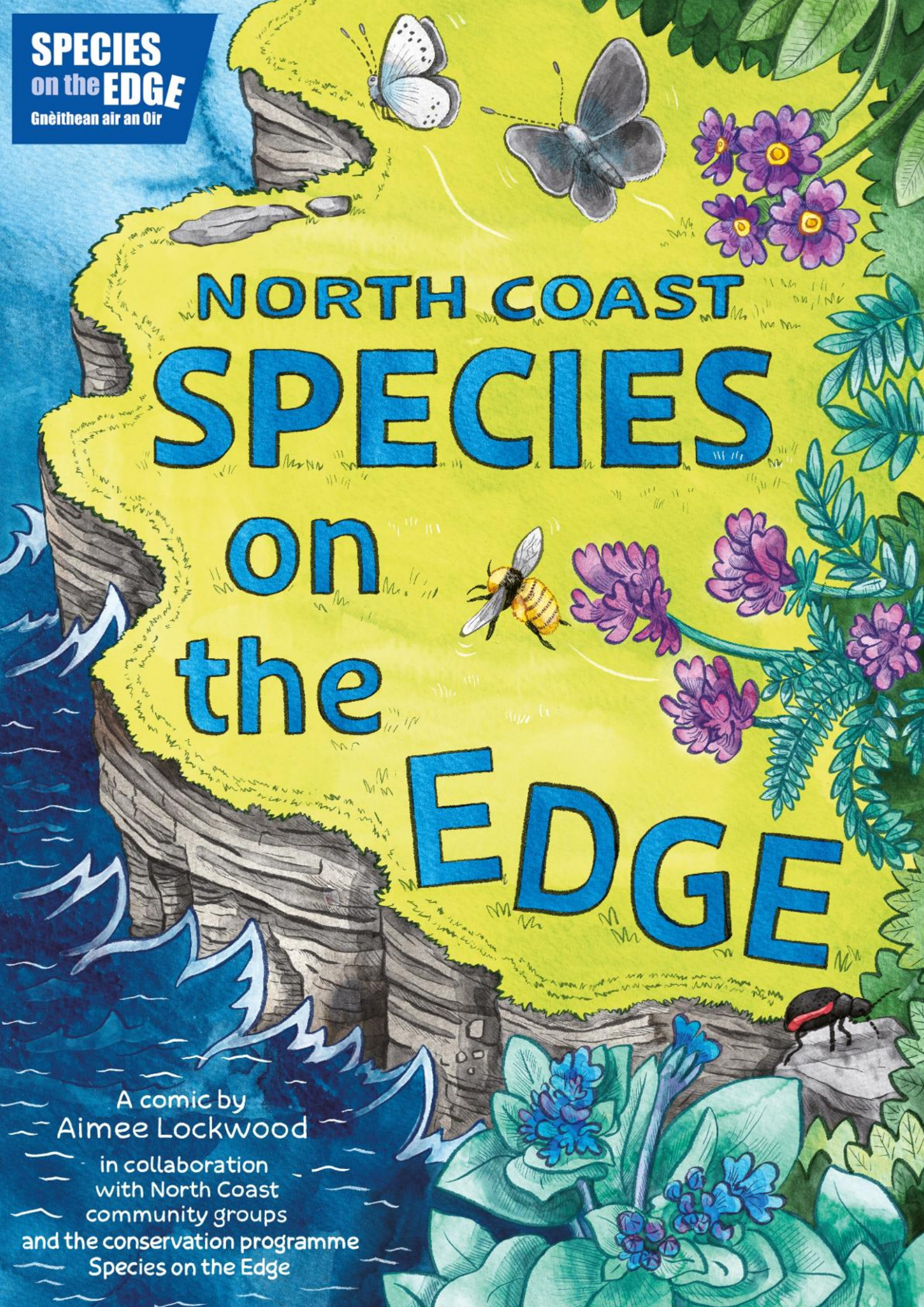


SPECIES
on the EDGE
Gnèithean air an Oir



NORTH COAST SPECIES on the EDGE

A comic by
Aimee Lockwood
in collaboration
with North Coast
community groups
and the conservation programme
Species on the Edge

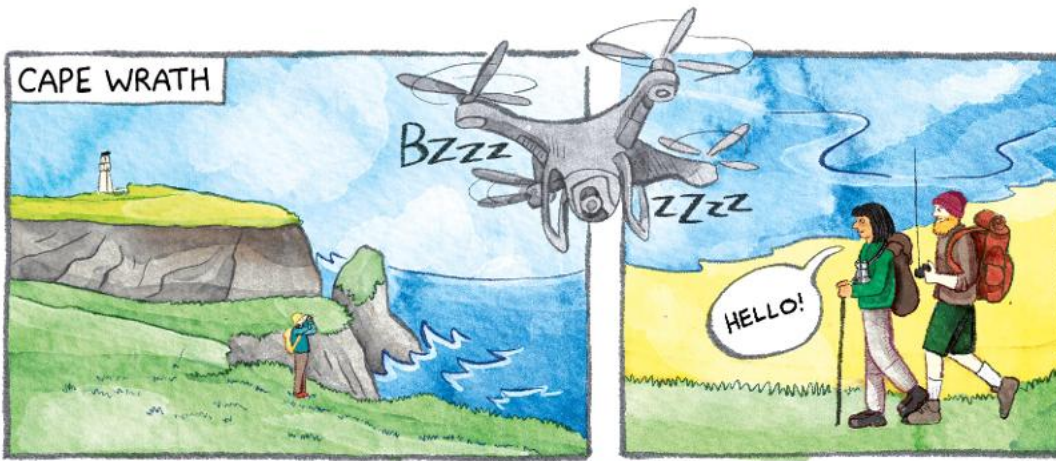


North Coast Species on the Edge

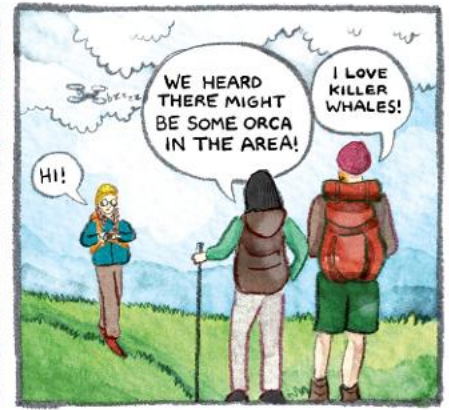
**A comic made in 2025-26 in collaboration
with communities across the north coast
and the conservation programme
Species on the Edge**

by Aimee Lockwood

CAPE WRATH



HELLO!



WE HEARD THERE MIGHT BE SOME ORCA IN THE AREA!

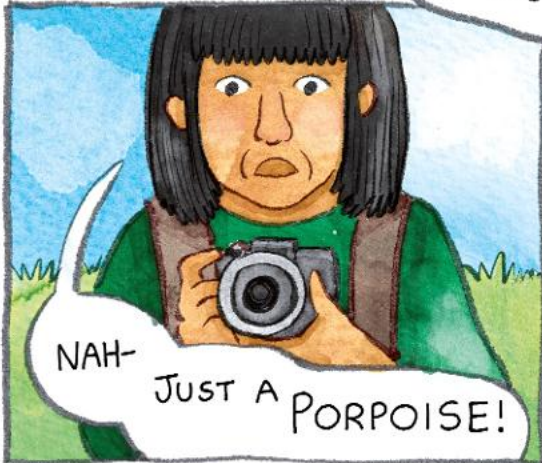
I LOVE KILLER WHALES!

HI!



SNAP

OH WOW, LOOK!



NAH- JUST A PORPOISE!



JUST A PORPOISE

WHEN'S THE LAST TIME I SAW A PORPOISE?

THEY USED TO BE SUCH A COMMON SIGHT, I GUESS I TOOK THEM FOR GRANTED.

NOW, THEY'RE IN A DECLINE. IT'S JUST A PORPOISE - BUT IT NEEDS OUR ATTENTION TOO!

PUFFINS!

SO CUTE!

A FIN!

IS THAT-

WAIT, TURN AROUND - THERE THEY ARE!

Wow!



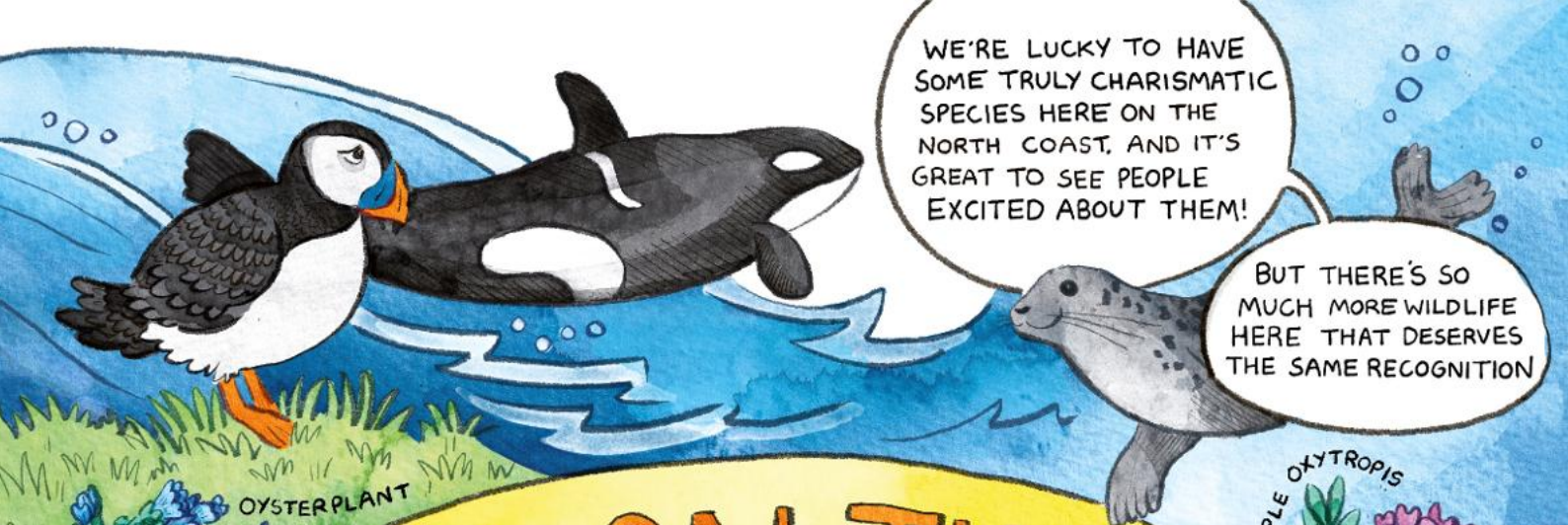
ONE OF OUR SMALLEST CETACEANS AT BETWEEN 1.4m - 1.9m LONG

HARBOUR

PORPOISE

SO CALLED BECAUSE OF THEIR HABIT OF LIVING CLOSE TO SHORE!

KNOWN LOCALLY AS "LOWPING DOWGS"



WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SOME TRULY CHARISMATIC SPECIES HERE ON THE NORTH COAST, AND IT'S GREAT TO SEE PEOPLE EXCITED ABOUT THEM!

BUT THERE'S SO MUCH MORE WILDLIFE HERE THAT DESERVES THE SAME RECOGNITION

OYSTERPLANT

PURPLE OXYTROPIS

SPECIES ON THE EDGE

IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NATURESCOT AND SEVEN OTHER CONSERVATION GROUPS;

PLANTLIFE / BUGLIFE / AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE CONSERVATION
BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION / BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST
RSPB / BAT CONSERVATION TRUST

DEDICATED TO RAISING AWARENESS OF
THE MOST VULNERABLE SPECIES ON
SCOTLAND'S ISLANDS AND COASTLINES

SMALL BLUE
BUTTERFLY

GREAT
YELLOW
BUMBLEBEE

SCOTTISH
PRIMROSE



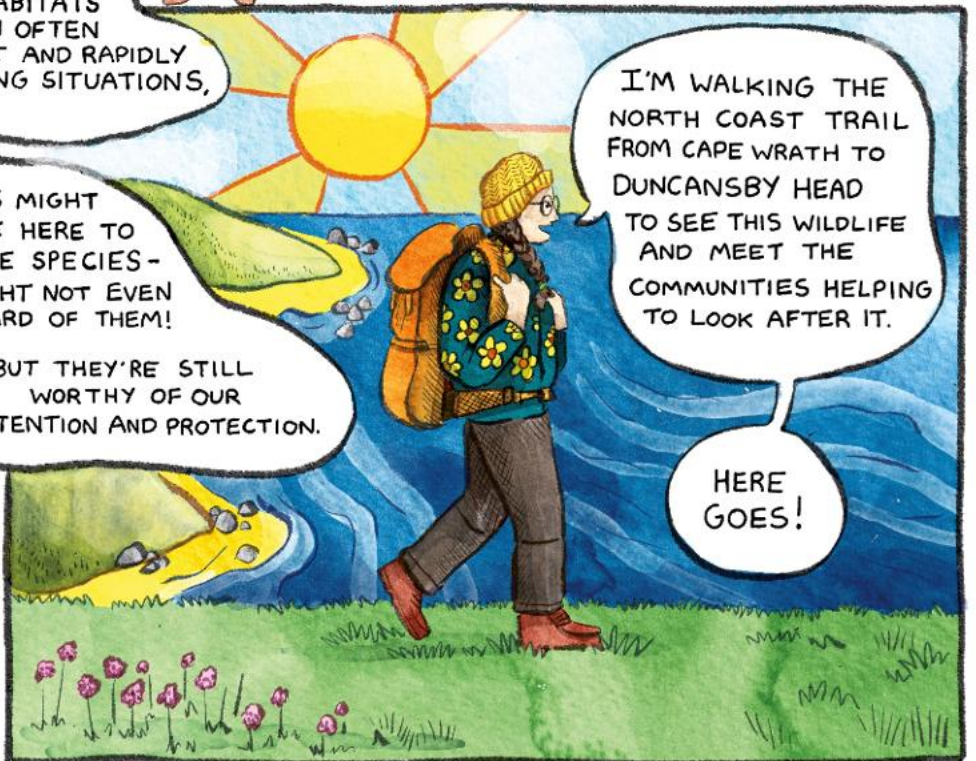
THEY WORK WITH COMMUNITIES
AND VOLUNTEERS TO
PRESERVE THE HABITATS
OF KEY SPECIES, IN OFTEN
DIFFICULT AND RAPIDLY
EVOLVING SITUATIONS,

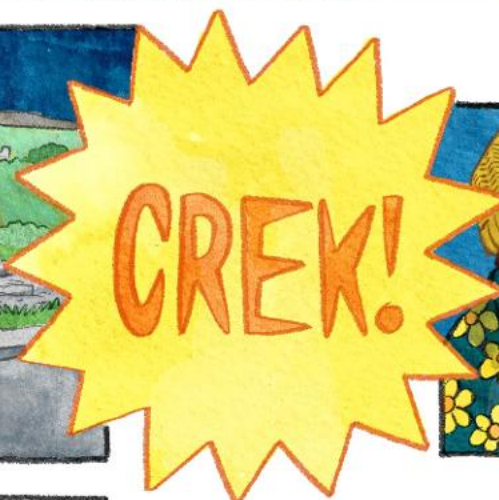
VISITORS MIGHT
NOT COME HERE TO
SEE THESE SPECIES -
THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN
HAVE HEARD OF THEM!

BUT THEY'RE STILL
WORTHY OF OUR
ATTENTION AND PROTECTION.

I'M WALKING THE
NORTH COAST TRAIL
FROM CAPE WRATH TO
DUNCANSBY HEAD
TO SEE THIS WILDLIFE
AND MEET THE
COMMUNITIES HELPING
TO LOOK AFTER IT.

HERE
GOES!





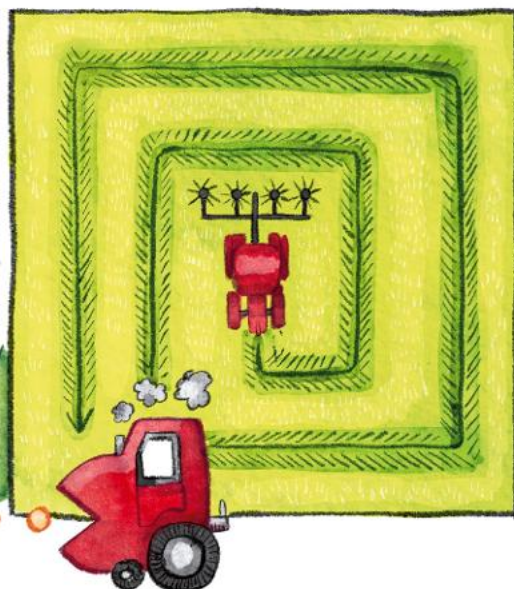
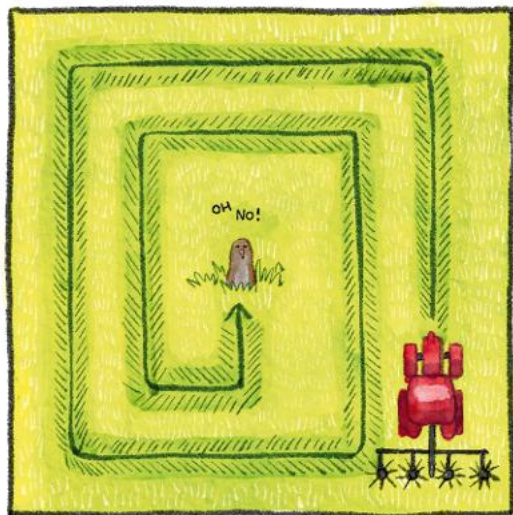
OF COURSE, THEY REALLY DO IT TO FIND A MATE. IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS THE MALES YOU'LL HEAR, CALLING OUT FOR A FEMALE - THE FEMALES ARE QUIETER!



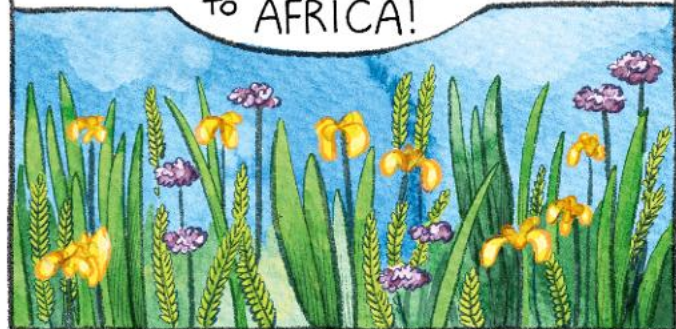
A BIGGER THREAT THAN PREDATION, THOUGH, IS THE LOSS OF HABITAT CAUSED BY INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE, AND THE PHYSICAL THREAT OF THE LARGE MACHINES THAT COME WITH IT.

CORNCRAKE NUMBERS HAVE BEEN DECLINING SINCE THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, WHEN MECHANISED MOWING BECAME COMMON PRACTICE.





DELAYING MOWING UNTIL AS LATE AS POSSIBLE IN THE SEASON IS IDEAL, AFTER THE LAST CHICKS HAVE MATURED ENOUGH TO BEGIN THEIR JOURNEY TO AFRICA!



