

# Nature's Web

Issue No. 52

Winter 2018

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Editor's Page

Brussels Sprouts

Activity: Pine Cone  
Feeder

American Bison

Colour In:  
Greenway  
Starts Here

Waterford  
Greenway

Comparing Earth  
and Mars

NASA's Insight  
Mars Lander

Black John the  
Bogus Pirate

An A-Z of Winter

The World  
Around Us

Fun Page

Learn More

Winter Wordsearch

Nature's  
Noticeboard



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

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# Editor's Page

## Sunset on the shortest and longest days

We have wonderful sunsets on Sherkin Island, Co Cork. They can be spectacular both in summer and in winter. As you can see from the panoramic shot below, we look out on Roaringwater Bay and we have a clear view of where the sun sets in the west. Luckily one of my brother's favourite subjects to photograph are sunsets and he took all three photographs from exactly the same spot. I thought you might like to see how much the position of the setting sun changes, depending on the time of year.



A panoramic shot of Roaringwater Bay from Sherkin Island.



**Shortest Day:** The sun setting around 21st December, on the southern side of Oileán Chléire (Cape Clear Island).



**Longest Day:** The sun setting around 21st June next to Mount Gabriel on the Mizen Peninsula.

**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/>

## Prawn Omelette with Peas



### What you need:

- 140g locally caught, uncooked, Dublin Bay prawns, (approx. 12)
- A little olive oil
- Knob of butter
- A little salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 6 large eggs
- 1 tablesp. cold water
- 2 tablesp. chives, chopped
- 50g peas, defrosted

### What to do:

- Heat a non-stick frying pan, with a base of about 20cm in diameter. Add a little oil and a little butter. Once the butter is foaming, add in the prawns. Season and then sauté gently for 2-3 minutes. Remove to a plate and keep warm.
- Break the eggs into a bowl and add the water, chives, a little salt and black pepper and lightly beat. Add a little more oil and then a little butter to the pan, swirling it around so that the base and sides get coated. While the butter is still foaming, pour in half the egg mixture, tilting the pan from side to side. Stir gently with a fork or wooden spatula, drawing the mixture from the sides to the centre as it sets.
- When the eggs have almost set, scatter over half the pea and prawns. Cook for another minute or two then tilt the pan away from you slightly and use a palette knife to fold over the omelette. Slide on to a warmed plate. Repeat to make the second omelette.

Brought to you by Bord Bia [www.bordbia.ie](http://www.bordbia.ie)

Welcome to the  
Winter Edition of  
Nature's Web!



Dear Reader,

Welcome everyone to the Winter 2018 issue of Nature's Web. In this issue we feature Waterford's Greenway and find out all the wonderful places you can visit along its route. NASA's InSight Mars Lander has recently landed on the red planet and we look at the work behind the expedition. We find out what the difference is between the bison and the buffalo and where each can be found in the world. We learn a little more about the Brussels sprout and then if you would like to make something, there are instructions on how to make a pine cone feeder for the birds this winter. Check out nature news from around the world on page 12 and enjoy a giggle with the 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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# Brussels Sprouts

**Scientific Name:** *Brassica oleracea* var. *gemmifera*

**Irish Name:** Bachelóg Bhrúiséile



The Brussels sprout is a green, leafy vegetable that belongs to the cabbage family—known as Brassicas. The plant produces small edible buds, about 2.5 cm across, which grow on a tall stalk. The stalk can reach almost 1m in tall varieties. These buds even look like miniature cabbages, with layers of densely packed leaves. Brussels Sprouts are typically green but there are also purple and red varieties.

The plants like a cool climate in which to grow. Depending on the variety, the seeds are sown in March and April and the plants can produce sprouts from October until March the following year. They like nutrient-rich and well-drained, moist soils and plenty of organic matter.

## What has it to do with Brussels?

Brussels sprouts originated in the Mediterranean. An earlier variety were grown by the Ancient Romans. Their name comes from how popular they became in the 16th century in Belgium.



## A 'Windy' Vegetable!

Like other members of the cabbage family, Brussels Sprouts produce sulphur to prevent animals from eating them. This is what gives Brussels Sprouts a slightly bitter taste. If overcooked these vegetables produce even more sulphur, which can make them taste stronger and less pleasant.

Our bodies naturally produce a mixture of gases to help digest our food and will make extra gases to try to deal with the sulphur. The mixture of all the gases can, to put it politely, cause smelly flatulence for some!



