



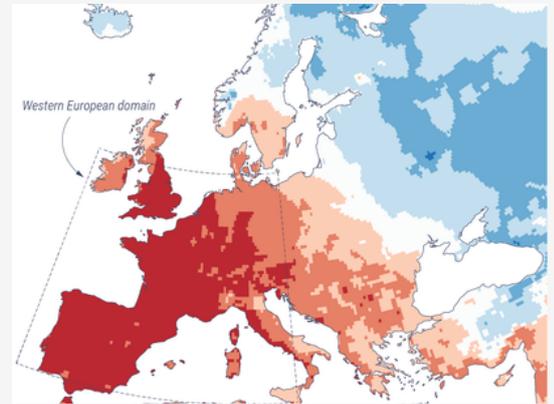
Hello and welcome to our October edition of BioBuzz! With the summer behind us and a new academic cycle beginning, it's the perfect moment to look forward with fresh eyes, renewed energy and big ideas. This summer brought challenges, but also reasons to be hopeful. In this issue we share the story of an inspiring young entrepreneur, we explore educational resources, we link up with our old friends Beo and Raja at the Ploughing Championships in Ireland, and remember some elders who have died. We also have our usual activities, quiz and jokes to keep you entertained. We're delighted to have you with us as we kick off another season of learning, sharing and action for a sustainable future. You can continue to find all the past editions of the newsletter [here](#).

### **A Fiery Summer and Reasons to Hope**

This summer Europe faced unprecedented heat, with multiple record-breaking heatwaves and wildfires.

#### **Heat and Hardship**

- Spain endured its hottest summer on record, averaging 2.1 °C hotter than the 1991–2020 norm, with peaks of 45.8 °C in Andalusia.
- Scientists estimate ~16,500 additional deaths across Europe this summer due to heat stress intensified by climate change.
- Wildfires ravaged Greece, Spain, and Turkey, while drought threatened water supplies and ecosystems.



### **At the same time, we heard inspiring stories of resilience and progress...**

#### **Nature and People Fighting Back**

- In the Czech Republic, beavers restored wetlands with their dams, saving over €1 million in flood infrastructure costs while boosting biodiversity.
- A global ocean treaty was ratified by the EU, protecting vast areas of high seas.
- Solar power in the EU out-produced fossil fuels for the first time in May 2025.
- Conservation wins: rare bird species are returning to habitats in Scotland thanks to protection efforts.



Click below if you would like to know more about the **EU's Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change** shared success stories of communities restoring landscapes and building resilience.



# Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure Launches at the National Ploughing Championships

Every September, Ireland plays host to the National Ploughing Championships, the largest outdoor agricultural event in Europe. Fondly called "The Ploughing," it has grown far beyond its roots in competitive ploughing to become a true national festival. Over three bustling days, more than 250,000 people pour through the gates, farmers and families, schools and businesses, government agencies and international delegations, all gathering to celebrate rural life and to look ahead at the future of food, farming, and the environment!



Today, alongside the roar of tractors and the excitement of traditional contests, the Ploughing is also a showcase for innovation, sustainability, and education. That spirit made it the perfect stage for the launch of Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure, a brand-new comic bringing science, storytelling, and imagination together at the heart of Ireland's biggest outdoor event.

## Inspiring Ireland's Future Leaders

Speaking at the launch, Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird emphasised:

*"Projects like Beo and Raja show how universities and research centres can share knowledge in ways that are engaging and meaningful. The SPUR programme gave our students the opportunity to contribute to research in a creative way, and to see their work connect with schools, communities and families."*

Already used in classrooms and community spaces across Ireland, the Beo and Raja comics are sparking conversations about sustainability, culture, and the bioeconomy. By blending scientific research with heritage and storytelling, they aim to equip the next generation with the curiosity and confidence to lead on climate action.



# Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure!

by Amy, Eve, Megan and Aria, students of the Froebel Department in Maynooth University.

Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure comic was launched on 17th September at the National Ploughing Championships in Srenggan, County Offaly. The new comic was officially unveiled by Minister Dara Calleary T.D. at the "We're Taking Climate Action" tent in the Government Village



## The Beo and Raja Series

The Beo and Raja Series is available in both Irish and English. The stories are fun, but they also teach readers about sustainability, heritage, bioeconomy and our Irish culture! They show us ways that we can protect the planet and build a better future for everyone. The latest comic was created by a team of researchers, students and artists. The group included: Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird and Dr Laoise Ní Chléirigh from Maynooth University, Jamie Murray from Maynooth University and BiOrbic, Dr Thomas P. Curran from UCD, Illustrator Nathan Wright, and Maynooth University SPUR student Koren Dunne. Koren worked on the project during the summer as part of a research programme. Koren said the project helped her build skills in design and storytelling. She also said it gave her the chance to become a published author before finishing her college degree! Great work Koren!

## What is the Comic About?

The comic uses exciting adventures to explain important topics such as:

- Sustainability - Looking after our planet.
- The Bioeconomy - The smart and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Culture, Heritage, and Language - Celebrating where we come from and who we are.



## Minister Dara Calleary

The Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary was present at the launch. He praised the comic for being a "wonderful example of how storytelling can ... make important themes ... accessible to all generations."

## Inspiring Schools and Communities

The comics are already used in classrooms and communities across Ireland. They encourage families and children to discuss the environment and learn how they can help. Using science, storytelling and Irish culture, the comics aim to prepare future generations to be confident, curious and ready to face future challenges. This launch comes at an important time. The EU are set to release a new bioeconomy strategy in 2025. 'Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure' is showing how stories can make learning about the environment exciting and fun for all ages.



# Beo agus Raja

Tá an t-alt seo scríofa ag Amy, Eve, Megan agus Aria

Is scoláirí oideachais iad i Roinn Froebel, Ollscoil Mhá Nuad

Seoladh greannán nua dar teideal 'Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure' ('Eachtra BioBus Beo agus Raja') ar an 17 Meán Fómhair ag na Craobhchomórtais Náisiúnta Treabhadóireachta i Sreagán, Contae Uíbh Fhailí. Seoladh an greannán nua go hoifigiúil ag an Aire Dara Calleary T.D. sa phuball 'We're Taking Climate Action' ('Ag Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide')



## Sraith Beo agus Raja

Is é seo an naoú greannán sa tsraith Beo agus Raja. Tá siad ar fáil i nGaeilge agus i mBéarla. Tá na scéalta seo spráíúil, ach roineann siad eolas ar an léitheoir faoin inbhuanaitheacht, oidhreacht, faoin mbithgheilleagar agus an rud is tábhachtaí; faoinár gcultúr Éireannach!

Chruthaigh taighdeoirí, mac léinn agus ealaíontóir an greannán is déanaí. Bhí na daoine seo a leanas sa ghrúpa: An Dr Máire Nic an Bhaird agus an Dr Laoise Ní Chléirigh ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, Jamie Murray ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad, An Dr Tomas Curran ó UCD, An maisitheoir Nathan Wright, agus Koren Ní Dhoinn, mac léinn SPUR ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad. D'oibrigh Koren ar an tionscadal i rith an tsamhraidh mar chuid de chlár taighde. Dúirt sí gur chabhraigh an tionscadal léi scileanna nua a fhorbairt. Dúirt sí freisin gur thug sé an deis di bheith ina húdar foilsithe sular chríochnaigh sí a céim ollscoile.

Úsáideann an greannán seo eachtraí spreagúla chun topaicí tábhachtacha a mhíniú, mar shampla:

- Inbhuanaitheacht - Aire a thabhairt dár bpláinéad.
- An bithgheilleagar - Úsáid chliste agus acmhainní inbhuanaithe nádúrtha.
- Cultúr, Oidhreacht agus Teanga - Ceiliúradh ar an áit as a dtagann muid agus cé muid féin.



