



IN THE

SPOTLIGHT

YOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The weekly newspaper for children

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK?

What do you think about this week's news?

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Rolling Rubbish Collectors!

Balls that look a bit like fluffy tumbleweed are washing up on beaches in Spain. They're called Neptune balls, and are made from the leaves of a special type of seagrass which grows in the Mediterranean Sea.

When scientists cut them open, they found little bits of plastic inside. The Neptune balls are trapping plastic that would otherwise float around in the ocean. That means less rubbish for fish, turtles and other sea creatures to swallow.

'We never expected seagrass to collect so much plastic,' said Dr Anna Sánchez-Vidal, a scientist studying the sea. 'It's nature



Pictured: Neptune balls washed up on the beach.
Source: Canva.

helping us tidy up!' Seagrass also grows in huge underwater meadows. These meadows give food and shelter to animals, help clean the water, and even make oxygen for us to breathe. That's why they are sometimes called 'the lungs of the ocean'! **Seagrass meadows can be found all around the world, including along the coasts of the UK!**

Strictly Come Spider Dancing!

In Australia, there are tiny spiders that love to dance! They are called peacock spiders and are only the size of a pin head. The males show off bright colours and do special dances to find a mate. They even make drumming sounds with their feet – like a little spider song! There are more than 100 types of peacock spider. Scientists think that the spiders' DNA could be the reason there are so many types of them! DNA is a special gene code found within living things. 'Peacock spiders are very varied, and that makes them exciting to study,'

said researcher Jonah Walker. By studying them, scientists hope to learn why plants and animals everywhere are so different.

Do you think a Peacock Spider's drumming song would be loud or quiet if we could hear it?



Pictured: A male peacock spider!
Source: Canva.

What makes a building special?



My grandma's house is special because it always smells nice.

Sanako

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Sunflower Walks

Two brothers, Lloyd and Mat Smith, have raised more than £3,000 for Thorpe Hall Hospice in Peterborough. They invited people to visit their farm in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, and walk through huge fields of sunflowers. Over 1,000 visitors came during the three-week event. The brothers grow the sunflowers as part of their bird seed business, but they also wanted to raise money in memory of Lloyd's



Pictured: The sunflowers farm.
Source: Wendy Ansell on Facebook.



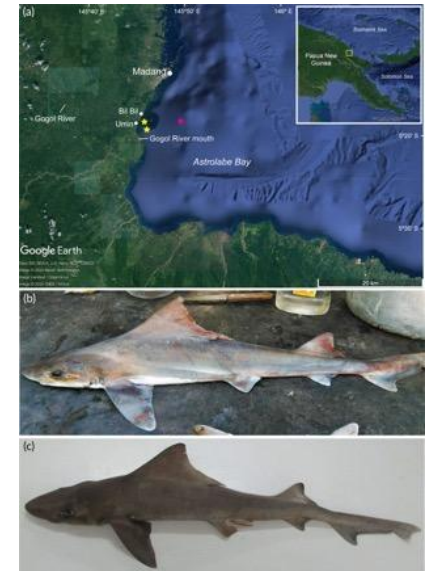
Pictured: A visitor at the sunflower farm in Ramsey, Cambridgeshire. **Source:** Wendy Ansell on Facebook.

father-in-law, who was cared for at the hospice. Lloyd said, 'We are really happy. The activity is gaining popularity each year and we had over 1,000 people this year. It's all about giving something back.' This was the third year the farm has held the walks, and the brothers hope to continue every summer. The hospice said they were very grateful for the support, and the brothers were proud of the blooming sunflowers that helped make it possible.

Would you like to walk through a field of sunflowers? What other fun ideas could raise money for good causes?

Shark Surprise!

The sailback houndshark has been spotted again for the first time in 50 years! It lives in the waters of Papua New Guinea, possibly in a small area called Astrolabe Bay. Fishermen caught five of the sharks while scientists were researching the area for the country's National Plan of Action on Sharks and Rays. Two years later, another shark was caught, which became the first male sailback houndshark ever seen. The shark has a large head, a small mouth, and a long fin that looks like a sail. Scientists say it is very rare and unique. The meat is not popular, which may have helped it survive. Scientists are studying it to learn more about how it lives, what it eats, and how many there are. Papua New Guinea has many sharks that live nowhere else in the world. The sailback houndshark is part of a special group called houndsharks. Researchers hope it will become a



Pictured: The sailback houndshark.
Source: 'Rediscovery of one of the world's rarest sharks, the sailback houndshark, in Papua New Guinea', Jack Sagumai.

symbol of marine life in the area. They are starting to monitor and protect it to make sure it stays safe.

Why do you think it is important to protect rare animals like the sailback houndshark?

What makes a building special?



A building can be special if it makes people feel safe or happy.
Hoshi

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