il-Ħuttafa

Numru **165**

Lulju – Awwissu 2021

Kratena

Il-magażin ta' Klabb Ħuttaf

BirdLife MALTA

Klabb Ħuttaf

Desirée Falzon

Ħamiema Rasha Twila (Bull Ray) Ħuta simpatika, kuġina tal-klieb il-baħar.

Ħbieb naturalisti...

mill-editur

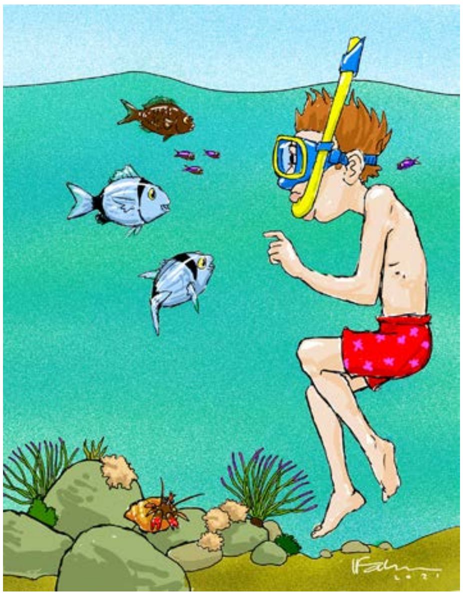
Ara vera b'xortina li mdawrin bil-baħar, tafux!

Kieku Malta ma kinitx gżira, kieku aħna m'aħniex Maltin. Kieku artna kienet, ngħidu aħna, 100km bogħod minn fejn hi u mwaħħla mal-Italja, kieku aħna Taljani. Lanqas il-lingwa Maltija u l-istorja twila ta' pajjiżna ma kienu jeżistu.

Mela mela! **Bis-saħħa tal-baħar jeżisti l-poplu Malti!**

Il-baħar jagħtina vantaġġi oħrajn. Għaliex taħsbu li t-temperatura f'Malta qatt ma tinżel taħt 0˚C u rari taqbeż 40˚C? Għax il-baħar iżommna friski fis-sajf u fietla fix-xitwa. **Il-baħar iħarisna mill-estremi tat-temperatura.** Veru li das-sajf kellna diġà tliet *heatwaves* u ma tantx qed inħossni frisk! **Imnalla jkun il-baħar biex ninżlu nċafċfu fih u niffriskaw.**

Victor Falzon



Il-baħar ambjent naturali kbir u sinjur. **Huwa d-dar ta' eluf ta' speċi ta' pjanti u annimali.** U issa li fis-sajf il-baħar huwa kalm, dik il-ħajja nistgħu ngawduha, kull ma rridu maskla u pajp. Ngħid għalija, mhux biżżejjed noqgħod inċafċaf meta mmur ngħum. Inħobb ukoll niggosta l-granċijiet jippassiġġaw fil-qiegħ, infittex qalb l-alka għal ħlejjaq żgħar (bħall-kratena fuq il-faċċata). U nħobb nipprova nagħraf il-ħut li niltaqa' miegħu, bħal dik il-ġmiel ta' ħamiema fir-ritratt ta' fuq. U noħdilhom ir-ritratti, għax dawk m'għandhomx *data protection*!

U biex lill-baħar ngħidulu grazzi ta' dan kollu kull ma rridu nagħmlu hu li nuruh rispett. Kif?

Billi ma nbattluhx mill-ħut u ħlejjaq oħrajn.

Billi ma nittrattawhx ta' miżbla!

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur

FUQ QUDDIEM

Ritratt ta' Desirée Falzon

Kratena

Pilgrim Hervia *Cratena peregrina*

Il-kratena hija annimal mir-razza tal-bebbux. Tgħix fil-baħar u minkejja dawk il-kulur kollha mhux faċli taraha. Dan għaliex il-kratena hija żgħira ħafna (din tar-ritratt kienet biss xi 3ċm!). Il-kratena qiegħda fi grupp jgħidulhom *sea slugs*. Il-biċċa l-kbira huma żgħar ħafna u mlewnin sew. Jieklu ħaxix tal-baħar.

Klabb Ħuttaf · Dinja Waħda · BirdLife MALTA

F'din il-ħarġa...

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Min kiteb f'dil-ħarġa?

