

# NEWS FLASH



SEPTEMBER 2019  
ISSUE #36

THIS NEWS FLASH BELONGS TO:



## JAPAN

THE LAND OF  
THE RISING SUN



**FREE INSIDE!**  
**A SHAUN THE SHEEP:**  
**FARMAGEDDON MINI-MAG**  
**JUST FOR YOU!**



NEWS FLASH ⚡ A MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE FOR 7+ YEAR OLDS ⚡ NEWS FLASH 



## PUPILS URGENTLY WANTED

St Aidan's National School in Bawnboy, Co. Cavan needs three more pupils by September 30, or they will have one less teacher next year. And the community are doing all they can to help their school.

Locals have started a Facebook page, 'Support Bawnboy', in an effort to attract families to move there. The page lists all properties for sale or rent in the area.

Stefan and Yvonne Nasri, originally from France and Germany, moved to Bawnboy eleven years ago and have two children, Layla and Sofia.

'If any families want to come here, I'm sure they will feel very welcome, I'm sure they will enjoy living in Bawnboy, the same as we do,' Stefan said. 'Come on, we'd love to have you here, we'd love to have more kids and families in this area.'

I wonder would the Kellys and the Slatterys with their quadruplets like to move to Cavan?

## HURRICANE DORIAN

The Bahamas, in the Caribbean, were pounded by Hurricane Dorian at the beginning of September. It was the strongest hurricane ever to hit the islands, with wind speeds of almost 300 kilometres per hour. It battered the Bahamas for two days, causing the deaths of at least 20 people and leaving thousands more injured.

Dorian dumped 76 centimetres of rain on the islands causing massive floods which swept away buildings, leaving 70,000 people in need of shelter, safe drinking water, food and medicine.

Cyclones occur in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. They are strong storms with, spinning winds that form over the oceans. When a cyclone starts in the Atlantic, it's called a hurricane. In a cyclone, the winds spin in a circle toward the centre. As it moves across the ocean, it collects water into huge spinning clouds. The water is dropped as rain as the cyclone hits land.



### FLASH FACTS

Most hurricanes develop between June and December, with August and September being the busiest months.

HURRICANE SEASON



## Surprise for Tipperary Hurling Captain



Tipperary hurling stars Seamus Callanan and Brendan Maher are both past pupils of St Joseph's College in Borrisoleigh, where their teammate Dan McCormack is now a teacher. So, it was no surprise that Tipp captain Callanan proudly brought the Liam MacCarthy Cup to his old secondary school. Neither was it a surprise that the cup and the players received a tremendous welcome from students and staff at St Joseph's.

In fact, the only surprise of the day was sprung on Seamus. As part of his Leaving Cert woodwork project in 2006, Callanan decided to make a display cabinet. His woodwork teacher, Mr Halpin, kept the cabinet in the school ever since and Seamus got to place the Liam MacCarthy inside it, to massive applause from the present-day students. There were even louder cheers when the cabinet turned out to be a perfect fit for the famous trophy!

### FLASH FACT

Seamus Callanan also took the Liam MacCarthy Cup to his old primary school, Lisronagh NS, where he learned his hurling skills.



# Edchup Used to Break Guinness World Record



It's a well-known fact that Ed Sheeran is a big Heinz Tomato Ketchup fan – he even has a picture of the sauce label tattooed on his arm! Because of this, it wasn't that big a surprise when the company released a special edition bottle of Ed Sheeran-themed ketchup earlier this year.



Named Heinz Tomato 'Edchup', the sauce bottle even features a Sheeran-lookalike tomato on its label. But it doesn't stop there – a supermarket in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has broken a Guinness World Record by using 883 of the Edchup bottles to create a 3.37 metre-tall tower.

The supermarket was awarded the record for the tallest packaged food display in the world after 52 volunteers spent more than 48 hours building the tower. Smaller versions of the tower were also made in two more of the supermarket's branches.



