



Britain's rarest lizard to be tracked in the wild by radio tags!

A group of 24 sand lizards have been fitted with transmitters to track their movements and behaviour as they are reintroduced into the wild by Marwell Wildlife in Hampshire. The tiny radio tags, which weigh just 0.29 grams, will help experts understand the lizards' behaviour as they are put into the wild at Eelmoor Marsh, a site of special scientific interest in Farnborough.

The tags will fall off after a short time, or when the lizard sheds its skin.

Rachel Gardner, PhD student at the University of Southampton, said: "Because they blend into the environment and spend time foraging and hiding in dense undergrowth, sand lizards can be incredibly difficult to see. Being able to track them in this way is really exciting, I can't wait to see how far they go, how quickly, and exactly how they use the habitat."

She added: "Having spent the last year rearing the lizards in captivity, it's wonderful to finally release them into their natural habitat and apply this novel technology to see how they do."



Pictured: A Sand lizard, Lacerta agilis.

Overdue library book returned after 84 years!



Pictured: Books in a library.

A man has escaped a fine after returning a library book 84 years after it was borrowed!

In a Facebook post, the Shreve Memorial Library in Louisiana said: "Better late than never, right? We had a patron return a book to our Main Branch yesterday that his mother checked out in 1934 when she was 11 years old."

"That means the book is only 84 years overdue! The book is Spoon River Anthology by Edgar Lee Masters."

Jackie Morales, the library's assistant manager, said: "The man was cleaning his parents' home when he found the book and decided to return it. He said it was what his mother would have done."

The library's Facebook post added: "We thought that the title was appropriately spooky to turn up again after all this time right around Halloween."

The stamped library card from the book shows it was due back on 14 April 1934.



UK-built spacecraft BepiColombo set to explore Mercury's mysteries



Pictured: Earth, Mercury and the Moon

Europe's first mission to Mercury will deploy two orbiters packed with sophisticated technology to unravel the planet's mysteries. A British-built spacecraft is set to blast off from Earth bound for Mercury, the scorching planet closest to the sun.

BepiColombo, the European Space Agency's (Esa) first mission to Mercury, will send two probes to explore the planet where surface temperatures reach 450C.

The four-tonne spacecraft will be launched into orbit by Esa's rocket Ariane 5 from the European spaceport at Kourou, French Guiana.

It will then make a 8.5bn km journey over seven years to reach its destination by 2025.

The 13kg metre-long device consists of two X-ray telescopes, one designed to capture images of the surface and the other to analyse its composition.

Scientist Professor Emma Bunce said: "We want to understand how the solar system works and how it was formed. Mercury is a place of extremes; a small planet and the planet closest to the sun. Knowing how it has survived will help us piece together a bigger picture of the solar system and our place in it."

The world's first fully-autonomous indoor farm is operational

A farm in Silicon Valley which is capable of autonomously growing and picking leafy greens is now operational.

Robotics company Iron Ox has launched the world's first autonomous farm, leveraging advancements in plant science, machine learning, and robotics.

The indoor farm is focused on increasing the availability, quality and flavour of leafy greens including romaine lettuce, butterhead lettuce, and kale - as well as culinary herbs including basil, cilantro, and chives.

The robots tending these plants are Angus, a 1,000-pound machine that can lift and move the large hydroponic boxes in which the produce is growing and a robotic arm for harvesting the produce.



Picture from Iron Ox's twitter page

Pictured: Iron Ox robot tending to plants.



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