

Restoring Rainforests

A large-scale project to re-establish approximately 123 acres of temperate rainforest and other wooded habitats is currently underway in north Devon. Over 100,000 trees will be planted by the National Trust across three sites: Arlington Court, Exmoor and Woolacombe/Hartland. Temperate rainforest is also known as Atlantic or Celtic rainforest and is incredibly rare. John Deakin, Head of Trees and Woodlands at the National Trust said, 'Temperate rainforests used to be expansive wooded habitats along the western seaboard of the UK, but now all that's left are fragments, covering only one percent of Britain and limited to small patches in Devon, Cornwall, North and West Wales, Cumbria, the West of Scotland and parts of Northern Ireland.' Temperate rainforest is found in areas influenced by the sea, as it has high rainfall and humidity and a low variation in temperature each year. This special habitat with its lush conditions is perfect for plants, lichens and fungi, as well as birds and mammals. Bryony Wilde, Project Manager for the

National Trust at Arlington Court said, 'Through this tree planting, we're helping to create a living landscape where both nature and people can thrive. These trees will not only provide a habitat for wildlife but also fix carbon into the soil, purify air and water, and provide a place for people to enjoy.' The project has been made possible by donations from the Trust's Plant a Tree fund, HSBC UK, and Utility Warehouse. The planting at all sites will be carried out by National Trust ranger teams, contractors and local community groups with plans for more planting to follow in the coming years.

Did you know there are rainforests in the UK? Do you think more should be done to protect them?



Pictured: Temperate rainforest in Devon.
Source: National Trust @nationaltrust X page.

Wonderful Wildlife

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year, People's Choice Award winner has been announced! The award is voted for by the public, and over 75,000 people voted for their favourite this year - the highest number ever! The winner, 'Ice Bed' by Nima Sarikhani, shows a young adult male polar bear, who had used his large paws to carve himself a comfy bed in a small iceberg. The amateur photographer from the UK described how the beautiful bear settled down and went to sleep after midnight off Norway's Svalbard archipelago. Four runner-up places were also given out, one to 'The Happy Turtle' by Tzahi Finkelstein, from Israel. This photo shows a dragonfly landing on the nose of a Balkan pond turtle, who surprisingly doesn't eat it! Another to a photo of two lionesses lovingly grooming a cub, called 'Shared Parenting' by Mark Boyd, from Kenya. Mark commented, 'Here the youngster was clearly enjoying the moment of affection and attention'. A third to Starling Murmuration by Daniel Dencescu, from Germany/Romania, is a photo of hundreds of birds flying together forming the shape of a giant bird in the sky! The final runner-up was Aurora Jellies - Audun Rikardsen, from Norway, whose photo showed a moon jellyfish swarm in a fjord, against a sky illuminated by the Northern Lights. You can check out the photographs at the Natural History Museum or on their website.



Pictured: Ice Bed by Nima Sarikhani (above) The Happy Turtle by Tzahi Finkelstein (below). **Source:** Wildlife Photographer of the Year @NHM_WPY X page.



Do you enjoy taking photos of animals? Do you have a favourite animal to watch or photograph?

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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WINTERACTIVE Art Experience



Pictured: Island of warmth (left) and Light Lane Bikes (right). **Source:** Downtown Boston Facebook page.

WINTERACTIVE, a Canadian art experience has begun in Downtown Boston, USA. The free, walkable art display will run until April and features 16 artworks and interactive play elements. Downtown Boston Business Improvement District, who are presenting the display, invite visitors to embrace the joy of winter and say that the pieces of art are meant to delight, confuse, or inspire. All the pieces are creating great talking points, even the ones that divided opinion, like the two giant clown heads that are positioned between two buildings, reenacting a scene from a play! A giant whale, a unicorn in a lightbox, a mysterious metallic cube containing a miniature landscape and Island of Warmth by ATOMIC3, (shown above) are also displayed. ATOMIC3 is an 'urban bonfire'

made up of 220 light bulbs that flicker in response to the movements of people who view it. The embers and flames can be triggered to dance, spark and swirl, creating warmth, light and music.

The winter festival also includes five play features: the Light Lane Bikes (shown above), the Bird House, the Music Box, the Guitar Slide, and the WINTERACTIVE photo frame. The public are encouraged to play on these installations which will in turn create music and lights. The organisers hope that the art experience will bring lots of people to the area to enjoy the 1.25-mile trail of amazing and entertaining art!

Would you like to visit, or have you ever visited an interactive display?

Do you think you would enjoy art that you can touch?

Last week's topic:

What makes someone inspirational?



They can do something different to other humans and that means people look up to them.

Jake

Someone who makes you want to persevere and try your best.

Neve

They can do something someone else can't or they can do it in a different way.

Evie

Someone that is good at something so you can see how they got good at it and follow their ideas.

Tommy

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

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