Francesca Aaskov, Thais Amaral (National Aquarium), Elena (Ecohive), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Marie Vella (BOV)

Klabb Ħuttaf

Klabb Ħuttaf is the junior section (-18yrs) of BirdLife Malta. Members can join in many activities, like walks, visits to nature reserves, boat trips, night hikes and eco-work. Members also receive *Il-Ħuttafa* magazine every two months. Families too can become members, and will then also receive the quarterly adult members' magazine *Bird's Eye View*. Subscription is €10 per annum for Klabb Ħuttaf and €29 for Family.

Kuntatt

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Meħlusin!

Swejda Ċara
Wood Sandpiper

Dawn huma ftit mill-għasafar tax-xtut li ħlisna ftit ġimgħat ilu wara li kienu priġunieri! Xi nies għandhom vizzju ikrah jaqbdu l-għasafar u jużawhom... biex jaqbdu iktar għasafar! Dan it-tajr huwa kollu mħares bil-liġi u mhux suppost jinqabad. Bis-saħħa tal-ħbieb tagħna tal-CABS li sabu u rrappurtaw l-imnasab illegali, il-pulizija kkonfiskat l-għasafar kollha u għaddewhom lill-vet biex jaraw humiex f'saħħithom. Imbagħad għaddewhom lill-BirdLife biex neħilsuhom. Matul Lulju fir-riserva tal-Għadira ħlisna 31 għasfur (ta' 13-il speċi), u ħlisna wkoll xi oħrajn fis-Simar u s-Salina. Nisperaw li wara dik il-burraxka dawn l-imsieken għasafar ikomplu jgħixu ħajjithom bla tfixkil.

Pluverott
Redshank

Ċuvett
Greenshank

Gurlin
Curlew

Monakella Prima
Ringed Plover

Gallina tal-Baħar
Oystercatcher

X'rajt fil-ġnien[2]

Desirée Falzon

Għandek ħin?

Leq!

Victor Falzon

"Passi" strambi...

Ftit ilu ħawwilt arbuxxell fil-ġnien u madwaru għamilt [1]konka ħalli nsaqqi fiha.

Darba minnhom – kien Lulju – x'ħin ħriġt insaqqi rajt marki żgħar qishom passi fil-ħamrija mxarrba tal-konka. Tgħid x'seta' kienu. L-għada x'ħin mort insaqqi erġajt rajt marki ġodda.

"Minn hawn jew minn hemm se nsib min qed jagħmel dawn il-marki," għedt. "Naturalist tajjeb irid jistenna u josserva." Għalhekk ġibt siġġu, poġġejt ħdejn il-konka u wara ħames minuti... waslet l-artist!

Kienet żunżana! Imma mhux żunżana komuni. Dawn iż-żnażan bl-Ingliż jgħidulhom *mud daubers* li tfisser "jibnu bit-tajn". Hemm diversi żnażan li jibnu l-bejta bit-tajn u din li ġiet għandi jgħidulha **qerd iż-żaqquq**.

Dakinhar ma stajtx ninqala' mill-ġnien. Issaħħart nara ż-żunżana ġejja u sejra tiġbor it-tajn mill-ħamrija msoqqija friska. Qgħadt naraha b'saqajha tirrombla t-tajn f'ballun pulit taħt żaqqha u ttir bih, u kull ħames minuti tiġi lura u tagħmel ballun ieħor tajn!

Iż-żunżana bil-ballun tat-tajn lest!

Issa qabditni kurżità x'kienet qed tagħmel bit-tajn.

"Jekk qed iddum ħames minuti biss biex tmur u tiġi mela mhix qed tmur 'il bogħod," irraġunajt.

Dort dawra mal-ġnien u sibtha. Kienet qed tibni bejta ma' rokna tad-dar – bejta stramba qisha tubi twal imwaħħlin flimkien. Bil-paċenzja kollha tfittex it-tajn frisk, tiġbor ftit, tirrumblah, iġġorru lejn il-bejta, tibni biċċa, u tmur lura għal iktar tajn.

Fl-aħħar tbid il-bajd fil-bejta u tkaħħal kollox biex ħadd ma jsibhomlha.

