ANIMAL NEWS

Britain's loneliest sheep is rescued and sheared

A sheep described as the loneliest in Britain has arrived in her new home.

The sheep, who has been named Fiona, is said to be settling in well at Dalscone Farm in Dumfries, after being rescued from a beach last Saturday. Fiona had been stuck on the beach at the bottom of cliffs in the Scottish Highlands for at least two years.

Animal rescue teams had been unable to reach the very woolly ewe easily or safely, but eventually a team of five farmers used a mechanical device called a winch to rescue her. She was then transferred to a farm, where she was sheared to make her more comfortable. However, when plans were announced to move her to Dalscone Farm, which is a farm park, animal rights activists protested over concerns that Fiona would become a "spectacle" there. The owners of Dalscone Farm said that the farm is closed to the public for five months over the winter, so Fiona will have plenty of time to settle in and get used to humans and other sheep again.

The Sheep Game

Fiona after her haircut

Police pick up a peacock

Lakewood Police Department

A PEACOCK has been causing a flap in Colorado, USA, after it was spotted strutting around a neighbourhood and even up on the roofs of houses!

The Lakewood Police Department was called to Copper Oaks neighbourhood after the peacock was reported to be on the loose.

Police managed to rescue the peacock safely using a net, and took it to a local animal shelter.

They're now trying to find the feathered runaway's owner. "Can you help to identify this colourful suspect?" they posted on social media.

Questions on: Animal News

Look at both stories.

1) Circle the correct word in each sentence.

- The **sheep / peacock** was rescued using a winch.
- The **sheep / peacock** was rescued using a net.
- The **sheep / peacock** was rescued by police.
- The **sheep / peacock** was rescued by five farmers.
- The **sheep / peacock** was taken to a farm.
- The **sheep / peacock** was taken to an animal shelter.

Look at the story 'Britain's loneliest sheep is rescued and sheared'.

2a) Why was Fiona the sheep very woolly when she was rescued?
2b) Looking at the photo, how do you think Fiona felt after she was sheared?

3) Put these steps in the correct order.

- ☐ Fiona was transferred to Dalscone Farm.
- ☐ Fiona was stuck for two years.
- ☐ Fiona was sheared.
- ☐ Fiona was rescued from the beach.

4a) Why did animal rights activists protest about plans to move Fiona to Dalscone Farm?
4b) How did the owners of Dalscone Farm reassure the protesters?

Look at the story 'Police pick up peacock'.

5a) Find the alliteration (when words start with the same sound) in the headline.
5b) Why has the journalist used alliteration?

6a) Think of an alternative for the phrases in bold below.

A peacock has been **causing a flap**, after it was spotted **strutting around** a neighbourhood.

6b) Why has the journalist chosen to use these phrases?

7) Who do you think might own the peacock, and how could it have ended up in the Copper Oaks neighbourhood? Be as creative as you like as you tell your peacock story.

Look at both stories.

8) How do you imagine the sheep and the peacock felt when they were rescued? Would they feel the same or differently? Describe how each animal might have felt, and why.

CHARITY NEWS

Lioness raises £20,000 for children's charity

The Children's Hospital Charity

England and Manchester City star Esme Morgan has raised more than £20,000 for The Becton Centre for Children and Young People, a children's mental health facility in Sheffield.

Morgan visited the centre, which is in her hometown, to see how the money would be used. As a child, Esme spent time in hospital after breaking her foot and collarbone, so she knows how important children's hospitals can be. She said: "I remember how kind and caring the staff were." To help raise the money, Esme donated signed football shirts from the England team as prizes for fundraising events. After visiting the centre, Esme said: "I really enjoyed my visit, in particular getting to meet some of the amazing young people there. I couldn't believe I was given a handmade bracelet; it was so kind."

CANADA

Millionaire builds homes for the homeless

What would you do if you had millions of pounds to play with after selling your successful company?

Well, Marcel Lebrun decided to build a community of 99 tiny homes for the homeless. He built the first one in his back garden two years ago, and there are now more than 70 on the patch of land that he bought, with plans to stop when there are 99. There's a community garden for everyone to use, too, and a building where the residents can learn new skills. Lebrun has also paid for support workers and recovery programmes for people who are having problems with addiction to alcohol or drugs. One man said that Lebrun has done more to solve the homelessness problem than the entire Canadian government.

