreenventures.com/leona-loggerhead-turtle).

## Collect water from the air as you cycle


Cycling is thirsty work. Now it seems you can harvest drinking water as your peddle. An Austrian designer Kristof Retezar has invented a self-filling water bottle, called the 'Fontus', that collects moisture from the air and condenses it into fresh and safe drinking water. It works best in humid weather when there are more water droplets in the air. In the right conditions half a litre of water can be collected in just under an hour.
Cyclists won't be the only people who could benefit from this invention. People who live in places where there is no access to fresh drinking water could benefit too.

## A Solar-powered Cycling Path

And speaking of cycling! The Netherlands have just opened the world's first solar-powered cycling path. The "SolaRoad" is made of concrete sections that have solar panels embedded in them. Covered by a tough glass and coated with a special non-slip surface, the panels generate electricity that can be fed into the national grid. In 16 days SolaRoad collected 140 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power 140 washing machine cycles. The path will continue to be tested for the next two years to see how it performs. It is hoped that the project can be eventually "scaled up" with installations along the 25,000 km of Dutch cycling paths. If that goes well it could be expanded to roads, which could generate huge quantities of 'free' electricity. A bright idea that works!

# Moss

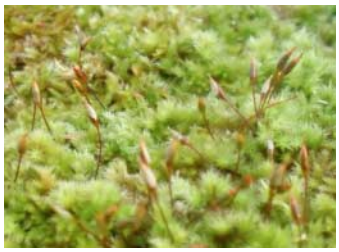
Moss forming a mat on a stone wall.

Image courtesy of Susan Murphy Wickens

**Scientific Name:** *Bryophyta*
**Irish Name:** Caonach

Mosses are perennial plants that like damp or wet places to grow. They can form tufts, mats and carpets of small plants, often less than 1-2 cm tall. Mosses generally colonise damp bare ground, walls, roofs and tree trunks, clinging on to surfaces with their numerous hair-like roots.

Most of the mosses' growth is between autumn and late spring, when the climate is wetter. They thrive in the mild, damp Irish climate and add greatly to our green landscape. However, though they need damp conditions to grow, many species can dry out and survive until re-wetted. Mosses are very absorbent and can hold water and absorb carbon. Irish bogs are mostly composed of moss, which builds up to form peat.



Moss has dust-like spores instead of seeds. The bobbles on stalks that you see on moss contain the spores.

Ireland has almost 800 species of moss, including related liverworts. Liverworts are similar but more leafy or have lobed, flat fronds. Some mosses have specific growing requirements, for example some only grow on lime-rich soils, while others such as bog-mosses, will not tolerate lime.

## Many Uses For Moss

Moss has many uses. In flower arranging it is used for decorative purposes and in the garden it can be used to line hanging baskets to prevent the compost falling out through the holes. Being so absorbent moss has also been helpful in soaking up oil following oil spills. Bog mosses are said to have antiseptic properties and have been used to dress wounds. In Medieval times moss was even used as 'toilet paper'!

While moss in the lawn is considered a nuisance by some gardeners, others celebrate its beauty by making it a feature of the garden.

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saihouji-kohedera01.jpg (CC BY-SA 2.0) Courtesy of Ivanoff

Gardens in Kyoto, Japan, where moss has become an important part of the display.

## North, South, East or West?

Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

Moss likes to grow in damp, shady conditions. In the northern hemisphere, moss will MOST LIKELY grow on the northern side of trees. This is because the northern side of trees get less sun and doesn't dry out as quickly. In the southern hemisphere the opposite is the case. There, with the sun shining from the opposite direction, moss will most likely grow on the south side of trees.
This however is only a general rule and there can be many reasons why moss will be grow on a particular side of a tree. For example, the whole tree could be in shade, so providing damp conditions for moss to grow. If you are using moss on a tree to find your bearings in a forest, remember to consider others factors.

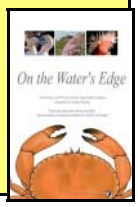
# Learn More


Only €2.10 each including postage or €11.00 for all seven! *(32pp each.) 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.

