

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

IRELAND

STAR STAYS ON

Matt Damon, the American film star, is spending lockdown in Ireland! The actor flew there with his family in March to make a movie. When filming was stopped due to the coronavirus they decided to stay on in the seaside village of Dalkey. Last week, Matt surprised everyone by doing an interview on the local radio station. He said he was having a “fairytale lockdown” in “one of the most beautiful places we have ever been”.



DigitScotland/Twitter

ABERDEENSHIRE

HUGE HILL FORT

New research has discovered that the Tap O'Noth hill in Scotland is one of Britain's largest ancient settlements. The size of the site has shocked experts. It's thought the hill fort was home to around 4,000 people living in around 800 huts. It was built by the Picts – a Scottish tribe who fought off the Romans – and dates back to about 300 AD.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

BULL'S BUM CAUSES BLACKOUT

A bull in Scotland managed to cut off the power to 700 homes because of an itchy bottom! Ron scratched his itch on an electricity pole in his field, but unfortunately he bashed it so hard that he knocked down a bit of kit called a transformer box off the top. Well, he does weigh over a ton. Amazingly, he avoided being hit by the box or zapped by 11,000 volts from the tumbling wires. But he did cut off the electricity to the homes in three villages!



ron_aka_sparky Instagram

Questions on: 'News from the British Isles'

1) Match the name to the correct option.

Dalkey

A bull

Tap O'Noth

A seaside village

Matt Damon

A hill fort

Ron

A film star

Look at the story 'Star stays on'.

2) How do we know that a famous film star is staying in Dalkey now?

3) How do you know that Matt Damon is enjoying being stuck in Dalkey?

Look at the story 'Huge hill fort'.

4) Who were the Picts?

5) When were 4,000 people living on this hill?

- About 300 years ago
- 300 AD
- 3,000 years ago

Look at the story 'Bull's bum causes blackout'.

6) How did Ron the bull affect 700 homes in Scotland?

- Their electricity was cut off
- Their water was cut off
- Their phone signal was cut off

7) What was the **very first** thing that caused this dramatic result?

- A crash
- An itch
- A scratch
- A broken power line

8) The title of a newspaper article is called the **headline**. Headlines try to grab your attention and make you want to read the story. Here are some of the methods that writers use to write catchy headlines:

- Rhyme
- Alliteration
- Quotes
- Humour
- Shock

Which can you spot in the headline for this story?

WORLD NEWS

SPAIN



I WILL SURVIVE!

At the age of 113, Maria Branyas is the the oldest person known to have recovered from the coronavirus. Born in Mexico in 1907, Maria moved to Spain during World War One. She has also lived through the terrible flu pandemic of 1918-19 (which killed millions around the world); a civil war; World War Two; and now the coronavirus! In an interview with a Spanish newspaper she said: “I have done nothing but live.”



Maria Branyas



Matt Davey

ANTARCTICA



SNOW GOES GREEN

In the slightly warmer parts of Antarctica, algae can bloom in the snow, turning it bright green. Researchers from the University of Cambridge have spent two summers creating a map of all the places that this algae appears. They have found that as the world gets warmer, the green snow is spreading. One day the coast of the whole continent could turn green.

GLOSSARY

pandemic – An outbreak of a disease all over the world

civil war – A war fought by different groups of people in the same country

CCTV – Video taken in public places to prevent crimes and catch criminals. It is short for ‘closed-circuit television’

algae – Very simple, small plants that don’t have leaves or roots, found near water

AUSTRALIA



NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

A man from Sydney is due in court after breaking into the Australian Museum in the middle of the night. The man apparently spent 40 minutes in the museum taking selfies! He was seen on CCTV taking pictures with his head in the mouth of a *T-rex* skull. He also stole a cowboy hat. It’s not known if the man was inspired by the film *Night at the Museum* but the next day the police put out this warning: “It’s not going to be a movie producer knocking on your door. It’s going to be NSW police knocking on your door.” The man turned himself in that afternoon.

The T-rex skull in *Night at the Museum*

Getty

Questions on: 'World News'

1) Match the story to the correct category.

Category

Headline

Crime

Snow goes green

Science and Nature

Night at the museum

Coronavirus News

I will survive!

Look at the news from Spain.