THEY ACTUALLY UNDERTAKE ONE OF THE LONGEST MIGRATIONS OF ANY BIRD, ONLY 40 DAYS AFTER THEY HATCH!

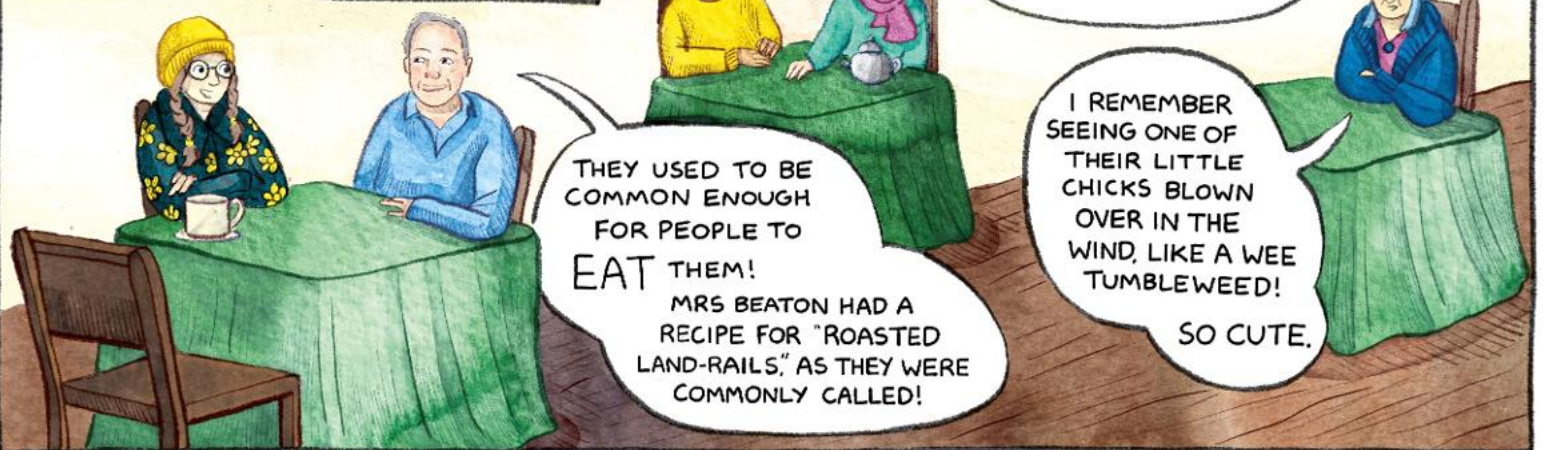


IN THE PAST, PEOPLE BELIEVED THAT THE CORNCRAKES' DISAPPEARANCE OVER WINTER WAS BECAUSE THEY HIBERNATE - UNDERWATER, OR UNDER THE MUD!

IN SOME VERSIONS OF THE MYTH, AFTER WINTER THE BIRDS WOULD EMERGE TRANSFORMED INTO A PLAGUE OF RATS!



IN DURNESS, LOTS OF PEOPLE SEEM QUITE NOSTALGIC ABOUT CORNCRAKES. IT'S THE ONLY REMAINING PLACE ON THE MAINLAND WITH BREEDING PAIRS, BUT THEY USED TO BE MUCH MORE FAMILIAR...



THEY USED TO BE COMMON ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO EAT THEM!

MRS BEATON HAD A RECIPE FOR "ROASTED LAND-RAILS," AS THEY WERE COMMONLY CALLED!

THEY USED TO KEEP ME UP AT NIGHT! WHAT A NUISANCE... I MISS THEM...

I REMEMBER SEEING ONE OF THEIR LITTLE CHICKS BLOWN OVER IN THE WIND, LIKE A WEE TUMBLEWEED!

SO CUTE.

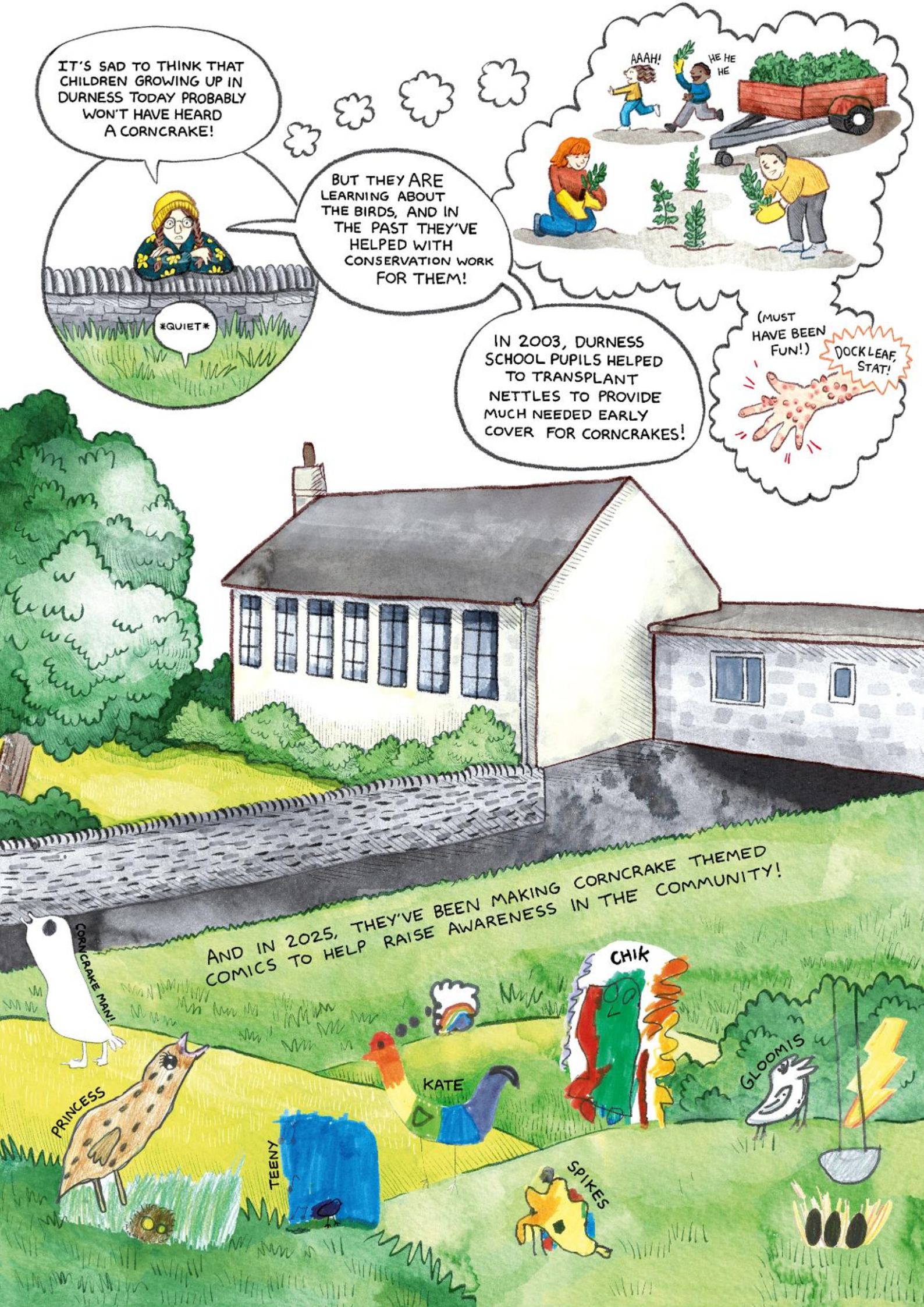
IT'S SAD TO THINK THAT CHILDREN GROWING UP IN DURNESS TODAY PROBABLY WON'T HAVE HEARD A CORNCRAKE!

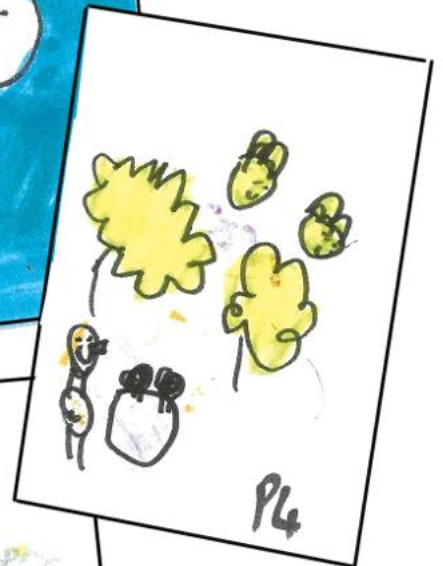
BUT THEY ARE LEARNING ABOUT THE BIRDS, AND IN THE PAST THEY'VE HELPED WITH CONSERVATION WORK FOR THEM!

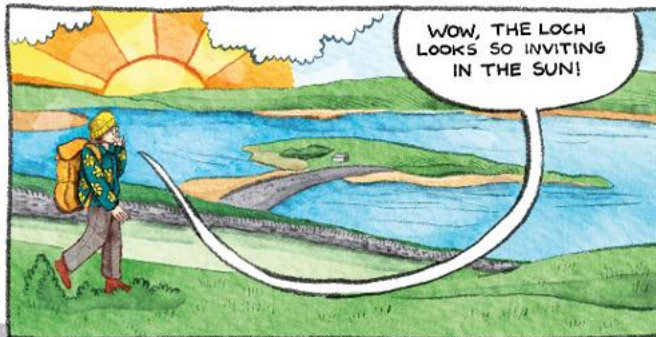
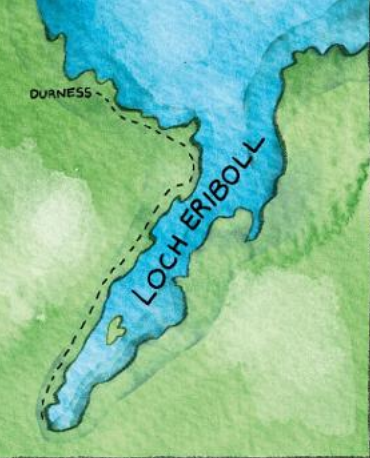
IN 2003, DURNESS SCHOOL PUPILS HELPED TO TRANSPLANT NETTLES TO PROVIDE MUCH NEEDED EARLY COVER FOR CORNCRAKES!

(MUST HAVE BEEN FUN!)
DOCKLEAF, STAT!

AND IN 2025, THEY'VE BEEN MAKING CORNCRAKE THEMED COMICS TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS IN THE COMMUNITY!







WOW, THE LOCH LOOKS SO INVITING IN THE SUN!



I MIGHT JUST DIP MY FEET IN...

URGH, THAT TICKLES!
IS IT SEAWE-
AH!

IT'S
EELS!



THERE ARE SO MANY! I DON'T WANT TO STEP ON THEM...



SARGASSO SEA!

THEY'VE TRAVELLED 4000 MILES TO GET HERE - ALL THE WAY FROM THE

THEY FLOAT OVER TO EUROPE AS PASSIVE LEPTOCEPHALAE, LEAF-SHAPED LARVAE THAT DRIFT ON OCEAN CURRENTS AND METAMORPHOSE INTO TINY GLASS EELS WHEN THEY REACH THE SHORE

THESE GLASS EELS ENTER ESTUARIES ON THE NIGHT OF A FLOOD TIDE

AS THEY TRAVEL UPSTREAM INTO FRESH WATER THEY DARKEN AND GROW INTO

ELVERS

(AT THIS STAGE THEY'RE ALSO KNOWN AS "BOOTLACE EELS")

THEY CAN SPECIALISE AS FISH OR INSECT EATERS, AND THEIR FOOD OF CHOICE DETERMINES THE SHAPE OF THEIR JAWS!

EUROPEAN EELS HAVE BEEN NOTORIOUS FOR THE LEVEL OF MYSTERY AROUND THEIR MIGRATION!

HISTORIC FIGURES FROM ARISTOTLE TO FREUD WERE FASCINATED BY THEM

SADLY, THEIR POPULATION DECLINED BY A HUGE 95% IN THE UK IN THE LAST 20 YEARS. OVERFISHING, CLIMATE CHANGE, PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND HABITAT LOSS ARE MAJOR THREATS.

IT'S SO SAD TO THINK THAT SOME OF THESE VULNERABLE SPECIES COULD BE GONE BEFORE ALL OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THEM CAN BE ANSWERED...

THEY GRADUALLY MATURE INTO YELLOW EELS, AN INTERMEDIATE STAGE THEY CAN STAY IN FOR AS LITTLE AS SEVEN AND AS MANY AS 50 YEARS, OR EVEN LONGER IN SOME CASES!

(WE CAN TELL THE AGE OF AN EEL BY LOOKING AT ITS 'OTOLITH', A STONE IN ITS EAR WITH RINGS A BIT LIKE A TREE!)

THE EEL'S JOURNEY BEGINS AND ENDS HERE, A SEAWED FILLED SEA IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE SURROUNDED BY OCEAN GYRES. WE KNOW THEY BREED HERE - IN 2022 SATELLITE TAGGING TRACED THEM ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE OCEAN!

WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TRIGGERS MIGRATION, BUT IT OFTEN SEEMS TO COINCIDE WITH A

NEW MOON

WHEN THEY'RE EVENTUALLY READY TO MIGRATE THEY TRANSFORM INTO MORE MATURE SILVER EELS!

WHY THE SARGASSO? HOW DO THEY GET BACK THERE?
WHY A NEW MOON?
THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE? SERIOUSLY?
WHY SUCH A WIDE VARIATION IN AGE?
WHY HAVEN'T WE SEEN THEM BREEDING IN THE WILD?

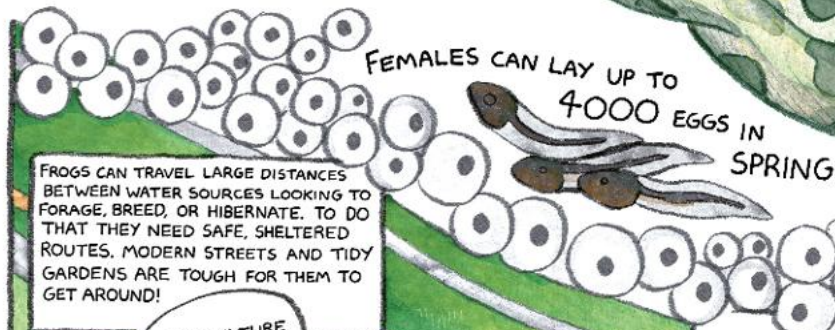


I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THEM!
THERE WERE SO MANY, YOU COULD BE
FORGIVEN FOR FORGETTING THAT
THEIR POPULATION IS SO AT RISK.
I'M SURE LOTS OF PEOPLE STILL
THINK OF THEM AS COMMON-AFTER
ALL, THEY USED TO MAKE UP AS
MUCH AS 50% OF TOTAL FISH
STOCKS IN SOME BODIES OF WATER



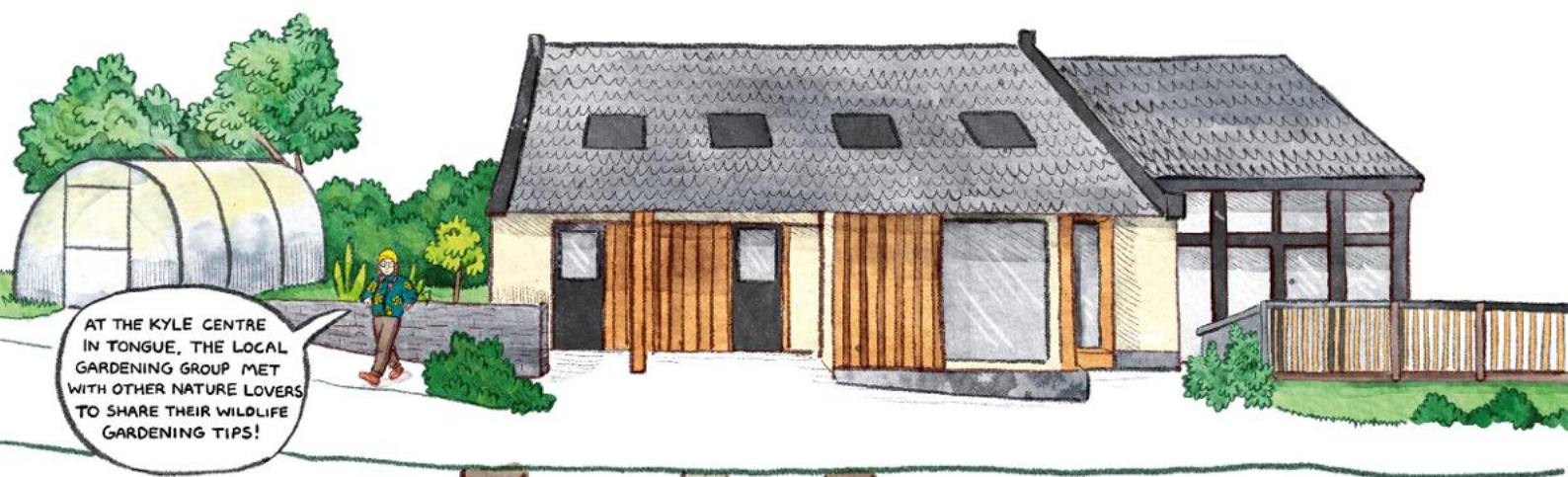
FROGS ARE FAMILIAR
GARDEN FRIENDS FOR
MOST PEOPLE-
THEY'RE CALLED

**COMMON
FROGS** FOR
GOOD REASON!



BUT EVEN
THEY ARE FACING SOME
NEW THREATS!



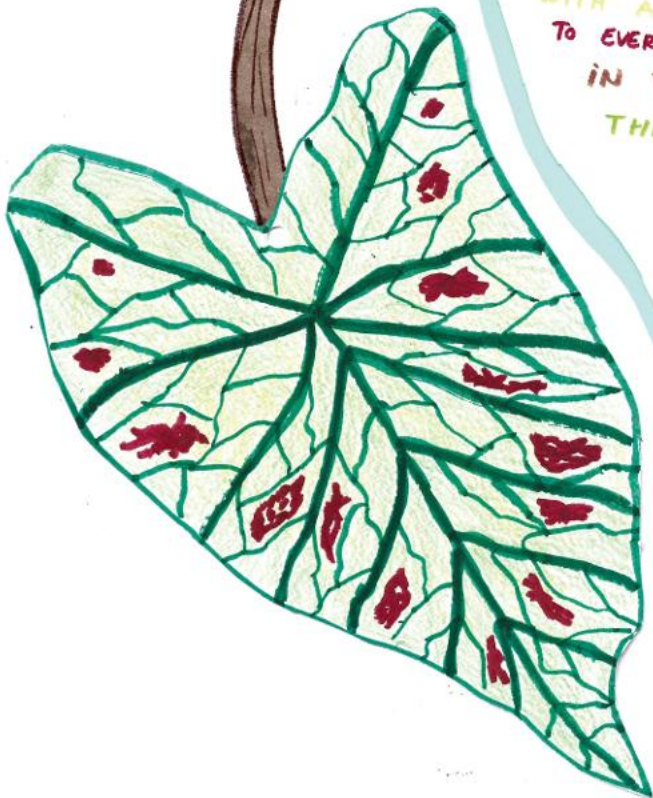


AT THE KYLE CENTRE
IN TONGUE, THE LOCAL
GARDENING GROUP MET
WITH OTHER NATURE LOVERS
TO SHARE THEIR WILDLIFE
GARDENING TIPS!