The cabbage family to which Brussels sprouts belong obviously includes cabbage but also vegetables such as kale, broccoli and cauliflower.

## Nutritional value

Brussels sprouts are very good for you. They are high in vitamins, particularly Vitamins A and C and folic acid. They are also high in fibre.



## Christmas Dinner!

Different types of vegetable are plentiful in summer and autumn, but in winter it is a different story. One of the few vegetables that are ready to be picked in the cold months are Brussels sprouts. This is probably part of the reason that they have become associated with Christmas dinner. Love them or hate them, they feature on many dinner tables on the day!



Traditionally sprouts are boiled or steamed. If you cut a cross at the base of each sprout it will help the sprouts cook more evenly and help avoid overcooking. Sprouts can also be cut in half and stir-fried. To turn them into something more special, fried bacon pieces and nuts (such as almonds) can be tossed through them.

## Activity

# Pine Cone Feeder

Sometimes birds need help with food, especially in winter.  
Here is a bird feeder you can make at home:

### You will need:

- a pine cone (put in a warm place to open)
- lard
- an apple
- a handful of bird seed
- string
- a bowl and fork
- a knife to cut the apple



The pine cone feeder can be hung from a tree branch or pole in the garden.

Images by Susan Murphy Wickens



1. Slide the string through the top scales of the cone. If the cone is not open, place in a warm place.



2. Tie the string around the scales and knot it tightly.



3. Mash the lard in a bowl using a fork.



4. Chop the apple into small pieces and add to the lard.



5. Add the bird seeds to the lard and mix everything in together.



6. Stuff the mixture into between the scales of the pine cone until completely full.

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# American Bison



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

## Plains Bison in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, USA.

The American Bison is the largest land mammal in North America and is the National Mammal of the United States. Bison belong to a larger family of animals known as bovids. Bovid have divided or cloven hooves and are ruminant animals, which means they chew their food and bring it back up to chew again. This family includes cattle, sheep, goats, antelopes, and many others, including African and Water Buffalo (see right).



This ox-like animal has big shoulders (with a hump in the case of males) and can be up to 2 m in height. Its large head has a broad forehead and short, upturned horns and a straggly beard. A covering of brownish black hair on its head, neck, shoulders and forelegs helps keep it warm in winter. Its back half, which ends in a short tail, has much shorter, lighter coloured hair.

Most of the American Bison live on plains though some do live in woodland. They spend much of their time grazing on grasses and sedges, as well as herbs, shrubs and twigs. Despite their size, they can move very quickly across the plains, running at speeds of up to 60 km per hour.

## A Part of Culture

Bison have always played a vital part in the lives of many Native American Indians. When bison were plentiful in North America, they provided meat for food, hides and fur for clothing and shelter, and horns for tools. Native American nations are now playing a part in helping to rebuild the bison populations in North America.



A Native American Indian doing a Hopi Buffalo Dance.

Male bison, known as a **bull**, will fight fiercely over females during the mating season. Females, called **cows**, give birth to one **calf** each year.

Around 50 million bison once roamed hundreds of kilometres across the plains in the US and Canada, but due to widespread commercial hunting by settlers, they almost became extinct. Following conservation efforts, today there are about 360,000 plains bison owned as domestic livestock and about 31,000 being cared for as wildlife in public owned herd in the US and Canada.

## Bison or Buffalo?

Though bison are also known as buffalo, they are in fact two different animals. Buffalo are native to Africa (African Buffalo) and Asia (Water Buffalo) and look more like large cows with horns.



American Buffalo

African Buffalo

## The European Cousin

There are two species of Bison, the American Bison and the European Bison. The European Bison, also known as Wisent, are found mainly in Poland and Belarus and is the National Mammal for both countries. They are slightly larger but less heavily built than the American Bison, have longer legs and live in woodlands. The European species became extinct in the wild after World War I but have been re-established since then from zoo-bred animals. Recent studies have revealed that both species of bison are more closely related than previously thought.

# Colour In



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# Special Feature



# Waterford Greenway

The old railway line from Waterford City to Dungarvan has been turned into a spectacular 46km off-road cycling and walking trail. It travels through time and nature across eleven bridges, three tall viaducts and a long atmospheric tunnel, all the way from the River Suir in Waterford City to the sea in Dungarvan.