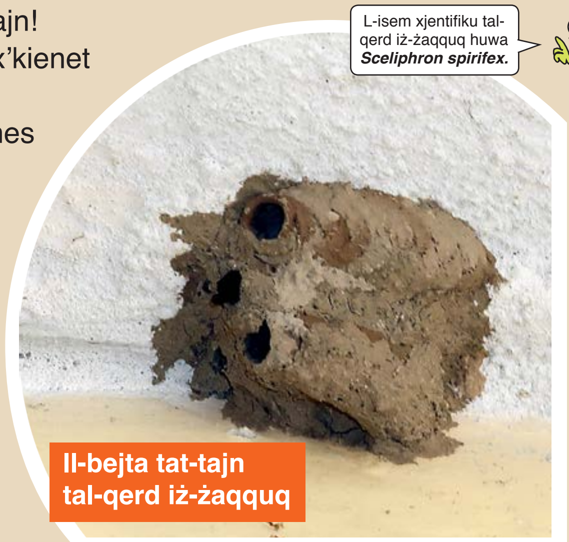
Minn dakinhar bdejt dejjem inħalli roqgħa żgħira ħamrija niedja għas-sbejħa qerd iż-żaqquq!

Jekk trid tara filmat ta' dan kollu mur hawnhekk https://youtu.be/DH4aaqfTNRQ

Lajs x'int bravu!

L-isem xjentifiku tal-qerd iż-żaqquq huwa ***Sceliphron spirifex.***

Desirée Falzon



Desirée Falzon

Il-bejta tat-tajn tal-qerd iż-żaqquq

[1]**konka.** Ħofra baxxa għat-tisqija

Club Days!

Keep these Saturdays free!

Saturday 18 September 2021	Details later
Saturday 11 December 2021	Details later

On these dates we'll be having **Klabb Ħuttaf** activities. We're working on the details so always check our website for the latest news.

www.birdlifemalta.org/events

2 membri akkanikti

Raquel Buhagiar u Joel Buhagiar huma żewġ membri akkaniti ta' Klabb Ħuttaf. Nhar it-3 Awwissu 2021 kienu l-mistednin fil-programm *Ċama Ċama* fuq NET TV. Tkellmu fuq l-imħabba tagħhom lejn in-natura u fuq l-attivitajiet tal-Klabb li jattendu. Prosit girls, qis li tibqgħu attivi fil-BirdLife ħajjitkom kollha! Grazzi wkoll lil Marco li mexxa l-programm.

il-granċ...

Ritratti ta' Aron Tanti

MAUVE STINGER: A TRICKY BEAUTY

Every beachgoer in Malta knows these beautiful creatures - either from their beauty and abundance, or from their painful sting! Here are 6 things you should remember about the mauve stinger (also known as ***Pelagia noctiluca***) this summer:

1. Like all jellyfish, they are animals! They are closely related to sea anemones and corals.

2. Their body is made out of around 95-98% water.

3. Their blooms in Malta occur in mid-winter and late summer.

4. Their abundance in the recent years is most likely because of climate change, overfishing, changes in water quality and coastal urbanization. They like hot waters, for example!

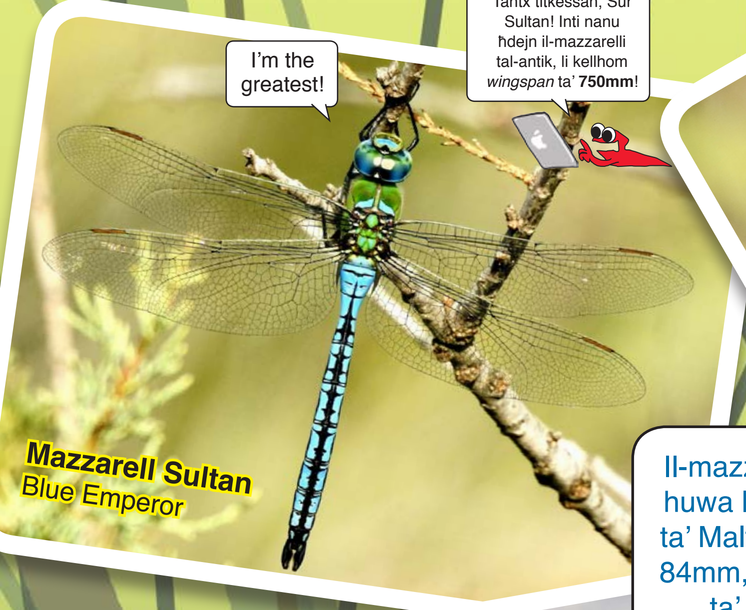
5. Mauve stingers can glow in the dark. We call this 'bioluminescence'.

