

AN UPDATE FROM OPCA

March has been another busy month for OPCA. On the 14th we joined our friends at EditArtz for a live art workshop. Inspired by **WWF's Just Imagine** Art Workshops, we put together a two-hour workshop focusing on using art to spread **conservation awareness**.

OPCA founder Jordan, alongside Kelly Martin from the Conservation Education Society gave a 30-minute talk on the topics of **re-wilding, sustainability and community**. We used screen shots from David Attenborough latest documentary to act as prompts so that artists could make sketches as we discussed the three topics. A huge thank you and well done to EditArtz for putting this together.

Another exciting moment was the launch of our new initiative **Conservation Pals**. This project aims to connect schools from around the world, via the conservation projects within our OPCA network. We have taken the idea of pen pals into the computer world of 2021.

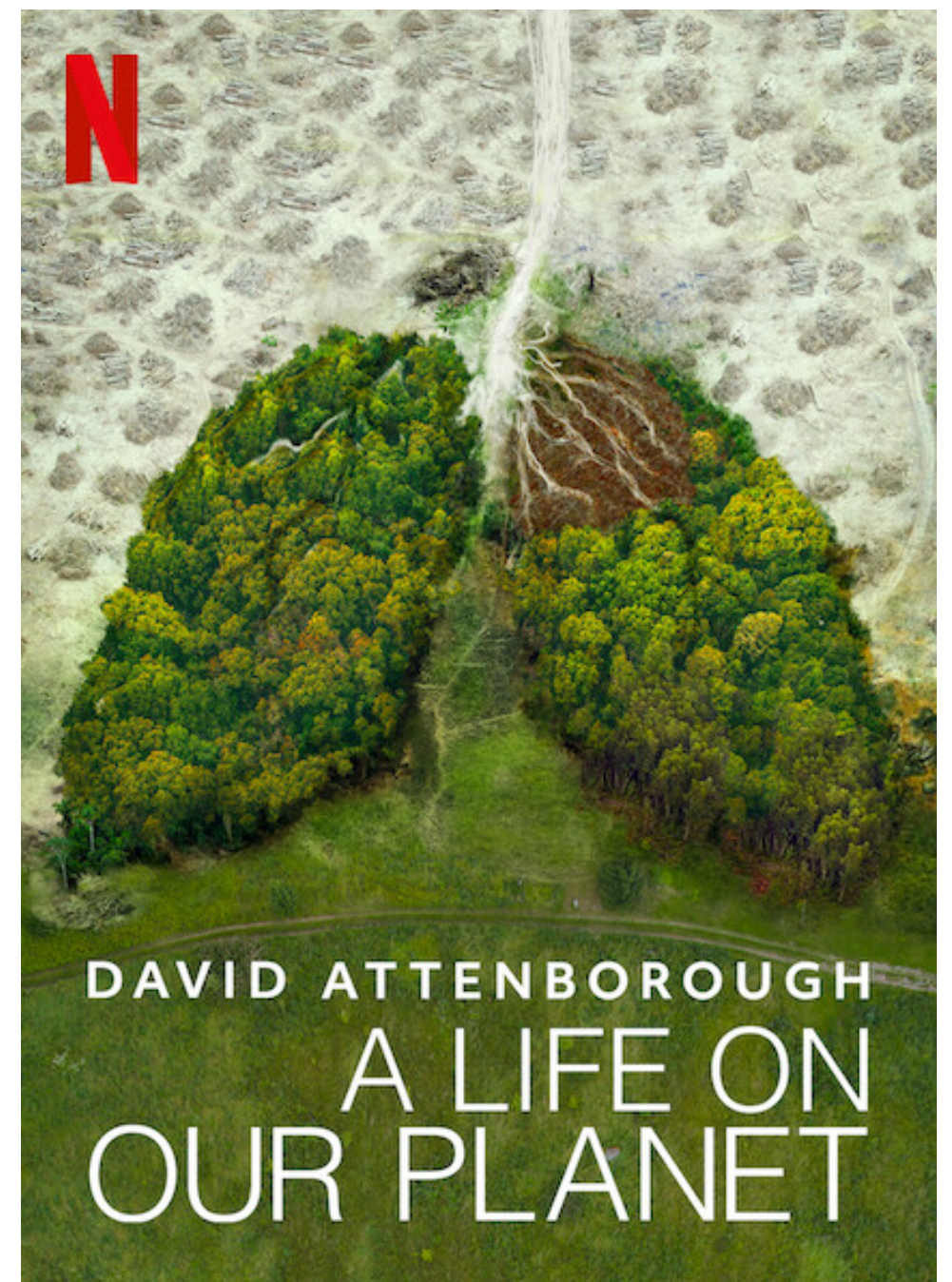
Focusing on conservation issues and their solutions, **students from all corners of the world** will share ideas and stories whilst making friends with different communities. So far, we have schools in Thailand, Uganda and Kenya with many more to come.