## RETURN OF THE VIKINGS

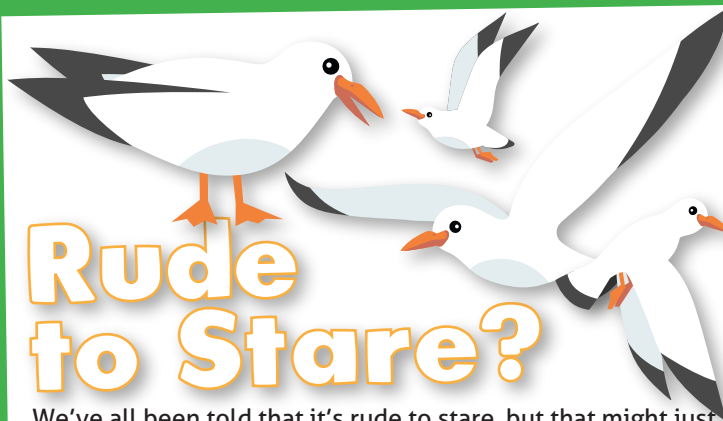
The Vikings are back, but only at pedestrian crossings! In honour of its Viking connections, a city in Denmark is replacing some of its pedestrian crossing signal lights with images of the Scandinavian warriors.

Denmark's second largest city, Aarhus, was founded by the Vikings in the 8th century. To celebrate its history, the council decided to change the signals on the pedestrian crossings to show images of Vikings holding axes and shields.

It's safe to cross the road when the green Viking is walking, but you must stop when the red Viking is standing.

One of the city councillors came up with the idea because he wanted to strengthen the identity of Aarhus and its connection with the Vikings. The councillor, Bunyamin Simsek, said that most people didn't know about the city's special connectin with the Viking period and he wanted to change that.

The Moesgaard Museum of History and Archaeology helped to make the idea become a reality and each of the signal lights cost about €135 to change. They can be found at several locations around the city.



## Rude to Stare?

We've all been told that it's rude to stare, but that might just be about to change! After carrying out tests, researchers from the University of Exeter have worked out that staring at seagulls can stop them stealing food!

Many of British seaside towns have a big problem with seagulls snatching food from people's hands – many of them have to put up warning signs, asking visitors not to feed the gulls. However, it seems that the way to deal with the greedy gulls is just to give them a long, hard stare. It seems most of them will then simply fly away.

The researchers say that gulls are often seen as aggressive and willing to take food from humans, so they were surprised to discover how simple it is to put a stop to this bad bird behaviour.

Although a small number of birds did approach the food during the testing, they took much longer when they were being stared at. So, it seems like it's OK to stare now ... but only at seagulls!!



# Marco Polo

## BORN SEPTEMBER 1254

### Wealthy Family

Marco Polo was born in Venice where his father Niccolo and his uncle Maffeo were wealthy jewel merchants. At this time, traders travelled, mostly overland, to Asia and brought back spices, silk and jewels to Europe. When Marco was young, Niccolo and Maffeo went all the way to China and met the Mongol leader, Kublai Khan.

### Marco's Travels

When he was 17, Marco set out for China with his father and uncle. They sailed across the Mediterranean from Venice to the Holy Land. They then travelled overland, on foot and on horseback, through Armenia, Persia (present-day Iran), Afghanistan, across the Gobi Desert and on to Beijing. This was a very difficult journey and

young Marco wrote that there was 'nothing at all to eat' in the Gobi Desert.

### Xanadu

Marco met Kublai Khan at the magnificent gold and marble Xanadu, which he described as 'the greatest palace that ever was'. The Emperor made Marco one of his special messengers. He travelled around Asia to places like Burma, India and Tibet. Marco quickly learned languages and became interested in the local customs and culture.



### Prison

When war broke out between the Italian states of Venice and Genoa, Marco was placed in command of a Venetian ship. He was captured by the Genoese and thrown in prison. He met another prisoner called Rustichello da Pisa who was a writer. Marco told him all about his travels in Asia and Rustichello wrote down his story. When the war was over a book called *The Travels of Marco Polo* was published.

### The Travels of Marco Polo

At the time, many people didn't believe the stories in Marco's book or that he had even been to China. However, historians today are happy that the reports in the book about paper money, coal fires, canals, taxes, places and many other things are all accurate. The book helped Europeans learn many things about China and how the people of Asia lived at the time.

### FLASH FACT

Marco Polo's mother died around 1260 when he was still a child.



### FLASH FACT

After his release from prison in 1299, Marco became a wealthy merchant, married, and had three children.

