

Helping Hedgehogs with AI

Can you name any nocturnal animals? Owls, bats and foxes are all awake when it is dark, and so are hedgehogs! These small, spiky animals are a favourite in the UK, but there are far fewer hedgehogs than there used to be. Scientists at the University of Cambridge, in England, are using satellites and artificial intelligence (AI) to help protect them. The new AI tool, called Tesseract, studies satellite pictures taken from space to find places where hedgehogs live, such as hedgerows and gardens. Sometimes clouds cover parts of the pictures, but Tesseract can use AI to fill in the missing parts and create a more complete map. Researchers hope this will



Pictured: A hedgehog at nighttime.
Source: Canva.

help them understand where hedgehogs can safely find food and shelter. Some hedgehogs are even wearing tiny GPS trackers, which scientists jokingly call 'digi-hogs'! Professor Silviu Petrovan said, researchers hope AI can help hedgehogs 'safely move around the countryside'. In some parts of the UK, hedgehog numbers have fallen by as much as 75% since 2000. **Do you know any other forms of technology that can help animals?**

Hop On and Go!

Ding ding! Mind the doors and get ready for a summer saving! This summer, travelling around London on its famous red buses and trams, from parks or museums to well-known landmarks, could be cheaper than ever! Between 25th July and 31st August, people using London's buses and trams on Saturdays and Sundays will be able to travel all day for £1.75 (the price of just one fare). The Hopper fare first started in 2016. It lets people change buses and trams within one hour without buying another ticket. Transport for London says more than one billion Hopper journeys have been



Pictured: A busy central London with its iconic red buses! **Source:** Canva.

made since then! The new offer could help families enjoy more adventures across London this summer. Sir Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, said the scheme would help make travel 'more affordable'. Three buses have even been decorated with colourful frog designs to help spread the news – encouraging families to hop on and explore! **If you could hop on a big red London bus, where would you go?**

Do we learn more from winning or losing?



Yes, we can learn from our mistakes and try to do better!

Sanvi

Tree-mendous Award



Pictured: European Tree of the Year 2026 winner.
Source: European Tree of the Year on Facebook.

A tree in Lithuania has been awarded first place in the European Tree of the Year competition. The oak tree is 400-years-old! Until recently, the tree had been almost forgotten, only known to the locals in the small Rukai village. This tree won due to its strong cultural and environmental significance to the local Laukiai people. Last year, the community restored the area around the tree, built it a stone wall for

protection, and brought the Laukiai people together at a celebration in the oak's honour. Now, the sixth generation is growing up alongside the winning tree. Petr Skrivanek, coordinator of European Tree of the Year, said, 'The competition was extremely close – the ranking remained uncertain until the very last moment'. Some of the other trees in the competition include a wild apple tree in Slovakia, which achieved second place, withstanding extreme weather conditions such as snowstorms and heatwaves for more than 150 years! The third-place tree is a white elm in Poland, known as the Crooked Elm of Szyslowiec. It grows on an island and has an unusual shape, where it leans towards the moat that surrounds the island.

Do you like trees? What is your favourite type of tree?



Pictured: European Tree of the Year 2026 first prize.
Source: European Tree of the Year on Facebook.

Reef Restoration

A team of 260 volunteers came to Chichester Harbour in Portsmouth, England to take part in 'the UK's largest subtidal oyster reef restoration project', as described by one of the participating organisations. The volunteers introduced 20,000 oysters into the sea across the area of English coast called the Solent, to attempt to recover the lost species of oyster. Historical coastal communities relied on oyster beds for food, trade and employment. There is even evidence of oysters being harvested in the harbour in Roman times! The aim of the restoration is not only to recover the species, but also to help to reconnect the region with its historical heritage. The volunteers gathered at the University of Portsmouth's Institute of Marine Sciences to clean and check



Pictured: First set of oysters ready to go out to the new reef. **Source:** Chichester Harbour Conservancy on Facebook.

the oysters before they were released into the ocean. Oysters are very important to the ecosystem. One oyster can filter 200 litres of water each day! This helps as it improves the water quality, and the reefs which the oysters form provide habitats for many other marine species in the area. These reefs also help to prevent coastal erosion. **Do you like the sea? What do you know about oysters and what they do?**

Do we learn more from winning or losing?



If you lose, you can learn from the opposing team and improve your skills for next time.

Thomas

