

# What's new Eureka!



## False alarm calls

An iPhone feature has been blamed for sending false alarm calls in North America. One in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area called for help for a canoeist on fire, for which there was no evidence.

## Pyrotechnics safety

The Scottish Government are considering whether to crack down further on use of pyrotechnics at football matches, using Football Banning Orders. The Home Office in London effectively removed from the market the safest design for all users, including those needing rescue at sea, for whom they were intended.

## A bad smell

Vikash Kumar and Sarthak Mittal of Shiv Nadar University have won an Ig Nobel Prize for a shoe rack containing an ultra violet light. Up to three minutes of the light kills *Kytococcus sedentarius* bacteria which causes smelly footwear. Will it deal with the ultimate pong, the wetsuit boot?

## Grey Owl sold

Canadian firm Grey Owl Paddles was founded 50 years ago and has been producing 30,000 paddles a year. Founder Brian Dorfman has reached the age of 80 and decided to retire. The company has been taken over by Rouston Sports, who make hockey sticks and plan to produce 50,000 paddles a year initially. This makes sense as it can be done in the off season for hockey sticks. The two companies are in Ontario and have previously shared wood at times, occasionally staff as well.



*ddipp Hydro differs from other changing robes in having longer sleeves that can be unzipped and an internal pocket into which it can be packed to form a pillow or cushion. There are adult and junior versions.*

## What location?

There has been growing enthusiasm for using What3words as a method of giving an exact location. You need to have the app on a mobile phone or laptop and be within sight of satellites so that GPS can establish your position on a grid of 3m squares covering the entire globe. Each square has a code consisting of three apparently random words. Despite covering the whole globe, the words are in English. Given three words for one square, there is no obvious way of telling whether another set of words are the next square or in the middle of the Indian Ocean. While the service is free, it belongs to a private company so there is no saying that it will remain free. Also, there is no way of relating it to a map or chart. Rather than adding these three code words to location signs, it might be more relevant to give grid references, as is already done in some more remote parts of the country, and to have an app written able to take a GPS reading and convert this to a relevant grid reference for this country and also latitude and longitude, which would be applicable in any language.

## Satellite phone links

Virgin Media O2 is to launch a service next year to allow phones to switch automatically to satellite links when no terrestrial signal is available, such as offshore. The service will become available for those who pay for it as soon as suitable Starlink satellites are launched. Initially it will only be for WhatsApp, messaging and maps. Vodafone are also working on this. The service is in use in America, Japan and Australia although astronomers are unhappy about the growing light pollution.



*Water resistant WellaHeat Heated Gloves have battery life up to eight hours, warm the backs of the hands and have a non slip PU leather grip and touchscreen compatible fingertips.*



*Ryoko is a pocket sized router with fast internet connection, battery giving up to eight hours of WiFi, connects to 10 devices including phones, laptops and tablets, charges fast and now has an ad blocker and data efficiency optimization. There is no contract, no roaming fee and it works in 178 countries. Cost is £9.99 per month.*



*One of America's best known canoe retail shops, Rutabaga in Madison, Wisconsin, is closing this year. Darren Bush, who began selling canoes in 1990, is to move to a calling as a hospital chaplain. He is to continue with the Canoecopia exhibition and with his canoe hire operation in Madison. Only the commercial retail business will go. Community based activity will continue.*