6. If you are stung, do not pee on it! That's a myth that will make the stinging cells to explode even more and cause more pain. Instead, rinse with seawater and remove the tentacles with a card. If available, apply a mixture of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate) with seawater, and go to the doctor if you feel unwell!

MALTA NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Il-marelli! Xi ġmiel ta' Mazzarelli

Dawn huma tmien speċi ta' mazzarelli (dragonflies) li naraw regolari f'Malta.



Mazzarell Sultan
Blue Emperor

Sultan Sewdien
Lesser Emperor

Il-mazzarell sultan huwa l-ikbar insett ta' Malta. Jikber sa 84mm, b'*wingspan* ta' 104mm.

Kaħlani Żgħir
Keeled Skimmer

Skarlat
Broad Scarlet

Il-mazzarelli huma predaturi. Jieklu l-iktar insetti żgħar, speċjalment nemus.

Black Pennant
Mazzarell Żgħir

Jiġifieri dal-mazzarell ma niżilx fuq fjura biex jixrob minnha, imma biex jistrieħ.

Kaħlani Prim
Long Skimmer

Il-mazzarelli jbidu fl-ilma ħelu. Il-frieħ ukoll jgħixu fl-ilma sa ma jikbru u jlestu biex joħorġu.

Vjolett
Violet Dropwing

Ħamrani
Red-veined Darter

Margun

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti

Dolphins & Turtles

Bottlenose dolphins are commonly sighted in Maltese waters throughout the year. They can be found in both offshore and coastal seas all over the world. They are sociable and playful mammals, which often travel and hunt in groups of about 7 individuals known as pods.

This species typically ranges from 2.8 to 4 m in length and can live upwards of 50 years. Bottlenose dolphins have excellent hearing which they use for communication as well as for finding food such as fish, squid, and shrimp which typically make up their diet.

In addition to having excellent hearing, they emit specific whistles to communicate with one another and to detect objects.

The orange area shows the Marine Protected Areas which are important for **dolphins and turtles**

Loggerhead turtles are a species of sea turtle which can be commonly encountered in the Mediterranean. Their large, muscular heads gave them their common English name. Loggerheads are distinguished by a reddish-grey oval shell, also known as a carapace, and a yellow underside, or plastron.

Their average weight is around 90 to 150 kg, and their shell is 90 to 100 cm in length, however mature males have longer and larger tails than females. They mainly eat crustaceans, sponges, molluscs, and other invertebrates.

Loggerhead turtle

Loggerheads tend to travel around a lot depending on what stage of their life they are in. Younger turtles seek open sea habitats many miles from the coast, whilst adults prefer more coastal areas. Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, and Libya are the main nesting sites, however they also nest on the beaches of Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Israel, Italy and occasionally in Malta.

