

BLUE LIGHTNING SEEN FROM SPACE



European Space Agency

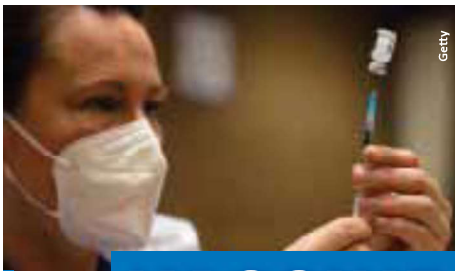
BLUE jets of lightning have been spotted by scientists on board the International Space Station (ISS).

Whereas we're used to seeing white forked lightning here on Earth, it's a whole different story above the thunderclouds! Blue jets, as they are called, are bursts of lightning that shoot up from the top of clouds into the Earth's atmosphere.

Scientists on the ISS say they saw five flashes of blue light, each lasting around a fifth of a second. Four flashes came with pulses of light called elves. These are like rings of energy that start small and expand out into a much bigger circle.

The amazing phenomena was seen during a thunderstorm that was happening above Nauru, a tiny island northeast of Australia.

Although the jets were spotted on 26 February 2019, the information surrounding it was only published last month in the science journal *Nature*.



Getty

THE VACCINE DEBATE

SHOULD we send coronavirus vaccines to other countries who need them, before vaccinating younger adults here?

That's the question some in the UK are asking, after it was predicted that the UK will end up with lots more jabs than we need – after buying around 5.5 doses per person.

Trade Secretary Liz Truss has said that Britain cannot simply become a “vaccinated island”, while COVID-19 rages in other nations in the world.

“We're only going to solve this issue once everybody in the world is vaccinated,” she explained, but said that it was “too early” to suggest what might be done with the extra vaccines.

The debate began after the European Union suggested that it could block millions of COVID-19 vaccine doses from entering the UK – before the EU quickly turned its back on the idea.

What do you think? Should the UK vaccinate all Brits before helping other countries out? Let us know your thoughts in our poll at [first.news/polls](https://www.first.news/polls).

DINO DISCOVERY



Sally Wilder

A FOUR-YEAR-OLD girl has discovered a dinosaur fossil in Wales, in what has been described as a spectacular find.

Lily Wilder was walking with her dad Richard along Bendoricks Bay in Barry when she found the fossil.

Lily's mum Sally said: “It was Lily and Richard who discovered the footprint. Lily saw it as they were walking along, and said: ‘Daddy, look’. When Richard came home and showed me the photograph, I thought it looked amazing.”

The fossil was removed from the beach and taken to National Museum Cardiff, where it will be studied and protected for

future generations to enjoy.

Bendoricks Bay is known as a good place to find dino prints, but this is one of the best examples found in the UK.

It's not known what dinosaur species the footprint belongs to, but it is believed to be around 220 million years old.



National Museum Wales

KIDS' MENTAL HEALTH REPORT

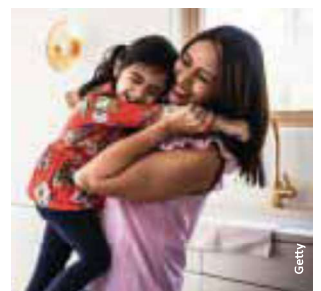
A REPORT by the Children's Commissioner for England says we need a “rocket boost” for children's mental health funding.

Anne Longfield's report has found that, although children's mental health services have improved in the last four years, they are “still unable to provide the help hundreds of thousands of children require”.

With lockdowns and school closures affecting children over the last year, she says: “As an absolute

minimum, all schools should be provided with an NHS-funded counsellor, either in school or online.

“We have seen how the NHS has risen to the scale of the COVID-19 crisis for adults. We owe children... a mental health service that provides the help and support they need.”



Getty



USA

● Plastic Bagman
A man in Brooklyn, New York, has made headlines as the city's newest superhero: Plastic Bagman! Equipped with his 'snatchinator' grabbing device, Plastic Bagman has been spotted plucking plastic bags that have been caught in trees. He's even set up a website so that citizens can summon him, should they need a plastic bag removed from a tree in their area. He's also uploaded tutorials to his Instagram account, showing how people can make their own snatchinator.



BRAZIL

● Rapper goes viral
Leandro Aparecido Ferreira, also known as MC Fioti, has become famous in Brazil after producing a song about the power of the coronavirus vaccine. MC Fioti remixed his own song about bottoms to instead praise doctors. A new music video for the updated track was shot at the vaccine-producing Butantã Institute in São Paulo, and lots of the staff members and scientists at the facility appear as dancing extras.