[www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com](http://www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com)



Images & text courtesy of [www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com](http://www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com)

## Traveling Through TIME

Along this Greenway route in **Ireland's Ancient East** is a Viking settlement, Norman Castles, Medieval ruins, a famine workhouse, old railway stations and a heritage railway train that still runs along part of the track.

Attractions include:

- **Old Red Iron Bridge**—an abandoned bridge that was originally built in 1906 to link Cork and Kerry to Rosslare, via Waterford.
- **Woodstown Viking Site**—Waterford Museum of Treasures & Reginald's Tower in Waterford City displays Viking artefacts from the 8th century.
- **Kilmeadan Castle**—a le Poer Castle that was captured and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in around 1650.
- **Waterford Suir Valley Heritage Railway**—a train ride along 8.5 km of the disused Waterford to Dungarvan railway, which runs parallel to the Greenway.
- **Kilmacthomas Workhouse**—built in 1850 for the Poor Law Union and includes a chapel, fever hospital and mortuary.
- **Cloughlowrish Stone**—a legendary Ice Age stone, which is a good example of a rock transported by a glacier)
- **Durrow Viaduct**—built around 1878 over the River Tay, it is a reminder of Waterford's railway heritage.
- **Ballyvoyle Tunnel**—built in 1878, this railway tunnel is 400 metres long and fully brick lined.
- **Dungarvan Castle & WWI Memorial**—this OPW heritage attraction was constructed in the early 13th century and is also known as King John's Castle.

See the website for more attractions.



## Traveling Through NATURE

As well as enjoying the natural beauty all along the Greenway, there are a number of specific locations to look out for:

- **River Suir Special Area of Conservation**—the River Suir is an important wildlife area for a number of protected species.
- **Mount Congreve Gardens**—these gardens hold a world renowned collection of azaleas, camellias and rhododendron.
- **Copper Coast**—on the Durrow to Clonea Road section (6km) you will pass through the CopperCoast, an area of geological importance.
- **Dungarvan Bay SPA**—an important wildlife area, particularly for wintering birds.
- **Walton Park**—a beautiful park in the centre of Dungarvan, named after physicist Ernest Walton.

## Picking a Route

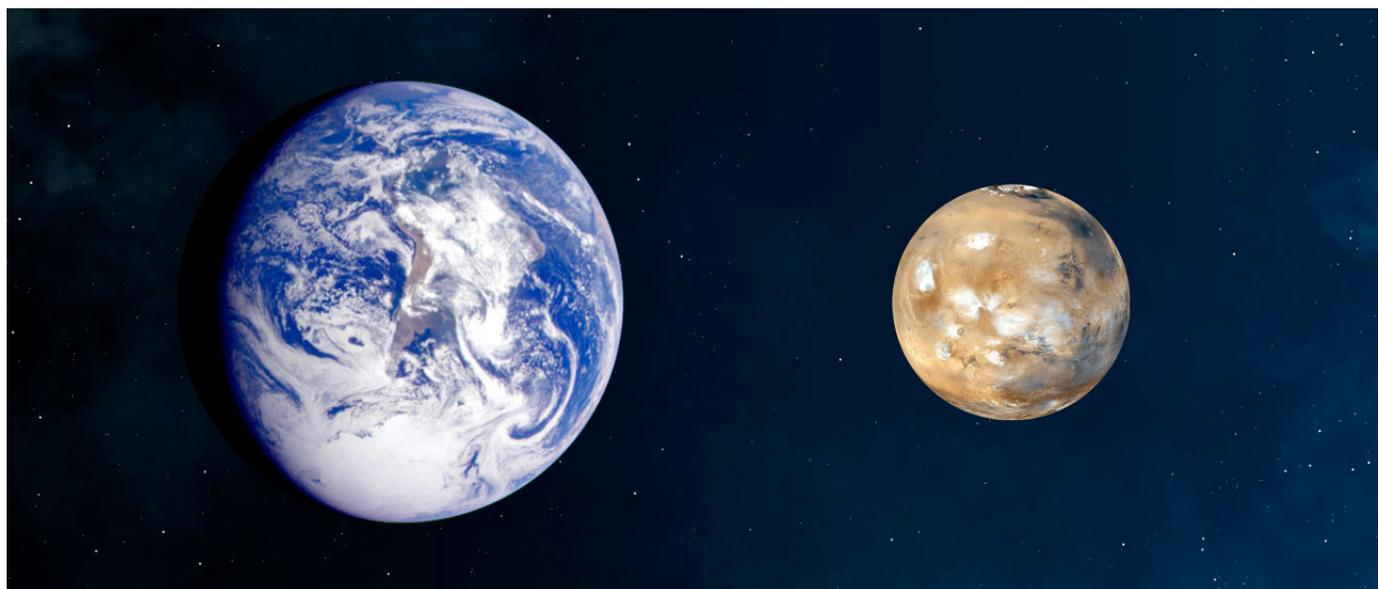
There are a twelve access points along the route, with parking. For the most adventurous, the whole route can be cycled or walked but for those who want a shorter journey or an easier section, there are options.

