

## **Buck Supermoon**



Grand Canyon, USA **Source** Grand Canyon National Park Facebook page

An amazing supermoon has appeared in our skies for three days. A supermoon is when the Moon appears to be much larger than usual because it is closer to our planet. This happens as the Moon's orbit is not a perfect circle due to the Earth's gravitational pull, it is an oval shape. The Moon is less than 365,000 kilometres from Earth, which is around 22,000km closer than normal. The first full moon after Summer Solstice (the longest day, 21<sup>st</sup> June) is often called the Buck Moon due to the fact that at the beginning of summer, buck deer begin to grow their new antlers; they begin to emerge from the top of their heads covered in a soft, velvety fur. Many people from all over the world have been posting beautiful, dazzling photos of the Moon as they see it where they live.

*Is this something you would like to take photographs of?* 

### **Top Team Player**

Belgium's record holding shot put and hammer throw champion, Jolien Boumkwo, displayed great team spirit at the European Athletics Team Championships in Poland when she stepped up to run the 100-metre hurdles and save her team from getting disqualified. Jolien stepped out of her comfort zone and ran the 100-metre hurdles after her teammate was injured. Even though she finished last, she cleared every single hurdle, earning a very important point for her team! 'I thought I would take one for the team. I didn't think about it, I just went for it,' said Boumkwo, 'It was really heartwarming all the support, the crowd was screaming and I cannot believe how many people are so kind. When I was younger I used to do some heptathlons, it was 10 years ago when I last did hurdles. But now in my training I do hurdles, for mobility and to be flexible. It is not a new movement, but to do it here [at a major championships] is a whole new world, but I really enjoyed every second of it.' **Do you think it is important to be a team player?** 



Pictured: Jolien Boumkwo taking part in one of her specialised sports Source: Jolien Boumkwo facebook page

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# **Swift Bricks**

10,000 bricks with built-in bird houses have been installed into UK homes to create nest holes for swifts. Swift bricks are normal building bricks with a hollow inside. The small migratory birds have suffered due to renovations of old buildings, which have sealed up the small holes that they would use to nest in. The nesting bricks can also be used by other small birds and it is hoped that they will help to increase declining bird populations. 'The great advantage of swift bricks and boxes is that they can work just as well in inner city areas with very little green space as anywhere else,' notes Dr. Guy Anderson,



**Pictured**: A Manthorpe Swift Brick **Source**: Manthorpe BP Twitter page



the RSPB's migratory birds program manager. He adds that, 'Swifts can travel pretty long distances to find their insect food - all they need is a nest site.' Swifts are amazing flyers that spend 10 months of the year in the air. They have an impressive top speed of 69mph. They can do most things whilst still flying. They drink by skimming water as they fly over rivers and lakes with their mouths open. They eat by catching flying insects and airborne spiders. Astoundingly, they can also fly whilst closing one eye and turning off one half of their brain. They fly all the way to Africa before returning to the UK to nest. Do you think all homes should have swift bricks?

#### Last week's topic: Should everyone learn the Countryside Code?

I think that we should learn all about the countryside, like we learn about road safety. It's just as important. **Evie** 



I think you should be aware of how to behave in the countryside but I don't think the Countryside Code is something you would need to memorise. Freddy I think that everyone should be respectful of all outdoor spaces - I love exploring the countryside and visiting parks, but I like it when they're clean. My family and I take our litter home and smile at people we see and I think everyone should do the same.

Cassie

I want to enjoy my park but there are no bins, so there's lots of rubbish! **Sam** 

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