



Issue 128 September 13-20, 2024

♦ A survey of seabirds has revealed a boost in the numbers of popular puffins.

Many seabird populations have been hit by avian flu but a survey by the National Trust on the Farne Islands off the coast of Northumberland has revealed a 15 per cent increase in the number of puffins there compared with five years ago.

There are now estimated to be 50,000 pairs of the brightly-beaked birds on the islands.



Eight days in space? No, it's going to be eight months!

Astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams were expecting to spend eight days working on the International Space Station when they arrived there in June.

They had blasted off aboard a new Boeing Starliner spaceship on its first manned flight – but technical problems meant it wasn't safe to bring them back.

Instead they must wait until next February for a different spacecraft to bring them back – eight months after they first arrived on the space station orbiting the Earth.

The Boeing craft, which had leaked gas and had problems with its thrusters, did return to Earth last week with nobody on board but Butch and Suni (pictured right) had to stay behind.

American space agency Nasa said the two astronauts were in

good spirits and in contact with their families. After the Starliner returned empty, a Nasa spokesman said: "All of us feel happy about the successful landing, but then there's a piece of us that wish it would have been the way we had planned it.

"We had planned to have the mission land with Butch and Suni on board."





Welcome to your new-look weekly news magazine

Welcome to a new school year – and welcome to a brand new look for The News Shed.

We are here every Friday during term time with a digital and printable news magazine specially written for primary school children.

The News Shed has been publishing since April 2021 and now we have relaunched with a bright new look which our journalists and designers have been working on during the summer holidays.

As well as rounding up the news and sport for you each week, our new 'Back of the Shed' slot on pages 4 and 5 brings you all our regular features – and some new ones: there are the word and number of the week, a focus on a different city, state or country each week, a history column and a crossword puzzle specially compiled for children.

We hope you enjoy reading it.



Our very first edition in April 2021



Seren and her dad Glyn at the summit of Mount Toubkal

SUPERKIDS!

- ◆ Seren climbs 4,000m mountain aged six
- ◆ Prisha one of youngest Channel swimmers

A little Welsh girl has climbed the highest mountain in North Africa – at the age of just six.

Seren Price, from Carmarthenshire, was accompanied by dad Glyn on the trek up Mount Toubkal, highest point of the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

At more than 4,000 metres, it is three times higher than Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK.

After training by climbing Pen y Fan in their native Wales, dad and daughter had an eight-hour trek just to reach Mount Toubkal's base camp.

After spending the night there, they made the tough climb with a guide and were greeted at the

summit by rounds of applause from other climbers.

Seren and her dad are raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital where she was treated for a serious condition as a baby. They have raised more than £7,000

so far and now aim to bring in even more by climbing Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in western Europe at 4,800m.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old schoolgirl Prisha Tapre from Watford has become one of the youngest people ever to swim the English Channel.

Starting in the dark and accompanied by supporters in a safety boat, Prisha took just under 12 hours to swim the 21 miles from Dover to the French coast.



◆ King Charles has marked the second anniversary of ascending to the throne after the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

The Queen died aged 96 on September 8, 2022, at the royal family's summer home of Balmoral Castle in Scotland. And it was there that the King marked two years on the throne last weekend, attending a service in memory of his mother at a nearby church.

The King's two-year reign has been dominated by the news that he is being treated for cancer. Although that continues, he has returned to some public duties alongside Queen Camilla. It was announced this week that they would make an official visit to Australia next month.



Special report on the weird and wonderful 'sporting' challenges around the country



CHEESE ROLLING

Each year on the super-steep Cooper's Hill in Gloucestershire, a full round cheese is pushed down the grassy slope and people try to catch it.

It might seem simple but most people fall over, some get hurt and even spectators have been hit by the flying cheese. First one down is the winner and their prize is... the cheese (a Double Gloucester, of course).

GAMES for a LAUGH!

Most people use gravy to pour on their Sunday lunch or eat black pudding with a cooked breakfast.