## An tAire Dara Calleary

Bhí an tAire Coimirce Sóisialaí, an tAire Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus na Gaeltachta, Dara Calleary, i láthair. Sheol sé an greannán agus labhair sé leis na páistí a bhí i láthair ag an seoladh tábhachtach seo. Mhol sé an greannán chomh maith agus bhí an-spéis aige sa tsraith Beo agus Raja!

Tá na greannáin in úsáid cheana féin i seomraí ranga ar fud na hEorpa. Tá siad ag spreagadh páistí agus a dteaghlach chun níos mó cainte a dheanamh faoin gcomhshaol. Tá sé mar aidhm ag na greannáin an chéad ghlúin eile a ullmhú le bheith fiosrach, muiníneach agus réidh le dul i ngleic leis na dúshláin amach anseo.



# Career Profiles

Name: Sadhbh Wood



Role: Co-founder and CEO of Bean Around.

CHECK OUT SADHBH AND AISLING'S COMPANY HERE: [HTTPS://WWW.BEANAROUND.IE](https://www.beanaround.ie)



## AN OVERVIEW OF YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR:

I set up a coffee repurposing company called Bean Around with my sister, Aisling. We find ways of adding value to spent coffee grounds by transforming them into new products.

Our first product was an Exfoliating Soap Bar made using spent coffee grounds.

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THIS ROLE?

3 years



## WHERE ARE YOU USUALLY BASED?

We are based in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.



## WHAT'S THE FAVOURITE PART OF YOUR WORK??

**MY FAVOURITE PART OF MY JOB IS WORKING ON PROJECTS THAT HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE PLANET AND REDUCE WASTE SENT TO LANDFILL.**

## HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS CAREER?

Our dad suffers from psoriasis. After reading an article, he began using spent coffee grounds from our kitchen to relieve the symptoms of itching and dry skin. One day, I used the coffee grounds to exfoliate in the shower and it left my skin feeling really soft and smooth. This encouraged Aisling and I to develop our Exfoliating Soap Bars and begin exploring the potential uses of spent coffee grounds.

## WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?



**THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF MY JOB IS MANAGING ALL THE DIFFERENT TASKS ACROSS THE BUSINESS. PRIORITISING THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS AND PLANNING MY WEEK IN ADVANCE HELPS ME TO STAY ORGANISED AND ON TRACK.**



## BESIDES FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS, WHAT SKILLS OR TRAITS ARE MOST USEFUL FOR YOUR TYPE OF WORK?

One of the most useful skills in my job is communication. It's really important to be able to explain your idea clearly so others can understand, and listen to different people's experience and feedback to improve on your idea.



## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A YOUNG PERSON INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

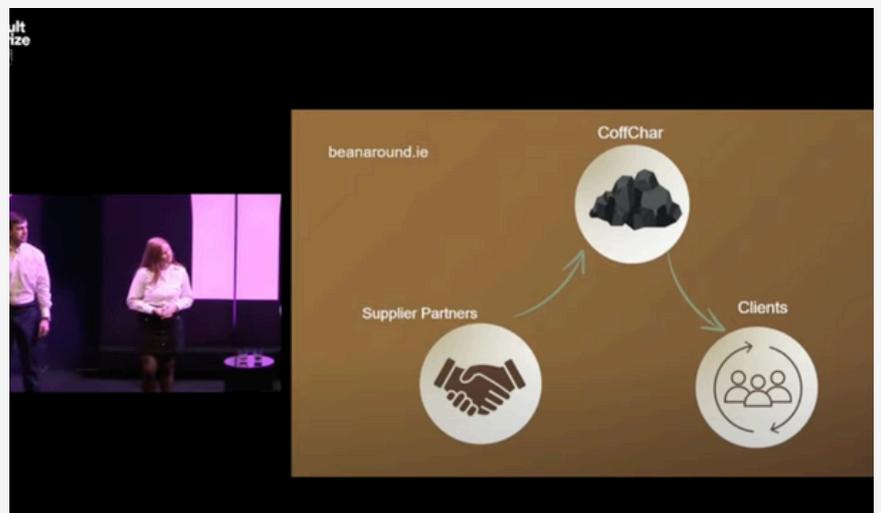
**MY BEST ADVICE IS NEVER BE SCARED OF TRYING. ALWAYS GIVE IT A GO. THAT'S WHAT ENCOURAGED US TO SET UP BEAN AROUND!**



## A TYPICAL DAY...



Everyday looks different in my job. A typical day might start off with packing orders, meeting clients and collecting coffee grounds. I then meet with our academic partners or formulators to discuss new product development, and every so often I'm invited to speak about Bean Around at an event.