## 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.*

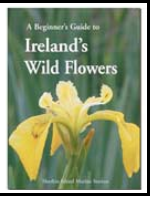


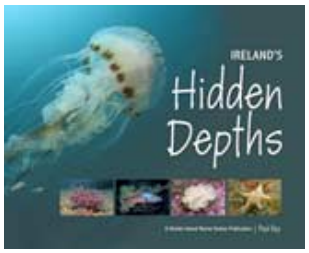

***A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Seashore*** is a pocket-sized guide, suitable for beginners of all ages. This book will help you to explore the wonders of marine life found on the shores around Ireland.

**Only €8.00 inc. postage**


***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**



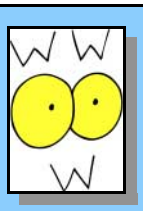




***Ireland's Hidden Depths*** is published by Sherkin Island Marine Station. Ireland's amazing marine life, glorious kelp forests and spectacular undersea scenery are featured in over 200 spectacular photographs by nature photographer Paul Kay. 277 x 227 mm 160 pps
**Only €13.00 including postage**


**"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 €6.99 including postage**

**To order books,** visit **www.sherkinmarine.ie** for details of paying 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:**

**Bait Ball:** http://ocean.si.edu/ocean-photos/bait-ball

**Pied Wagtail:** http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/IrelandsBirds/PipitsWagtails/PiedWagtail/tabid/1038/Default.aspx
https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide/name/p/piedwagtail/

**Captain Cockle:** http://www.spindriftpress.com/ http://www.jellyfish.ie/index.asp
http://www.nationalaquarium.ie/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=93:sharks&catid=44:local-wildlife&Itemid=78

**The Moose:** http://www.nwf.org/wildlife/wildlife-library/mammals/moose.aspx
http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/snp/programs/education/animal_facts/mammals/moose.html
http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/41782/0

**Seven-spot Ladybird:** http://www.biology.ie/home.php?m=ladybirds2
http://www.ladybird-survey.org/species_desc.aspx?species=6455%2059604

**Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks:** http://www.lifetimelab.ie/

**Ocean Atlas:** http://www.underwatersculpture.com/
http://www.designboom.com/art/ocean-atlas-jason-decaires-taylor-sculpture-bahamas-10-20-2014/

**Rosetta Spacecraft:**
http://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Space_Science/Rosetta/Pioneering_Philae_completes_main_mission_before_hibernation

**Loggerhead Turtle:** http://www.iwdg.ie/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=2437:loggerhead-turtle-in-co-clare

**Self-filling Water Bottle:** http://www.jamesdysonaward.org/projects/fontus-2/

**Solar Powered Cycling Path:** http://www.rte.ie/news/2014/1112/658809-dutch-solar-road/

**Moss:** http://www.irishwildflowers.ie/more/moss.html

**Winter at Sea:** www.marinetraffic.com www.iws.ie

*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 the flap of skin underneath a moose's throat called?

2 What happened 'Philae" when it landed on the comet?

3 In Medieval Times, what was moss sometimes used for?

4 What is the self-filling water bottle called?

5 What kills the most people in the sea each year?

6 Which bird was chasing the 'bait ball' of fish near Baltimore Pier?

7 A ladybird is a type of beetle. True or false.

8 What does Captain John O'Sullivan use to secure the crib pieces during rough weather?

9 In which county in Ireland did a loggerhead turtle wash up on the shore in November 2013?

10 Where does Mervyn Horgan work?

11 What fish is used in the Bord Bia recipe?

12 What is the name of the world's largest underwater sculpture?

13 Does the Pied Wagtail wag its tail up and down or from side to side?

14 In 16 days, how much electricity did the solar-powered cycling path in The Netherlands generate?

15 What colour is the milk carton tanker on page 14?

16 Which anniversary is Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks celebrating in 2015?

Answers: (1) A bell. (2) It bounced. (3) As toilet paper. (4) Fontus. (5) Box Jellyfish. (6) Cormorant. (7) True. (8) Blu-tac. (9) Co. Clare. (10) Lifetime Lab @ Old Cork Waterworks. (11) Hake. (12) Ocean Atlas. (13) It wags it up and down. (14) 140 kilowatts. (15) Red, white, grey and black. (16) 10th.