For more information visit **era.org.mt**

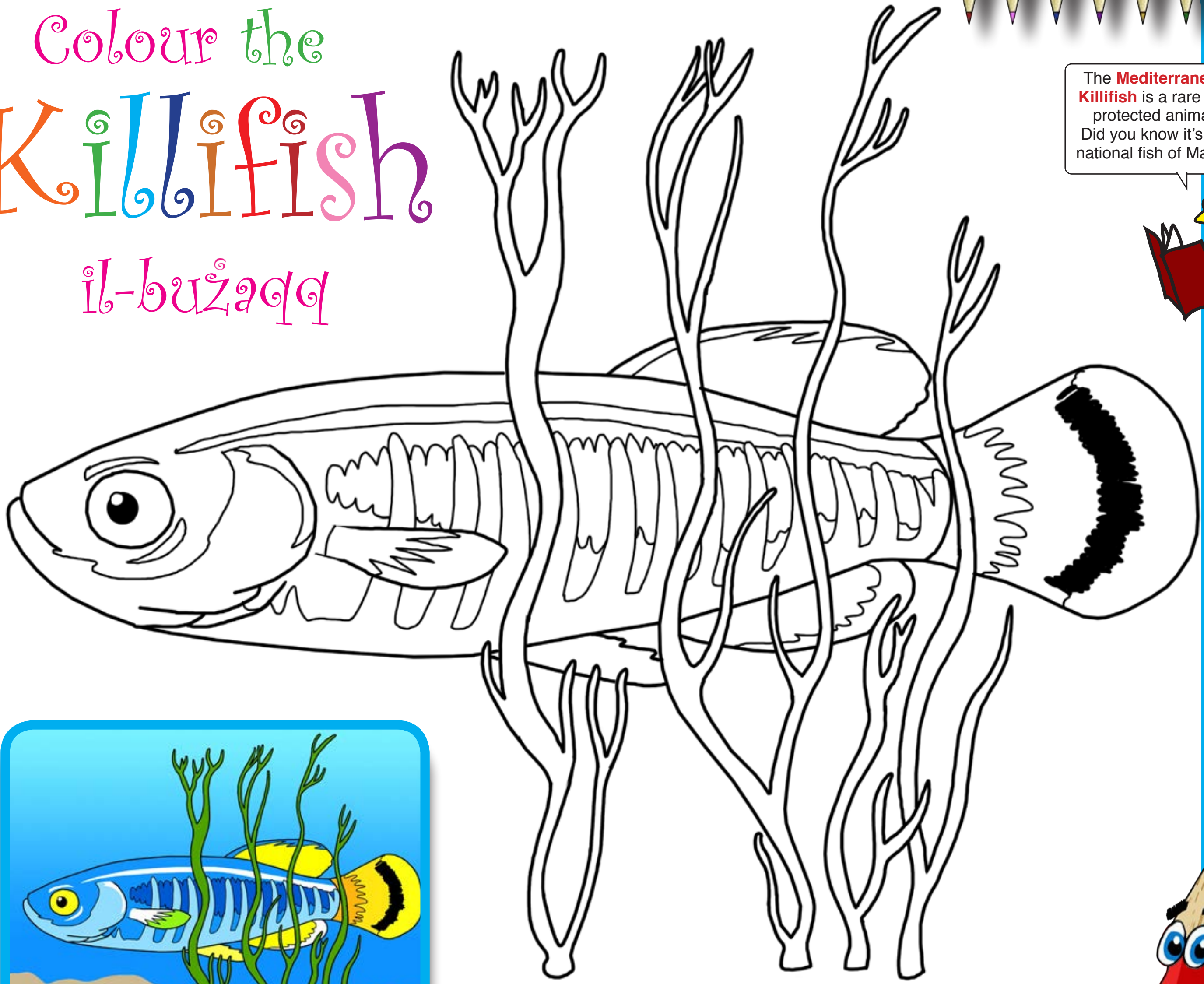
ERA Environment & Resources Authority

Photos - OCEANA/Carlos Minguell © LIFE BaĦAR for N2K

Botttlenose dolphin

Victor Falzon

Colour the Killifish il-bużaqq



The **Mediterranean Killifish** is a rare and protected animal. Did you know it's the national fish of Malta?

Are you a wildlife artist? Send us your nature drawings!

BirdLife Malta

Playing the Migration Game

Sizing up the birds!

BirdLife Malta

Fun Day at Salina

On **Saturday 24 July 2021** we had a Fun Day at Salina nature reserve. We had lots of games and activities, like nature board games, puzzles, a craft station and a treasure hunt. We used binoculars and a telescope to watch birds on the salt pans, and we looked at tiny creatures through a microscope. It was fantastic.

Ġonna Dinja Waħda

Ġnien Dinja Waħda huwa ġnien speċjali maħsub biex jiġbed in-natura lejh. Il-BirdLife ilha ħafna snin tgħin skejjel biex joħolqu dawn il-ġonna, fejn in-natura tinfirex u l-istudenti jgawdu u jitgħallmu. Nittawlu lejn uħud minnhom...

Victor Falzon

Post: **Esplora**

L-isem tal-ġnien: **Pollinator-friendly Garden**

Area tal-ġnien: **133m²**

Għalkemm Esplora mhux skola, huwa xorta post fejn kull sena jmorru eluf ta' studenti* biex jitgħallmu fuq ix-xjenza. Mad-dawra tal-bini antik hemm diversi rqajja' ħamrija, u f'roqgħa żgħira minnhom il-BirdLife għenet lil Esplora biex tibdilha fi ġnien li jiġbed lejh insetti dakkara bħal naħal, friefet u ħanfus.

Angus Wilkinson

Ħafna mill-ħamrija kienet mikxufa u bla ħajja, u kienet spiss titballat bil-passi tan-nies.