I like to let the
grass grow and
see what flowers
come up



DEAR PRIME MINISTER
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO PROVIDE
WITH A GARDEN
TO EVERY SINGLE PERSON
IN THIS COUNTRY
THANKS !!!



~~Make~~
Make a pond
and get some tadpoles.



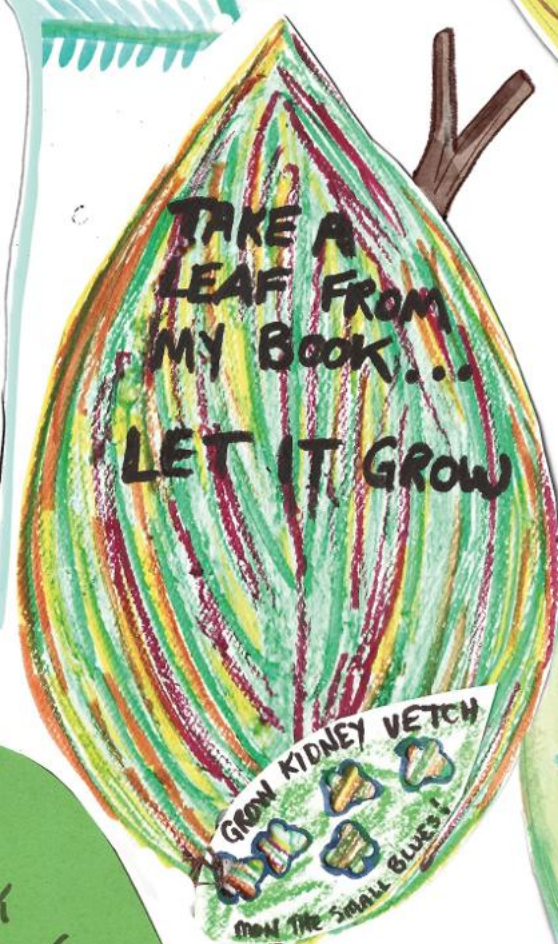
TURN THE
LIGHTS OFF AT
NIGHT...
BUGS & BATS LOVE
THE DARK.



LET THEM
BE WILD...



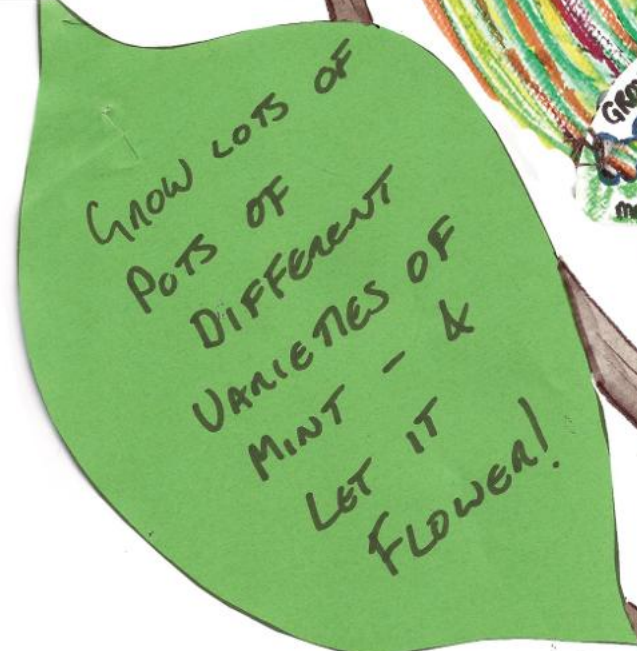
Leave a small
patch of your
lawn to grow
long and wild
for the
wildlife!



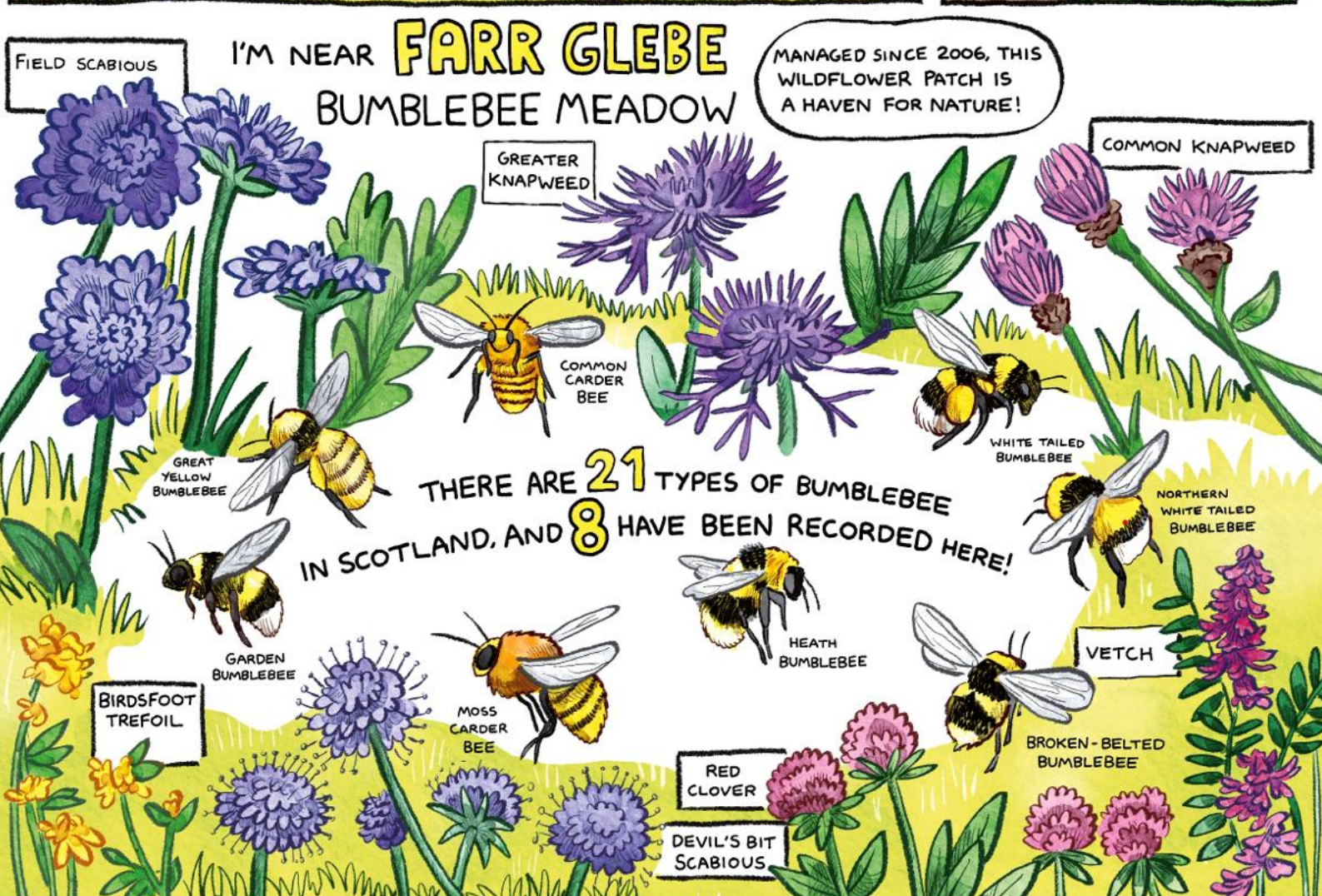
TAKE A
LEAF FROM
MY BOOK...
LET IT GROW



GROW KIDNEY VETCH
FROM THE SMALL BLUES!



GROW LOTS OF
POTS OF
DIFFERENT
VARIETIES OF
MINT - &
LET IT
FLOWER!



DISTINCT BLACK BAND
BETWEEN WINGS

THE ONE I'M MOST EXCITED
TO LOOK FOR IS THE

GREAT YELLOW BUMBLEBEE

WHICH IS NOW FOUND ONLY ON THE NORTH
COAST, ORKNEY AND THE HEBRIDES.

THEY'RE ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S
RAREST BEES, HAVING SUFFERED AN

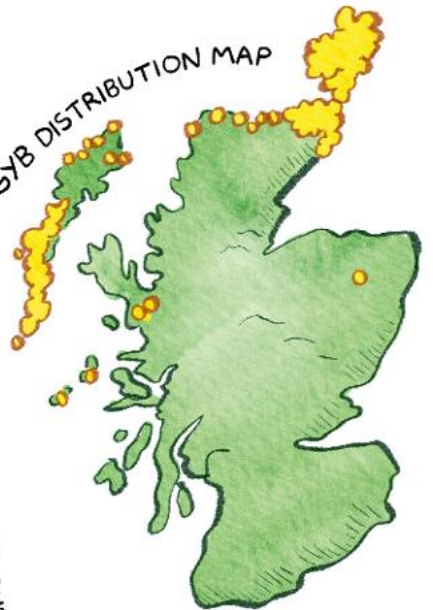
80% DECLINE IN DISTRIBUTION IN
THE LAST CENTURY.

SANDY
YELLOW
ABDOMEN

PRODUCE SMALL
COLONIES
OF 20-50
WORKERS

**BOMBUS
DISTINGUENDUS**

GYB DISTRIBUTION MAP



FEEDS ON VETCH, TREFOILS AND
SCABIOUS WITH ITS LONG TONGUE

GREAT YELLOWS ARE PARTICULARLY
ASSOCIATED WITH A UNIQUE COASTAL
HABITAT CALLED MACHAIR, A SANDY
FLOWER-RICH GRASSLAND, AS WELL AS
MANAGED LOW-LYING WILDFLOWER MEADOWS.



LEAVE CUTTING
FIELDS UNTIL
LATER IN THE YEAR

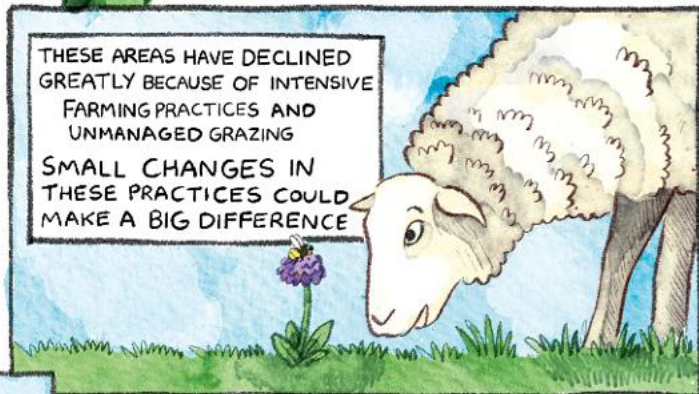


LESS INTENSIVE
GRAZING LIMITED
TO PARTICULAR
TIMES OF YEAR



THESE AREAS HAVE DECLINED
GREATLY BECAUSE OF INTENSIVE
FARMING PRACTICES AND
UNMANAGED GRAZING

SMALL CHANGES IN
THESE PRACTICES COULD
MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



IT'S FUNNY, BECAUSE THESE ARE THE EXACT
CONDITIONS THAT BENEFIT THE CORNCRAKES UP
WEST! IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT THESE
THINGS DON'T WORK IN ISOLATION - WHAT BENEFITS
ONE SPECIES OFTEN BENEFITS OTHERS TOO.

LEAVE SOME AREAS
UNTOUCHED TO PRESERVE
THE ABANDONED RODENT
NESTS THAT THE BEES USE

GREAT YELLOW HABITAT IS NOW LARGELY
RESTRICTED TO AREAS WHERE TRADITIONAL
CROFTING METHODS ARE STILL PRACTICED.



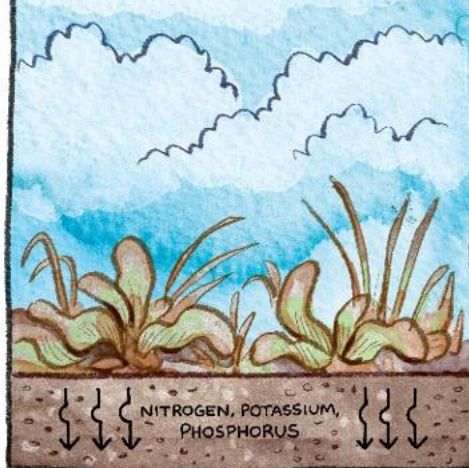
THIS SOUNDS
FAMILIAR...



WILDFLOWERS DO BEST IN NUTRIENT POOR SOIL. LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES, WITHOUT PROPER MANAGEMENT...



THE PLANTS WOULD BIODEGRADE AFTER DYING OFF AND FERTILISE THE EARTH...



AND THE NECTAR-RICH FLOWERS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE OUTCOMPETED BY VIGOROUS LEAFY PLANTS AND GRASSES.



AND LEAVING A MEADOW UNTENDED...



IN 2024 A BOOM IN THE RABBIT POPULATION MEANT THAT THESE ADORABLE LITTLE MONSTERS **ATE** MOST OF THE WILDFLOWERS AT FARR GLEBE.



ANYONE CAN TAKE PART-

YOU JUST NEED TO PICK A
'TRANSECT' - A 1-2km FIXED
ROUTE - AND WALK ALONG IT
ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH,
THEN TELL BEEWALK
HOW MANY BEES
YOU'VE SEEN!

LET'S GO ON A BEE WALK

www.beewalk.org.uk/resources

TRY TO AVOID GOING OUT ON REALLY WET OR WINDY DAYS - I KNOW, EASIER SAID THAN DONE ON THE NORTH COAST!

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO
TAKE A CAMERA SO IF
YOU SEE A RARE BEE
YOU CAN TAKE A PHOTO

DON'T FORGET
SOMETHING TO
WRITE WITH!

← 2m AHEAD

2m OFF THE GROUND

PAY ATTENTION
TO YOUR

RECORDING BOX

A DEFINED AREA AHEAD
OF YOU. RECORDING BEES ONLY
WITHIN THIS SPACE REDUCES THE
CHANCES OF DOUBLE-COUNTING!

2m TO EACH SIDE

IF YOU'RE BEE-WALKING IN A GROUP, ASSIGN ROLES!

SPOTTER
UP FRONT
TO SEE BEES

BACK UP TO SEE
ANYTHING THE
SPOTTER MISSES

ID HELPERS-BRINGING
A GUIDE CAN BE USEFUL!

RECORDER TO
KEEP TRACK OF ALL
THE BEES YOU COUNT!

YOU CAN ONLY
TRY YOUR BEST
TO IDENTIFY
A BEE

IT'S NOT
ALWAYS EASY!

GARDEN BUMBLEBEE



EXPECTATION



COMMON
CARDER BEE



BROKEN-BELT
BUMBLEBEE



GREAT YELLOW
BUMBLEBEE



RED TAIL
BUMBLE

REALITY



WHOA!

Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

IF YOU'RE NOT SURE,
YOU CAN ALWAYS JUST LIST
THEM AS 'UNKNOWN BEE'!

YOU COULD
SAY IT'S A
MYSTERBEE!

★ EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE A SINGLE BEE, THAT DATA IS IMPORTANT!

SUBMIT YOUR BEE
COUNT AND RECORD
THE DATA WITH THE
BEEWALK SURVEY
SCHEME. IT WILL
FORM PART OF A
BIGGER PICTURE OF
BUMBLEBEE
POPULATION CHANGE

AND HEY,
YOU'LL HAVE
HAD A NICE
WALK TOO!

RESIDENTIAL AREA

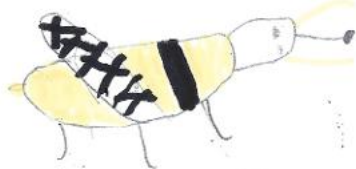
START



IN THE ABSENCE OF TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURE, MEADOW PROJECTS LIKE FARR GLEBE ARE ONLY POSSIBLE WITH AN ONGOING EFFORT FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

YOUNG PEOPLE FROM NEARBY FARR HIGH SCHOOL HAVE HELPED BY RAKING UP DEAD VEGETATION AND LEARNING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BEES.

THEY CREATED CHARACTERS AND COMICS AS A RESPONSE TO WHAT THEY'D LEARNED ABOUT GREAT YELLOW BUMBLEBEES!



Hi! My name is Gigabee
I like... Pollen



Super Evil claws
Beatrix is the WORLDS BIGGEST BEE FANATIC!



loves bees
but hates JAZZ MUSIC

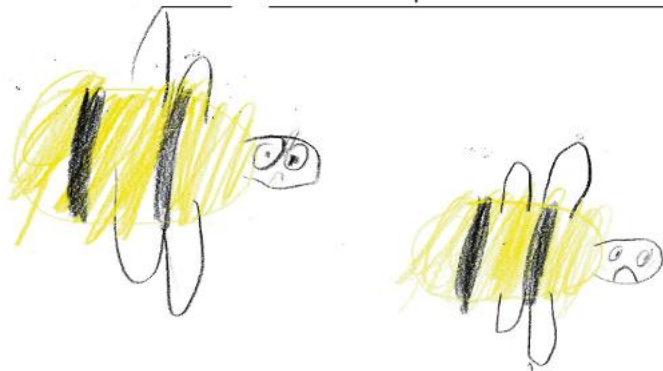


Bee-1



Bunny 1





THIS IS A CHANGE OF SCENE!
I THOUGHT I'D STEP AWAY FROM THE COAST
TO EXPLORE BORGIE GLEN, A WALKING TRAIL
WITHIN A MODERN COMMERCIAL FOREST. THIS
PART OF THE WOOD IS MIXED, WITH SCOTS PINE
AND BIRCH TREES DOTTED THROUGHOUT...

SOMETIMES WORKING FORESTS
LIKE THIS ONE CAN FEEL A BIT BLEAK,
BUT IF YOU JUST LOOK A LITTLE
CLOSER YOU'LL FIND A WHOLE
OTHER WORLD TO EXPLORE!

OLD MAN'S BEARD LICHEN

USNEA

PELTIGERA MEMBRANACEA

DOG
TOOTH LICHEN
ONCE THOUGHT TO BE A CURE FOR RABIES!

SHIELD LICHEN
(CROTTLE)

PARMELIA SULCATA

THESE ARE LICHEN,
A GROUP OF PIONEER SPECIES
YOU CAN FIND ALL OVER THE
PLACE! LICHEN SPECIES COVER 8% OF THE
SURFACE OF THE EARTH AND WILL
GROW ON PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING,
FROM TREES AND SOIL TO
BRICKWORK AND BONES.
SOME SPECIES CAN LIVE IN
VERY INHOSPITABLE PLACES...