The map of the Greenway is divided into six sections, with a short description, length, elevation and suitability of each (see details on the website). For example, the Kiltoran to Kilmeadan (3km) is mostly flat surface and easy going and is very suitable for those with small children or those with reduced mobility. There are also toilet facilities at various points along the Greenway. The longer Kilmacthomas to Durrow (13km) stretch is mostly flat surface, with occasional moderate inclines and declines. If you want to cycle, you can bring your own bicycles or a number of companies offer bike hire services in Waterford.

Respect the Greenway and all its users. This is a shared use Greenway.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fan ar chlé agus scoith ar dheis</li> <li>• Tóg bruscar abhaille</li> <li>• Éist i gcomhair chloigíní rothar</li> <li>• Stad agus géill sí don trácht ag na trasnuithe bóithre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep left and pass on right</li> <li>• Bring litter home</li> <li>• Listen for bicycle bells</li> <li>• Stop and give way to traffic at road crossings</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buail do chloigín</li> <li>• Gluais ag luas sácháilte</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ring your bell</li> <li>• Cycle at a safe speed</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coimeád madraí ar iall ghairid</li> <li>• Glan suas i ndiaidh do mhada</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep dogs on a short lead</li> <li>• Clean up after your dog</li> </ul>

# Celestial Sky



Images and text courtesy of NASA

## Comparing Earth and Mars

	Earth	Mars
Average Distance from Sun	93 million miles	142 million miles
Average Speed in Orbiting Sun	18.5 miles per second	14.5 miles per second
Diameter	7,926 miles	4,220 miles
Tilt of Axis	23.5 degrees	25 degrees
Length of Year	365.25 Days	687 Earth Days
Length of Day	23 hours 56 minutes	24 hours 37 minutes
Gravity	2.66 times that of Mars	0.375 that of Earth
Temperature	Average 57°F or 13.9°C	Average -81°F or -63°C
Atmosphere	nitrogen, oxygen, argon, others	mostly carbon dioxide, some water vapour
Number of Moons	1	2

### Mars Facts

Mars is the fourth planet from the sun and the next planet beyond Earth. It is, on average, more than 142 million miles from the sun. Mars is about one-sixth the size of Earth. Mars is known as the Red Planet. It gets its red colour from the iron oxide (like rust) in its soil.

Mars is named for the ancient Roman god of war. The Greeks called the planet Ares. The Romans and Greeks associated the planet with war because its colour resembles the colour of blood.



Mars has two small moons. Their names are **Phobos** and **Deimos**. They are named for the sons of Ares, the Greek god of war. Phobos means "fear," and Deimos means "flight."

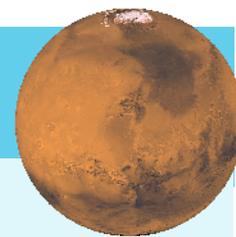
### Mars in the night sky....

Just like Earth, Mars orbits the sun. However, Earth makes two trips around the sun in about the same amount of time it takes Mars to make one trip. Sometimes the two planets are on opposite sides of the sun and are very far apart. Other times they pass relatively close to each other.

Mars is not always visible in the night sky but when it is visible near where you live, this website might help you find it. Just enter your location:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/night/>

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# NASA's InSight

## Mars Lander has landed on Mars!

### Key Facts:

**Launched:** 5th May 2018 (4.05am Pacific Time/7.05am ET)

**Launch Vehicle:** Atlas V-401

**Launch Location:** Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, USA

**Landed:** 26th November 2018 at 11:52:50 am PT (2:52:59 pm ET)

**Landing Site:** Elysium Planitia, Mars

**Mission Duration:** A little over 1 Mars year (2 Earth years); 709 Sols (Mars days), or 728 Earth days



NASA InSight's first full selfie on Mars.

Images and text courtesy of NASA

to the surface of Mars, and land on the smooth plains of Elysium Planitia.

