

Picturesque Potholes

Andy Conroy, a window cleaner from Brightlingsea in Essex, has come up with an interesting and eye-catching way to bring his town's pothole problems to the local authority's attention. He has started to use children's toys and other props that he sources from local charity shops to take amusing photos of potholes he notices around the small coastal town. The fun pictures are posted on The Hole Picture Facebook page, which describes itself as 'Light hearted reporting on Brightlingsea's Pot Holes and Road Repairs'. Andy says that he hopes his photos will catch the attention of Essex Highways managers and this will lead to the potholes being filled in and the quality of the roads



Pictured: 'Pauper's Pothole' Source: Brightlingsea - The Hole Picture Facebook page.



Pictured: 'The Loch Ness Monster on his holidays to the Essex coast' Source: Brightlingsea - The Hole Picture Facebook page.

improved. Discussing how the project started, Andy said, 'Roland Worrall, a trustee at the community centre then posted a photo on Facebook of plastic ducks in a pothole with a caption saying it was lovely to see a young family enjoying the new water feature, and that got the creative juices flowing. We set up a Facebook page and people started liking it. It probably won't get the highways bosses to do anything sooner, but it's been noticed and our county councillor has been in touch. We've got plenty of potholes in Brightlingsea and we're just having a good laugh about it.'

Do you think making people laugh is a good way to catch their attention?

Ancient stone scoreboard discovered

Archaeologists in Mexico have announced that they have discovered, what they believe to be, an ancient scoreboard for a ball game played by the Maya hundreds of years ago. The 40kg intricately carved stone scoreboard for ancient ball game – pelota, was discovered at the Chichén Itzá site in Yucatán State, Mexico. Chichén Itzá's Twitter page says it means 'at the mouth of the Well of Itzá', is the most visited archaeological site in Mexico,

a magnificent example of the advanced civilization of the Mayan people and the ceremonial centre of the Yucatán. The stone unearthed at the site, which is one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, shows two pelota players with a ball, one wearing a feather headdress and their opponent, who has snakes slithering around their head, wearing typical protective gear for the game. On the stone disc, which is thought to be at least 1,200 years old, the sportspeople are encircled by hieroglyphic writing. 'It is rare to find hieroglyphic writing at this Maya site, and even rarer to find a complete text. This hasn't happened in 11 years', explained archaeologist Francisco Pérez Ruiz, who co-coordinated the dig.



Pictured: Chichen Itza. Source: @ChichenItzaMx Twitter page.

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Rare oysters return



Pictured: A scientist diving in Loch Ryan.
Source: Centre for Marine Biodiversity and Biotechnology, Heriot-Watt University Twitter page.

Four million rare oysters are being reintroduced to a protected area of the Dornoch Firth in the Scottish Highlands. Researchers say the Dornoch Environmental Enhancement Project (DEEP) will enhance marine biodiversity and improve water quality. European native oysters, also known as the European flat oyster, almost became extinct in the UK with the population reducing to only 5% of what it was in the mid-19th century, likely due to overfishing. The small (5–11cm) molluscs can have such a big impact on their local environment and other wildlife species, that they are referred to as 'ecosystems engineers'. They can improve water quality as one oyster can filter around 200 litres of seawater daily,

removing excess nutrients, phytoplankton and organic matter. The oysters also create reef systems by collecting together in large numbers. This provides a habitat for a range of creatures, including sponges, spiny seahorse and critically endangered European eels. These reefs also create a safe nursery ground for some fish species, including seabass. Professor Bill Sanderson, from Heriot-Watt University, who is involved in the project along with the Marine Conservation Society and Glenmorangie Distillery (who provided the funding), said, 'DEEP has allowed us to demonstrate the many benefits of restoration of long-lost reefs, and carbon storage is yet another exciting outcome of the research for the project.'

Last week's topic:

How do communities support each other in difficult times?

Communities all share the same interest or ideas. Communities help each other in times of need and give each other strength.

Noah



They volunteer to help each other out by doing whatever they can to help. They don't expect anything in return. They do it because they are kind.

Gala

By pulling together and making a plan.

John

Asking each other when they need help, often people find things hard at different times.

Ellie

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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