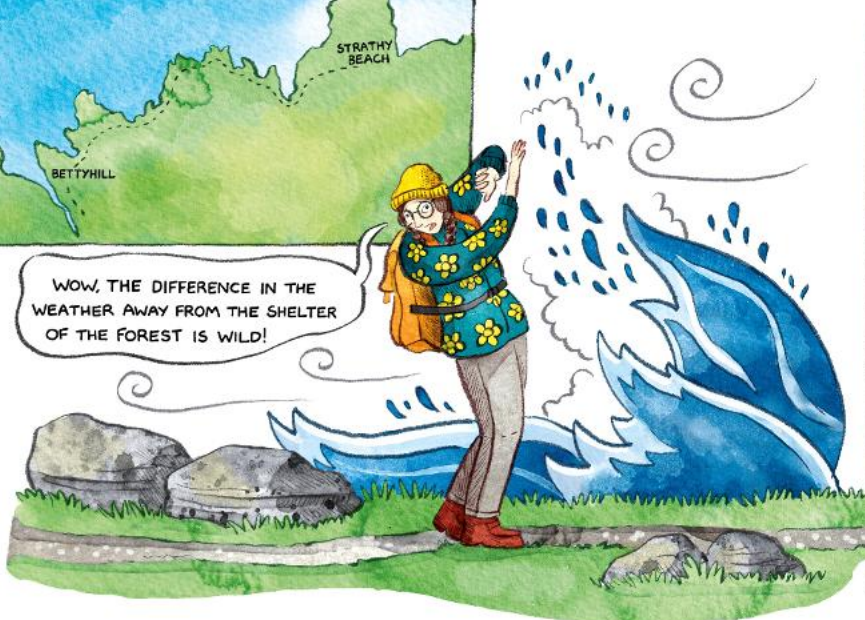


THEY'VE EVEN
SURVIVED IN OUTER
SPACE!

OTHER SPECIES
ARE MORE PICKY AND
VULNERABLE TO SMALL
CHANGES IN THEIR
ENVIRONMENT.

THEY CAN ACT AS AN INDICATOR SPECIES,
TELLING US A LOT ABOUT AN AREA'S AIR QUALITY
AND STABILITY AS A HABITAT. NEXT TIME YOU'RE
OUT FOR A WANDER, TAKE A MINUTE TO ZOOM
IN AND SEE HOW MANY KINDS YOU CAN SPOT!

PARTICIPANTS IN DUNNET FOREST'S
GREEN GYM WERE INSPIRED BY LICHEN TO
CREATE THEIR OWN LICHENOUS BEAST -
CAN YOU SPOT THEM ALL IN THIS WOOD?





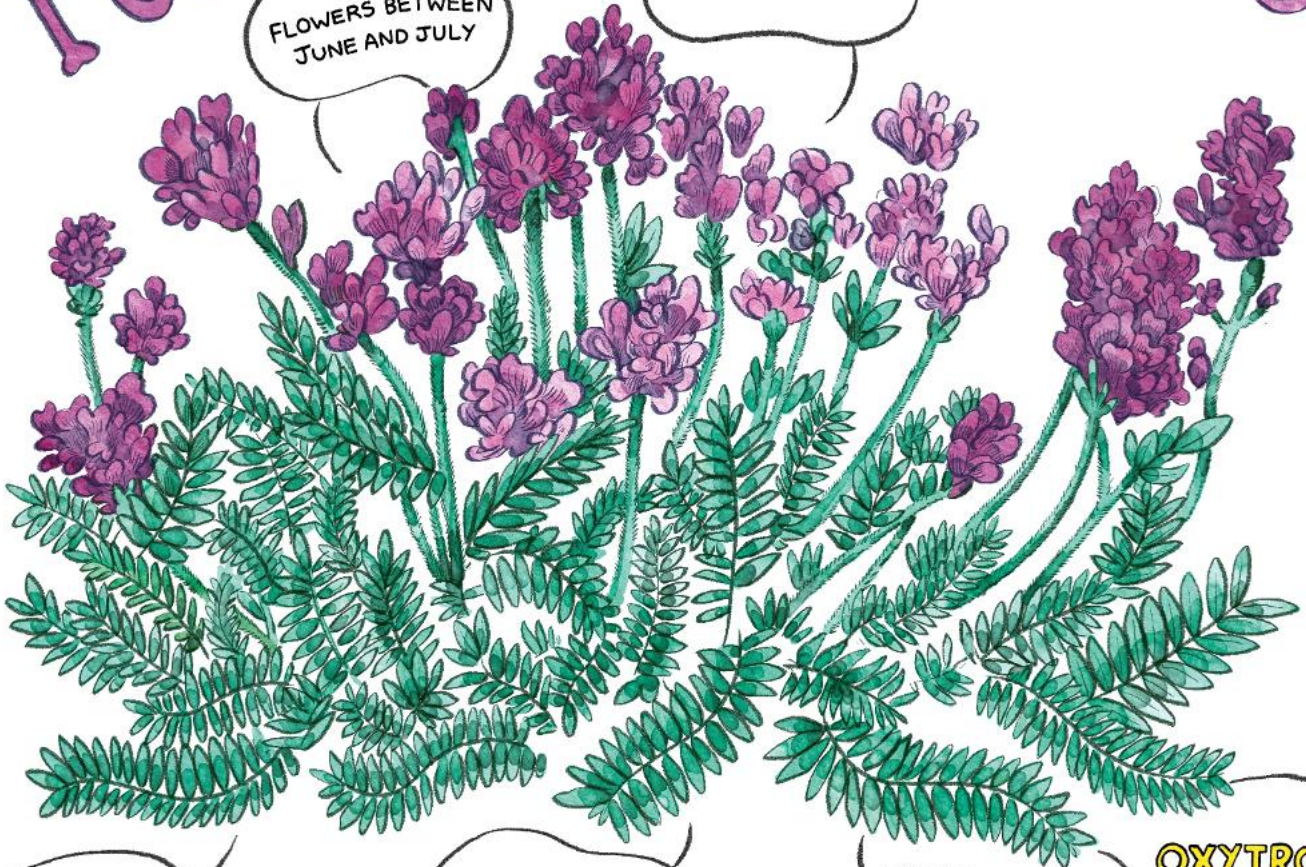
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL HERE, TOO!

I THINK I CAN SEE ONE OF SCOTLAND'S RAREST PLANTS..

PURPLE OXYTROPIS

FLOWERS BETWEEN JUNE AND JULY

CLASSIFIED AS "NATIONALLY RARE"



GROWS IN COASTAL AREAS AND ON SOME MOUNTAIN TOPS IN THE UK

A PERENNIAL PLANT, MEANING THAT IT COMES BACK YEAR AFTER YEAR

A MEMBER OF THE FABACEAE (LEGUME) FAMILY, ALONG WITH BEANS AND PEAS!

OXYTROPIS HALLERI

THE PLANT'S GAELIC NAME IS **CLEITEAG-GHER CHORCA**,

WHICH TRANSLATES TO "SHARP-SPURRED PURPLE FLOWER" - THE "SPUR" IS A PROTRUSION ON THE LOWER KEEL PETAL WHICH CAN HELP YOU TO IDENTIFY PURPLE OXYTROPIS



PINNATE LEAVES* WITH 9-15 PAIRS OF LEAFLETS

*"PINNATE" LEAVES HAVE MULTIPLE PAIRS OF LEAFLETS ALONG A STALK, INSTEAD OF ONE BIG LEAF!



IT'S IMMEDIATELY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE SURROUNDING FLORA BY THE DISTINCTIVE SILVERY COLOUR OF ITS LEAVES

BUT THE PLANTS THERE ARE VERY LOW GROWING - MOST OF THEM DON'T EVEN HAVE FLOWERS.



I THINK I SEE THE CULPRIT!

YOU AGAIN!

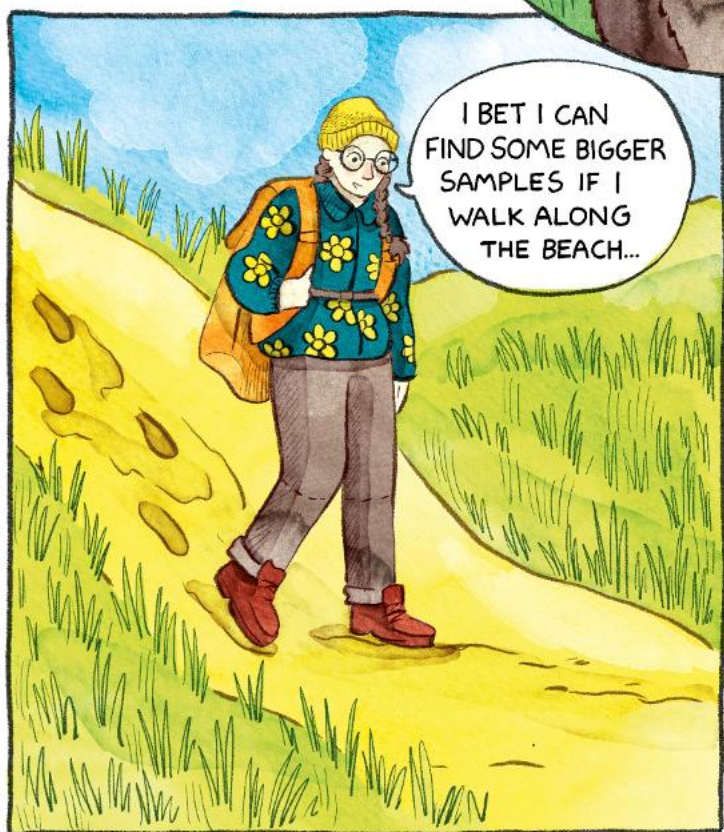
CHEW

CHEW

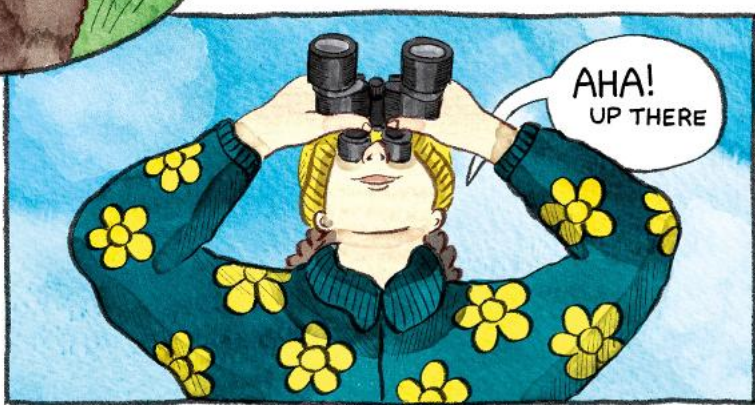
CHEW



THESE GRAZED PLANTS LOOK A BIT FLAT, BUT THEY'RE HANGING IN THERE FOR NOW!



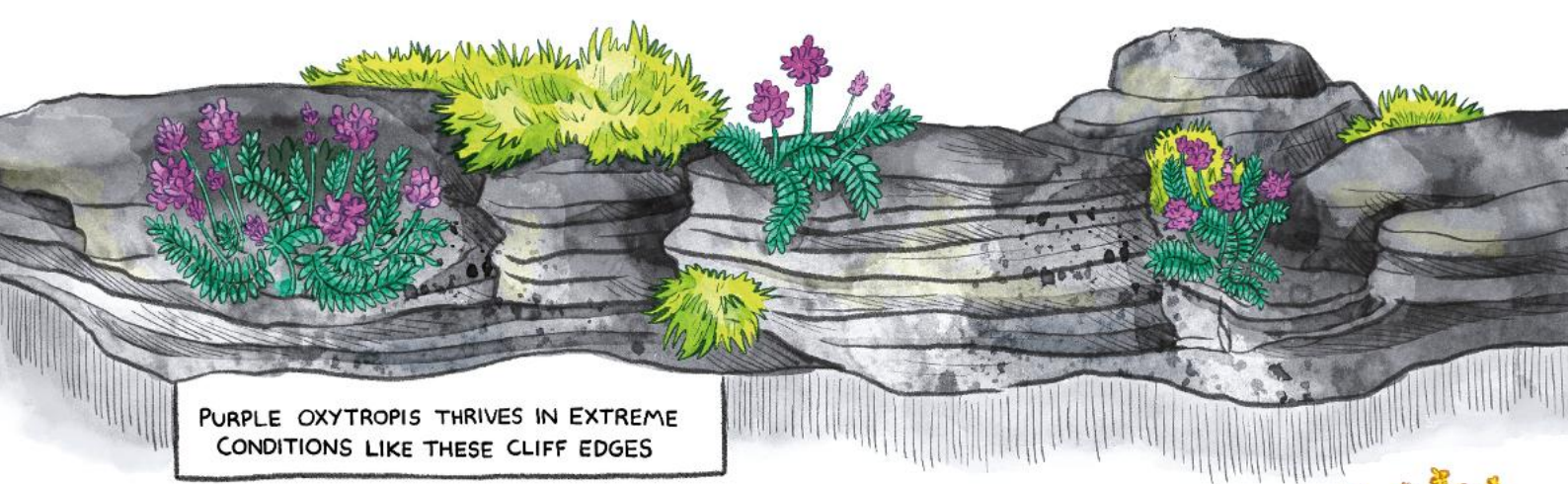
I BET I CAN FIND SOME BIGGER SAMPLES IF I WALK ALONG THE BEACH...



AHA! UP THERE



THAT ONE'S PRETTY MAGNIFICENT.

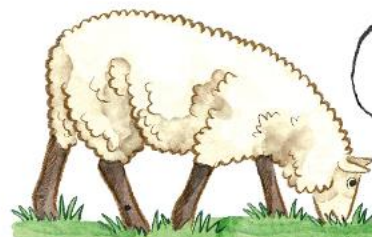
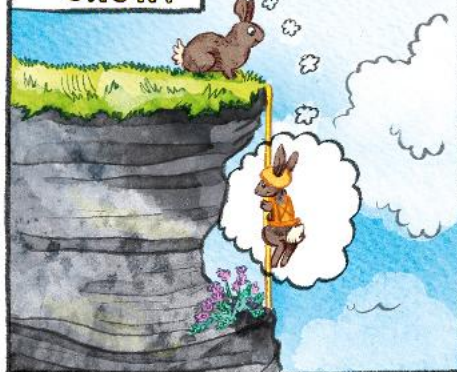


PURPLE OXYTROPIS THRIVES IN EXTREME CONDITIONS LIKE THESE CLIFF EDGES

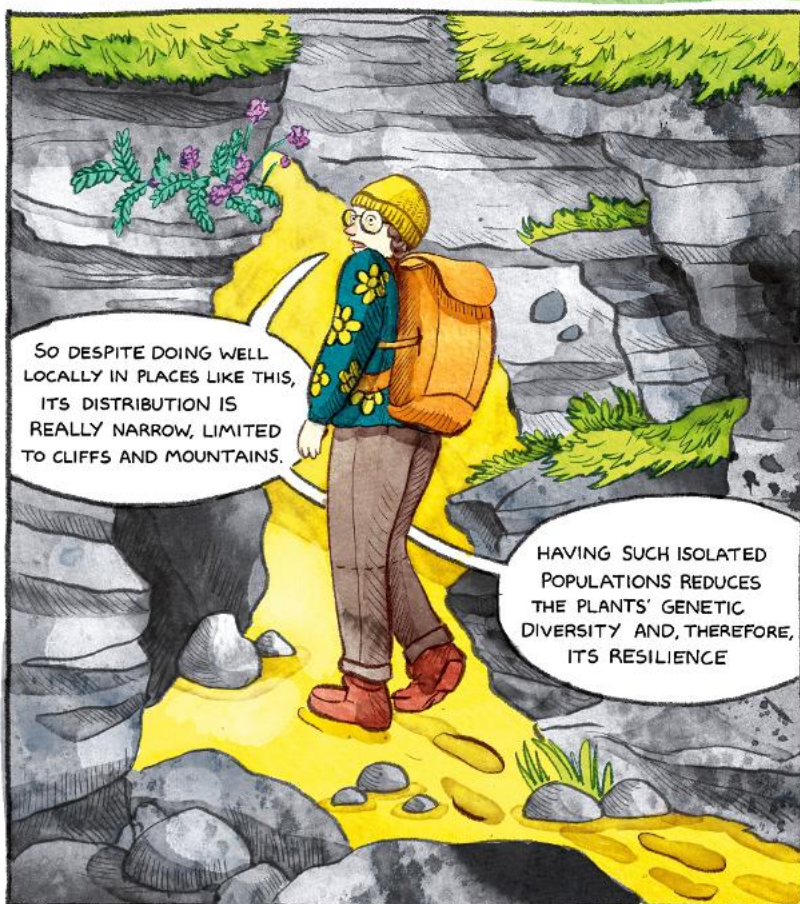
THE CONSTANT EROSION AT THE EDGES OF THE CLIFF REDUCES COMPETITION FROM OTHER PLANTS...



AND MAKES IT HARDER FOR GRAZING ANIMALS TO REACH THEM, CREATING AN IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THEM TO **GROW!**



AWAY FROM THE SAFETY OF THE CLIFFS, PURPLE OXYTROPIS IS VULNERABLE TO BOTH UNDER AND OVER GRAZING.

