

Chess... Splash!

A very different chess game has been played in the Netherlands. The Diving Chess World Championships took place at the bottom of a swimming pool! The chessboard sits under the water on the floor of the pool. The black and white pieces and special board are magnetic, so nothing drifts off for a little swim! Players take turns to dive down, look carefully, and make one move while holding their breath. Then they pop back up for air. It is like playing chess and doing a dive at the same time!

At the latest games, Dutch player Zyon Kollen won the men's title. In the women's event, 17-year-old Josephine Damen, also from the



Pictured: A chessboard at the bottom of the swimming pool! **Source:** AI generated image.

Netherlands, took the top spot. One diving chess player, Zarein Dolab, said about the game, 'I thought it would be a breeze, but it definitely isn't.'

Chess is a very old game that people have played for about 1,500 years. Diving Chess started much later and began in 2012.

Do you know how to play chess? Would you like to play it underwater?

Caring Café

A special café in Rushden, Northamptonshire, England, is helping people in a big way. Café 16:15 opened in July 2025 and is already doing so well that it wants to grow even more.

The café is part of a charity called Project 16:15, which helps people who are



Pictured: Café 16:15.
Source: Café 16:15 on Facebook.

homeless. It was started by Stan Robertson, who was once homeless himself. The café is run by volunteers, and all the money it makes goes back into helping others. The café raised a lot of money in its very first month, so it has already helped pay for more outreach workers to support people in the local area. Many people in the community visit the café to enjoy the food and support the charity at the same time.

Stan Robertson said, 'We've really become part of the community.' The charity hopes to open another café in Wellingborough and, one day, a drop-in centre in Northampton to help even more people.

How else can a community show that it cares?

What role will reading play in our future?



Reading will still help us enjoy stories and learn new things in the future, even if books change!

Edward

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Celestial Sights

Saturn and the Moon will share the sky on 23rd January as part of a conjunction! From our perspective here on Earth, they will appear to be close together, even though they are actually very far apart. A conjunction involves either two objects in the Solar System, or one object in the Solar System and a more distant object, such as a star. To see the spectacle, you will need to look up and to the west, Saturn will appear to be just below the moon, sparkling in the night sky. Saturn, named after the Roman god of agriculture and wealth,



Pictured: Saturn image observed by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. **Source:** NASA Ames Research Center on Facebook.



Pictured: A full moon. **Source:** NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Facebook.

is the sixth planet in our Solar System and the second largest after Jupiter. The planet famously has huge, beautiful rings made of ice, dust, and rock. NASA states on its website, 'Saturn is a massive ball made mostly of hydrogen and helium. Saturn is not the only planet to have rings, but none are as spectacular or as complex as Saturn's. Saturn also has dozens of moons. From the jets of water that spray from Saturn's moon Enceladus to the methane lakes on smoggy Titan, the Saturn system is a rich source of scientific discovery and still holds many mysteries.'

Would you like to see this conjunction?
Do you know any facts about Saturn?

Highest Sky Surf Skydive

Skydiver, Olga Naumova, from Belarus, has completed a freefall from the highest altitude ever – 20,945 ft (6,384 m) – while sky surfing above the Nepalese mountains! Sky surfing is a relatively new sport developed in the late 20th century. It is a combination of



Pictured: Olga with her world record certificate. **Source:** Olga Naumova on Facebook.



Pictured: Olga during a Skysurf Skydive. **Source:** Olga Naumova on Facebook.

free-fall skydiving from a helicopter and the riding techniques from surfing and snowboarding. Athletes use a lightweight board strapped to their feet to control their descent, before opening their parachutes to land. The veteran sky surfer, who has completed more than 17,000 skydives over the last 15 years, said, 'Since I discovered sky surfing, it was my dream to perform a very unique skydive and to inspire girls around the world not to be scared, to be bold and to dream big.'

Have you ever heard of this sport before?

Can you think of any other sports that could be combined?

What role will reading play in our future?



Reading is a very important skill that will help us to do lots of things as we grow up.

Kit

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