

UK NEWS

NORTH YORKSHIRE

● Coin sells for record price

A single gold coin featuring Oliver Cromwell has sold for almost half a million pounds (£471,200)! It was only expected to raise about £100,000 (one hundred thousand pounds).

Oliver Cromwell helped to overthrow King Charles I during the English Civil War. The king was beheaded and Cromwell ruled the British Isles until his own death.

The coin was made in 1656 and there are only 12 in existence.



DixNoonanWebb/Twitter

NORFOLK



Getty

● Black pups spotted

Ten rare black seal pups have been spotted at a nature reserve in Blakeney.

Grey seals are born white then shed their fur after a few weeks to reveal a grey coat. However, around one seal in every 400 grows a black coat.

The nature reserve in Norfolk is home to England's largest grey seal colony.

Rangers are hoping that a record 4,000 seal pups will be born this winter season.

WALES



● What a kick!

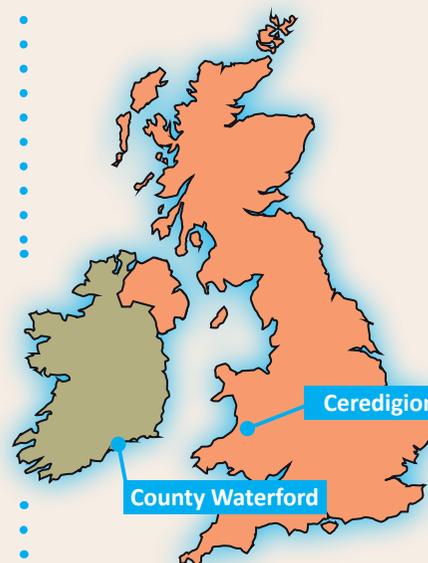
When ten-year-old Aoife accidentally kicked her football into the sea in County Waterford, Ireland, she didn't think she would ever see it again.

But thanks to sea currents and the internet, her ball is back!

Almost one week after the ball was lost, Aline Denton found it on a beach in Wales. She was taking part in a beach clean-up. It had travelled an impressive 124 miles across the Irish Sea!

Aline noticed the ball had Aoife's name on it. She put a message on Facebook to see if anyone could find the owner. After thousands of people shared the message, Aoife's dad saw the post and got in touch!

Goes to show, it's always worth putting your name on things.



Questions on: 'UK News'

1) Match the headline to the correct place.

Headline	Place
What a kick!	North Yorkshire
Coin sells for record price	Norfolk
Black pups spotted	Wales

Look at the news from Wales.

2) Fill the gaps with the correct names and places.

This ball travelled from _____ in _____, across the _____ all the way to _____.

3) What **two** things helped to reunite Aoife with her ball?

4) Look at the end. What does the writer say we can learn from this story?

Look at the news from North Yorkshire.

5) At which time of year are seal pups born?

6) What happens to grey seals a few weeks after they are born?

Consider all the news.

7) What is being counted with these numbers? The first one has been done for you.

4,000	seal pups
12	
124	
10	
471,200	

Look at the story 'Coin sells for record price'.

8) Imagine you are writing a quiz for a friend on this story. Can you come up with **three** questions to ask, to check they have understood it?

WORLD NEWS

USA



● Happy birthday, Buzz!

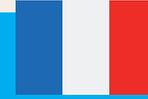
Astronaut Buzz Aldrin celebrated his 91st birthday last week.

The second man ever to walk on the moon was treated to an impressive cake decorated with 91 candles! A great cake for a great age. What's next, infinity and beyond? Oops, sorry, wrong Buzz!



Twitter/TheRealBuzz

FRANCE



● Protected pongs

France has passed a new law to protect the noises and smells of the countryside. Animal pongs and noisy farm machines are included.

It comes after several cases where people have moved to the countryside and then complained about noise – for example, crowing roosters!

The law means people who want to live in the countryside will now have to accept that it comes with some noisy – and smelly – neighbours!

ALGERIA



● Snow in the Sahara

Yes, you read it right, it's been snowing in the Sahara Desert!

It is only the fourth time it has snowed in the Sahara in 42 years. The other three times were in 1979, 2017, and 2018.