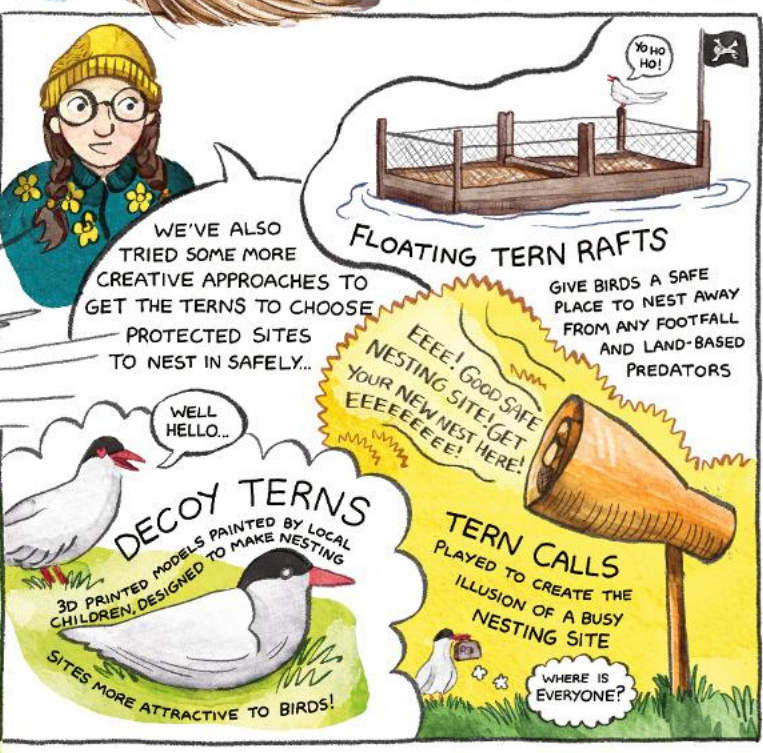
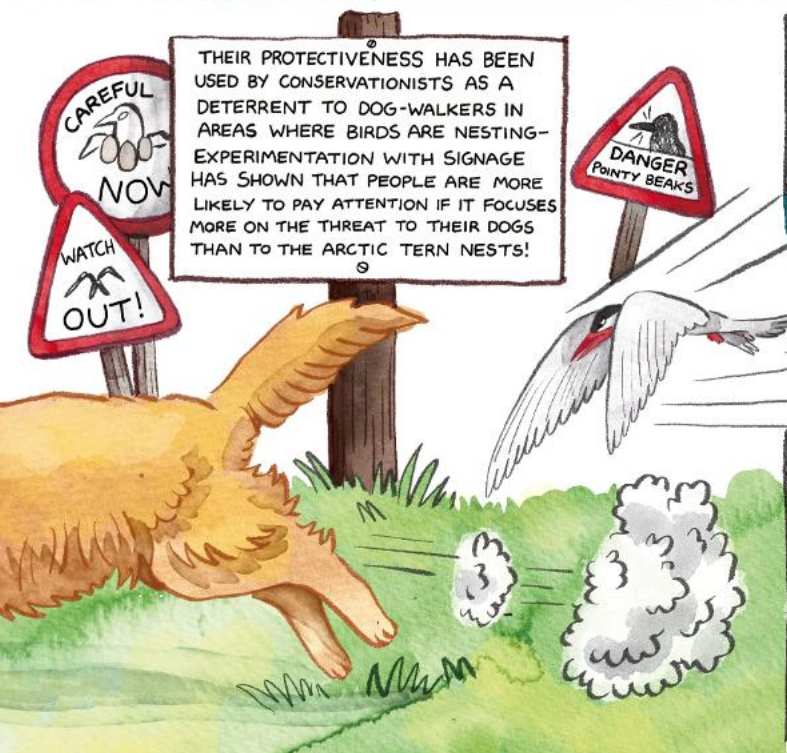
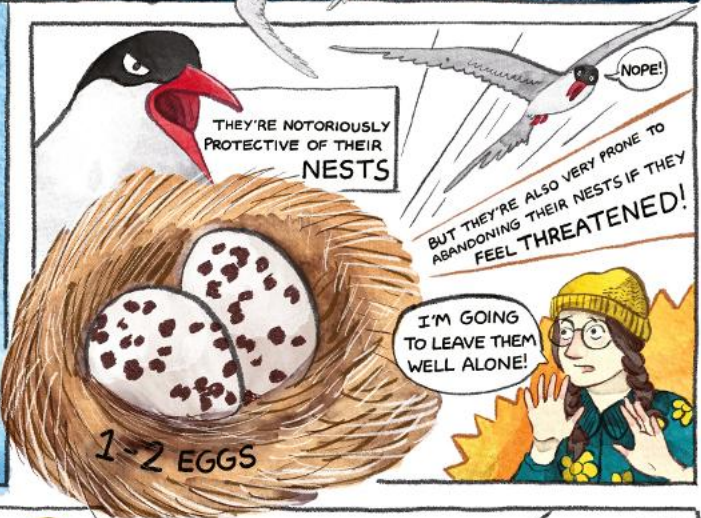
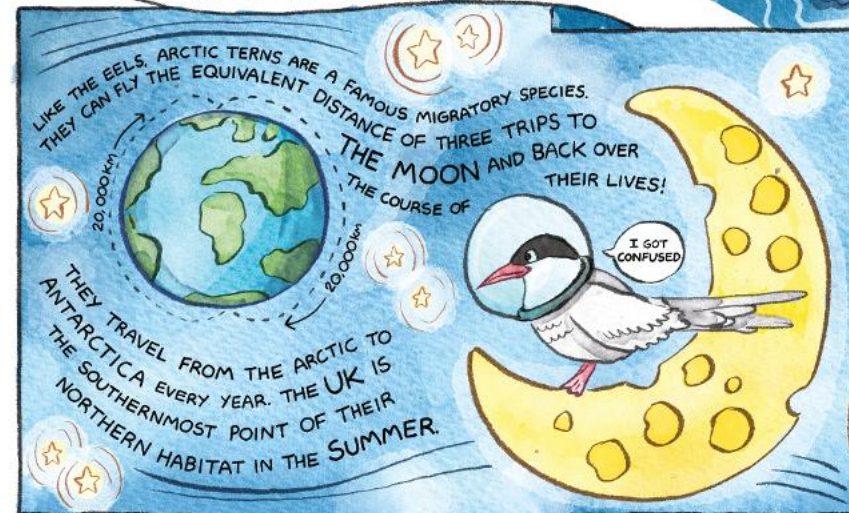
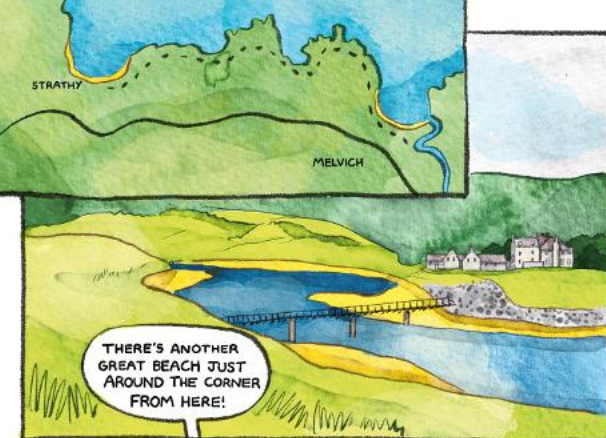


SO DESPITE DOING WELL LOCALLY IN PLACES LIKE THIS, ITS DISTRIBUTION IS REALLY NARROW, LIMITED TO CLIFFS AND MOUNTAINS.

HAVING SUCH ISOLATED POPULATIONS REDUCES THE PLANTS' GENETIC DIVERSITY AND, THEREFORE, ITS RESILIENCE



SUCH AN UNASSUMING WEE PLANT, BUT I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE SEEN IT!

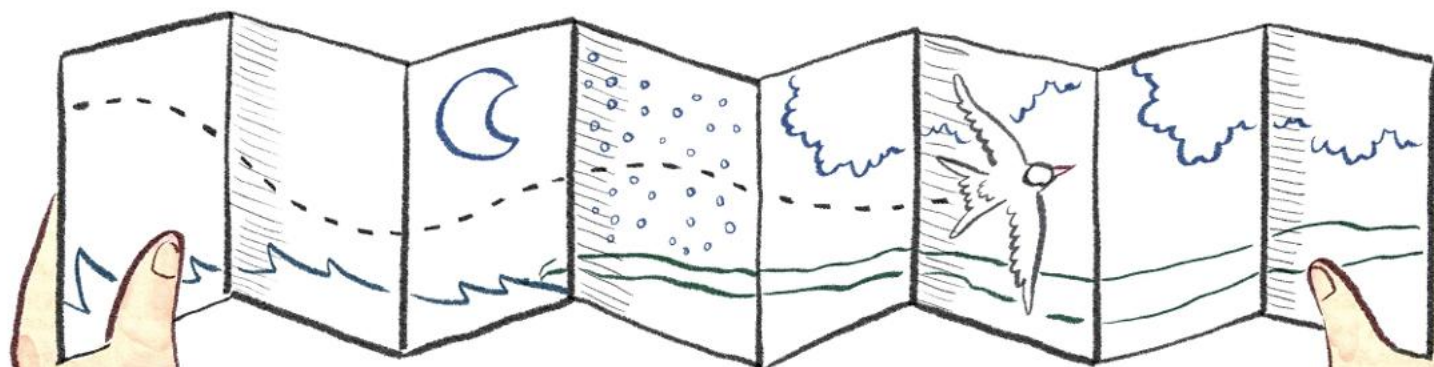




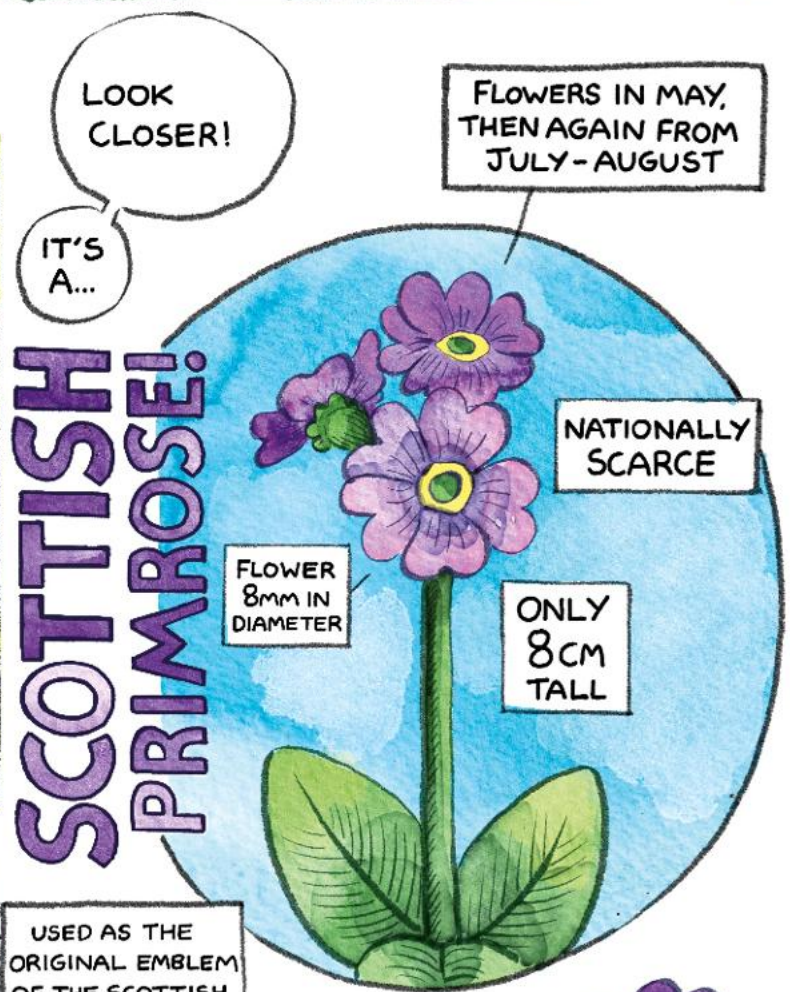
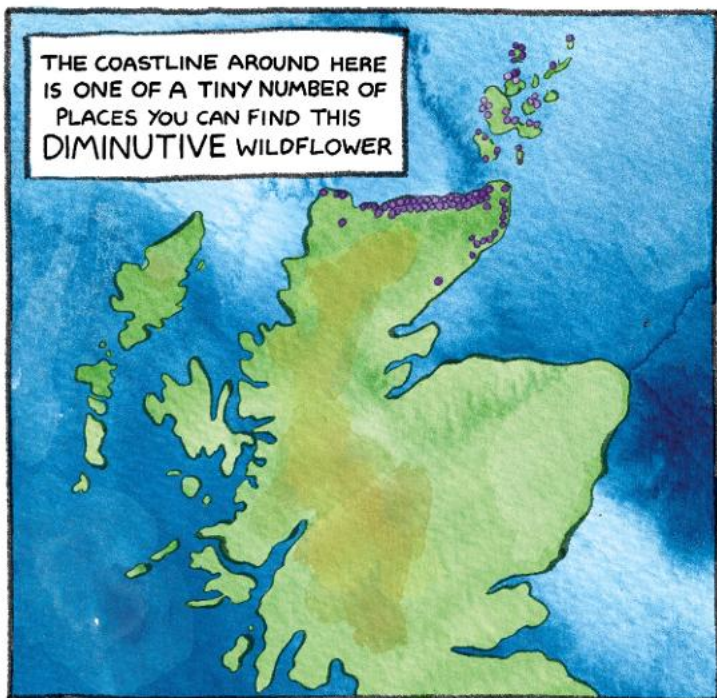
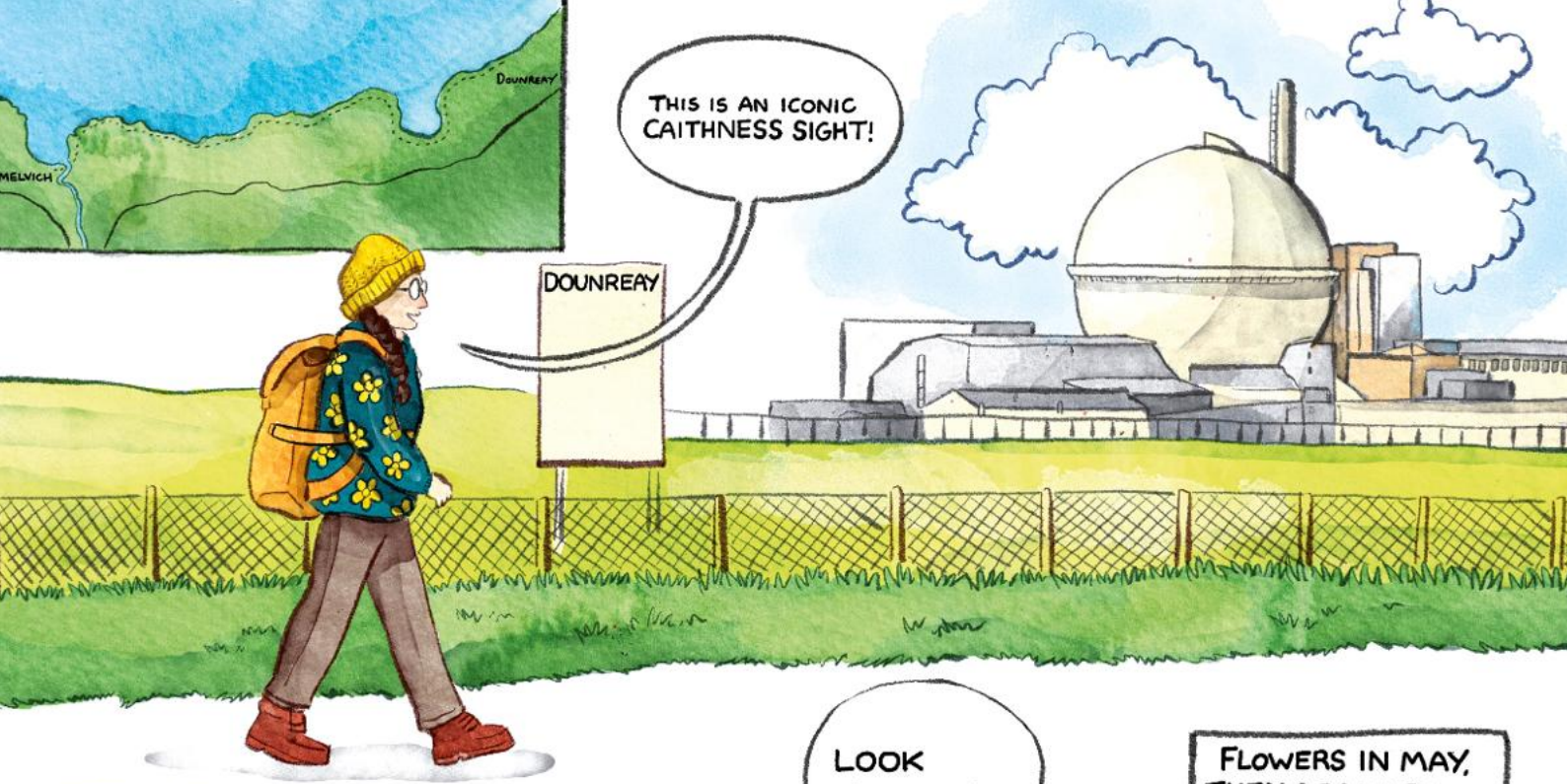
The great nesting



THE JOURNEY OF AN ARCTIC TERN



RSPB VOLUNTEERS MADE ZINES TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ARCTIC TERNS!



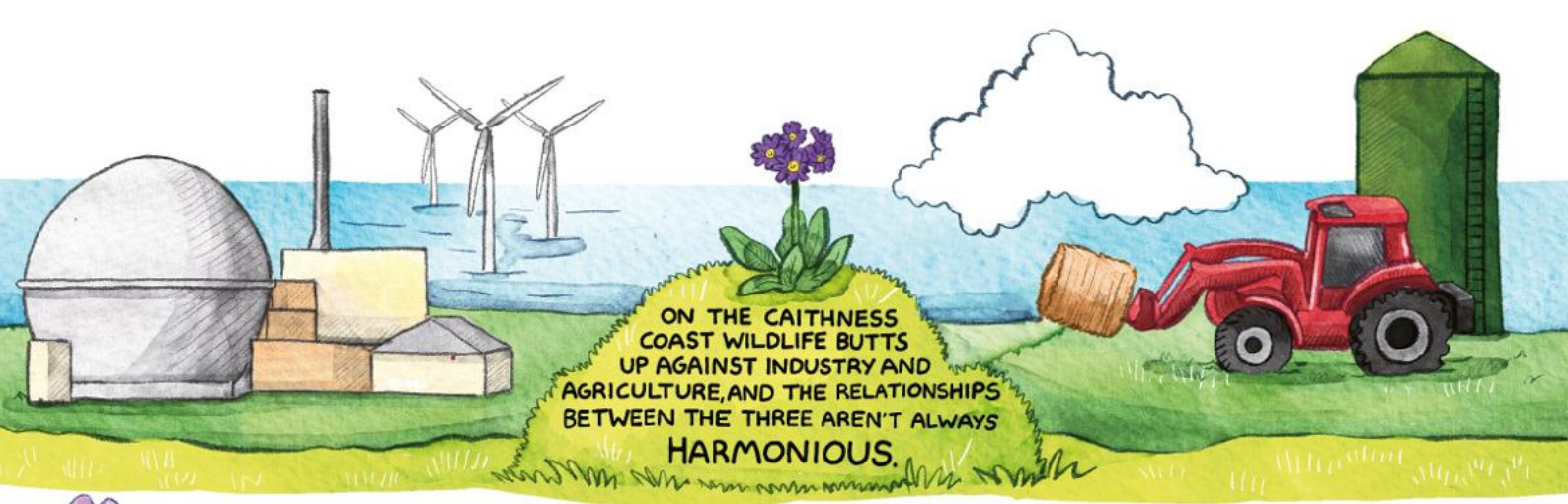
USED AS THE ORIGINAL EMBLEM OF THE SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

THEIR RANGE IS NOW LIMITED TO A FEW PLACES IN CAITHNESS, SUTHERLAND AND ORKNEY.



THEY'RE CONSIDERED THE COUNTY FLOWER OF CAITHNESS!





ON THE CAITHNESS
COAST WILDLIFE BUTTS
UP AGAINST INDUSTRY AND
AGRICULTURE, AND THE RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN THE THREE AREN'T ALWAYS
HARMONIOUS.

BUT THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF A FEW DEDICATED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS,
THERE'S STILL A FUTURE FOR THESE VULNERABLE PLANTS!



IN 2011 BOTANICAL FIELD WORKER KAREN BELL WAS INVOLVED IN A PROJECT TO RESCUE A COLONY OF SCOTTISH PRIMROSES FROM AN AREA THAT WAS ZONED FOR DEVELOPMENT.



KAREN'S GROUP TRANSLOCATED AS MANY PLANTS AS POSSIBLE TO A SITE 100m DOWN THE COAST, WHERE OTHER SCOTTISH PRIMROSES WERE ALREADY GROWING.



THE ORIGINAL SITE MARKERS CAN STILL BE SEEN WHERE THE PLANTS WERE TRANSLOCATED!

MOVING THEM INTO A SAFE, FENCED OFF AREA PROTECTED THEM FROM CONSTRUCTION WORK.

ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE PLANTS IN THAT AREA ARE NOW GONE, THEIR LEGACY LIVES ON! SCOTTISH PRIMROSES ARE SELF-SEEDERS, SO PROTECTING THEM THEN HAS LED TO A BOOSTED POPULATION IN THE SURROUNDING AREA. THE SITE IS NOW ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IN CAITHNESS!



THIS PART OF THE COAST IS THE IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE SCOTTISH PRIMROSE.



THEY THRIVE IN EXPOSED COASTAL AREAS, WHERE THE SALT SPRAY FROM THE SEA INHIBITS THE GROWTH OF OTHER PLANTS

BEING SO TINY THEY'RE EASILY OUTCOMPETED, SO THIS SUPPRESSION OF MORE VIGOROUS SPECIES IS CRUCIAL!



COMPETITION IS ALSO KEPT DOWN HERE WITH TARGETED GRAZING BY A NEARBY HERD OF SHEEP!

OVERGRAZING IS A MASSIVE ISSUE FOR SOME SPECIES, SO IT CAN FEEL COUNTERINTUITIVE TO ENCOURAGE GRAZING HERE. BUT A HARMONY CAN BE STRUCK!

THESE SHEEP GRAZE THIS AREA IN A CONTROLLED WAY, TO KEEP DOWN AGGRESSIVE PLANTS LIKE GORSE AND ALLOW THE SCOTTISH PRIMROSES TO FLOURISH!

IT'S A GREAT EXAMPLE OF SOME OF THE COMPLEXITIES AROUND CONSERVATION! COLLABORATION IS SO KEY.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT CONSERVATION

WHY CONSERVE SOMETHING LIKE THE SCOTTISH PRIMROSE, ANYWAY?

LIKE, WHAT'S THE LOSS?

PANDAS AREN'T HELPING THEMSELVES, ARE THEY? LIMITED DIET, WON'T BREED? SCOTTISH PRIMROSES ARE THE SAME, THEY'RE SO DELICATE- ISN'T IT JUST NATURAL SELECTION?

NATURAL SELECTION ISN'T SO NATURAL WHEN THE REASONS ARE MAN-MADE!

DON'T WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY?

ARE SCOTTISH PRIMROSES EVEN THAT GOOD FOR BEES?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF THEM?

ECOLOGIES ARE COMPLEX AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THEM IS ALWAYS EVOLVING.

BEES ARE GREAT, BUT IT'S NOT *ALL* ABOUT BEES.

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE FOR US?

AND THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD YOU CAN SEE THEM!

SCOTTISH PRIMROSES HAVE A PLACE IN OUR CULTURAL IDENTITY - THEY'RE PART OF OUR HERITAGE

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS YOU CAN DO AS AN INDIVIDUAL FOR SCOTTISH PRIMROSES IS TO TALK ABOUT THEM! MAYBE YOU CAN HELP PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT A GEM THEY'VE GOT ON THEIR DOORSTEP.

GROWING THE PLANTS IN GARDENS CAN BE A LITTLE TRICKY, SO PRESERVING THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS IS CRUCIAL.



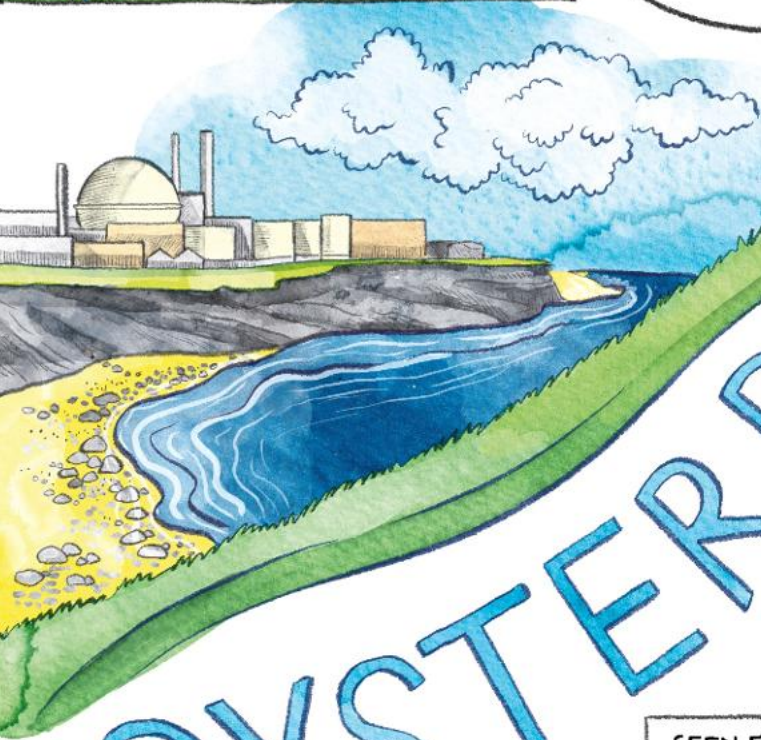
BUT, JUST BECAUSE IT'S DIFFICULT - DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T TRY! SCOTTISH PRIMROSES MAKE A TINY BUT PRETTY ADDITION TO A ROCK GARDEN OR ANY PLACE THEY CAN GROW WITHOUT BEING OVERRUN WITH WEEDS.

THEY MIGHT NOT BE EASY TO KEEP AROUND, BUT I THINK THEY'RE WORTH IT!





JUST ALONG THE COAST FROM HERE, THERE'S ANOTHER NOTABLE PLANT!



OYSTER PLANT

SEEN FROM MAY - AUGUST

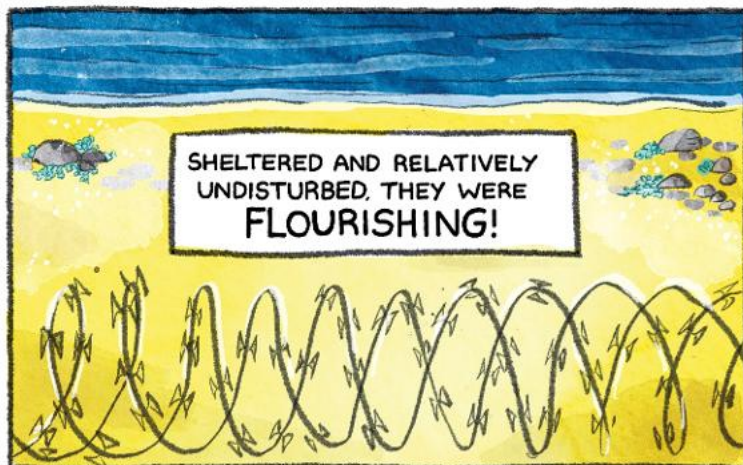
ONE OF THE PLANT'S GAELIC NAMES IS "TIOIDLAC NA MARA," WHICH MEANS "GIFT OF THE SEA"

ALSO KNOWN AS "SEA BLUEBELLS", THEY'RE CLOSELY RELATED TO FORGET-ME-NOTS AND BORAGE

MERTENSIA MARITIMA



RECENTLY, A LARGE COLONY OF AT LEAST 500 PLANTS WAS FOUND ALONG THE SHORE AT DOUNREAY



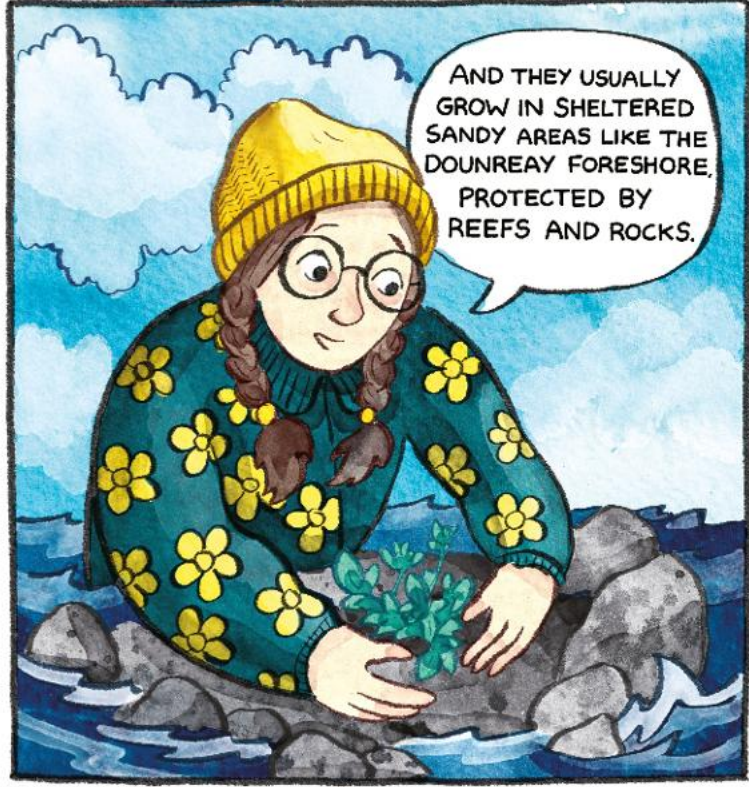
SHELTERED AND RELATIVELY UNDISTURBED, THEY WERE FLOURISHING!



IT'S HARD TO SAY HOW LONG THE COLONY HAS BEEN THERE, OR HOW LONG IT WILL LAST.



THEY HAVE A LONG TAPROOT THAT KEEPS THEM ANCHORED IN PLACE AND ENABLES THEM TO REACH NUTRIENTS UNDER THE SAND -



AND THEY USUALLY GROW IN SHELTERED SANDY AREAS LIKE THE DOUNREAY FORESHORE, PROTECTED BY REEFS AND ROCKS.



IF THERE'S A SLEW OF ROTTING SEAWEED FOR THEM TO GROW AMONGST, MORE THE BETTER!

mmm, smells like nutrients!



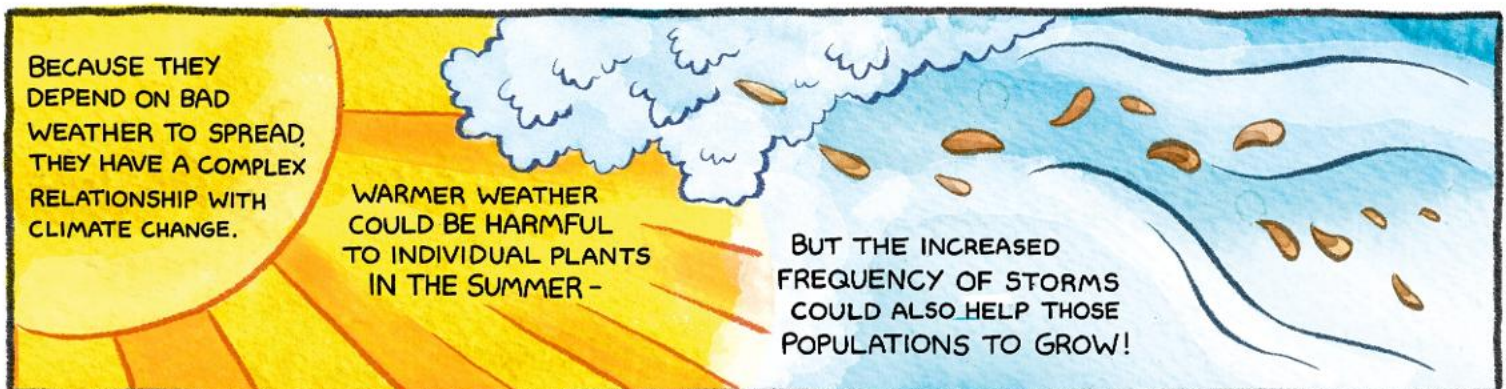
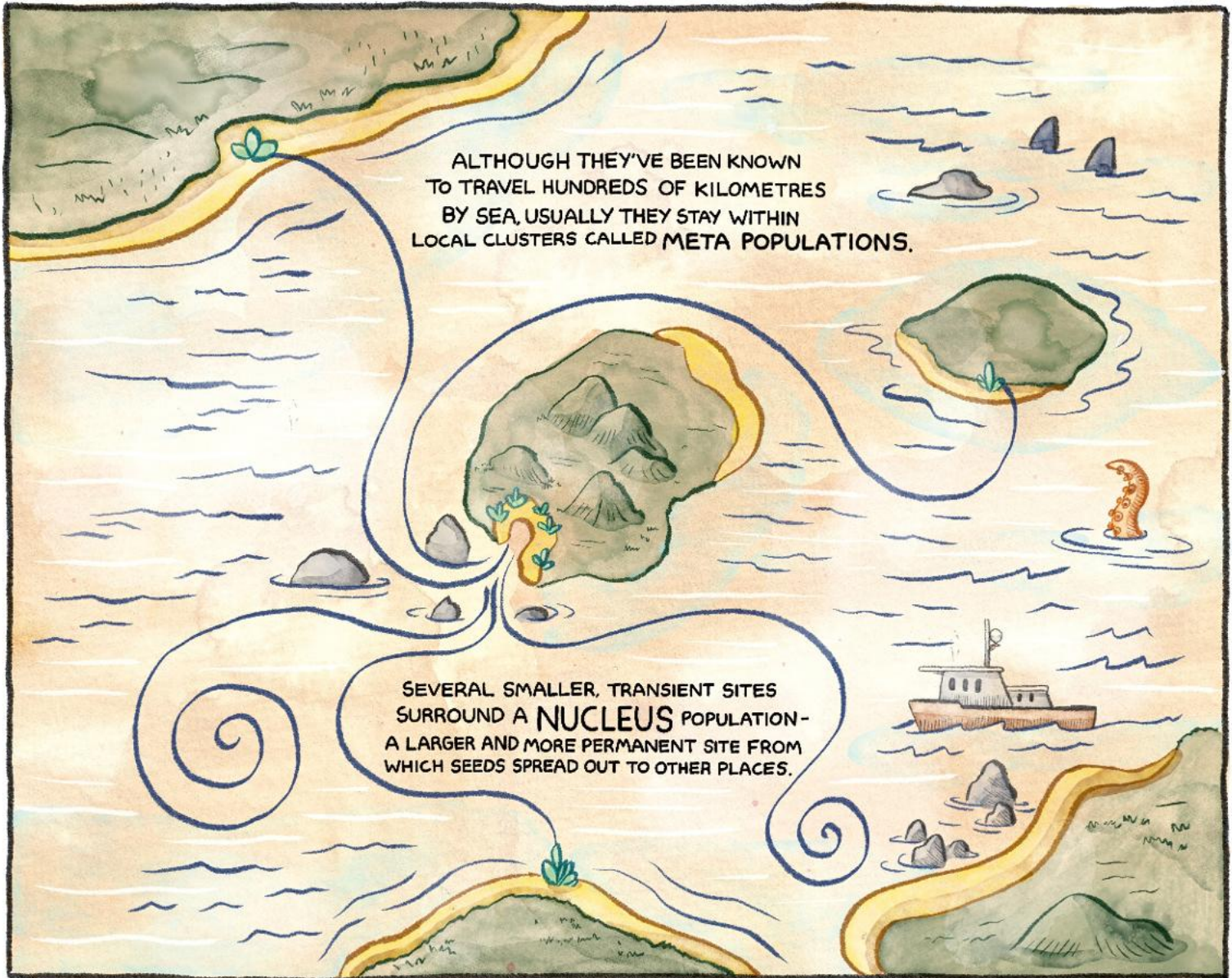
BUT THE COASTLINE IS EVER-CHANGING, AND IT'S COMMON FOR OYSTERPLANT COLONIES TO COME AND GO OVER TIME.

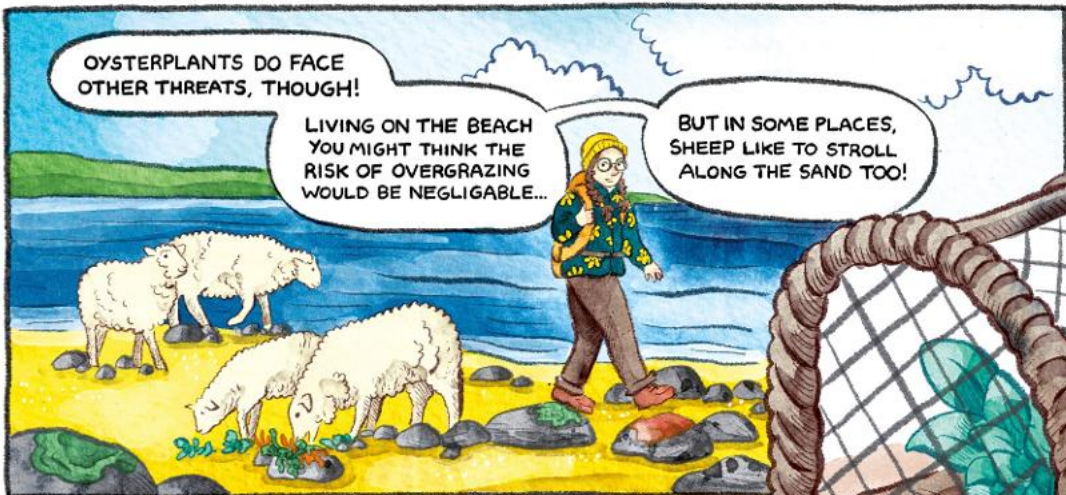
NATURAL WEATHER PATTERNS, AS WELL AS WELL AS BROADER CHANGES IN CLIMATE, WORK TO KEEP THEM ON THE MOVE!

KEEPING TRACK OF SITES CAN BE A CHALLENGE FOR CONSERVATIONISTS -

LUCKY THEY ALL LOVE LONG WALKS!



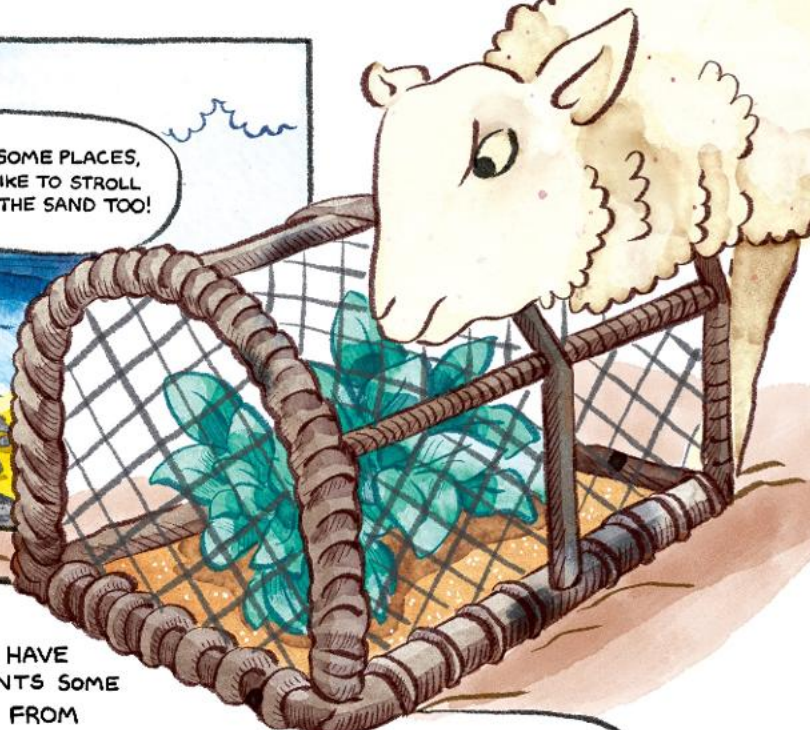




OYSTERPLANTS DO FACE OTHER THREATS, THOUGH!