### Strange Creatures

Marco saw many animals on his journeys around Asia which were not to be found in Europe. He loved the yak's soft fur and liked the musk deer and the sturdy Chow-Chow dog breed. He described crocodiles as massive 'serpents' that could 'swallow a man at one time'.

Marco said he saw unicorns, but they were not the graceful animals that Europeans thought they should be. He described them as clumsy, ugly and dangerous animals that loved to roll around in the mud – he had obviously seen a herd of rhinoceroses!

### Return to Venice

After 17 years the Polos wished to return to Venice. It took them seven years to reach home and very few people recognised them when they arrived there. They had even forgotten how to speak Italian very well.

### FLASH FACT

Marco Polo died in 1324 and is buried in the church of San Lorenzo in Venice.





# A BOAT SKIPPER

The skipper of a boat is the person who is in charge of it. They are sometimes described as the heart of the **vessel** and take care of everything to do with it. Everything the skipper says should be treated as a command by everyone on board because it could be a matter of life and death.

The skipper is not only in charge of the safety of the boat, he or she is also in charge of the safety and comfort of all those on the boat including both passengers and crew.

## WHERE DOES A BOAT SKIPPER WORK?

A boat skipper can work on a boat anywhere in the world where there is an ocean, sea or inland waterway. If the boat is sailing close to the shore, within easy reach of a familiar port, a skipper's job is much easier.

Once the boat is making longer **passages**, at bigger distances from the shore and away from areas the skipper is familiar with, the job becomes more difficult. This is because he or she may have to sail at night, into unfamiliar ports and with the possibility of bad weather.

When a boat is a very long way offshore, the weather may be bad for long periods of time, equipment may stop working when out of reach of help and the crew may get sick.

## WHAT DOES A BOAT SKIPPER DO?

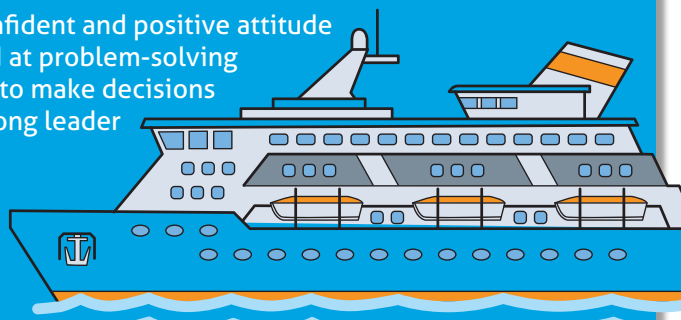
As the person in charge of the boat or vessel, the skipper has lots of responsibilities. These include:

- Planning the passage to the destination – this could be a short day-trip or a 14-night cruise – or a trip around the world
- Navigating the vessel
- Knowing how to use all the equipment on board
- Taking care of the safety of the boat and its crew
- Following all the rules and laws of the sea (maritime laws)



## SKILLS NEEDED TO BE A BOAT SKIPPER

- A confident and positive attitude
- Good at problem-solving
- Able to make decisions
- A strong leader



## HOW TO BECOME A BOAT SKIPPER

To become a boat skipper, you need to be at least 18 years old and pass a Certification Test. To pass the test, you need to know how to navigate the boat and how to **berth** it correctly. It's also important to learn how wind speeds can affect your boat and to understand tides and currents. Skippers also need to learn how to tie and secure knots.

## FLASH FACT

Celestial navigation is using the stars to navigate. Long before we had GPS or satellites, sailors used the stars to navigate when they were out of sight of land.

Being skipper of a boat can be really rewarding and exciting ... not to mention full of adventure!



## WORD BANK

vessel

A ship, large boat, yacht or other watercraft (also: a container like a cup or bowl)

passage

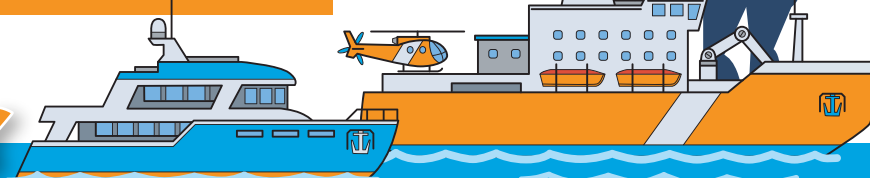
Moving through somewhere, from one place to another

navigate

To plan and direct the course of a ship

berth

To moor a ship in its place



# Nua! Nua! An Crosfhocal

Féach ar na bpictiúirí agus cuir siad leis an clú ceart sa crosfhocal.

