



Mystery of Stonehenge solved

Researchers, from Bournemouth University, say that they have solved the mystery of why Stonehenge was made! They have concluded that the prehistoric landmark, which was constructed around 2,500 BC, is a giant solar calendar that

“ It was used to keep track of days, weeks, and months ”

helped people to know what day of the year it was. Professor Timothy Darvill explained that he thinks the site, on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England, was created based on a solar year of 365.25 days. He says it was used to help people keep track of days, weeks, and months. During this time in history there were ten days in a week, three weeks in a month and one extra month that was only five days long! Prof Darvill said,



Pictured: Stonehenge. Source: Canva.

“Each of the 30 stones in the sarsen circle represents a day within a month, itself divided into three weeks each of 10 days. The calendar's alignment with the sun means that any errors in counting the days would be easily noticed as the sun would be in the wrong place during the summer and winter solstices.”

Sniffer dogs helping RSPB detect seabirds

The RSPB (The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) is a wildlife conservation charity. They have recently reported that they have been ‘teaching old dogs new tricks’ as they have been using sniffer dogs to help detect seabirds that nest in burrows. The researchers have been testing their dogs’ ability to track Manx shearwater and European storm petrels, also seeing if the dogs can tell the difference between the two seabird species. Seabirds are one of the most threatened groups of birds, they spend

most of their time at sea, and only come to land to nest and have chicks. It is hoped this study will allow the birds’ nesting areas to be identified and protected. The Manx shearwater has long straight slim wings measuring about 80cm, and eats mostly herrings, sardines and sprats. The storm petrel is the UK’s smallest seabird, weighing only 25 - 30 grams. The word “storm” in its name is said to come from the days of sailing vessels, when petrels would hide from storms in the leeward (side facing away from the wind) part of ships.

Pictured: British storm petrel Source: Canva

Pictured: Manx shearwaters Source: Canva



'Harvesting the sun twice'

Successful trials in Kenya, have found that growing crops beneath special solar panels, known as agrivoltaics, resulted in the plants growing bigger. The technique harvests solar energy twice! Solar panels are traditionally used to harness the sun's rays to generate energy, but in this research, they were also used to provide shade for growing crops, help to keep moisture in the soil, reduce the stress experienced by plants due to high day temperatures and UV damage, and therefore boost their growth. The project

by the University of Sheffield, World Agroforestry, and the Kajiado-based Latia Agripreneurship Institute has shown optimistic results. They reported that cabbages grown under the 180, 345-watt solar panels are a third bigger than those grown in control plots with the same amount of fertiliser and water. The scientists also grew larger aubergines, lettuces and maize. The system is being used successfully in France, the US and Germany as well.



Pictured: Plants being grown in the trial beneath Agrivoltaics. **Source:** LatiaAgribusinessSol @AgribusinessSol Twitter page.

Last week's topic:

Whose responsibility is it to help endangered animals?



Whose responsibility is it to help endangered animals?

I think that its everyone's job to help endangered animals because we can all make the right [decisions] and make the world a better place.

Obed - age 12

I think we should protect animals that are in danger.

Natasha - age 7

Don't chop down too many trees and remember to plant new ones to replace the ones we do use. We need to think about what resources we're using and how that will affect the koalas' habitat.

Connie - age 11

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

 www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

 help@picture-news.co.uk

 @HelpPicture

 Picture News Ltd,
Colber Lane,
Bishop Thornton,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire, HG3 3JR

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