### Surface Ops

InSight's goal is to study the interior of Mars and take the planet's vital signs, its pulse, and temperature. To look deep into Mars, the lander must be at a place where it can stay still and quiet for its entire mission. That's why scientists chose Elysium Planitia as InSight's home. The InSight lander began surface operations the minute it landed at Elysium Planitia on Mars, but science data collection doesn't start fully until about 10 weeks after landing. That's because InSight's science goals and instruments are very different from other Mars landers or rovers that have gone before. In some ways, InSight's science activities are more like a marathon than a sprint. The lander team must carefully select where to place the precious science instruments, which will be the first to study the interior of Mars. The dust from landing settled about 15 minutes after InSight made it to the surface. After this, the solar array motors warmed up and prepared to unfurl the solar panels. This is an important activity that ensured that the lander has all the power it needs to get to work on Mars.

NASA has successfully landed the InSight robot on Mars. It is the first mission to focus on examining the deep interior of Mars and the information gathered will help scientists understand how rocky planets formed, including Earth.

### Pre-Launch

InSight was assembled and tested in Denver, Colorado and then transported to California for launching.

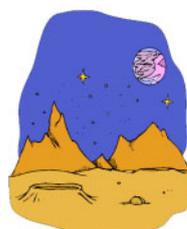
### Launch

The lander launched on an Atlas V-401 rocket. It is one of the biggest rockets available for interplanetary flight.

### Cruise

The trip to Mars took six months, a journey of about 485 million km, travelling at approximately 10,000 km/hour. Mission navigators kept track of the spacecraft almost continuously once it launched. The team adjusted its flight path several times during the cruise to make sure it flew at the right speed and in the right direction. It also carried out other checks, maintenance, monitoring

and adjustments. These checks ensured that everything was working just as it should. During the cruise the lander was tucked inside its protective aeroshell.



### Approach

To ensure a successful entry, descent, and landing, engineers began intensive preparations during the approach phase, about 60 days before and until the spacecraft entered the Martian atmosphere.

### Landing

The lander plunged through the thin Martian atmosphere, heatshield first, and used a parachute to slow down. It fired its retro rockets to slowly descend



PRE-LAUNCH

LAUNCH

CRUISE

APPROACH

LANDING

SURFACE OPS

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# Black John - the Bogus Pirate



## Black John – the Bogus Pirate

By John Joyce

### The REAL Value of the Ocean



Images & text © John Joyce

As a pirate I know all about treasure. However, the REAL value of the Ocean lies not in buried treasure, but in the many vital services it provides for each and every one of us . . . for FREE! Everyone who has ever eaten fish and chips, or taken a holiday by the Sea knows some of the benefits that the Ocean provides.

But did you know that microscopic marine plants in the open oceans and the common seaweeds around our shores convert carbon dioxide from the atmosphere into oxygen, accounting for half of all the oxygen we breathe? The massive size of the Ocean allows it to absorb enough of the Sun’s radiated heat to make life possible on Earth. Ocean currents then carry this heat north and south towards the poles, holding back the polar ice caps and making life possible across the planet. The Ocean is also the primary source of protein for more than a billion people, while the coastline is home of a staggering 60% of the World’s population.

### The Problem of ‘Marine Litter’

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), about 80% of marine litter comes from the land. It gets into the Ocean from poorly managed or poorly resourced landfill sites, through ineffective sewage treatment, people using beaches, illegal dumping of domestic or industrial material or street litter that has been washed into the sea.

Some of it also comes from careless and irresponsible dumping of litter at sea from ships and boats – but I won’t name any names!



One of the major elements of marine litter is plastic. According to the organisation ‘Surfers Against Sewage’, a staggering 8 MILLION pieces of plastic enter the oceans of the world EVERY DAY and some 5000 items of plastic can be found PER MILE of beach in the UK.

The challenge posed by plastic litter in the Ocean is that it NEVER goes away. It simply breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces until it forms plastic ‘microbeads’ that are almost invisible to the naked eye. Not only that, but modern bathroom products actually contain microbeads to scour the human skin and keep it clean. This means that, when a person uses a products containing them, they can release an estimated 100,000 microbeads into the Ocean via the waste water that goes down the drain. In the UK, a ban is to be introduced on microbeads in ‘rinse-off’ products like shower gels and personal care products like toothpaste.