LIVING ON THE BEACH YOU MIGHT THINK THE RISK OF OVERGRAZING WOULD BE NEGLIGIBLE...

BUT IN SOME PLACES, SHEEP LIKE TO STROLL ALONG THE SAND TOO!



ON SHETLAND, CONSERVATIONISTS HAVE OFFERED THE PLANTS SOME PROTECTION FROM HUNGRY MOUTHS -

REPURPOSED LOBSTER CREELS ARE A DECENT DEFENCE SYSTEM!

IT'LL... BE... WORTH... IT... !



THEY'RE ALSO PARTICULARLY DELICIOUS TO SLUGS AND SNAILS, WHO'VE BEEN KNOWN TO RISK THE SALT AIR TO REACH THEM!

THE PLANTS FURTHEST FROM THE SEA ARE MOST AT RISK.



OYSTERPLANTS ARE EDIBLE TO HUMANS, TOO - THEY GET THEIR NAME FROM THEIR UNIQUE SALTY TASTE, WHICH IS SAID TO RESEMBLE OYSTERS!

BUT-

DON'T DO IT!

THWACK!

THIS IS A RARE AND FRAGILE WILD PLANT, SO YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE IT FROM THE WILD.

WHY NOT BUY SOME SEEDS AND TRY GROWING SOME INSTEAD?

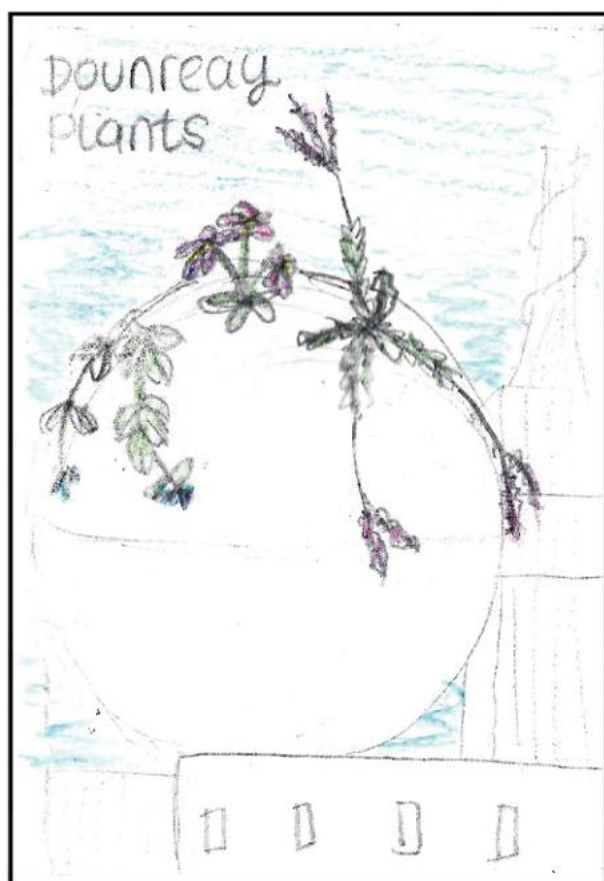
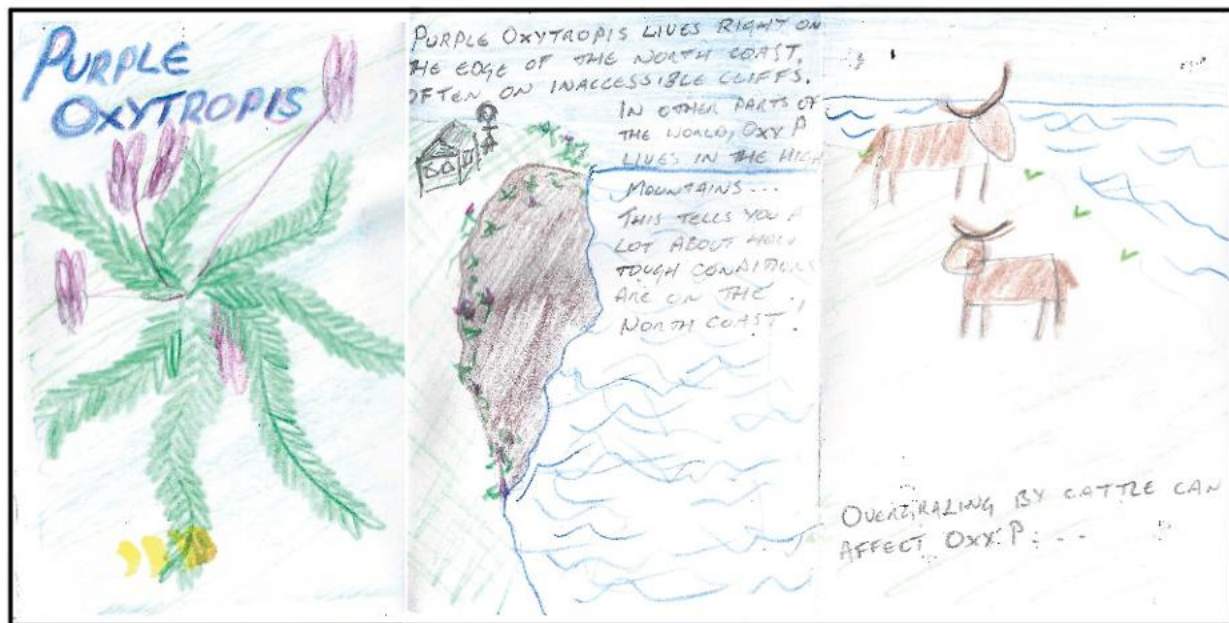
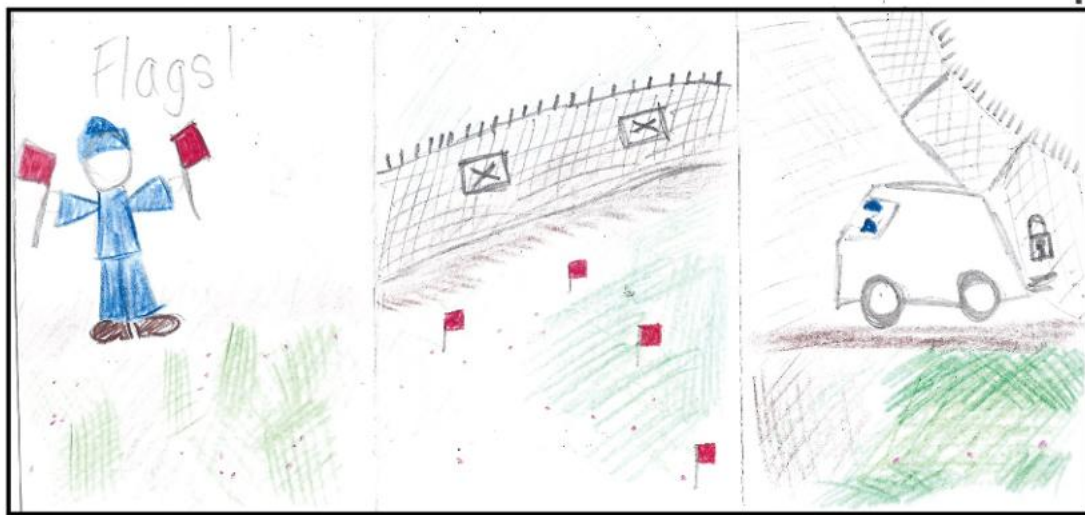


FORBIDDEN SEAFOOD

DOUNREAY GREEN NETWORK

VOLUNTEERS CREATED ZINES TO TELL STORIES ABOUT THE THREE NORTH COAST SPECIES ON THE EDGE PLANTS.







THURSO

DOUNREAY

THE SCOTTISH PRIMROSE, OYSTERPLANT AND PURPLE OXYTROPIS ARE ALL PRIORITY SPECIES FOR SPECIES ON THE EDGE!

THEY'RE AMONG THE MOST VULNERABLE SPECIES IN THE COUNTRY, AND REQUIRE SPECIAL MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION.

BUT ALL OF OUR NATIVE WILDFLOWERS ARE IMPORTANT,

EVEN THE ONES WE TAKE FOR GRANTED!

TAKE THE HUMBLE...

DANDELION

DANDELIONS ARE A UBIQUITOUS SIGHT DURING THE SPRING AND SUMMER! THEY'VE BEEN VALUED FOR CENTURIES FOR THEIR USE IN FOOD AND TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, ONLY REALLY GAINING A REPUTATION AS "WEEDS" IN THE 20TH CENTURY WITH THE MASS-MARKETING OF COMMERCIAL WEEDKILLERS.

THOUGH MANY GARDENERS HERE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO GET RID OF THEM, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD THEY'RE SOUGHT-AFTER ORNAMENTAL PLANTS!

PERSONALLY, I THINK THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL!



THEY'RE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF EARLY NECTAR FOR BEES AND BUTTERFLIES, AND LATER IN THE YEAR THEIR SEEDS ARE LOVED BY FINCHES.



THEY'RE EDIBLE TO HUMANS, TOO, AND DON'T WORRY-

DESPITE THEIR NICKNAME, THEY WON'T ACTUALLY MAKE YOU "PEE-THE-BED"!



I'D AVOID EATING THE ONES GROWING ALONG ROADSIDE VERGES LIKE THIS, BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE THEM HERE.



THE BUMBLEBEE CONSERVATION TRUST HAS RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCILS MANAGE VERGES FOR WILDFLOWERS AS A BEE HABITAT CREATION SCHEME.

USING THE ROADSIDE TO SUPPORT NECTAR-RICH WILDFLOWERS LIKE DANDELIONS CREATES A KIND OF "NATURE HIGHWAY", CONNECTING ISOLATED POPULATIONS OF BEES, BUTTERFLIES, AND OTHER SPECIES (INCLUDING OUR RARE GREAT YELLOW BUMBLEBEE)

IT'S SIMPLE TO HELP IN A SIMILAR WAY IN YOUR OWN GARDEN, TOO - JUST BY BEING A BIT LESS TIDY!

UNLIKE MANY WILDFLOWERS, DANDELIONS DON'T USUALLY NEED ANY SPECIAL MANAGEMENT; LEAVE A PATCH OF GRASS TO ITS OWN DEVICES FOR A WHILE, AND CHANCES ARE THEY'LL TURN UP!

WHY NOT EMBRACE THEM? THE BEES WILL THANK YOU!



GARDENERS AND NATURE
ENTHUSIASTS FROM TONGUE
& THURSO MADE ZINES TO
SHARE THEIR APPROACHES
TO GARDENING FOR
WILDLIFE!

We let the grass
grow -
orchids?



Where did they
come from?

and self-heal

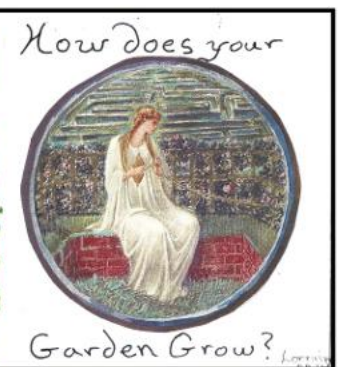
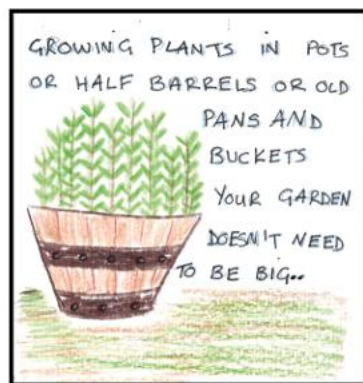


that wasn't
there before

and clover

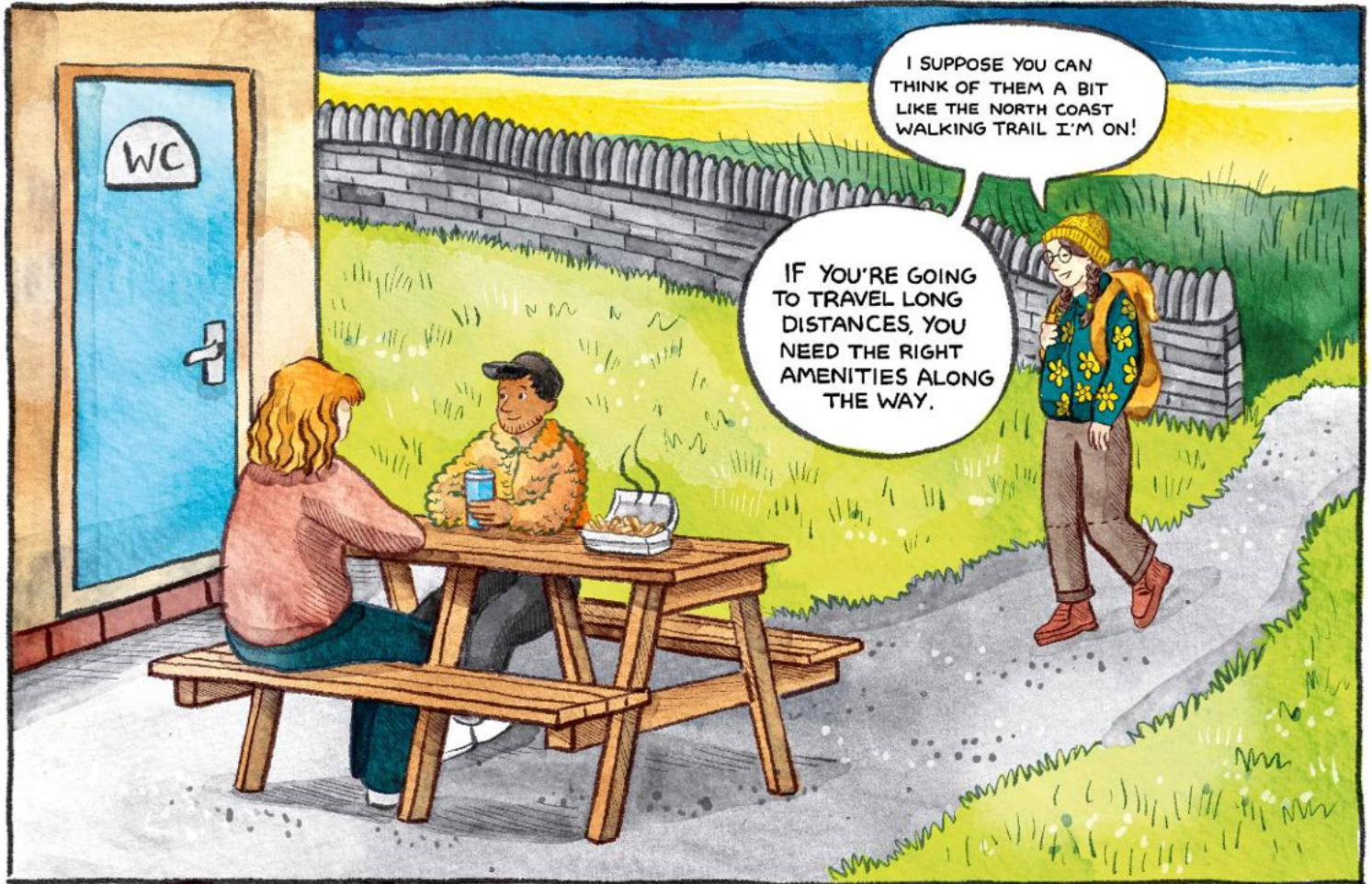


really?





CREATING THESE
INTERCONNECTED
WILDLIFE PATHWAYS
HELPS TO SUPPORT
RESILIENCE IN
THREATENED SPECIES.
LINKING UP ISOLATED
POPULATIONS.



I SUPPOSE YOU CAN
THINK OF THEM A BIT
LIKE THE NORTH COAST
WALKING TRAIL I'M ON!

IF YOU'RE GOING
TO TRAVEL LONG
DISTANCES, YOU
NEED THE RIGHT
AMENITIES ALONG
THE WAY.



SOMETIMES LETTING
THINGS GROW AND
LEAVING THEM BE IS
ENOUGH TO MAKE THAT
HAPPEN...

BUT FOR OTHER
SPECIES, WE NEED
TO BE A BIT MORE
HANDS ON!

I'M LOOKING FOR ONE LITTLE
CREATURE IN PARTICULAR WHICH IS
BENEFITTING FROM SOME EXTRA
SUPPORT HERE AT DUNNET...

IT'S THE...

SMALL BLUE BUTTERFLY!

ON THE WING FROM MID MAY TO EARLY JULY IN SCOTLAND

THE SMALLEST BUTTERFLY IN THE UK AT JUST 18-27mm!

CAITHNESS HAS THE MOST NORTHERLY UK POPULATIONS OF THESE LITTLE INSECTS, IN JUST A FEW ISOLATED LOCATIONS ALONG THE COASTLINE.

NOT REALLY VERY BLUE!

CUPIDO MINIMUS

MEANING THE "SMALLEST LOVE"

THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS ARE QUITE SPECIFIC!

LIKE MANY OTHER MOTH AND BUTTERFLY SPECIES, THEY RELY ON ONE DEDICATED LARVAL FOOD PLANT TO FEED THEIR CATERPILLARS!

IT'S NON-NEGOTIABLE!

THE BUTTERFLIES LAY A SINGLE EGG ON A KIDNEY VETCH FLOWER HEAD - IF TWO CATERPILLARS END UP ON THE SAME FLOWER, THEY'LL FIGHT FOR IT!

