

Bringing people, wildlife and wellbeing together

Nature Thoughts...

In recent weeks we've had a couple of lovely guest posts from our colleague, Kat about her furlough experience and the ways the extra time has enabled her to deepen her connection with nature and the natural world round her. Kat's taken part in 30 Days Wild with her family this year and has documented the things she's done by continuing her nature journal. She's shared this journal with us and so we've shared some extracts with you to inspire you to try new things too...



Day 3... Ben's story stick: He loved this, but so did I - I've been reading Tristan Gooley's 'The Natural Navigator'. There's a great chapter on trail blazing/way marking (of which modern signposts are just an evolved form). It reminded me of unspooling string in the Minotaur Maze, leaving a trail of bread crumbs etc...



Day 8... Wildlife footprint trap (using flour as I couldn't get sand today - have promised will try if it comes up trumps).



Day 10... Nature Frames

Day 17... Planting the new garden thinking about wildlife and bees.



Day 22... Kayaking in the evening. Beautiful, still, green. A couple of friends, no children, very relaxing. Check out this heron - the boat club said he's often there and there's a coot nesting on the platform so they're leaving the boats there not to disturb the nest.



Day 20... Evening walk



Day 23... Today we made sun pictures

What's in a name?!

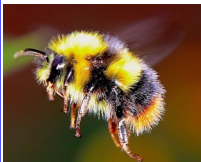
Dumbledore: A word usually associated with the Headmaster of Hogwarts! Dumbledore is actually a centuries old word used to describe a bumblebee!

Dumble is part of a set of rhyming words including bumble and humble, all used to describe the sounds and movements of our largest bee! Nowadays we only ever really hear 'bumble' being used. A 'dore' is an Old English word for any creature that flies with a buzz or a hum.

"Those slopes of fresh turf, embroidered with every minute blossom of the moor—thyme, birdsfoot, eyebright and dwarf purple thistle, buzzed and hummed over by busy, black-tailed, yellow-banded dumbledores"

Charlotte M Yonge, *The Daisy Chain*, published in 1875

So, just as JK Rowling's, Professor Dumbledore bumbles through Hogwarts corridors, humming as he goes, so do the bumblebees bumble through flower beds, humming as they go! But a word of caution, beware the ready sting beneath the bumble and the hum...



(ref: <http://www.worldwidewords.org/weirdwords/ww-dum1.htm>)



Read of the Week!

The Walkers Guide to Outdoor Clues and Signs by Tristan Gooley

"Sundials were much more dependable than the early mechanical clocks and were used by some authorities, like train stations, to set the time as recently as the 1920's. Working out the time of day precisely is possible, but it is a refined art and some dedicate a lifetime's work to it."

"Take our friend the pigeon, for instance. If you walk down a quiet woodland path you'll see first one bird, then another fly off in the same direction. This is known as a 'bird plow'. It is a group warning system. All the pigeons in the area are now aware something is up. The element of surprise is gone, not just for the pigeons but also for every other animal in that area of woodland...If you pause in the woods for long enough for things to return to close to normal, you should quickly spot other walkers without using your eyes. The bird reaction will always tell you when others are approaching and the direction they are approaching from."

WILD-WORDSEARCH!

Ocean Fish

- Arctic Cod
- Dragonfish
- Flounder
- John Dory
- Squirrelfish
- Mackerel
- Blobfish
- Wrasse
- Goby
- Tuna
- Puffer
- Sunfish
- Sturgeon
- Sweetlips

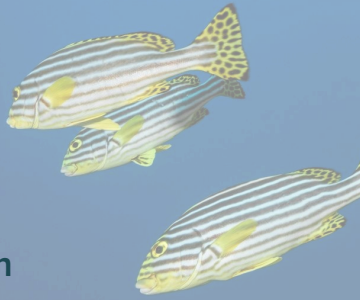


Image: Alexis Rosenfeld

S	Q	R	O	S	H	A	P	B	L	O	C	V	E	R
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U	S	U	N	F	I	S	H	U	F	O	O	S	W	E
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S	O	C	L	D	A	R	C	B	E	D	S	B	L	L
H	D	A	J	O	H	B	L	O	L	P	S	N	D	I
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S	U	N	I	H	S	I	F	B	O	L	B	F	U	S
A	J	O	H	N	D	O	R	Y	S	Q	U	I	E	A

Extra challenge... Find the two other hidden words that hint at next week's puzzle theme!

"If you're always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be."

Maya Angelou

Name it!

Identify the wildlife in the photos...



Issue 13 answers...



Andy Sands, naturepl.com



R.Charter



Erin Green

1. hornet robberfly, 2. red kite, 3. male redstart

Clue: Martin's not the wildlife to ID here!!