## TRASNA



3.



7.



8.

RUGBY  
WORLD CUP™  
JAPAN 日本 2019



9.



1.



5.



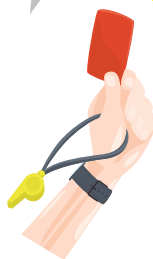
7.



10.



4.



6.



2.

**LIATHRÓID AN tSEAPÁIN TEILIFÍS STAID RÉITEOIR BRAT**  
**CORN AN DOMHAIN IMREOIRÍ AG GRÍÓSÚ CÁRTA DEARG LEANTÓIR**

## CUIR IN ORD

Cuir na 5 abairtí  
in ord!



1. dearg an ag cárta réiteoir. Tá  
2. liom ls rugbaí. maith  
3. Róisin Tá tSeapáin. cónaí ina sa  
4. nua. Cheannaigh teilifís Mam  
5. béal staid go daoine. Bhí lán an le



# The Nature Notebook

SEPTEMBER



Nature never rests. Every month there is something new and special to see outside, if you just take the time to explore. Here we give you monthly tips on what to see and do in the garden and beyond.

In **September** it starts to get cooler and more windy, and you notice the days getting shorter. It's a busy time in the fruit and vegetable gardens, where you can find plenty of food to eat. There is lots of colour in the hedgerows too, where birds are busy eating berries.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Coneflower

Coneflowers add a splash of colour to the September garden. They are shaped like daisies, with pink flowers that droop down in the shape of a cone. Bees absolutely love coneflowers, so they are a great way to encourage wildlife in your garden at home or in school. The Latin name for the coneflower is 'echinacea' (pronounced eck-in-ay-sha). The leaves, flowers and roots have been used for centuries as a medicine, to help fight infection and prevent colds. So, as well as being good for bees, they're good for us humans too!



## JOBS FOR THE GARDEN

If you want lots of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils in spring, you should plant some bulbs now. You can buy bags of bulbs in most supermarkets. They look a bit like small onions but don't mix them up! Eating flower bulbs can be very dangerous. To plant bulbs, you dig a small hole around 15cm deep and put in the bulb with its little roots pointing down. Cover with soil and then wait for the flowers to pop up in spring!



If you have plants inside your house, you should start reducing the amount of water you give them. They don't need so much water now that the hot summer weather is over.

## NATURE'S GIFT

No matter how good or bad the summer weather has been, we can always look forward to picking blackberries in September. They are the perfect quick snack when you're out for a walk in the countryside. Even better, if you bring some home with you, you can make apple and blackberry tarts or a tasty pot of blackberry jam. Blackberry picking is such a pleasure that the famous Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, even wrote a poem about it!



## GIVE MOTHER NATURE A HELPING HAND BY...

### putting up a bat box

You might have seen bird boxes before, but have you ever seen a bat box? Bat boxes are made from wood too and they are also put high up in trees. But unlike bird boxes, bat boxes have no floor in them. In that way, the bats can fly up from under the box and hang from the roof! Bats do a lot of good in the garden by eating insects and pests. But the number of bats is falling in Ireland. By adding a bat box to your garden, you could help protect these fascinating creatures.



## SEPTEMBER'S WEATHER WONDER

Last September, the weather station at Dublin airport recorded 43.8mm of rain. The previous year, it recorded almost double that for the same month – 82.3mm. I wonder how much rain will fall there this September?

## A stylized illustration of a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a green t-shirt and green pants. She is standing with her hand on her chin, looking thoughtful. Above her head, there is a red 'X' and a green checkmark. To her left, there are two empty rectangular boxes, one above the other. The background is white.



# MONSTERS OF THE DEEP #1

## The Portuguese Man-of-War

The Portuguese man-of-war is named after an eighteenth-century armed sailing ship used by the Portuguese navy. It resembles these ships as it is blown along the surface of the ocean using what looks like a large sail. They are generally found in the oceans around Hawaii and Australia.