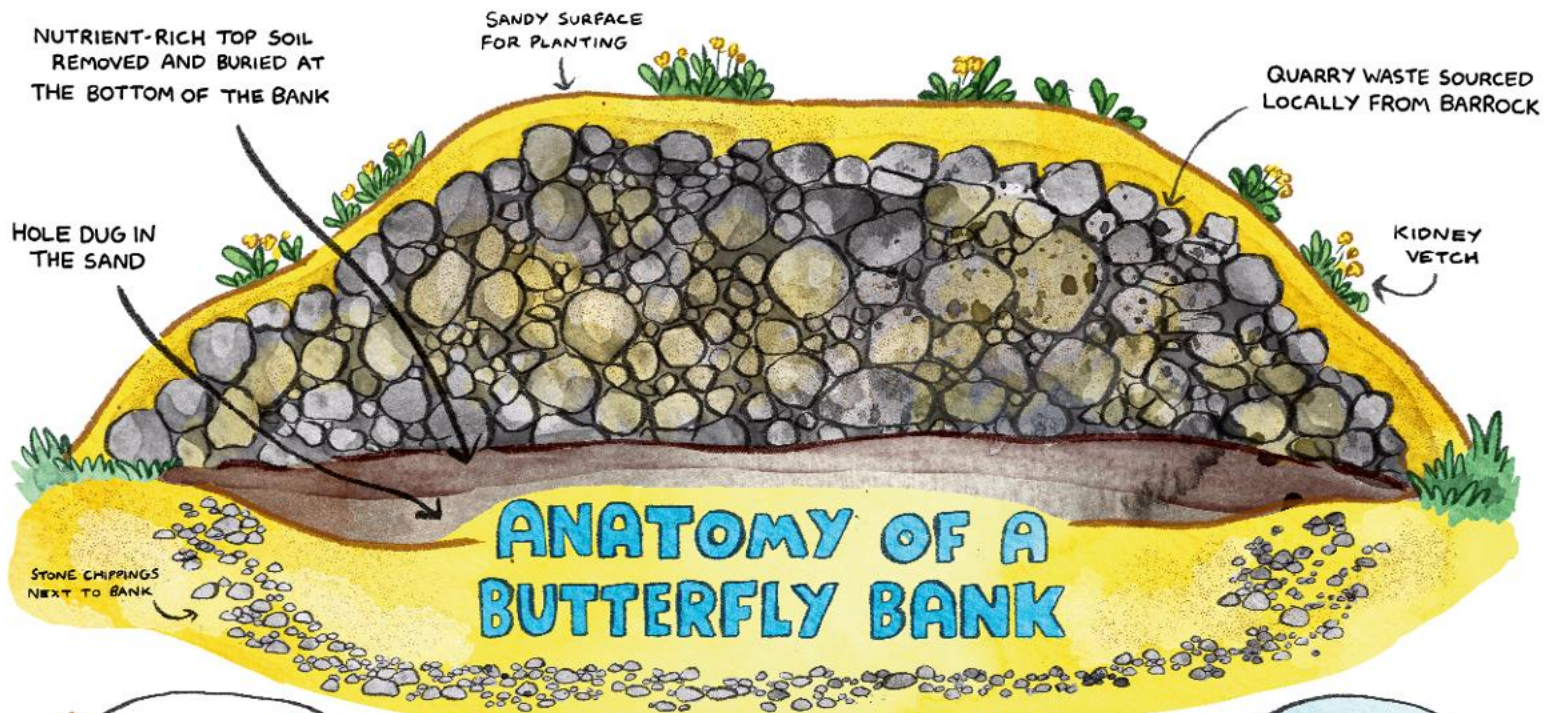
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE!

FOR SMALL BLUE BUTTERFLIES THAT PLANT IS KIDNEY VETCH!

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

KIDNEY VETCH IS A PLANT IN THE SAME FAMILY AS PURPLE OXYTROPIS AND CAN BE FOUND IN SOME OF THE SAME CONDITIONS - STRETCHES OF COASTLINE WHERE COMPETITION FROM OTHER PLANTS IS LIMITED.

THESE AREAS HAVE DWINDLED THROUGH THE STEADY ENCROACHMENT OF SHRUBS LIKE GORSE, AND AS THE KIDNEY VETCH HAS BEEN LOST, SO TOO HAVE THE BUTTERFLIES.



KIDNEY VETCH GROWS BEST IN POOR, STONY SOIL, SO THE BANKS ARE CONSTRUCTED TO PROVIDE THAT ENVIRONMENT OPTIMALLY.



IN 2025 WE HAD A PARTICULARLY WARM AND DRY SPRING, WHICH WAS GOOD FOR THE SMALL BLUE BUTTERFLY POPULATION!

IN EASTER ROSS, THEY WERE SIGHTED FLYING AS EARLY AS APRIL FOR ONLY THE SECOND TIME EVER.

MORE THAN 80 SMALL BLUES WERE COUNTED IN ONE DAY HERE AT DUNNET FOREST,

AND AROUND 50 IN A NEARBY SITE AT SCRABSTER!

INSECTS WILL HAVE GOOD AND BAD YEARS NATURALLY, WITH THE WEATHER BEING A FACTOR, BUT THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR HABITAT HAVE MAJORLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE RECENT SUCCESS OF THE BUTTERFLIES AND WILL HOPEFULLY CONTINUE TO DO SO OVER TIME.

PHYSICALLY GETTING OUT THERE AND COUNTING THEM IS CRUCIAL WORK, LETTING CONSERVATIONISTS KNOW HOW SUCCESSFUL THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN AND WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND HERE?

THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE SMALL BLUE BUTTERFLY PROJECT IS TO CONNECT THESE SUCCESSFUL HABITATS ENABLING THE BUTTERFLIES TO SPREAD OUT ALONG THE COASTLINE.

THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE, BUT THE SUCCESSES OF THE LAST FEW YEARS SHOWS THAT IT'S ACHIEVABLE!

KEYRINGS FOR SALE!

THE SUCCESS OF THE
BUTTERFLY BANKS AT
DUNNET IS PARTLY DOWN
TO THE EFFORTS OF THE

UHI SMALL BLUE AMBASSADOR GROUP!

STOP
BUTTERFLIES ONLY

BUTTERFLY
BANK

STUDENTS IN THE
SUPPORTED LEARNING
CLASS ADVOCATED
FOR SMALL BLUE
BUTTERFLIES.

RAISING MONEY AND
AWARENESS THROUGH
CRAFT SALES, SIGN
MAKING AND LETTER
WRITING!

CURRENT STUDENTS
DREW STYLISTED
SELF-PORTRAITS AND
SHARED THEIR THOUGHTS!

PAINTING SIGNS!
BUTTERFLIES
ONLY

LETTERS TO
THE KING!

PROTECT SMALL
BLUES!

E



JOHN O' GROATS ISN'T FAR FROM HERE, WHICH MEANS MY WALK ALONG THE NORTH COAST IS NEARLY AT AN END.



HMM, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING IS GOING ON AT THE MILL.
I'LL TAKE A QUICK LOOK...



OH HEY, IT'S A BAT WATCH!



LET'S TRY OUT A BAT DETECTOR!

BATS

OF CAITHNESS



COMMON PIPISTRELLE

WEIGHS 5g,
THE SAME AS A
20p COIN!

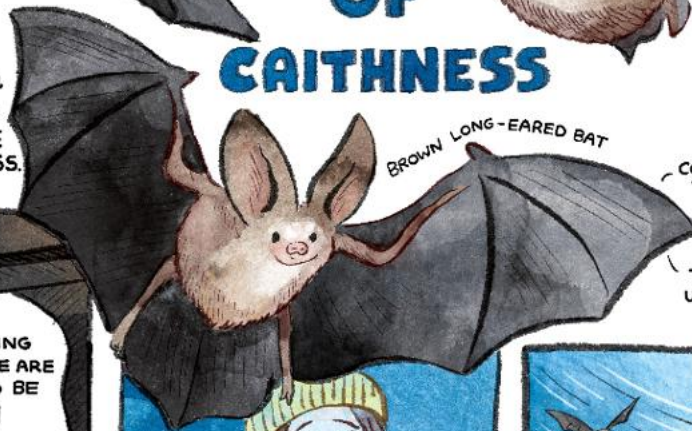
THERE ARE 10 SPECIES OF BAT FOUND IN SCOTLAND, AND 18 IN THE WIDER UK - BUT ONLY 3 ARE RECORDED IN CAITHNESS.



DAUBENTON'S BAT

MEDIUM-SIZED AT AROUND 7-8g

KNOWN FOR SKIMMING LOW OVER BODIES OF WATER TO CATCH FLYING INSECTS



BROWN LONG-EARED BAT

COMMON THROUGHOUT THE UK BUT RARER IN NORTHERN SCOTLAND

THE QUIETER ECHOLLOCATION THEY USE TO HUNT MOTHS GIVES THEM THE NICKNAME "WHISPERING BAT"



THE ONES LIVING IN THE ROOF HERE ARE MOST LIKELY TO BE COMMON PIPISTRELLES, OUR MOST COMMON BAT.



DESPITE THE SAYING "BLIND AS A BAT", THEY ACTUALLY HAVE PRETTY GOOD EYESIGHT - UNLIKE ME!



THEY USE ECHOLLOCATION BECAUSE HUNTING IN THE DARK LEAVES THEM LESS VULNERABLE TO PREDATORS.

IT ALSO MEANS I CAN USE THIS BAT DETECTOR TO FIND THEM, AND DON'T HAVE TO RELY ON MY OWN BAD NIGHT VISION!



THIS IS A VITAL TOOL, BECAUSE ONE TEENY PIPISTRELLE CAN EAT UP TO 3000 INSECTS A NIGHT!

HUNTING AT NIGHT ISN'T AN EASY TASK AT THE BEST OF TIMES, BUT THE DRASTIC RECENT DECLINE IN INSECT NUMBERS (AS HIGH AS A 79% DROP BETWEEN 2004-2023 ACCORDING TO ONE BUGLIFE SURVEY) HAS THREATENED SOME BATS WITH STARVATION!



NIGHT-SCENTED STOCK

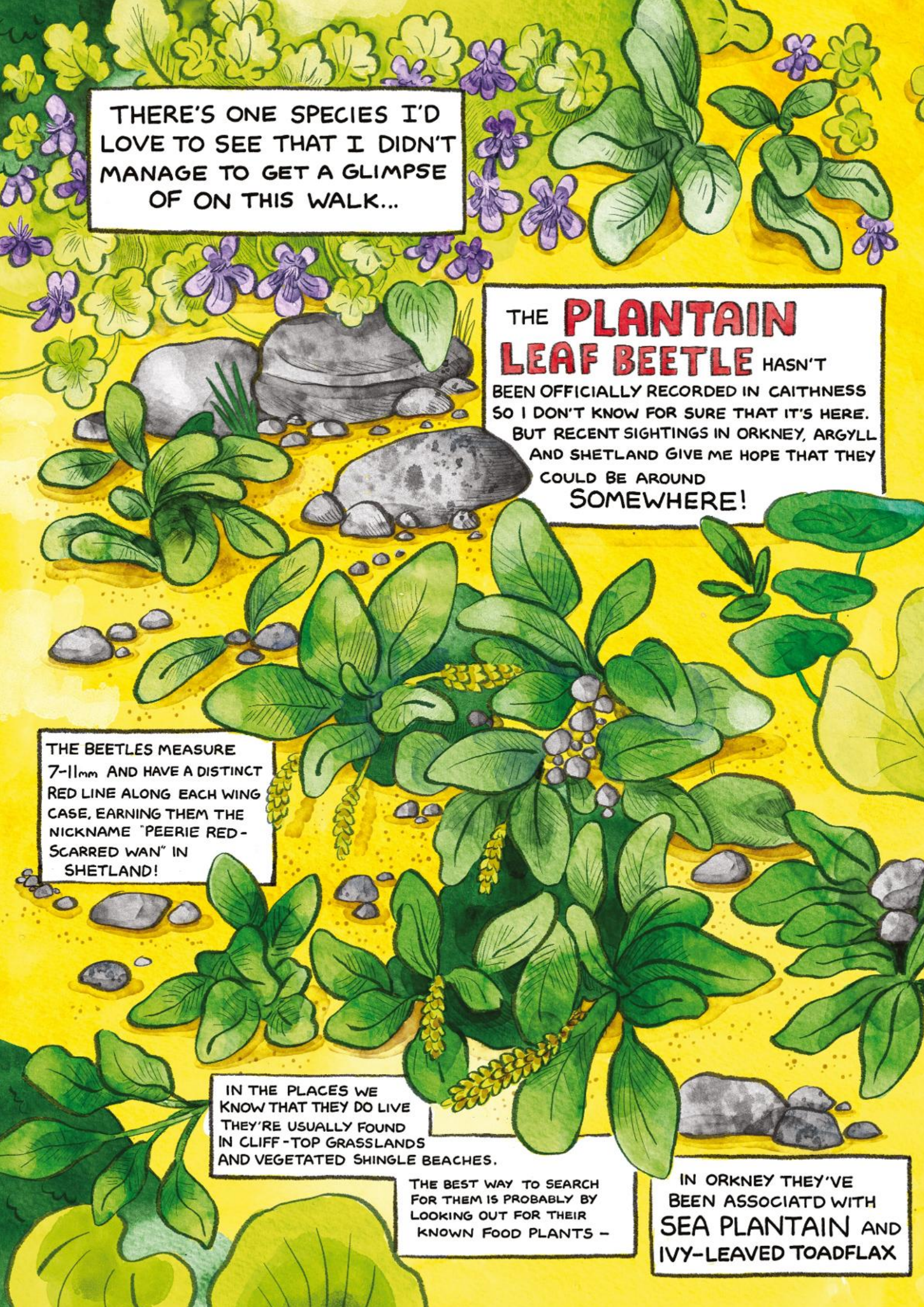
EVENING PRIMROSE

DOG ROSE

FORGET-ME-NOT

MULLEIN

YOU CAN TRY TO HELP THEM OUT BY GROWING A NIGHT GARDEN OF NIGHT-SCENTED FLOWERS TO ATTRACT MORE INSECTS LIKE MOTHS!



THERE'S ONE SPECIES I'D
LOVE TO SEE THAT I DIDN'T
MANAGE TO GET A GLIMPSE
OF ON THIS WALK...

THE **PLANTAIN** **LEAF BEETLE**

HASN'T
BEEN OFFICIALLY RECORDED IN CAITHNESS
SO I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT IT'S HERE.
BUT RECENT SIGHTINGS IN ORKNEY, ARGYLL
AND SHETLAND GIVE ME HOPE THAT THEY
COULD BE AROUND
SOMEWHERE!

THE BEETLES MEASURE
7-11mm AND HAVE A DISTINCT
RED LINE ALONG EACH WING
CASE, EARNING THEM THE
NICKNAME "PEERIE RED-
SCARRED WAN" IN
SHETLAND!

IN THE PLACES WE
KNOW THAT THEY DO LIVE
THEY'RE USUALLY FOUND
IN CLIFF-TOP GRASSLANDS
AND VEGETATED SHINGLE BEACHES.

THE BEST WAY TO SEARCH
FOR THEM IS PROBABLY BY
LOOKING OUT FOR THEIR
KNOWN FOOD PLANTS -

IN ORKNEY THEY'VE
BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH
SEA PLANTAIN AND
IVY-LEAVED TOADFLAX



I'LL KEEP LOOKING WHILE I WALK
ALONG THIS COAST - MAYBE THE PLANTAIN
LEAF BEETLE IS HERE SOMEWHERE?
HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

THE SPECIES ON THE EDGE PROJECT IS DUE TO RUN FROM 2023-2027, WHICH MEANS THAT JUST LIKE MY WALK, IT'LL BE FINISHING UP SOON!

JOHN O'GROATS

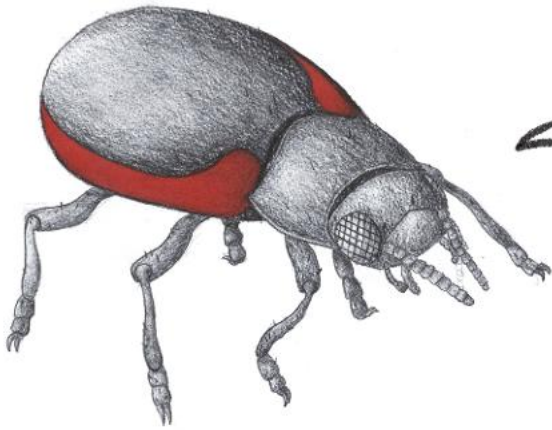
BUT THE PROJECT WILL LEAVE A **LASTING LEGACY** BEHIND ON THE NORTH COAST IN THE COMMUNITIES IT'S WORKED WITH.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS, STUDENTS, ORGANISATIONS, CROFTERS, GARDENERS, ARTISTS AND WILDLIFE ENTHUSIASTS HAVE ALL TAKEN PART IN AWARENESS PROJECTS ALONG THE WAY, HELPING TO INCREASE PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING.



WE CAN ALL TAKE THAT KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM FORWARD AND PROTECT THESE SPECIES FOR YEARS TO COME!

THIS COMIC WAS CREATED WITH THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONALS, VOLUNTEERS AND LOCAL PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED IN CREATIVE WORKSHOPS AND SHARED THEIR IDEAS. A HUGE THANK YOU TO...

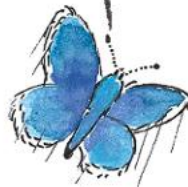


Louise Senior
Sarah Bird
Donald Mitchell
Mary Legg
Paul Castle

Rob Christie
Garance Warburton
Ruth Watts
Bea Ayling
Alysia Akerman
Oliver Moore

And all the participants at our creative workshops over the summer!

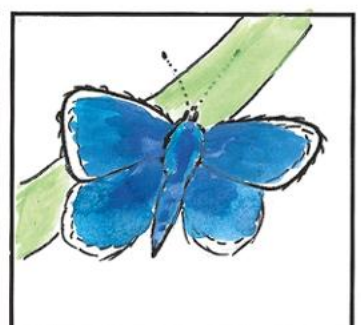
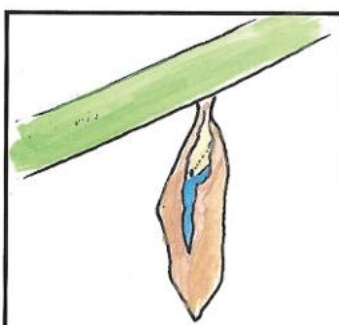
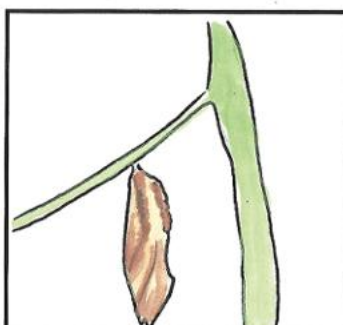
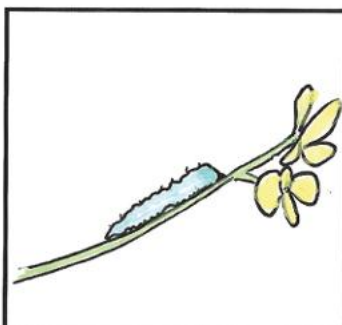
Durness Primary School
Farr High School
Caithness Young Creatives Comic Club
Tongue Gardening Group
Thurso Library visitors
Dounreay Green Network
RSPB staff and volunteers
UHI Small Blue Ambassador School
Dunnet Community Forest Green
Gym volunteers



GREAT



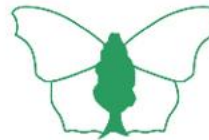
YELLOW
BUMBLE-
BEE



Species on the Edge is a multi-partner species conservation programme. We're working with communities across Scotland's coasts and islands to secure a future for our nationally and internationally vulnerable species. Funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the partnership consists of Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Bat Conservation Trust, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Butterfly Conservation, NatureScot, Plantlife, and RSPB Scotland.

Using money raised by National Lottery players, The National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with the UK's heritage. Species on the Edge is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Aimee Lockwood is an illustrator, comic maker and creative workshop facilitator based in Thurso, Caithness. www.aimeelockwood.co.uk



www.speciesontheedge.co.uk



The North Coast Species on the Edge comic tells the tale of some of our most precious wildlife.

Artist Aimee Lockwood draws on research carried out in summer 2025 with communities across North Sutherland and Caithness to narrate the stories of species who are endangered, overlooked or even shunned.

She highlights the work that local people are doing - and that you can do too - to help ensure these special creatures can continue to make their home on the windswept north coast.