Missing Links...

Your task is to find the missing word that follows the first clue and precedes the second. For example, the answer to Rain-String could be 'Bow' giving Rainbow and Bowstring.

Lightning-hole

Raised-room

Rain-cloud

Fox-box

Fish-life

Snow-kind

Answers next week!

You can also follow TEaM on social media for a Daily Dose of Nature...



The Environment and Me



theenvironmentandme



TheEnviroandMe

NATNAV

MEET YOUR LOCAL STAR

Our most obvious indicator of direction in any environment is our local star - the sun. However, given annual changes to the sun's angle in the UK this can become complex so we will keep this simple. Whatever the time of year all we need to do is choose a spot that will be in the sun for most of the day (Ideally a few hours across lunchtime) and place a stick (over a foot in length) upright in the ground. If we do this in the morning and place a marker (I use a stone) at the tip of the shadow cast by the stick we will have a starting point. Return to the stick periodically (perhaps every hour) and place additional markers at the end of the stick-shadows. By the end of the day we will have a series of shadow markers and the one closest to the stick (indicating the shortest shadow) will mark the mid-point between sunrise and sunset. The line between the stick and this shadow marker will be a south-north line with south represented by the stick and north by the shadow marker. We can then draw a second line at 90 degrees to the south-north line to give us east-west.



We could also check this by choosing two shadow markers that are of equal length from the shadow stick and draw a line between the 2 markers. This will also give us an east-west line.

If we then look for a distant landmark along either of these lines and travel in that direction we can maintain a bearing or true line to reach our destination.

Remember, you can always use a simple compass or 'compass app' on your phone to check your findings.

THE COLLECTIVE QUIZ!

Fill in the missing spaces to discover the wildlife collective noun phrases...

Bit of a wildlife mix this week!

Why not make up some of your own collective noun phrases?

Lets try 'midges', Martin's suggestion is:

An annoyance of midges!

Send yours in and we might publish them next week!

A P__ _ling of ducks

A Wh_ _p of Gorillas

A P__ _ty of Jays

A _artl_ _d of Monkeys

A _ind of Salmon

A K_ _t of snakes

A _ _dge of swans

Issue 13 answers...

A shoal of fish

A battery of barracudas

A bed of eels

An army of herring

A shiver of sharks

A hover of trout

A fever of stingrays

How many did you get?

Your nature spots...

"We noticed the faecal matter in the photos ... a couple of weeks ago, and looked up what may have produced it. When we saw it might be a hedgehog we got quite excited, and I made the feeding station, photo also attached, with the help of YouTube. Since then, I've been refilling the food bowl everyday as, I'm assuming a hedgehog, is eating everything that we leave out. We did have a sighting one night, and the hedgehog looked very healthy, which was lovely to see. So, when you asked about using my Bushcraft skills, and receiving the Newsletters, these two things have really helped me to feel confident and enthused enough to investigate and construct!" From Bushcrafter Sam.



Thank you for this Sam, It's so lovely to hear the ways you are all engaging with nature. If you spot hedgehog again and manage to get a photo, we would LOVE to see!

Jackie discovered one of this prickly little fellow's day time nests underneath the strawberry planter at the TEaM allotment this week! From time to time, nocturnal animals are accidentally disturbed during the day. It will have quickly found somewhere else to curl up and snooze away the rest of the day for sure, so what a lovely unexpected surprise and really great to know we have them making their home on our 'patch'!

Feature Species!!

Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)

Hedgehogs, I'm quite sure, are one of the nations favourite wild animals. As they are nocturnal, meaning they sleep through day light hours and come out at night to feed, hedgehogs are infrequently seen. Through the winter months, hedgehogs hibernate under sheds, compost heaps, leaf or stick piles, dense bramble or hedgerow. During the months of hibernation, the hedgehog's heartbeat drops to a barely detectable 20 beats per minute from around 190bpm during the summer months. If you have a garden accessible to hedgehogs, it's great to be able to provide them with clean drinking water in the hot months—a shallow side plate works well. Avoid giving them milk as they are lactose intolerant!



Erin Green



Becky Hucker



Key Hedgehog Facts

Description	6000 sharp defensive spines on back. Face, legs, underbelly and tail covered in coarse grey-brown hair. Length: 20-28m Weight: ~1.2kg
Diet	Beetles, caterpillars, worms, slugs and even eggs from ground nests when they can!
Habitat	Woodland, pasture, hedgerows, parks and gardens.
Breeding	4-5 hoglets are born in spring after a 1 month gestation period. A second litter may be born in Autumn.
Habits	Nocturnal and hibernates throughout the winter. Solitary animal.



**Stay
safe**

