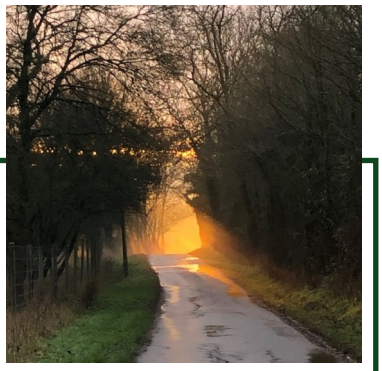
TEaM Up!

Issue 29
19th January 2021

Bringing people, wildlife and wellbeing together



Hello All,

We hope this issue finds you well? Ok, this hasn't quite been the start to the New Year we'd all hoped for, however, there are many indications all around us that better days are coming. Not least as the daylight hours begin to feel longer and the first signs of spring are emerging! Hurray! I for one am certainly looking forward to the return of warm evening walks in the sunshine. That said, I've been loving my winter walks recently. I enjoy the wild and windy as much as the calm and serene; sometimes we just need a good cobweb blow. My favourite time to get out is about half three, just before the sun begins to set. I have a couple of routes I can pick from, one more muddy than the other. I'm quite enjoying the limited options and reduced need for decision making at the moment and the familiarity of 'my' regular routes. I enjoy noticing the difference the weather or the light can make to a landscape from one day to the next too. Since New Year, I've been recording all of my walks on an app called Strava (other gps apps are available!) and so far this year, I've walked 47.22km for a total time of 8 hours, 7 minutes and 27 seconds! I'm challenging myself to see how far I can get by the end of March, without pressure to walk far or fast, just by getting out each day, even if just for ten minutes. This got me to wandering who would like to join me? And so, I propose the following challenge…

How Far? - TEaM Walking Challenge 2021

Join Rosie to see how far and how long we can walk for, as a collective, before the end of March without even leaving our own local areas!

All you need to do is text or email Rosie to let her know you'd like to join the challenge and either daily or weekly (whichever's easiest for you) let her know how far you've walked. If you don't have the means to clock distance but would like to join, why not jot down the length of time you walked for? Rosie will keep a record of the distances and times and update each issue on the latest cumulative total.

Where could we get to? London? Edinburgh? Paris???

Man Lan has taken some beautiful photographs on a recent wintery walk in her local area…

We would love to see and share any photos you take while out and about for walks or in your garden. You can send them to us by text message or email!

An extract for the day from…

THE WOOD:

The Life and Times of Cockshutt Wood

By John Lewis-Stempel

***19 January**: The rush of wind in spruce. A primordial noise: the first conifers appeared in the Permian period, an age before the dinosaurs. When the wind is in the spruce, you hear the world 300 million years ago.*

Conifers flourish in conditions that flowering plants find difficult. Conifers are indicators of bad land; they mark poverty, as sure as ragged clothes, holes in shoes. On good soils, conifers tend to be ousted by angiosperms, the class of trees whose mature seed is surrounded by the ovule. Broadleaved hardwood, in other words. Conifer means 'cone-bearing'. All cones are either male or female; never hermaphrodite.

WILD-WORDSEARCH

H2O

Bog
Estuary
Fjord
Flood
Glacier
Hail
Ice cap
Inlet
Irrigate
Lake
Marsh
Pond
Rain
River

Challenge… Find the two hidden words that hint at next week's theme!

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

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain."

Vivian Greene

Name It!

Can you identify the wildlife in these photos?

Issue 28 answers...

1. Holly

2. Mistletoe

3. Ivy

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.

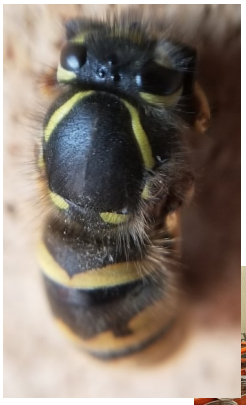
Snow – Cloud
Fog – Statement
Sun – Up
Full – Shine
Starry – Cap
Wind – Out
Rain – Guy
Rainbow's – Less

Answers in the next issue!

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

The Environment and Me | *theenvironmentandme* | TheEnviroandMe

News from The Plot…



During my New Year tidy up of my shed, I found this wasp tucked away under a flyer on the cork notice board. A gentle prod revealed she had firmly stuck her mandibles into the cork to hold on through the winter months. I tidied up and re-covered her with a photo of some Viking knitting. Jackie :-)

In other news, the leeks have been potted and the beans are coming on really well too. All the beds have been dug over and are fully prepared for growing produce in the Spring!

