

# Nature's Web

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## *New Beginnings*

Spring is starting to peek out and as we wave goodbye to winter, the days are lengthening. Flowers, such as daffodils, tulips and bluebells are appearing through the softening ground and birds are becoming more vocal. Spring is a time of new beginnings with many animals giving birth to their young, and others, such as birds, are returning to our shores from their winter holidays in warmer lands.

In this issue we feature frogs, a real symbol of spring, who go through an extraordinary journey from spawn to tadpole to frog. With buds appearing on the trees, ready to "spring" into leaf, we look at the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. We also feature the most amazing of displays, the northern lights - fantastic and magical sights which appear in the night skies around the poles, in spring and autumn. On occasion we're lucky enough to catch a glimpse of these extraordinary displays, so read on to see how and why they appear. We also get a chance to read about Susan Steele's busy life as a Fisheries Training Instructor, as well as the wonderful work that the children of Rathcoole National School, Co. Cork, are doing for the environment.

Right: Bluebells enjoying the flickers of sunlight shining through the trees.

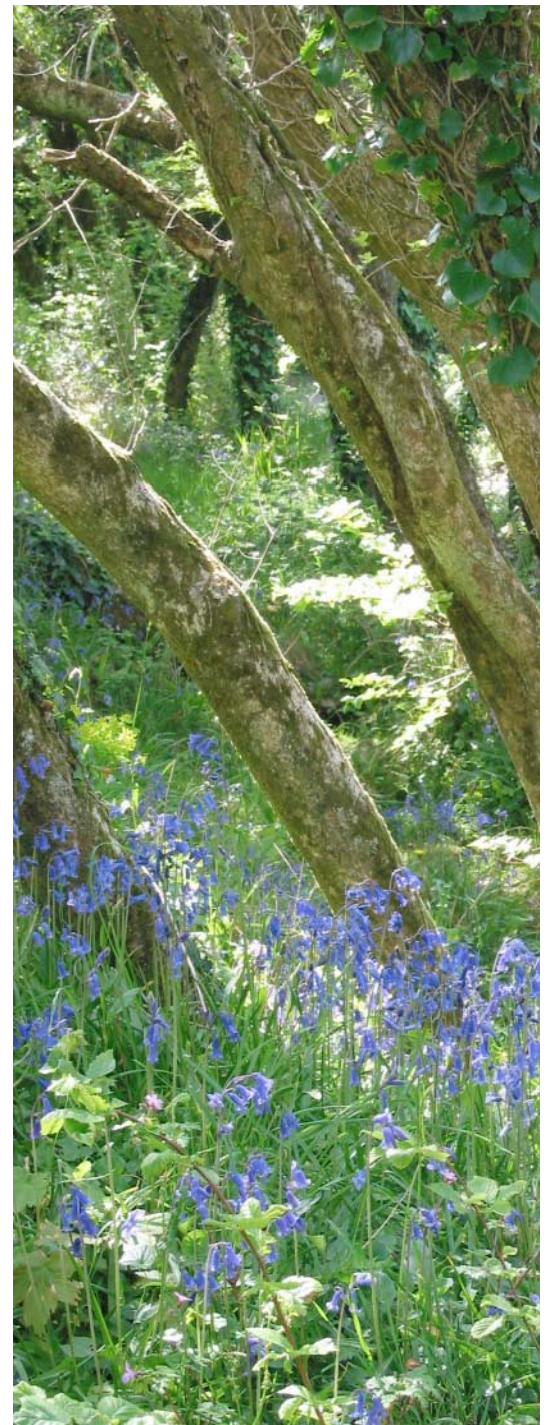


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