

Editor's Page

New "Dwarf Planets"

So how many planets do we have in our Solar System? In August 2006, scientists came up with new definitions for what makes a planet and under these new rules, Pluto has become a "dwarf planet". They have also discovered another "dwarf planet" in our solar system, Eris, and have upgraded the asteroid, Ceres, to a "dwarf planet". It now seems that we have eight planets and three "dwarf planets" in our Solar System.

Eris (discovered in July 2005) has a diameter of 3,000 km and has just been officially named. Eris is the Greek goddess of discord and strife. It is 700 km larger than Pluto, so it's no wonder there's confusion. Eris is almost 10 billion miles from the sun and more than three times more distant than Pluto, the next closest planet.

Ceres (discovered in 1801) has a diameter of 950 km. When it was first discovered it was considered a planet, then scientists changed their minds. For the next 150 years they considered it to an asteroid. Its new

title "dwarf planet" changes its status once again.

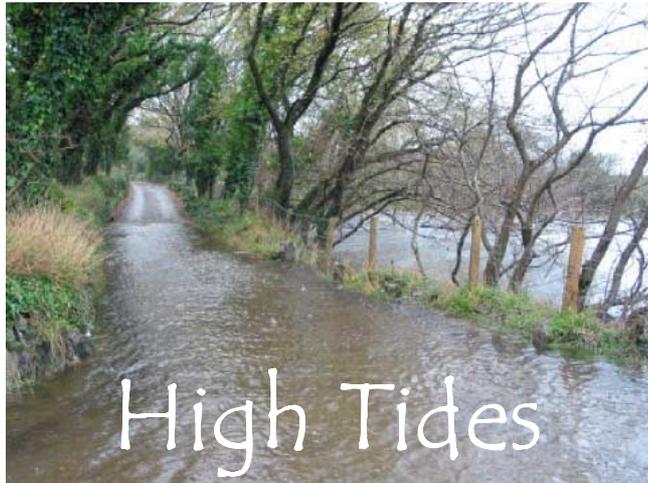
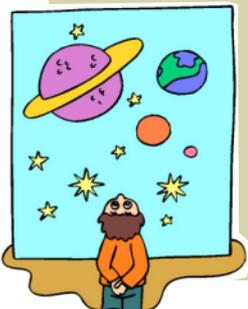


Photo: Robbie Murphy

This autumn, Ireland is experiencing its highest tides in nearly 20 years. Tides this high are not expected to occur again until 2015. The photograph above was taken last year on Sherkin Island, when high tides and low air pressure resulted in extremely high tides. For a few hours the high tides flooded a road in the centre of the island! Air pressure and wind strength play a role in making a high tide. Hopefully when the really high tides occur this autumn, the weather will be fine and there will be very little flooding.

SEAFOOD RECIPE

Sizzling Baked Seafood with Cherry Tomatoes & Crème Fraîche



Photo: BIM

What you need:

675g/1½ lb fish fillets
(use fish like turbot, brill, sole, plaice or Greenland halibut)
15g/½ oz butter
12 cherry tomatoes
150ml/¼ pt crème fraîche or cream
110g/4 oz Parmesan cheese, grated

What to do:

Arrange fillets on buttered dish. Season.
Place tomatoes on top.
Pour on crème fraîche and sprinkle with Parmesan.
Bake for about 15 minutes in moderate oven until it sizzles! (Serve with spinach and roast potatoes.)

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Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Nature's Web!

Dear Reader,



Welcome everyone to the autumn issue of Nature's Web. There are lots of great articles for you to read and some great experiments to try. This autumn I spoke with John Akeroyd, a botanist, for 'All in a Day's Work'. He describes his love of plants and how it has influenced his life. Check out the nature news from around the world on page 11 and 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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