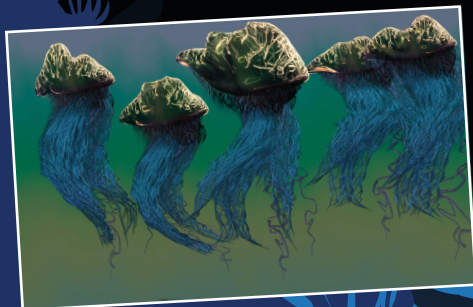
Rather strangely, The Portuguese Man-of-War is not just one creature but a colony of organisms working together. Scientists refer to these types of creatures as a superorganism. However, despite what people often think, it is not a jellyfish. A jellyfish can survive on its own, whereas each of these organisms are dependent on each other.

The main body is a gas-filled float which looks like a bag. It can appear in many different colours ranging from blue to pink. It is filled with a gas called argon.

There is a small crest above the float which acts like a sail and this relies on the wind to move it along. When the weather gets bad The Portuguese Man-of-War simply deflates its sail.

Underneath the float are clusters of polyps. Hanging from these polyps are the stinging tentacles, which are usually 10m in length but can be up to 50 metres long. These tentacles contain hundreds of stinging cells that inject a very strong toxic substance that will instantly paralyse their prey. It does not tend to be very toxic for humans but can lead to excruciating pain. Even dead ones on a beach can still deliver a memorable sting!

Interestingly enough, the Portuguese Man-of-War still has some predators, notably the loggerhead turtle whose skin is too thick for the sting to penetrate. Some small fish are immune to the venom and can thus feed on the tentacles. The blanket octopus often carries the Portuguese Man-of-War's broken tentacles to defend itself from its enemies.



### FLASH FACT

Some small fish, such as the clownfish and yellow jack, live among the Portuguese Man-of-War's tentacles to protect themselves from possible danger.

# The Wacky #1 World of Sport MAN V HORSE

Do you think you could outrun a horse? And if so, do you think you could do it over 35 kilometres?

If you've answered 'yes' to these questions, the 'Man v Horse' race may be the sporting event for you.

Since 1980, the sleepy village of Llanwrtyd Wells in Wales has hosted the dual event where horse rider takes on runner over a gruelling 35km track through hills, fields and roads. But who do you think has won more times? Man, or horse?

Not surprisingly, the very first race was won by a horse called Solomon, who finished a massive 43 minutes ahead of the nearest human, Dic Evans. However, Evans returned the following year to claim first-placed human once again. This time, however, the closing the gap between horse and man was shortened to just 22 minutes!

Over the next few years, the runners proved too slow for their four-legged challengers. This meant the prize money of £1,000 per year (for humans only) began to build up.



Image: © Garreth Everett/Huw Evans Agency

In 2004, Londoner Huw Lobb travelled to Wales for the Man v Horse marathon – his first time to enter. The conditions were extremely hot and, as the runners and horses battled their way through the Welsh countryside, Huw Lobb hit the front. Although the sound of hooves thundered behind him for most of the race, there was no horse in sight as he turned to sprint the last hundred metres.

The crowd who had gathered near the finish line cheered for their fellow-human as he came into sight. Huw didn't disappoint either, crossing the line some two minutes ahead of his nearest four-legged rival! In doing so, he collected the £25,000 prize that had been building up since 1980.

Just three years later, Florian Holzinger beat horse Lucy by a massive 11 minutes, collecting £3,000 for his efforts! Since then, however, the horses have upped their game to take back the crown each year. Now, the overall score stands at 39-2 to the horses.

The wacky world of sport, indeed!

## GAME OF THE MONTH

Cricky, that's a tough one this month. You have the All-Ireland Ladies' Football Final, the Camogie Final and some cracking Premier League matches to look forward to. However, the Rugby World Cup only comes around every 4 years, so our Game of the Month for September has to be Ireland's opening WC game against near neighbours Scotland. This game will be Ireland's toughest of the group so a win would set us on the right path to the quarter-finals. A loss would leave us sweating a little.

SEPTEMBER 22

IRELAND V SCOTLAND

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN  
TIME: 8:45 A.M.