The white stuff was spotted just outside the town of Ain Sefra on 19th January.

The photograph shows how the snow melted on the sand to create this beautiful pattern.



Kasim Bourcheata

Questions on: 'World News'

Look at the news from the USA.

1) Who is Buzz Aldrin, and why is he in the news?

2) Look at the **last two sentences**.

What – or **who** – is the journalist talking about?
(You will need a bit of film knowledge to answer!)

Look at the news from France.

3) What parts of the countryside have just been protected with a new law?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> sound of rivers | <input type="checkbox"/> beautiful views |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal smells | <input type="checkbox"/> machinery noise |

4) Why did leaders in France decide this new law was needed?

Look at the news from Algeria.

5) Can you answer these key questions?

- What has happened?
- When?
- Where?

6) Look at the **first sentence**. What is the 'it' that is being talked about?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | the headline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | the photograph |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | the snow |

7) Why has the writer chosen this unusual first sentence?
The writer thinks that readers will be...

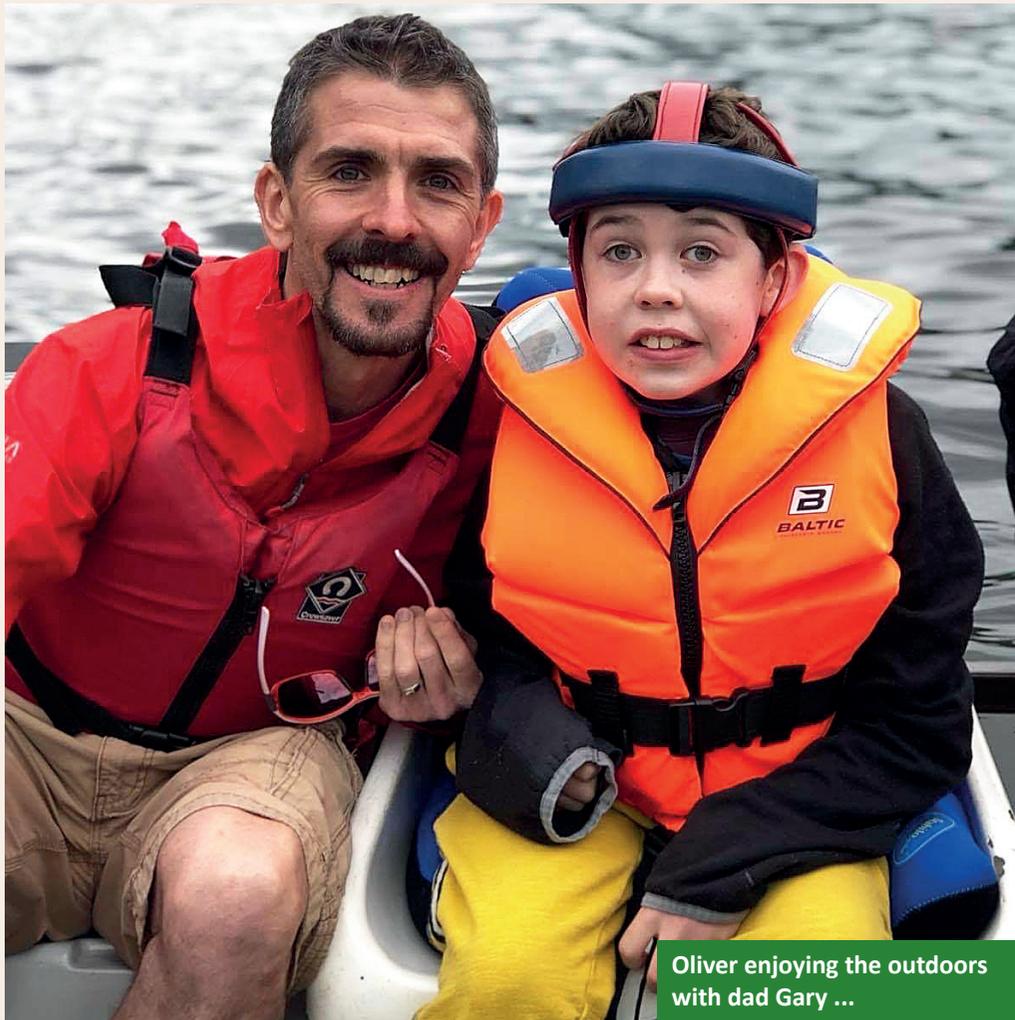
- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | amused by the story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | surprised by the story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | concerned about the story |

Consider all the news.

