



Strange 'hatching alien fungus' spreading

A bizarre fungus that looks like a 'hatching alien' and smells really bad could be spreading around the UK. The *Clathrus archeri* is also called Devil's Fingers or Octopus Stinkhorn because of its bizarre appearance. It has a mass of creepy, red arms that erupt from an oval, slimy, moist, gelatinous pink egg. It smells like rotten fish in order to attract insects, like flies, that would normally be attracted to poo, so they spread its spores around! The squid like, alien-looking fungus has been spotted at Royal Horticultural Society Garden (RHS) Rosemoor, in North Devon and gardens and woodlands around the UK. The RHS confirmed different fungi were popping up all over Britain as the damp summer followed by the wet autumn weather created perfect conditions for them to 'fruit'.

Have you seen any fungi? Do you know which ones are dangerous?



Pictured: A typical image of the Clathrus archeri.

Rats drive tiny cars



Pictured: The rats driving tiny cars, at the University of Richmond, taken from the university's Twitter page.

Scientists at the University of Richmond, Virginia, have trained rats to drive tiny cars to collect food. Dr Kelly Lambert and her team constructed the tiny cars from clear plastic food containers on wheels. The floor was made of aluminium, and three copper bars allowed the rat to steer by gripping any of the bars, completing an electrical circuit. Her study also examined the rats' droppings and discovered that learning to drive appeared to relax them, judging by the levels of stress hormones they were excreting. The study could help scientists understand how learning new skills affects the human mind and stress levels. "They learned to navigate the car in unique ways and engaged in steering patterns they had never used to eventually arrive at the reward," said Prof Lambert. *Do you think any other animals could learn to drive?*



Archaeologists in Egypt find ancient coffins



Pictured: One of the 30 coffins with mummies inside, taken from the Ministry of Antiquities-Arab Republic of Egypt's Twitter page.

Researchers have made a major discovery in Luxor, Egypt; they have unearthed 30 ancient coffins, the country's largest find in more than a century. The coffins vibrant paintings are still intact, they have colourful and intricate designs on them, from patterns to Egyptian deities and hieroglyphics. Archaeologists opened two of the coffins and found perfectly preserved mummies inside. The mummies are possibly priests and priestesses and are 3000 years old. The coffins were in 'a good condition of preservation, colour and complete inscriptions,' the officials said. The ministry described the discovery as "one of the largest and most important" in recent years. The coffins will be restored and displayed in the Grand Egyptian Museum next year.

Would you like to see an Egyptian mummy?

Josh Hill becomes youngest ever golf champion

England's, Josh Hill, has created a new world record as the youngest ever male winner of an Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR) tournament. Current England boys' squad player, Hill, who was 15 years, 6 months and 27 days old when he completed his stunning feat, has taken the title from Japan's Ryo Ishikawa. Ishikawa was aged 15 years and 8 months when he won the Munsingwear Open KSB Cup in 2007. Josh claimed a remarkable two-shot victory at the Al Ain Open in the United Arab Emirates. Unfortunately, as an amateur, Hill was not allowed to accept the first prize of over £10,000 which went to professional Harry Ellis, who came second in the tournament!



Pictured: Josh Hill at the Al Ain Open golf championship, taken from England Golf's Twitter page.

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