In 2010 a report published in the United Kingdom listed all the activities taking place in UK waters and attempted to put a value on them. They included oil and gas, maritime transport, telecommunications cables, leisure and recreation activities, military defence, fisheries, aquaculture, water abstraction, mineral extraction, renewable energy, coastal defence, waste disposal, education, power transmission and storage of gases.

Then, in 2015, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) calculated that the world’s oceans were worth around \$24 TRILLION dollars, and generated goods and services worth around \$2.5 trillion EACH YEAR. The report also suggested that, if the oceans were a nation, they would be the world’s seventh largest economy – ranking just below the UK but ahead of Brazil, Russia and India.

You can learn more (and watch a cool video) at: <http://seachangeproject.eu/our-ocean-our-health> or by reading the United Nations Expert Report on ‘The Overall Value of the Oceans to Humans’ at [http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/WOA\\_RPROC/Chapter\\_55.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RPROC/Chapter_55.pdf).

Follow ‘Black John the Bogus Pirate’ on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/>

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# The World Around Us



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

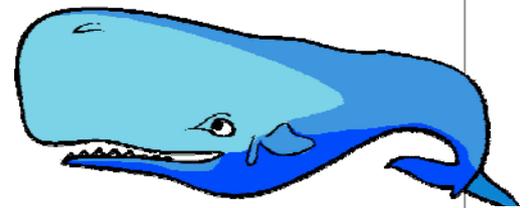
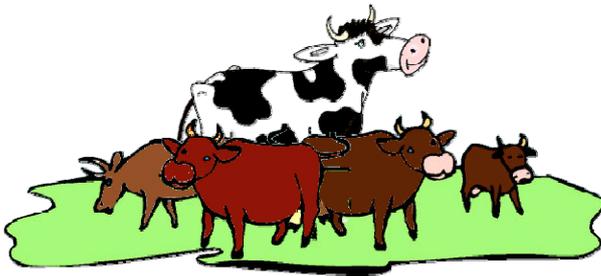


## An Addition to the Herd

On 23rd October this year, a male European Bison was born at Fota Wildlife Park, in Cobh, Co Cork. Fota Wildlife Park has a herd of 15 Bison, including this new calf. Its father, Hyssop, joined the herd four years ago as part of a European breeding program. With European Bison having been hunted to extinction in the wild, zoos and wildlife parks (including Fota) have a cooperative captive breeding program and because of this, European Bison have been reintroduced back into the wild in Poland, Romania and other European countries.

## A 'Giant' of a Steer!

On a farm in Western Australia, there's one steer that stands out from the herd and his name is 'Knickers'. A steer is a male cow that has been neutered. 'Knickers', a 7 year old Holstein Friesian, stands 1.94 metres high and weighs 1,400 kg. He was so big that he was saved from the slaughterhouse as the equipment could not handle his great size. He will now spend the rest of his days on the ranch. It is not known why 'Knickers' is so big but some scientists have suggested that he may have produced excessive growth hormone in his body when he was about 2 or 3 years old.



## A Stark Reminder About Plastic in the Oceans

When researchers examined a dead sperm whale, recently found in an Indonesian national park, they discovered 5.9 kg of plastic waste in its stomach. Amongst the waste were 115 plastic cups, four plastic bottles, 25 plastic bags, two flip-flops and a nylon sack. In total, 1,000 pieces of plastic were found.

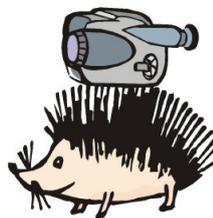
It is not known if the plastic killed the 9.5 metre long whale as it was too badly decomposed to tell, but it certainly highlights one of the consequences of allowing plastic to enter our waterways, our seas and our oceans.

## Wildlife Comedy Photography Awards 2018

Check out the winners of the 2018 Comedy Photography Awards at:

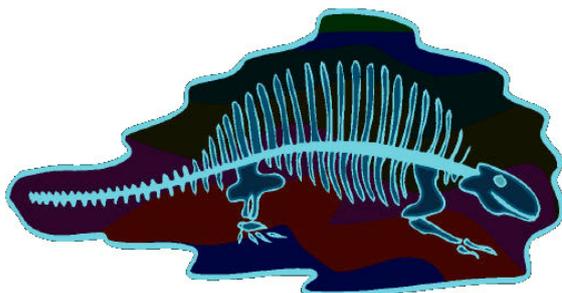
[www.comedywildlifephotography.com](http://www.comedywildlifephotography.com)

There are some hilarious photographs this year. From a startled squirrel to a grinning shark to a peeking owl, they will definitely bring a smile to your face.