But they have different ideas in a corner of east Lancashire.

There, they wrestle each other in a huge pool full of gravy and go for a world championship by throwing black puddings at a pile of Yorkshire puddings!

The World Gravy Wrestling Championships take place each year at the Rose 'n' Bowl pub in the village of

GRAVY WRESTLING AND BLACK PUDDING THROWING

Stacksteads near Rawtenstall.

Competitors grapple each other in a sea of gravy but it's not a real fight – points are awarded for fancy dress, entertainment value and how much they make the big crowds laugh.

Firefighters are on hand to hose down the smelly wrestlers afterwards.

Down the road in the town of Ramsbottom, hundreds of people pack the main street every September for the

the World Black Pudding Throwing Championships. Competitors throw the local delicacy, trying to knock over a pile of Yorkshire puddings balanced high on a scaffolding.

Legend has it that the competition has its origins in the 15th century War of the Roses when opposing armies in the nearby village of Stubbins ran out of ammunition so started throwing food at each other!

TOE WRESTLING

You've heard of arm wrestling? Well, this is just the same – except using your big toe!

Organised by the World Toe Wrestling Federation, it takes place each year in the Derbyshire market town of Ashbourne.

Contestants sit on the floor, lock their big toes together and try to wrestle their opponent's toe to touch a board at the side of the mini arena (which is known as a 'toedium' instead of a podium).

Last week's event celebrated the 50th anniversary of the competition.

And both the men's and women's events saw the defending champions win again. Ben Woodroffe, nicknamed Toe-tal Destruction and from the nearby village of Fenny Bentley, won for the third year in a row, while the women's champion was Lisa Shenton for the seventh time.



SHIN KICKING

Shin kicking is the best-known part of the Cotswold Olympick Games, which have taken place in the Gloucestershire town of Chipping Campden for more than 400 years.

And it couldn't be simpler: competitors kick each other on the shins until one of them falls over!

The rules have changed down the years so the competition isn't quite as painful as it used to be. Straw is provided for competitors to stuff inside their trousers to cushion the blows while wearing boots with steel toecaps has thankfully been banned by organisers.

The Cotswold Olympick Games were started in the time of William Shakespeare by local lawyer Robert Dover – nearly 300 years before the 'real' Olympics.



WORD OF THE WEEK

PRACTICE OR PRACTISE?

A doctor's practice, football practice or piano practice are all spelt like that, with a second 'c' in the word.

Those are all nouns – but when we use the word as a verb, the spelling changes to practise with an 's' instead of the second 'c'. So we would practise football at our weekly football practice.

But how can we remember which one to use? It's simple – just think of the words 'advice' and 'advise'. Advice is a noun and spelled with a 'c' while advise is a verb and spelled with an 's'. They are easy to remember because they are pronounced slightly differently and, helpfully, they follow the same rules as practice and practise.

STATE IN FOCUS CALIFORNIA

◆ A state of emergency was declared in the American state of California as a wildfire burned out of control. More than 10,000 people were ordered to evacuate an area in the south of the state as the fire threatened thousands of homes and businesses near the San Bernardino

National Forest. Known as the Line Fire, the blaze covers more than 30 square miles and is one of five wildfires currently burning in California. The cause of the fire is not yet known but attempts to control it were being hampered by strong winds fanning the flames.

CALIFORNIA FACTFILE

- ◆ Sitting on the Pacific west coast of the United States, California is the most populated state in the country with almost 39 million people.
- ◆ Its major cities are Los Angeles and San Francisco but, in common with many American states, it is a smaller city, Sacramento, which is the state capital.
- ◆ While the state's hot, dry climate and strong winds make it prone to wildfires, California also sits on a fault between two of the Earth's tectonic plates and has suffered many major earthquakes.
- ◆ Terminator film actor Arnold Schwarzenegger was once state governor.



DID YOU KNOW? FUN FACTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

◆ It is well known that blue whales are the largest creatures ever to live on Earth – they can grow up to more than 33 metres long and weigh as much as 190 tonnes. But did you know a blue whale's heart is as big as a family car and its tongue alone weighs as much as an elephant! In fact, its tongue is so big a whole football team could stand on it at the same time.