12 Neighbours/Facebook

Some of the houses that Lebrun has built

Questions on: Charity News

Look at both stories.

1) Who will be helped by two types of charity work in the news this week?

Look at the story 'Lioness raises 20k for children's charity'.

2) Why might Esme Morgan have chosen to raise money for The Becton Centre for Children and Young People in Sheffield?

Find two reasons.

3) What did Esme do to help raise £20,000?

4) How did the young people at the centre thank Esme?

Look at the story 'Canada: Millionaire builds homes for the homeless'.

5) How did Marcel Lebrun raise the money to build the community of tiny homes?

6) How many tiny homes are left to build?

- [ ] more than 99
- [ ] more than 20
- [ ] more than 200

7) Which of these has Marcel Lebrun **not** been involved in creating?

- [ ] a community garden
- [ ] a building where people learn new skills
- [ ] programmes for people who have addiction problems
- [ ] the Canadian government's plan for homelessness

Look at both stories.

8a. Do you think it's important for rich people to do charitable things? Explain your reasons.
8b. If you had money to donate to charity, which cause would you choose, and why?

CLIMATE NEWS

Action to fix climate crisis is "slowing"

GLOBAL efforts to tackle climate change are slowing down rather than speeding up, the United Nations (UN) says.
A new report by the UN Environment Programme says that climate change grew more disruptive and deadly in 2023, with more storms, floods, heatwaves and wildfires.
However, the gap between the funding needed to tackle climate change and the amount of funding being provided has never been so big. The amount needed is between £175 billion and £315 billion each year, but only 5%-10% of that amount is being provided. The UN says the amount of money needed to help the world's poorest countries with the crisis will continue to grow, but that in 2021, international funding actually fell by 15%.
The UN Secretary General, António Guterres, said that companies that produce lots of pollution should pay more in taxes to help us all in the fight against climate change, explaining: "The world must take action to close the funding gap and deliver climate justice."
Here in the UK, the Government is looking at smart ways to produce eco-friendly energy. The Government has announced £36 million to fund a project that aims to take waste heat from data centres (buildings filled with large computer systems that get hot) and use it to warm 10,000 new homes. Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho said this new 'heat network' was "an example of why the UK is a world leader in cutting carbon emissions."

Eco-Schools has launched Cut Your Carbon, a campaign to help kids cut their carbon footprint in November, with nine easy challenges to try at home! **Get involved at eco-schools.org.uk/cut-your-carbon.**

Getty

Activists arrested for damaging National Gallery painting

Two activists from the environmental protest group Just Stop Oil were arrested after damaging a historic painting in London's National Gallery.
Just Stop Oil said the activists were 22-year-old Hanan and 20-year-old Harrison. The activists used safety hammers to smash the glass protecting the *Rokeby Venus*, a 17th century painting by Spanish painter Diego Velázquez.
A statement from the National Gallery said the painting had suffered 'minimal damage'. In 1914, the same painting was famously slashed by the suffragette Mary Richardson.
The suffragettes were fighting for women's right to vote, and Mary slashed the painting in protest over the arrest of another suffragette, Emmeline Pankhurst.
Just Stop Oil is protesting against new oil and gas projects, as burning fossil fuels is a major cause of climate change. Following the National Gallery protest, Just Stop Oil said: "Women did not get the vote by voting, it is time for deeds not words. It is time to Just Stop Oil."

Questions on: Climate News

Look at both stories.

1) Match up the names to the correct description.

António Guterres	A painting from the 17th century
Claire Coutinho	Secretary-General of the United Nations
Diego Velázquez	A Spanish painter
Mary Richardson and Emmeline Pankhurst	Just Stop Oil activists
Hanan and Harrison	Suffragettes who fought for women's rights
Rokeby Venus	The UK's Energy Security Secretary

Look at the story 'Action to fix climate crisis is 'slowing'.

2) In what ways has climate change become more 'more disruptive and deadly' in 2023?

3) Which of these sentences is false?