Humpback whale mother and calf

IN THIS ISSUE...

- An update from OPCA
- Network News Round-Up
- Seaspiracy - The Facts



Poster from Netflix Documentary 'A life On Our Planet'

We put out two incredible interviews in March. Firstly, was an inspiring talk with the **Bumblebee Conservation Trust**, learning all about the importance of bumblebees, the issues they face here in the UK and explored the amazing work that is being done to protect them.

The second interview took us across the pond to hear from the **Ocean Alliance**. We learnt all about how important whales are in their ocean ecosystems and the threats they are facing. We got an insight into the novel research that the team are doing using SnotBots to collect important information about whales. **Check out our YouTube channel** if you missed these awesome interviews.

We are certainly looking forward to some warmer weather in April, giving us the opportunity to get out and about in nature even more and hopefully spot some of the UK's basking reptiles.



NETWORK NEWS ROUND-UP

We are proud to start of our network round-up with news from the Bwindi Development Network. Last summer OPCA managed to raise just over **£1,000** for our friends over in Uganda. Some of this money was used to breed rabbits (free range and well looked after). These rabbits are now been distributed amongst **local families in the community**. Providing a sustainable source of fertiliser and meat so that local families don't have to rely on hunting bush meat from the forests.



Members of the Bwindi community with the farmed rabbits



Students in Kenya wearing the masks that have been donated to them

Over in Costa Rica the Rescue Centre team have been busy as usual rescuing and **treating injured or orphaned animals**. From sloths to parrots, every animal is treated with love and care. A recent casualty, and perhaps one of the cutest, is this **white-tailed deer fawn** (see picture), which is also Costa Rica's national animal. Unfortunately, the baby lost his mother in a **forest fire**. The team are getting him up to full strength to he can enjoy the rest of his life in peace.



Rescued white-tailed deer fawn



Poster for 'Nature and Wildlife Club' on the ClubHouse app

Our friends over in Kenya have been distributing face masks to their **Nature Guardians Students**. Through the help of the Kwale Plastics Plus Collectors, the team at Conservation Education Society have been ensuring that local communities can continue to **learn, help the environment and be inspired** all in a safe manner. This month alone they have been able to distribute over 500 masks!

Finally, the inspirational founder of Love The Oceans Francesca Trotman has recently co-founded a new club on ClubHouse which is all about **science, inclusivity and storytelling**. Clubhouse is an audio-based social networking app that enables users to listen in to conversations, interviews and discussions between interesting people on various topics.

The Nature and Wildlife Club was founded off the back of a talk with a group of incredible women in conservation that was conducted for the **International Day for Women and Girls in Science**. If you are interested then check it out on their social media platforms.



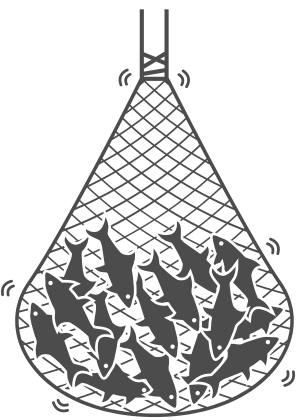
SEASPIRACY - THE FACTS

March saw the release of an incredibly eye-opening documentary 'Seaspriacy'. This documentary set out to expose the **true impacts and controversies** of the industrial global fishing. The documentary takes us on a journey around the world, looking deep into this often dark industry.

From being the biggest source of **marine plastics** to causing mass habitat and biodiversity loss, the fishing industry is far from sustainable. However, this documentary also highlighted some more shocking elements from corruption of marine protection bodies, agencies and entire governments.

We wanted to highlight some of the **shocking facts** to come out of this documentary and encourage you to get online and watch it for yourself.

SEASPIRACY



THE FACTS

90% of the worlds large fish have been wiped out by fishing

Slavery in the seafood industry is reported in **47 countries**

250,000 sea turtles are captured, injured or killed by the fishing industry every year in the US alone

Governments give **\$35 billion** to the fishing industry in subsidies every year. According to the United Nations, only \$30 billion is needed to solve world hunger!

46% of the **great pacific garbage patch** is comprised of fishing nets

300,000 dolphins, whales and porpoises are killed in fishing nets every year, along with **30,000** sharks **per hour!**

Enough fishing line is set every day to wrap around the **earth 500 times**

3.9 billion acres of seafloor is deforested every year by trawling