8) Imagine you had to choose one of these reports to go on the newspaper's **Crazy but True** page. Which story would you choose? Explain your choice.

BIG NEWS

BOY FIGHTS TO SAVE CHARITY



Oliver enjoying the outdoors with dad Gary ...

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy has raised more than £64,000 (64 thousand pounds) to try to save a charity that helps disabled people enjoy the outdoors.

Oliver Voysey suffered a brain injury when he was just two days old. He was left with many difficulties and needs a lot of care. He hasn't let that stop him though! Thanks to a charity called the Calvert Trust, in the Lake District, Oliver has been able to enjoy activities like horse riding, canoeing and rock climbing. His family say it has transformed his life.

But sadly, the charity may have to close. It has lost more than £1 million during the pandemic.

Oliver, who is 13 tomorrow (30th January), has been setting himself challenges to tell people about the charity and to raise money.

He has completed a 13-minute walk and stood without help for 13 seconds, something that is very hard for Oliver to do.



and mum Sarah

Sarah Voysey, Oliver's mum, said: "Oliver's biggest birthday wish is for the Lake District Calvert Trust to survive. Forget cards or presents, he just wants to return to his favourite place in the world."

Sarah has set up a web page called Oliver's Calvert Army to raise money and hopefully save the charity that has changed Oliver's life.

Questions on: 'Boy fights to save charity'

1) What does the Calvert Trust do? Choose the best description.

- It cares for disabled children.
- It runs outdoor activities for children in the Lake District.
- It helps disabled people take part in outdoor activities.

2) What activities are you told that Oliver has enjoyed with the Calvert Trust?

- rock climbing
- swimming
- sailing
- horse riding
- canoeing
- camping

3) Why might this charity have to close?

4) Why was the 30th January a big day for Oliver?

5) Oliver has picked a theme for his challenges. What is his theme, and why has he chosen it?

His theme: _____

The reason for his theme: _____

6) What would Oliver like for his birthday?

7) In which **order** do you find out the information?

- How Oliver became disabled
- A quote from Oliver's mum
- How much money Oliver has raised
- The date of his birthday

8) What information tells you that Oliver is a very brave and determined boy?

BIG NEWS

FOSSIL HUNTER HONOURER

A STATUE of the famous fossil collector Mary Anning is to be built in Lyme Regis, thanks to a 13-year-old girl.

Evie Swire learned all about Mary three years ago and decided there really should be a statue of her in Lyme Regis – Mary’s home town.

Evie and her mum started a project called Mary Anning Rocks to raise money. And, finally, the hard work has paid off! The project has now raised £80,000 (eighty thousand pounds). This means work on the statue can begin.

The first sketches of the statue have been made (right). It will show Mary holding a fossil hammer, along with her beloved dog Tray.

Mary Anning was a brilliant palaeontologist (“pal-ee-nol-o-jist”) – a fossil expert.

Despite coming from a poor background, and not having much education, she made many amazing fossil discoveries, including the first ichthyosaur (“ick-thee-ore”) – a monster marine reptile!



An Ichthyosaur fossil

istock

maryanningrocks

Questions on: 'Fossil hunter honoured'

1) Who is Mary Anning?

- a 13-year-old girl
- a famous palaeontologist
- Evie's mum

2) Find **three** things you know will be included in the statue.

- 1: _____
- 2: _____
- 3: _____

3) How long has it taken Evie and her mum to raise £80,000?

4) Do you think this is enough money to complete the statue?
Explain your thoughts.

5) Why is 'Mary Anning Rocks' a great name for the project?

- 6) There are some tricky scientific words in this news report.
- What is a **palaeontologist**? (“pal - ee - n - tol - o - jist”)
 - What is an **ichthyosaur**? (“ick - thee - o - sore”)

7) What challenges did Mary have to overcome in her life?

8) If you could propose a statue for your school grounds, who would you choose? Explain why this person deserves a statue.