



## Walking Car Unveiled!

Hyundai has unveiled a car that can walk, a development that it hopes will save lives in disaster zones.

The van-like vehicle has been developed to help emergency workers travel across terrain so tough that it would defeat most other vehicles. Its body can be changed and entered from all four sides, its robotic legs have five degrees of freedom and wheel hub propulsion motors. It can climb a 5ft wall, step over a 5ft gap and achieve a 15ft-wide track width - all while keeping its body and the passengers inside it completely level.

It can move in any direction, walk at different speeds, and the legs can be stowed if the driver wants to leave the disaster zone and take on a normal flat road.



*Pictured: The Hyundai Elevate Concept taken from the Hyundai Motor UK twitter page.*

## Conservation efforts on UK coasts help rare marine life make comeback!



*Pictured: A typical Basking Shark.*

According to a review of 2018 by The Wildlife Trusts, it has been a bumper year for sea slugs, autumn was a fine time for divers to catch a glimpse of curled octopus, and in the summer a rare sea grass bed measuring 60,000 square metres was discovered on the floor of Glenarm Bay in Northern Ireland.

Basking sharks were seen in Cardigan Bay in the Irish Sea for the first time in three years, fishermen in Dorset reported sightings of the extremely illusive short-snouted seahorse off the Purbeck coast, and crawfish reappeared in Cornwall after being decimated by overfishing in the 1960s and 1970s.

And the little tern, one of the rarest breeding seabirds in the UK, was successfully bred at the South Walney nature reserve in Cumbria for the first time in 33 years - and also nested on Tollesbury Wick nature reserve in Essex for the first time in a decade.



## Mini robots to inspect and repair water, gas and sewage pipes!



*Pictured: A typical scene to show the disruption caused when pipes are repaired.*

Miniature robots could be used to repair underground pipes and avoid the need to undertake costly roadworks as part of ground-breaking new government-funded research.

Researchers from four leading British universities are collaborating to develop tiny devices around 1cm long that use sensors, navigation and communication systems to detect, report and mend faults in the pipes and eliminate the need for human intervention.

The innovation could help avoid the complicated and costly process of maintaining buried pipework involving roadworks and traffic closures. The robots will travel along the pipes, detect any defects internally before examining them on a minute scale and guiding in appropriate maintenance equipment. This process will result in pipe repairs at an earlier stage and will look to resolve numerous problems such as repairing cracks and avoiding leaks. Resolving issues this early on will reduce the cost of intervention and associated disruption.

## Bra, wedding rings and scarf among items flushed down train toilet!



*Pictured: Typical Virgin trains.*

Passengers are asked to follow the three Ps of flushing: only pee, poo and paper should be flushed down any toilet. Virgin Trains said that four toilets are being taken out of service every day as a result of people using them incorrectly.

This meant 18,000 lost toilet hours every year with a repair bill of more than £180,000. A bra, recently discovered to be causing a blockage in a train toilet, is not the only strange item to be found down the toilet on the operator's Pendolino trains - with glasses, wedding rings, nappies and a football scarf also causing plumbing problems.

More than 90% of the blockages were caused by wet wipes - and even those labelled as being flushable were clogging pipes.

I think...



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