This issue, Martin continues the Snow and Ice Series with a look at how ice is formed out at sea...

MARINE ICE

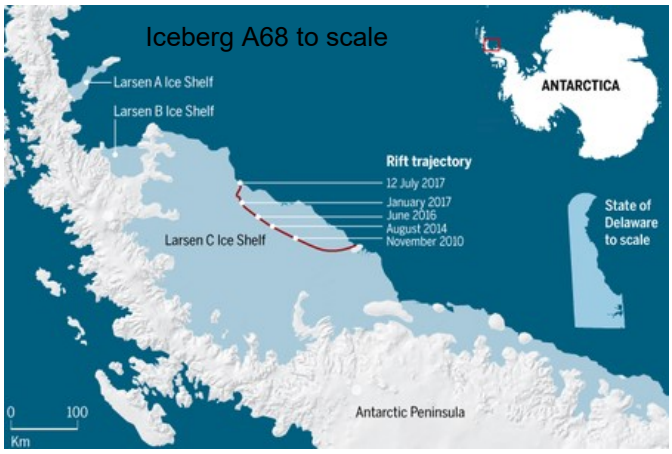
Pancake Ice

Marine ice refers to ice that forms in the sea or enters the sea as ice from another source. Because seawater is salty it will freeze at a temperature lower than the freezing point of fresh water forming large expanses of pack-ice that floats at the surface due to its density being lower than the surrounding seawater (just like ice cubes in a drink). Large areas of pack-ice form in polar regions and move according to ocean currents and winds. This can stretch the ice-pack causing large cracks (known as leads) to form or compress it to form ice-ridges. One form of sea-ice at the point of freezing is called Pancake Ice. This occurs when the sea begins to freeze and so expand forming floating, roughly circular shapes that resemble pancakes with raised edges which are created by random collisions with other pieces of ice.

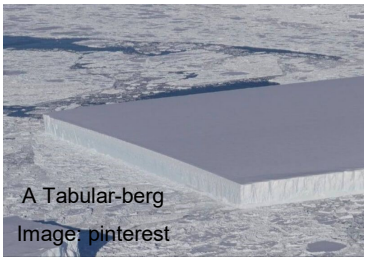

Iceberg under water
Imgae: iSplot

Probably the most familiar form of marine ice is the iceberg. Icebergs are floating pieces of ice that have either entered the sea from the snouts of glaciers or have broken off larger marine ice sheets. Icebergs can range in size from the small to extremely large but all share common features. Firstly (due to lower density) they are afloat in the sea with only 10% of their volume visible above the water.

Secondly, they are moving according to ocean currents and winds which typically move them from the poles towards the equator. Thirdly they are melting and therefore changing. As icebergs melt their centre of gravity can change, causing them to suddenly roll over in the seawater. These bergs are known as '*Growlers*' and can be extremely dangerous to any vessel nearby as they can roll-over without warning. Indeed, icebergs remain a serious hazard to shipping, however with the invention of radar and satellite imaging we are now able to spot and track them and so avoid disasters such as the sinking of the ocean liner Titanic which struck an iceberg in the north-Atlantic in 1912.



In 2018 the world's largest iceberg (designated A68) broke off from the Larson Ice Shelf in Antarctica and began travelling northwards towards the island of South Georgia with which it collided late last year. The iceberg is four times the size of Greater London (58,000 kms), contains twice the amount of water in Canada's Lake Erie, weighs in at over one trillion tonnes and yet is only the thickness of two Statue of Libertys stacked on upon the other. This may sound thick but gives A68 the same proportions as a credit card!


A Tabular-berg
Image: pinterest

Larger icebergs such as A68 are usually known as '*Tabular Bergs*'. This is because they have broken off a flat marine ice sheet and have retained their table-top shape whereas ice bergs that are calved from the snouts of glaciers tend to be more blocky in shape.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful things about icebergs is the wonderous shapes that they can form. Below are some amazing examples including my favourites photographed by the south-American photographic artist, Sebastiao Salgado using black and white film:

Is this a real iceberg? Answer: Yes!
Image: Sebastiao Salgado

Penguins leave a berg and head out to sea
Image: Sebastiao Slagado

Fluting on an iceberg
Image: Sebastiao Salgado

What can I say about this one!

Quartz-like ice shapes
Image: designboom

Next week, Glaciers...

Stay safe