Abbie Ferrar

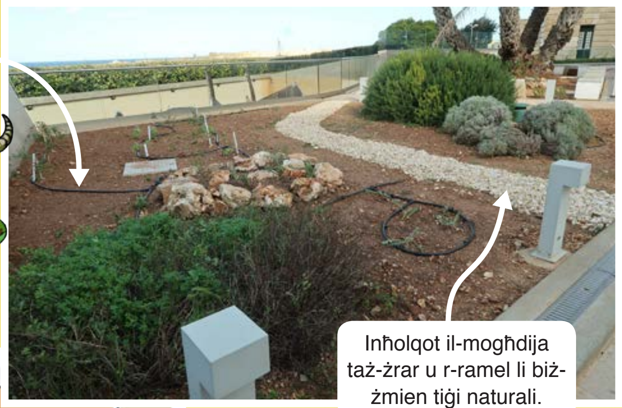
Fi żmien sena u nofs il-post bilkemm jingħaraf li hu l-istess wieħed!

Francesca Aaskov

Ix-xorbett u s-salvja ġmielhom jiffoltaw, u qed jiffurmaw ħeġġ sabiħ.

Francesca Aaskov

Iddaħħlet sistema ta' tisqija bil-qatra ħalli l-pjanti jkollhom l-ilma mal-għeruq u jikbru iktar malajr.



Desirée Falzon

Inħolqot il-mogħdija taż-żrar u r-ramel li biż-żmien tiġi naturali.

Għamilna pjan ta' taħwil u ssuġġerejna ħafna pjanti indiġeni li jkunu tajbin biex jitħawlu fil-ġnien. Minn nofs il-ġnien għaddejna mogħdija biex il-post ikun jista' jitgawda aħjar. Hemm ukoll maħsubin *bug hotel* u *bird tables*.

Aron Tanti

*Ħlief f'daż-żmien tal-Covid 19 sintendi!

So you want to help the planet?

Don't buy an SUV!

Many people think SUVs are cool. But SUVs are not cool at all, they are a BIG problem.

SUVs use up lots more fuel than a normal car because they're so big and heavy. SUVs produce lots of CO_2 and this is making the climate hotter. SUVs make more pollution than all the aeroplanes in the world put together! If all SUV owners joined up and formed a country, it would be the 7th most polluting country in the world!

SUVs also take up more parking space and they use up more stuff and power to build than normal cars. They are more dangerous for pedestrians too.

Meh! Not so cool after all, are they?

Pokémon Fun at Is-Simar

BirdLife Malta

On **Saturday 19 June 2021** we had a great time at Is-Simar. We became Pokémon trainers and tried to catch them all! We had a scavenger hunt along the trail and solved the riddles on the backs of Pokéballs to find the next Pokémon. Then we explored the Olive Grove where we invented our very own Pokémon from the wildlife we saw at Simar, like little egrets, snakes and butterflies. We had loads of fun!

Smiley and Grumpy

Good news and bad news from around the world

Pandastic!

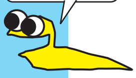
The giant panda is not on the list of endangered animals any more. Yayy!

For many years the giant panda was in danger of extinction. It was so rare the World Wildlife Fund chose the panda as its logo!

Giant pandas only live in China. The Chinese government set up panda zoos and spent many years trying to get pandas to have babies in the zoo. But what pandas wanted was habitat where to live wild.

Now the Chinese government is opening a huge 27,000km² park for pandas. And they are training young pandas to live free in the park.

There are about **1860 pandas** in the wild. Not a lot but better than 30 years ago.

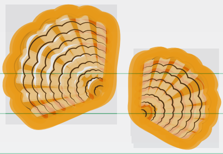


Smoky pole!

For the first time ever, **there is smoke over the North Pole!** The smoke is coming from forests burning in Russia. There are so many fires there that firefighters are giving up. In satellite pictures, most of Russia is covered in smoke.

Many other forests are on fire too, like in Greece, Italy, Turkey, California, Canada and of course the Amazon. It's all because of climate change.

AMY'S DIARY

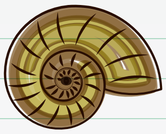


Heyyy Ħuttafers!

Amy here!

So excited to be back at the **BEACH**! I just love snorkeling and diving, spying on the sea and its creatures.

Sadly, I grew out of last year's flippers…
Luckily, it didn't take me too long for me to save up for a new pair. And I did it by helping the environment!



We always make sure to pick up after ourselves at the beach, but this year I was inspired by the **WORLD CLEAN-UP DAY** and wanted to go a step further and pick up other stuff that doesn't belong on the beach.

