



Wild wallaby spotted on UK golf course

We would expect to see a wallaby in much warmer Australian climates, but in the last 11 years, there have been 99 confirmed sightings of the mammal bouncing around the UK countryside. In December, a red-necked wallaby, which is about as big as a medium-sized dog, was spotted roaming wild on a golf course in Northern Tyneside. A spokesperson from the RSPCA said, 'Most people may be unaware that wallabies are considered established in the wild in Britain.' The species, with its grey-brown body and the kangaroo family's characteristic two-footed hop, carries its young in a pouch, like all marsupials. Originally, wallabies were brought from Australia to zoos in the UK, but after several of them escaped from captivity, they are even thought to be breeding in the wild. Dr Anthony Caravaggi, a lecturer in conservation biology in Wales said, 'Wallabies are really good at escaping – they are fast, and able to leap some obstacles – so more of them end up roaming the British countryside than people might imagine.'



*Pictured: Red-necked wallaby with its joey in their native Australia
Source: magdalena_b*

Blue snow dragon spreads some joy!



*Pictured: Mel's blue snow dragon attracting spectators
Source: @kathymahar*

Mel Thompson, from Saskatoon in Canada, was determined to make people in her community smile when she built an enormous blue snow dragon in her front garden. First, she scooped up the snow until she had a huge pile. Next, she explained, 'I used some buckets and basically just my hands and shaped it into how I wanted it to look and I put some food colouring and water in a spray bottle and made it blue.' Her creations have become quite an annual winter tradition! Mel lives just around the corner from a school and in previous years, her snow sculptures proved so popular that teachers arranged visits so their pupils could enjoy the spectacle. Each year Mel makes sure that she advertises her address so that other people can come and take photos too. 'We need more things to make us smile these days,' she was eager to point out.



Resolutions celebrate the simple things...

Last January we could not have known how unusual the year 2020 would be. Who could have predicted that schools would be closed and Christmas celebrations with grannies and grandads might have to be cancelled? As 2021 begins, with the hope that life will soon get back to normal, our New Year's resolutions this January might be different. We asked teachers and parents around the country what advice they would be giving their children at the start of this new year. We were surprised to find that many of them will be celebrating the simple things. Miss Robson, who teaches Year Two said, 'If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that time with loved ones should never be taken for granted. Take the time to make sure that all your friends at school are OK and keep in contact with relatives you haven't seen for a while. An online smile from you could make their day!' Everyone we spoke to also agreed that 2021 would be a better year. As Anne Frank wrote in her famous diary, 'What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet.'



*Pictured: Anne Frank, the Dutch teenager who wrote a diary during World War 2
Source: Greger Ravik*

Your thoughts on the news...

We can keep our memories by documenting them down in our diary books for future references and also keep these books in a safe place.

Saeed – age 10



By making a time capsule of your favourite things and burying it underground to dig back up in the future.

Layla – age 9

We can take pictures to help jog our memories about things. For example, you might take pictures when you are on holiday.

Edith – age 7

What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss
to share your thoughts!

You can create songs to help you remember things like your times tables.

Alice – age 7

I think...



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COMMENTS**

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