2) How many wars and how many pandemics has Maria Branyas survived?

Wars:

Pandemics:

Look at the news from Antarctica.

3) What turns the ice green in parts of Antarctica?

Pollution Algae Penguin wee

4) Why is the ice getting greener?

5) What have the researchers **made** to record their findings?

Look at the news from Australia.

6) What **two** things do you know this man did in the museum?

1.

2.

7) What is the name of the police force in this part of Australia?

Northern Territory New South Wales

Western Australia

Consider all the stories.

8) Who would you most like to interview?

- Maria Branyas
- The scientist in charge of the research from Antarctica
- The man from Australia who broke into the museum

Can you think of three questions you would like to ask this person?

ANIMAL NEWS

NESTING SECRETS

A NEW study has shown that some sea turtles try to lead predators away from their nests by making pretend nests and trails.

Hawksbill and leatherback turtles lay their eggs in the sand on beaches. Experts have discovered that the clever turtles go to great effort to throw predators off the scent to protect their eggs!

In the seven-year study, the female turtles were watched very closely during the nesting process. The experts noticed that the mothers moved around on the beach for quite a while after they laid their eggs.

It was known that the mothers flick sand around to hide the nest, but now the experts think they are creating extra trails in the sand. Some even make decoy (pretend) nests. The aim seems to be to confuse predators to make it less likely their eggs will be discovered.

The turtles spend a long time doing this, even though they are exhausted and in danger of attack themselves. The professor in charge of the research said: “What they do must be extremely important to their offspring [young], which they will leave behind as eggs in the sand and never see.”



DID YOU KNOW?

- Sea turtles are reptiles.
- There are seven species (kinds) of sea turtle.
- After years of swimming in the ocean, turtles return to the beach where they were born to lay their own eggs. No-one knows exactly how they do this!
- Turtles have lived in our seas for more than 100 million years, but most are now endangered (at risk of extinction).



A leatherback turtle making her nest

Questions on: 'Nesting secrets'

1) Which **two** kinds of turtle were studied by the experts?

- Loggerhead
- Hawksbill
- Green
- Leatherback

2) How long was the study?

3) What did we **already** know the turtles do to sand on the beach after laying their eggs?

4) What have the experts now discovered the turtles do to trick predators?

5) Can you explain why they do this?

6) What is a decoy?

- A type of tropical turtle
- Something soft and vulnerable
- Something fake, made to trick

7) True or false?

	True	False
There are ten species of sea turtle.		
Sea turtles are mammals.		
Turtles usually lay their eggs on the beach where they were born.		
Turtles use the sun and stars to find the beach where they were born.		

8) The first paragraph of a newspaper report often gives a summary of the story. Does this one?

Why do you think there is often a summary in the first paragraph?

SPORT NEWS

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONS



Celtic players
celebrate a goal
earlier this season

CELTIC have been crowned champions of Scotland after the Scottish Premiership football season was cancelled.

The Scottish Premier League was suspended on 13th March due to the coronavirus. The 12 clubs in the Scottish top division agreed in a meeting last week that it would be impossible to play the remaining matches of the season.

Instead, they agreed a way to work out how each club has performed and Celtic were announced the champions. The Bhoys, as they are known, have now won the title for an incredible ninth season in a row. Boss Neil Lennon said: “The title is ours and we deserve it.”

South of the border, the English Premier League is still hoping to start playing matches again at some point in June. Clubs have just agreed to return to training, with small groups of players. The Government is very keen for matches to restart – but without fans in the stadium to watch the games.

Liverpool are desperate to be crowned champions. They have a 25-point lead over last year’s winners, Manchester City. It is 30 years since they last won the title.



Liverpool FC players

Questions on: 'Scottish champions'

1) The Scottish Premier League held a meeting last week. What was decided at the meeting?

- 1.
- 2.

2) What is Celtic's nickname?

3) What information tells you that Celtic are a very successful club?

4) How do you think Celtic feel about becoming champions in this way, at a meeting?

5) It looks as though the English Premier League is going to do things differently to the Scottish competition. Can you explain how?

6) Who is currently in first and second place in the English Premier League?

- 1.
- 2.

7) Why do you think Liverpool might be very keen to start the competition again?

8) Have you missed watching or playing sport because of the coronavirus? What have you missed the most?