Dad wasn't too keen on me touching other people's rubbish, but Mum came to the rescue with a pair of gloves… seriously, sometimes I suspect that her handbag is magic…

So, as I was saying, I got rewarded every time we went to the beach for picking up litter, and I got a new pair of flippers in no time!

Toodles!
Amy

BEACH Clean-up
SPOT 10 ITEMS
that do not belong on the beach

BOV
Bank of Valletta

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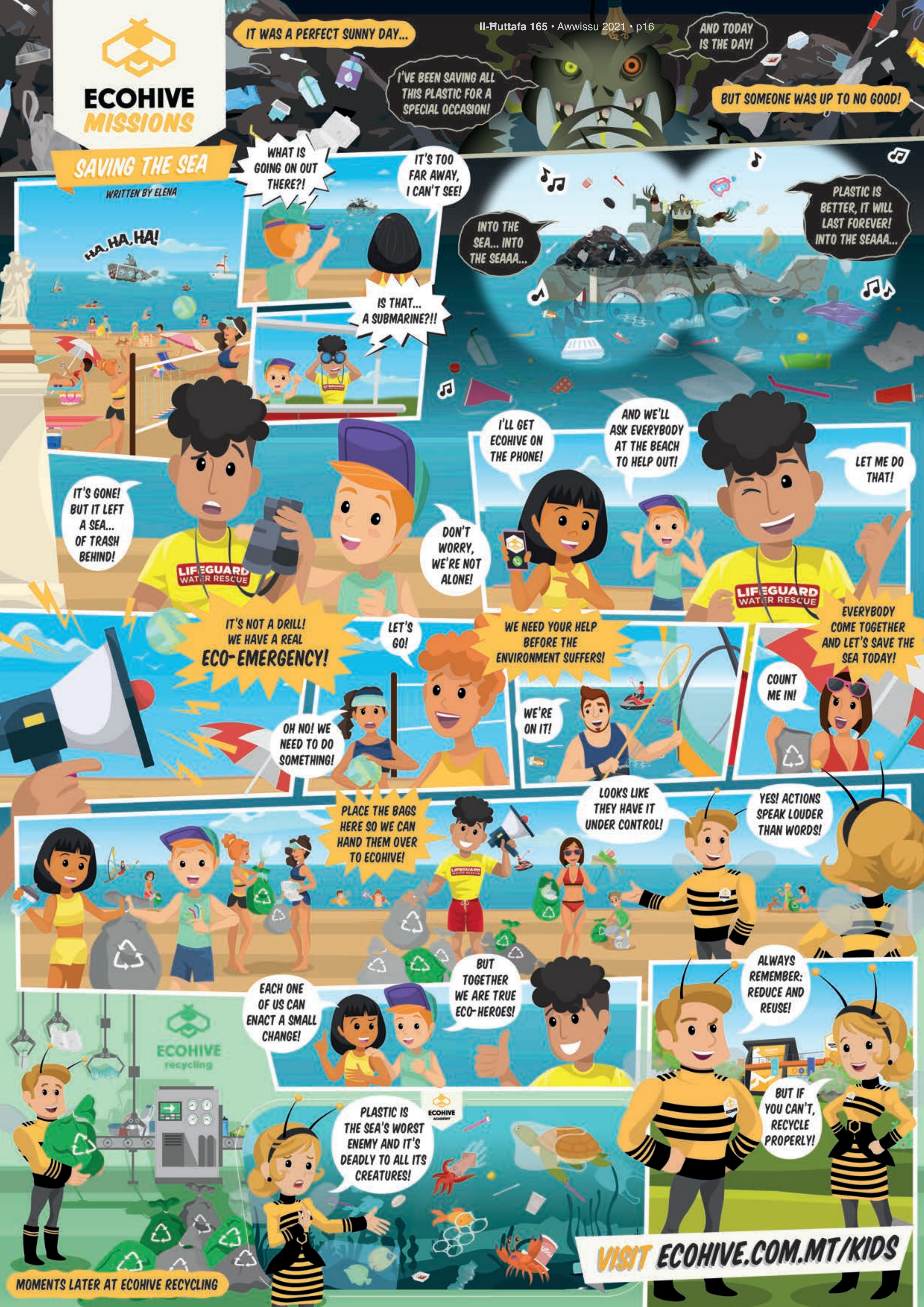
FATTI FAWNA