◆ It is illegal to have a single guinea pig as a pet in Switzerland. It's widely known that the popular rodents are social creatures who like to live in pairs or groups (although the two at The News Shed headquarters do grumble at each other) but Switzerland is the only country where it is actually against the law to own a single one.

◆ A quarter of all human bones are in our feet. A human body would normally have 206 bones in total and more than 50 of them are in the feet – 26 in each foot. As well as the bones, each foot has 33 joints and more than 100 muscles, tendons and ligaments. But although there are 26 bones packed into one of our feet, the body's smallest bone, the stirrup, is in the ear.



NUMBER OF THE WEEK

901

Football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo passed yet another milestone in his amazing career during the opening rounds of the Nations League.

Now 39, Ronaldo scored the 900th goal of his senior career in Portugal's 2-1 win over Croatia – and then made it 901 with the winner in the victory over Scotland by the same scoreline.

They were his 131st and 132nd goals in international football – 20 years after the first he scored – to go with the 769 he has scored in club football for Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and Al-Nassr.

HISTORY WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS DAY



SEPTEMBER 15, 1835

When a ship called HMS Beagle arrived at the Galapagos Islands on September 15, 1835, it was a visit that would start a major revolution in the scientific world.

The Beagle's main task on a five-year expedition was to carry out a survey of South America and on board was a young scientist called Charles Darwin. He was only 22 when the Beagle set sail and 26 when it arrived at the Galapagos Islands, situated on the equator 500 miles off the coast of Ecuador in the north-west of South America.

Darwin's main job was to study the continent's geology and he sent home many rocks, shells and fossils to be studied more closely.

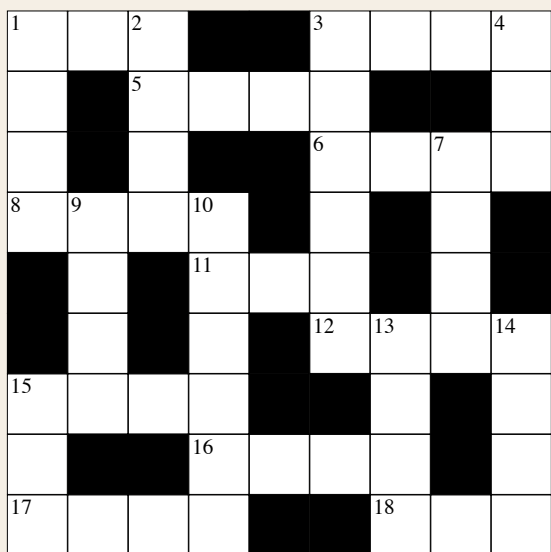
But it was what he noticed about animals on the islands that would eventually change the scientific world. He noted that animals such as birds and tortoises differed in some ways from one island to another.

Further study when he returned home to England led to the theory of evolution which was eventually set out in his book *On the Origin of Species*, published 23 years after the voyage.

The theory was that species developed – or evolved – because the strongest creatures, best suited to their environment, were more likely to survive and pass on their genes to their offspring, meaning their characteristics changed over many generations.

Some scientists at the time doubted Darwin's theory but it eventually became accepted and Darwin is now remembered as one of the most important figures in the history of the natural world.