MYANMAR

● Military seizes control

Myanmar's military has taken control of the country, and arrested the country's newly re-elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). Phone lines and the internet were cut off, and in Yangon, the former capital city, military trucks were parked outside the city hall. The army, led by General Min Aung Hlaing, agreed to hand power to a civilian government a decade ago. Aung San Suu Kyi said the military was trying to take over again, and urged citizens to protest. The NLD won a landslide victory of 396 out of 476 seats in the November election, while the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party won just 33 seats. US President Joe Biden's government said that it opposed "any attempt to change the outcome of recent elections."



ESTONIA

● Women at the top

Estonia has become the only country in the world with both a female prime minister and a female president. Prime Minister Kaja Kallas, the country's first female government leader, has formed a coalition between her Reform Party and the Centre Party, and has placed several women in key positions in her new cabinet.



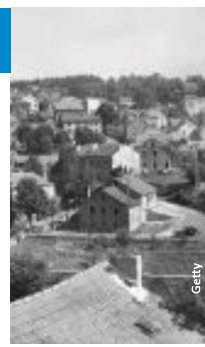
TAIWAN

● Troubled waters
Both the US and Australia have said that they are "monitoring the situation" in Taiwan and the surrounding South China Sea after China warned that a declaration of independence by Taiwan would "mean war". The Chinese government says that Taiwan is a part of China, while the island's president, Tsai Ing-wen, has repeatedly said that Taiwan is an independent country, but hasn't formally declared independence.

FRANCE

● Villagers get a share of millions

An Austrian man who fled the Nazis with his family during World War 2 has left his €2 million (£1.46m) fortune to the French village that saved him. Eric Schwam and his family arrived in the village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in 1943 and were hidden in a school for the rest of the war, then stayed until 1950. The mayor has said that Eric Schwam asked that the money be spent on educational schemes. About 2,500 Jews were taken in and protected during the war by residents of the village.



OUR WORLD



NAME: SOPHIE
LIVES: SOUTHAMPTON

To find out more, go to
www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday



SOPHIE was just six weeks old when she was diagnosed as profoundly deaf.

The diagnosis was overwhelming for her parents, who felt unsure about Sophie's future.

Sophie's specialist recommended The Elizabeth Foundation, which receives funding from Comic Relief to support deaf children and their families.

Sophie has since received cochlear implants and, with the help of The Elizabeth Foundation, she has learnt to listen, communicate and interact with others.

Sophie's mum has noticed a real difference and "cannot imagine Sophie's life without the sessions".





HM Government

NHS



CORONAVIRUS

DON'T HELP THE VIRUS SPREAD

If you have to leave home then you must stay two metres apart from people you do not live with.

Remember to keep washing your hands regularly.

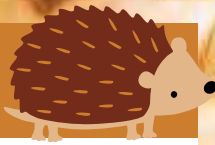
If you're aged 11 and above then you must wear a face mask in public indoor settings such as shops.

Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

NEST PROTECTION

A GROUP of MPs are calling for hedgehogs to get greater protection in order to help save the species.



The MPs want hedgehog nests to be protected in the same way that badger nests and bat nests are. Former Transport Secretary Chris Grayling wants to add the protection to the Environment Bill in a bid to help safeguard the mammals. This would mean that any developers would have to legally check for hedgehog nesting sites before starting any construction work.

Experts believe there are around one million wild hedgehogs living in the UK. In the 1950s there were around 30 million, which shows just how dramatically their numbers have fallen.



SUPPORT SISTER

A BLIND guinea pig and her sister, who acts as her guide pig, have found a special new home together.

Ami and Yuki are being cared for by RSPCA Danaher Animal Home in Essex after their owner could no longer care for them. Ami is completely blind but manages to get around with the help of her sister.

RSPCA supervisor Craig Horsler said: "Ami is always the first to emerge when she hears the rustle of a bag of treats, but waits for Yuki to seek them out so

she can follow her lead! It's adorable to watch!"

Both guinea pigs are friendly and happy to be handled, and thankfully the RSPCA has now found them a forever home together.

Guinea pigs can make wonderful family pets. If you'd like to learn more about them, the RSPCA has loads of useful info at www.rspca.org.uk.

ON THE MOVE

SCIENTISTS have found that a critically endangered species of shark can now be found 2,000km (1,243 miles) away from its usual home.

A team of scientists led by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) have confirmed that the short-tail nurse shark is now living in the waters around Mozambique. Using data collected from underwater cameras, photographs of sharks caught by anglers and a shark caught as far back as 1967, scientists have officially extended the area where the sharks are expected to be found. Experts are now calling for the critically endangered shark to be given legal protection in Mozambique. A full report is in the journal *Marine Biodiversity*.

LYNX RETURN

A NEW study has been launched to see whether the public supports the idea of reintroducing lynx back into the wild in Scotland.

A group of conservationists are investigating whether farmers and landowners would agree to a trial project in one area of Scotland. Previous plans to reintroduce the predators have not been successful and have faced opposition from farmers, who are worried about their livestock. Lynx are the largest native cat in Europe but were wiped out from Britain more than 500 years ago.