Victor Falzon

il-Qanfud

- Il-Qanfud huwa mammiferu (*mammal*) u qiegħed fil-grupp jgħidulhom insettivori.
- L-isem xjentifiku tal-Qanfud huwa *Atelerix algirus* – *algirus* tfisser "mill-Alġerija" għax il-Qanfud ta' Malta oriġina fl-Afrika ta' Fuq.
- L-iktar ħaġa li tispikka fil-Qanfud hija l-kisja xewk fuq dahru. Dan ix-xewk huwa xagħar speċjali, iebes u jniggeż. Huwa magħmul mill-istess materjal ta' xagħarna u difrejna.
- Il-Qanfud għandu x-xewk fuq dahru biss. Għalhekk meta jara l-periklu (eż. ballottra, bniedem, eċċ.) l-Qanfud iross rasu u saqajh ma' żaqqu u jsir ballun tax-xewk. Il-predatur fl-aħħar jaqta' qalbu u jitlaq.
- Il-Qanfud huwa notturn, jiġifieri joħroġ iħuf għall-ikel billejl. Binhar jibqa' mistoħbi.
- Il-Qanfud jiekol bebbux, bugħarwien, ħniex, xini u insetti bħal ħanfus u grillijiet.
- Il-Qanfud jgħix l-iktar fil-kampanja qalb ir-raba', imma anke fl-isteppa u fix-xagħri. Jorqod f'ħofor li jħaffer fil-ħamrija speċjalment taħt arbuxxelli goffi.
- Il-Qanfud qed jonqos minħabba ż-żieda fit-toroq u l-bini fil-kampanja, u minħabba l-bexx li joqtollu l-annimali li jiekol.
- Aktarx li l-Qanfud mhux indiġenu għal Malta imma daħħlu l-bniedem żmien twil ilu. Illum inqisuh parti mill-fawna ta' Malta.
- Ħafna Qniefed jittajru mill-karozzi. Meta nsuqu fil-kampajna fid-dlam għandna nsuqu bil-mod ħalli jekk naraw Qanfud qed jaqsam, nieqfu fil-ħin bla ma ntajruh.
- Bħal kważi l-mammiferi kollha ta' Malta, il-Qanfud huwa mħares bil-liġi.

Victor Falzon


ECOHIVE
MISSIONS
IT WAS A PERFECT SUNNY DAY...
I'VE BEEN SAVING ALL THIS PLASTIC FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION!
AND TODAY IS THE DAY!
BUT SOMEONE WAS UP TO NO GOOD!
SAVING THE SEA
WRITTEN BY ELENA
HA, HA, HA!
WHAT IS GOING ON OUT THERE?!
IT'S TOO FAR AWAY, I CAN'T SEE!
IS THAT... A SUBMARINE?!!
INTO THE SEA... INTO THE SEAAA...
PLASTIC IS BETTER, IT WILL LAST FOREVER! INTO THE SEAAA...
IT'S GONE! BUT IT LEFT A SEA... OF TRASH BEHIND!
LIFEGUARD WATER RESCUE
DON'T WORRY, WE'RE NOT ALONE!
I'LL GET ECOHIVE ON THE PHONE!
AND WE'LL ASK EVERYBODY AT THE BEACH TO HELP OUT!
LET ME DO THAT!
LIFEGUARD WATER RESCUE
IT'S NOT A DRILL! WE HAVE A REAL ECO-EMERGENCY!
LET'S GO!
WE NEED YOUR HELP BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT SUFFERS!
EVERYBODY COME TOGETHER AND LET'S SAVE THE SEA TODAY!
OH NO! WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING!
WE'RE ON IT!
COUNT ME IN!
PLACE THE BAGS HERE SO WE CAN HAND THEM OVER TO ECOHIVE!
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE IT UNDER CONTROL!
YES! ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS!
EACH ONE OF US CAN ENACT A SMALL CHANGE!
BUT TOGETHER WE ARE TRUE ECO-HEROES!
ALWAYS REMEMBER: REDUCE AND REUSE!
BUT IF YOU CAN'T, RECYCLE PROPERLY!
ECOHIVE recycling
PLASTIC IS THE SEA'S WORST ENEMY AND IT'S DEADLY TO ALL ITS CREATURES!
ECOHIVE ACADEMY
MOMENTS LATER AT ECOHIVE RECYCLING
VISIT ECOHIVE.COM.MT/KIDS