**WATCH AND LISTEN TO THE BEAN AROUND TEAM EXPLAINING HOW THEY TRANSFORM 'COFFCHAR' INTO THEIR AMAZING PRODUCTS [HERE!](#)**

# Conas Piastlann a Chruthú

Le Kieran, Joe, Ciarán agus Conor

## Réamhrá:

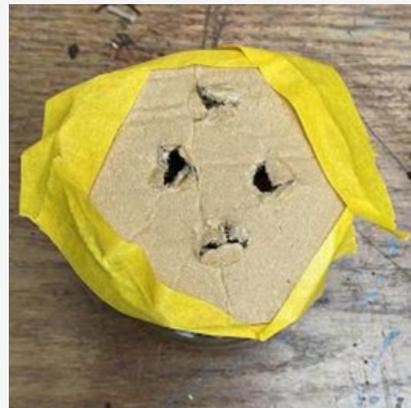
Tá péisteanna an-tábhachtach don timpeallacht. Déanann siad poill san ithir agus cruthaíonn siad cainéil a ligeann d'aer agus d'uisce dul tríothu. Gan na péisteanna, bheadh an ithir níos doichte agus níos boichte. Glanann siad dramhaíl ón dromchla freisin.

Péisteanna sláintiúla = ithir shláintiúil.

Déanann péisteanna an ithir a shaibhriú a chabhraíonn leis an mbitheachnamaíocht.

## Trealamh:

- Próca gloine
- Ithir & duilleoga
- Péisteanna
- Siosúr
- Slusaid
- Gloine formhéadúcháin



## Céimeanna:

1. Aimsigh próca, glan, nigh é agus bain an lipéad de.
2. Líon leath le hithir agus cuir cúpla duilleog tirim isteach.
3. Cuir clúdach air agus croith go réidh é chun é a mheascadh.
4. Déan cúpla poll beag sa chlúdach le haghaidh aeir.
5. Bailigh péisteanna ón ngairdín nó áit fhliuch dhorcha.
6. Cuir na péisteanna isteach agus dún an clúdach.
7. Fág an próca in áit dhorcha agus scaoil amach iad tar éis cúpla lá.



## Gníomhaíochtaí

- Cruthaigh "Dialann Péiste" agus samhlaigh go bhfuil tú i do phéist.
- Bain úsáid as gloine formhéadúcháin agus déan cur síos ar chodanna coirp.



# HOW TO MAKE A WORMERY

by Kieran, Joe, Ciarán and Conor

## Introduction:

Worms are very important for the environment and they add to the circularity of the bioeconomy. They break down plants, animals, and dead leaves, spreading minerals into the soil. They make holes and channels that let air and water flow through. Without worms, soil would be tighter and poorer. They also clean up waste on the surface. (Source: Gardening for Biodiversity – Heritage Council) Healthy earthworms = healthy soil. Worms enrich the soil, they are naturally bio-based fertilizers, which help the environmental bioeconomy.

## Equipment:

- Glass jar
- Soil & leaves
- Worms
- Scissors
- Spade
- Magnifying glass



## Steps

1. Find a jar, wash it and remove the label.
2. Fill half with soil and add a few dry leaves.
3. Put on the lid and shake gently to mix.
4. Make small holes in the lid for air.
5. Collect worms from a garden or dark place.
6. Place the worms inside and close the lid.
7. Leave the jar in a dark place and release them after a few days.