- [ ] The amount needed to tackle climate change is between £175 billion and £315 billion each year.
- [ ] Only 1% of the amount needed to tackle climate change is being provided.
- [ ] In 2021, the amount of money needed to tackle climate change fell by 15%.

4) How does António Guterres suggest more money could be raised to tackle climate change?

5) Which sentence sums up how the 'heat network' funded by the UK Government will work?

- [ ] Waste heat from homes will be used to power data centres.
- [ ] Waste heat from data centres will be used to heat homes.
- [ ] Waste heat from data centres will be used to power computers.

Look at the story 'Activists arrested for damaging National Gallery painting'.

6) Why did the Just Stop Oil activists choose to damage the Rokeby Venus?

7a. What is Just Stop Oil's aim?
7b. What was the aim of the suffragettes?

Look at both stories.

8. Do you think Just Stop Oil activists are justified in causing damage, such as the damage to the Rokeby Venus painting? Has your opinion changed after reading that action to tackle climate change is slowing down? Explain your opinions.

CRAZY BUT TRUE

GIGANTIC NOODLE POT SETS RECORD

The mega-sized noodle pot!

A FOOD firm in China has set a new world record by making the biggest ever pot of instant noodles.

The mega-sized feast weighed a whopping 51kg. This was confirmed by Guinness World Records to be the largest instant rice noodle pot ever made.

The dish, called luosifen, is famous for its very strong, stinky smell. It was served up in a container standing at 1.32 metres, which is taller than the average eight-year-old!

The noodles were boiled in a special soup made from river snails, pork bones, vinegar, chilli oil, peanuts, tofu skin and bean curd. The dish also contained bamboo shoots for added flavour.

The record-breaking meal was then enjoyed by workers in the company's canteen.

New Zealand locals fed up with loud music

The harbour in not-so-sleepy Porirua

LOCALS in a small city in New Zealand are sick of people blasting music at full volume from their cars all through the night.

For months, people have been holding 'siren battles' in Porirua. They fix their cars up with lots of loudspeakers and compete to see who can play the loudest music, sometimes as late (or as early) as 3am. Music by the famous singer Céline Dion is a popular choice to blare out.

The siren battles used to take place away from people's homes and be finished by 10pm, but recently they've been taking place in the city centre and going on for longer.

Hundreds of locals have signed a petition calling on the authorities to do something about the noise.

The mayor of Porirua, Anita Baker, said: "People are just not getting any sleep because it's all hours. They play half a song and then tweak it to make a screeching noise, so it's not like you're even listening to good music." Mayor Baker added: "The noise vibrates all over the city."

Questions on: Crazy But True

Look at the story 'Gigantic noodle pot sets record'.

1) What is 'luosifen'?

- [ ] Any record-breaking noodle dish.
- [ ] A noodle dish with a strong, stinky smell.
- [ ] A dish that contains really long noodles.

2a) The luosifen was served in a container that was 1.32 metres tall. Name two things that are shorter than this and two things that are taller than this.
2b) Are you taller or shorter than the container of luosifen?

3) Which two things are missing from this list of ingredients in the luosifen soup?

Shopping list

- [ ] river snails
- [ ] pork bones
- [ ] chilli oil
- [ ] peanuts
- [ ] tofu skin
- [ ] bean curd

4a) Did this gigantic pot of noodles go to waste? Why / why not?
4b) Would you have joined in to eat these noodles? Why / why not?

Look at the story 'New Zealand locals fed up with loud music'.

5a. What do people do in a 'siren battle'?

- [ ] Fix loudspeakers onto their cars and compete to see who can play the loudest music .
- [ ] Fix loudspeakers onto their cars and sing Céline Dion music into microphones.
- [ ] Fix loudspeakers onto their cars and see how many people they can keep awake all night.

5b. What has changed about where and when siren battles take place?

6) Why could 3am be seen as either late or early?

7) Which of these is **not** something Anita Baker complains about?

- [ ] People aren't getting any sleep.
- [ ] The music is played at all hours.
- [ ] They only play half a song, then a screeching noise.
- [ ] They often play music by Céline Dion.
- [ ] It's not even good music.
- [ ] The noise vibrates all over the city.

8a. If you were taking part in a siren battle, which music would you choose to play, and why?
8b. How do you think people in your local area would feel about a siren battle taking place?