## Think of a Title

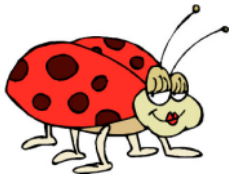
**Can you think of a title for this picture of a Northern Elephant Seal taken in California, USA?**

Image courtesy of Alan D Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

## Nature Jokes

What is a shark's favourite sandwich?
Peanut butter and jellyfish.

What insects are always polite?
Ladybirds.

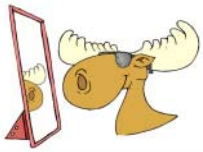


What do you get when you cross a mouse and a deer?
Mickey Moose

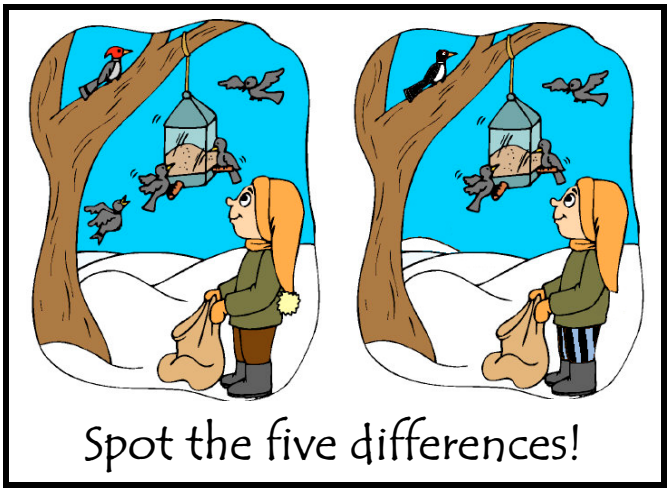
When did the fly fly?
When the spider spider.

Where does a ship go when it is sick?
To the dock.

What looks like half a moose?
The other half.

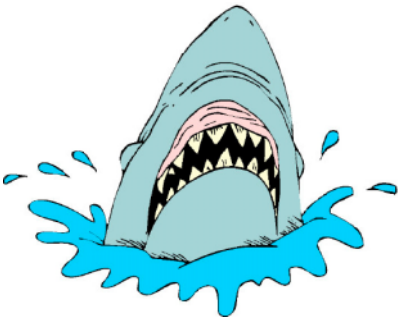


What's as big as an elephant but weighs nothing?
An elephant's shadow.



Spot the five differences!

# Wordsearch



## Nature's Web Winter 2014

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

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

Bait ball

Bord Bia recipe

Box Jellyfish

Cycling

Great White Shark

Loggerhead Turtle

Mervyn Horgan

Milk Carton

Moose

Moss

Ocean Atlas

Philae Lander

Pied Wagtail

Seven-spot Ladybird

Stonefish

The Lifetime Lab

Tiger Shark

Winter at Sea

**ANSWERS:** (OVER, DOWN, DIRECTION): Bait ball (15,6,S); Bord Bia Recipe (14,13,NW); Box Jellyfish (18,12,N); Cycling (11,13,W); Great White Shark (16,1,SW); Loggerhead Turtle (17,1,S); Mervyn Horgan (1,15,NE); Milk carton (13,14,W); Moose (8,5,NW); Moss (1,15,N); Ocean Atlas (13,12,N); Philae lander (3,15,E); Pied Wagtail (1,2,SE); Seven-spot Ladybird (1,1,SE); Stonefish (2,17,E); The Lifetime Lab (14,16,W); Tiger Shark (1,11,NE); Winter at sea (16,2,S); Walrus (7,12,NW).

# Nature's Noticeboard!

## Winter 2014


Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank those who have helped with this newsletter, particularly John Akeroyd, Jennifer Care, Mervyn Horgan, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Jackie Murphy, Robbie Murphy, John O'Sullivan, Alan D. Wilson and Jez Wickens.

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