## Activities:

- Create a "Worm Diary" and imagine you are the worm.
- Use a magnifying glass and describe the body parts.
- Discuss "What if there were no worms?"





## In Tribute



# In Memory of Jane Goodall

“Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, we will help. Only if we help, we shall be saved.”

Dame Jane Goodall (1934–2025) died on 1 October 2025. She was best known for her groundbreaking research on chimpanzees at Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania, where she transformed how we see our closest animal relatives. Jane’s legacy went far beyond science. She became a global voice for conservation, for respecting all life, and for inspiring generations of people to act in accordance with their values.



She founded the Jane Goodall Institute and *Roots & Shoots*, a youth programme spanning many countries. She challenged us to see humans and nature not as separate, but deeply connected, and reminded us to care, to act, to stay curious and to hope. Throughout her life, she continued to travel, speak, write, and engage with communities across the world, always urging action over despair.

# In Memory of Manchán Magan

“Language is the map of a people; lose language and you lose your map.”

Tá Manchán Magan, an scríbhneoir agus déantóir clár faisnéise, ar shlí na fírinne. Irish writer, broadcaster, and Irish cultural advocate Manchán Magan (1970–2025) died on 2 October 2025. Manchán had a gift for showing how language, landscape, and identity are inseparable, and that caring for the natural world is also about caring for our cultural roots. His work was a consistent inspiration to us as he wove together science, education, storytelling and Irish language and heritage into conversations about sustainability, history and belonging. Through his creative energy and deep curiosity, he helped a new generation reconnect with the richness of Irish culture while facing today’s ecological challenges.



## Carrying Their Legacy

Though their paths were different, Jane Goodall and Manchán Magan shared a vision of understanding, caring, reverence, and reconnecting – with nature, culture, and community. For the BEST network, their words and actions remind us that we are entangled within and dependent on the web of life, and remain an inspiration for us as we build a more sustainable and compassionate future.



# BioBuzz Quiz – October Edition!



- Which country recorded its hottest summer ever, averaging over 2°C hotter than normal?
  - Spain
  - Ireland
  - Germany
- Beavers made headlines in the Czech Republic for helping the environment. What did they do?
  - Built wetlands that reduced flooding and boosted biodiversity
  - Cleared forests for new farmland
  - Pollinated crops with their tails
- At the National Ploughing Championships, a new comic was launched. What is it called?
  - Beo and Raja’s Space Adventure
  - Beo and Raja’s BioBus Adventure
  - Beo and Raja’s Garden Adventure
- What everyday material did Sadhbh and her sister reuse to create new products?
  - Coffee grounds
  - Plastic bottles
  - Old newspapers

Answers: 1 = a) Spain, 2 = a) Built wetlands, 3 = b) BioBus Adventure, 4 = a) Coffee grounds



## Bioeconomy Matters Podcast



[Bioeconomy Matters](#) – Delve into groundbreaking bioeconomic insights and revelations with podcast host Hailey Ciantar and podcast editor and producer Rita Escórcio. Through a series of interviews, you will learn about bioeconomy’s presence in various sectors.



In [this episode](#), Janek Vähk discusses the most effective waste management solutions and why we should invest in more sustainable waste management systems!



## Joke Corner

Thanks for reading! You can subscribe or unsubscribe from the newsletter [here](#) and make sure you check out the BioBeo website by scanning the QR code! Buzz you again soon!

Q: Why did the coffee file a police report?



A: Because it got mugged!



# The Beo and Raja Comic Series!

## Catch up on all our adventures below. Just click to download or read online!



### [Finding Beo](#)

[Back to the Future with Beo and Raja](#)

[Answering the Curlew's Call](#)

[Beo, Raja and The Butterfly Effect](#)

[Beo and Raja's BioBus Adventure](#)

[Beo, Raja agus Éifeacht an Fhéileacáin](#)

[Tóraíocht Bheo](#)

[Ar Ais chuig an Am atá le Teacht le Beo agus Raja](#)

[Ag Freastal ar Ghlaio an Chrotaigh](#)