CROSSWORD TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



ACROSS

- 1 & 3** Huge city on the east coast of the United States (3,4)
- 5** Irish name for Ireland (4)
- 6** Idle (4)
- 8** Finishes (4)
- 11** Martian spaceship perhaps? (1,1,1)
- 12** Material from a sheep (4)
- 15** Big increase; noise of an explosion (4)
- 16** Volcano on the Italian island of Sicily (4)
- 17** Drop of water from the eye (4)
- 18** Once round a track (3)

DOWN

- 1** Longest river in Africa (4)
- 2** Unwanted plant in the garden (4)
- 3** Colour of taxis in 1&3 across (6)
- 4** Locking and unlocking device (3)
- 7** Nought (4)
- 9** Fish that went missing in animated film (4)
- 10** Season now coming to an end (6)
- 13** Egg-shaped; London cricket ground (4)
- 14** Jump (4)
- 15** The only flying mammal (3)

ABOUT US

- ◆ *The News Shed* is a digital news magazine, produced weekly in term-time to inform, entertain and educate pupils and to provide resources for their teachers.
- ◆ It is among a whole host of educational resources at: www.literacyshedplus.com
- ◆ For contact details please see the website.

Your teacher can find the solutions with the comprehension answers



GOLDEN STOREY!

TEAM GB star Sarah Storey has stretched her amazing Paralympic Games record to 30 medals – 19 of them gold.

She won her 13th and 14th cycling gold medals in the Paris velodrome to go with the 16 medals she won in the swimming pool, five of them gold.

Storey, now aged 46, was competing at her ninth Paralympics and hasn't ruled out a 10th appearance in Los Angeles in 2028.

At the other end of the age range, 13-year-old swimmer Iona Winniffrith's silver medal made her Team GB's youngest medallist.

Team GB finished second in the medal table behind China with 124 medals, 49 of them gold.

The team won at least one medal in every sport they competed in – except one. The mixed wheelchair rugby team were pipped by Australia in the bronze medal play-off.

MEDALS MUDDLE

Where did we finish in the Paris Olympics medal table? It depends who you ask!

Most organisations rank the final table by how many gold medals each country wins, putting Team GB seventh overall.

But others rate the countries by the total number of medals won – and it certainly looks better for Team GB!



SPEED KING

Wood worries the Windies!

For more than six decades, the West Indies cricket team has been famous for one thing above all else – super-fast bowling.

From the likes of Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith in the 1960s through the golden age of bowlers such as Michael Holding, Andy Roberts, Malcolm Marshall, Joel Garner, Patrick Patterson, Sylvester Clarke, Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh through to Fidel Edwards in more modern times, they have terrorised batsmen around the world with extreme pace.

But now they have had a taste of their own medicine.

In the Test match at the Trent Bridge ground in Nottingham, speed merchant Mark Wood produced the fastest over ever bowled by an England bowler, sending down six missiles against



THE FASTEST OVER

	MPH	KPH
1st ball.....	93.9	151.1
2nd ball.....	96.1	154.7
3rd ball.....	95.2	153.2
4th ball.....	92.2	148.4
5th ball.....	96.5	155.3
6th ball.....	95.2	153.2
average.....	94.9	152.6

the Windies recorded at well over 90mph, with the fastest of them measured at 96.5mph and the over averaging almost 95mph.

Two overs later, he produced one ball of 97.1mph, the fastest he has ever delivered.

England captain Ben Stokes now believes Wood can go on to reach the magic 100mph mark, achieved only three times in international cricket since speed gun technology has been used.

Pakistan bowler Shoaib Akhtar, known as the Rawalpindi Express, tops the list at 100.2mph while two Australians, Shaun Tait and Brett Lee, have been clocked at 100.1mph.

TOP TEN BY MOST GOLDS

	G	S	B	total
1 USA	40	44	42	126
2 China	40	27	24	91
3 Japan	20	12	13	45
4 Australia	18	19	16	53
5 France	16	26	22	64
6 Netherlands	15	7	12	34
7 GB & NI	14	22	29	65
8 S.Korea	13	9	10	32
9 Italy	12	13	15	40
10 Germany	12	13	8	33

TOP TEN BY MOST MEDALS

	G	S	B	total
1 USA	40	44	42	126
2 China	40	27	24	91
3 GB & NI	14	22	29	65
4 France	16	26	22	64
5 Australia	18	19	16	53
6 Japan	20	12	13	45
7 Italy	12	13	15	40
8 Netherlands	15	7	12	34
9 Germany	12	13	8	33
10 S.Korea	13	9	10	32