## X-ray Vision at Oregon Zoo

Oregon Zoo, in Portland, Oregon, USA, gives a fascinating look at some wildlife, from a totally different view. When animals at the zoo get their health check up, they often have x-rays taken as it is a useful tool for the zoo's animal experts. These x-rays are taken using state-of-the-art equipment that uses digital radiation, which is slightly different to traditional x-rays. They use far less radiation and are also easier to use on the animals and produce results much faster. The digital images are full of detail and can even be fine-tuned after they have been taken.



# 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 type of animal was born in Fota Wildlife Park in October 2018?
- 2 How long did it take NASA's Insight Mars Lander to travel from Earth to Mars?
- 3 When does Oregon Zoo x-ray some of its animals?
- 4 What is the European Bison also known as?
- 5 How many moons has Mars?
- 6 Which herb is in Bord Bia's Prawn Omelette recipe?
- 7 What is the nickname of the 'giant' steer that lives on the Western Australian farm?
- 8 What is mixed with the apple and nuts and put into the pine cone feeder?
- 9 How much marine litter is thought to come from land?
- 10 American Bison are related to antelope. True or False?
- 11 To which family does the Brussels sprout belong?
- 12 How much plastic was recently found in a sperm whale's stomach?
- 13 Which month is mentioned in the A to Z of Winter?
- 14 What are the two end points of the Waterford Greenway?
- 15 What is a Mars day called?

Answers Above: (1) A European bison calf; (2) 6 months; (3) When they get health checks; (4) Wisent; (5) Two; (6) Chives; (7) 'Knicker'; (8) Lard; (9) 80%; (10) True; (11) The Cabbage Family; (12) 5.9 kg; (13) December; (14) Waterford City and Dungarvan; (15) Sol. A to Z of Winter (page 11): 1. Journey; 2. Fur; 3. Reindeer; 4. Arctic winds; 5. Nuts; 6. axe; 7. Thermometer; 8. Zero; 9. Leaves; 10. Gusts; 11. Owl; 12. Shortest Day; 13. Vole; 14. Kitwaker; 15. Evergreen; 16. Ice; 17. Unique; 18. Hibernation; 19. Weather; 20. Year; 21. Polar Bear; 22. December; 23. Queen; 24. Mountains; 25. Cone; 26. Brussels sprouts.

## Think of a Title

Have fun with your friends making up a title for this photo of a juvenile Wood Bison, British Columbia, Canada.



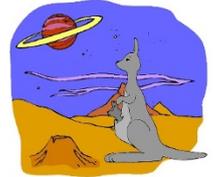
Image courtesy of Alan D. Wilson www.naturespicsonline.com

## Nature Jokes



What did the pine cone say when he grew up?  
Wow, I'm a tree!

What do you get if you cross a kangaroo with a planet?  
A Mars-upial.



What goes "tick, woof, tick, woof"?  
A watch dog.

Where do polar bears keep their money?  
In a snow bank.



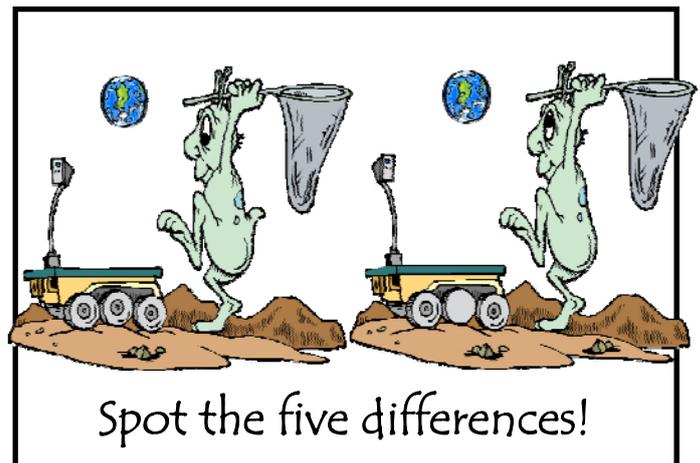
What did the hat say to the scarf?  
You hang around and I'll go ahead.

Where do snowmen get the weather report?  
The Winternet.



What is as big as a bison but weighs nothing?  
Its shadow!

What do you get from an invisible cow?  
Evaporated milk.



Spot the five differences!

