



SCIENCE NEWS

SNOW IN THE SAHARA

WHAT'S that you say, it's been snowing in the desert?!

That's right! The Sahara Desert has seen rare snowfall for only the fourth time in 42 years. The other three times were in 1979, 2017, and 2018.

The white stuff was spotted in the town of Ain Sefra in Algeria, where temperatures dropped to a very chilly -3°C this January.

Photographer Karim Bouchetata took this amazing shot of the snow melting on the sand, creating the cool pattern.



SPACE HAGGIS

A HAGGIS travelled to the edge of space for the first time ever on this year's Burns Night.

The famous Scottish creation was launched 32.2km (20 miles) above the Earth – that's nearly four times the height of Everest!

It was the idea of butcher Simon Howie and a space education and research company called Stratonauts.

The haggis, which was attached to a weather balloon and a camera, was up in the stratosphere for two hours and 37 minutes.

It's hoped the unusual launch will inspire more young people to get into science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.



SPOTTING FROM SPACE

ELEPHANTS are being counted all the way from space!

Scientists are using satellite images to count elephants in their natural habitats.

The images are taken from a satellite orbiting 600km (372 miles) above Earth. A computer algorithm (a problem-solving pattern) is then used to pick out the elephants from their surroundings and count them all.

The new technology is much speedier than anything used before and could improve how we monitor endangered elephant populations. It might also help tackle the problem of animal poaching, too.



ACROSS

- 3) A spacecraft placed in orbit round the Earth or moon or another planet to collect information or for communication (noun 9)
- 6) A Scottish dish made with the liver, heart or lungs of a sheep and boiled in a bag – the animal's stomach (noun 6)
- 7) Observe; check; keep a record of (verb 7)
- 8) The second major layer of Earth's atmosphere, extending to about 50km above the Earth's surface (noun 12)

DOWN

- 1) The measure of how hot or cold it is (plural noun 12)
- 2) The natural home or environment of an animal (plural noun 8)
- 4) A set of rules (mathematical instructions) used in calculations to solve a particular problem, especially by a computer (noun 9)
- 5) A repeated look; a design in which lines, forms or colours are repeated (noun 7)