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# Learn More



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

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:

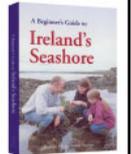
### "On the Water's Edge"

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. 206pp

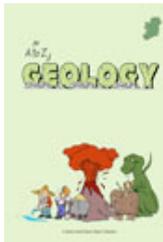
Only €8.00 inc postage



### A Beginner's Guide to Ireland's Wild

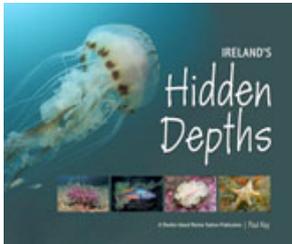
**Flowers** With the help of this pocket-sized guide, beginners of all ages will be introduced to the many common wild flowers found around Ireland. 206pp

Only €8.50 inc postage



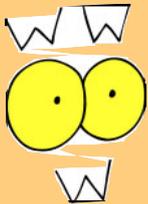
**"An A to Z of Geology"** explores the fascinating world of rocks and geology - a world of volcanoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, diamonds, gold and even dinosaurs! Produced by Sherkin Island Marine Station, in association with the Geological Survey of Ireland.

Only €5.99 plus €2.00 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

To order books, email [sherkinmarine@eircom.net](mailto:sherkinmarine@eircom.net) and we can arrange payment via Paypal. Alternatively, 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. Visit: [www.sherkinmarine.ie](http://www.sherkinmarine.ie) (P&P correct at time of publication)



# 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:

**Sunset Times in Ireland:** <https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/>

**Brussels Sprouts:** <https://www.bordbia.ie/consumer/aboutfood/veg/pages/brusselsprouts.aspx>

**Garden Birds:** <https://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Birdwatching/GardenBirds/tabid/1280/Default.aspx>

**American Bison:** <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/bison/index.htm>

**Waterford Greenway:** <http://www.visitwaterfordgreenway.com/>

**NASA's Insight Mars Lander:** <https://mars.nasa.gov/insight/>  
<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-is-mars-58.html>

**Black John—the Bogus Pirate:** <https://www.facebook.com/BlackJohntheBogusPirate/> <http://cleancoasts.org>  
[http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/WOA\\_RPROC/Chapter\\_55.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RPROC/Chapter_55.pdf)  
<http://seachangeproject.eu/our-ocean-our-health>

**Winter:** <https://www.winterready.ie/en>

**Fota Wildlife Park:** <https://www.fotawildlife.ie/blog/new-male-european-bison-born-at-fota-wildlife-park>

**Sperm Whale:** <http://www.iwdg.ie/conservation/?speciesid=2205>

**Oregon Zoo:** <https://www.livescience.com/63906-zoo-animal-x-rays-photos.html>

**Wildlife Comedy Photography Awards 2018:** <https://www.comedywildlifephotography.com/>

**'Giant' Steer:** <https://www.rte.ie/news/newslens/2018/1128/1013843-knickers-the-giant-cow/>

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 Winter 2018 Wordsearch

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

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

American Bison

Animal X-rays

Black John

Brussels sprouts

Buffalo

Cabbage Family

Giant Steer

Insight Mars

Lander

Marine Litter

Mars

NASA

Pine Cone Feeder

Prawn Omelette

Shortest Day

Sperm Whale

Waterford

Greenway

Wildlife Comedy

Winter



(Over,Down,Direction): American Bison (17,13,N); Animal X-rays (13,11,W); Black John (10,6,W); Brussels sprouts (2,10,E); Buffalo (14,11,N); Cabbage Family (18,1,5); Giant Steer (6,3,E); Insight Mars Lander (3,1,5); Marine Litter (15,1,5); Mars (17,12,S); NASA (15,5,NE); Pine Cone Feeder (16,17,W); Prawn Omelette (1,9,E); Shortest Day (6,2,E); Sperm Whale (1,16,E); Waterford Greenway (2,13,E); Wildlife Comedy (15,15,W); Winter (2,4,5).

# Nature's Noticeboard

## Winter 2018



Sherkin Island Marine Station would like to thank the following for their help with this newsletter, especially Bord Bia, John Brunnock, John Joyce, Michael Ludwig, Eimear Murphy, Matt Murphy, Robbie Murphy, NASA, Jez Wickens and Alan D. Wilson.

Visit the Sherkin Island Marine Station website at [www.sherkinmarine.ie](http://www.sherkinmarine.ie)



We appreciate support from the EPA and the Geological Survey of Ireland toward the newsletter.

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