

KARTOFFELFERIEN

THE POTATO HOLIDAY

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Kartoffelferien

I oktober måned har skolebørnene efterårsferie i en uge. I dag har børnene mulighed for nogle gode dage med forældrene, og der er en lang række aktiviteter for børn i efterårsferien.

I gamle dage blev efterårsferien kaldet kartoffelferien. Denne betegnelse udspringer af, at børnene helt frem til 1960'erne hjalp til med at høste kartofler. Det skete på knæ på den bare mark med hænderne nede i den kolde jord for at finde kartoflerne.

Kartoffelferien stammer helt tilbage til år 1823. I første omgang kunne elever på folkeskolerne i landsbyerne holde fri, når kartoflerne skulle høstes, men i 1899 blev fridagene fastlagt til at skulle ligge fast for alle, og det blev i uge 42.

I dag er alt mekaniseret, og der er ikke længere brug for små flittige hænder i kartoffelmarkerne. Nu klarer moderne kartoffeloptagere dette arbejde.

Oktober – der er efterår i vores landsdel. Pludselig går det stærkt. Sommerens grønne farver kan forsvinde fra træerne i løbet af en

nat. Løvet falder til orden. Deres opgave er slut, og om kort tid vil de forrådne og indtage en ny plads som muld i naturens evige kredsløb.

I Østhimmerland oplever vi ofte disse morgener i oktober, hvor hele landet er indhyllet i tæt tåge. Først langt op på dagen har solen brændt tågen bort, og efterårets farver toner for alvor frem. Mangen en fugleunge må kigge sig forundret omkring. De har aldrig oplevet, når sommerens varme afløses af kølige nætter og med storme, der kommer rasende ind over landet. Men de små væsener har en forunderlig tilpasningsevne, og de suser optimistiske rundt og fouragerer i de nye omgivelser sammen med deres artsfæller.

Ude på markerne gør landmanden markerne klar til vinterafgrøden. I store flokke følger mågerne de store maskiner. Når jorden vendes, er der masser af føde til den hvide hær af fugle.

Ude i mosen og ved kysten kommer den første frost, og umærkeligt trænger vinteren sig koldt og mørk ind over vores landsdel.

The potato holiday

In October, schoolchildren have a week off for the autumn break. Today, children can spend some quality days with their parents, and there is a wide range of activities for children during the autumn break.

In the old days, the autumn break was called the "Potato Holiday." This term originated from the fact that, up until the 1960s, children helped harvest potatoes. They would kneel in the bare fields, their hands deep in the cold soil to find the potatoes.

The Potato Holiday dates to 1823. Initially, students in village elementary schools could take time off when the potatoes needed harvesting, but in 1899, the holiday was officially set for all students, fixed in week 42.

Today, everything is mechanized, and there is no longer a need for small, diligent hands in the potato fields. Now, modern potato harvesters handle the work.

October – it's autumn in our region. Suddenly, everything happens quickly. The summer's green colours can disappear from the trees overnight. The leaves fall to the ground.

Their job is done, and soon they will decay, taking on a new role as soil in nature's eternal cycle.

In East Himmerland, we often experience those October mornings when the entire land is shrouded in thick fog. Only later in the day does the sun burn away the mist, and the autumn colours truly emerge. Many a young bird must look around in wonder. They have never experienced the transition from summer's warmth to cool nights, accompanied by storms raging over the land. But the small creatures have a remarkable adaptability, and they optimistically flit about, foraging in the new surroundings alongside their fellow species.

Out in the fields, the farmer is preparing the fields for the winter crops. In large flocks, seagulls follow the big machines. When the soil is turned, there is plenty of food for the white army of birds.

Out in the bog and along the coast, the first frost arrives, and imperceptibly, winter begins to creep cold and dark over our region.



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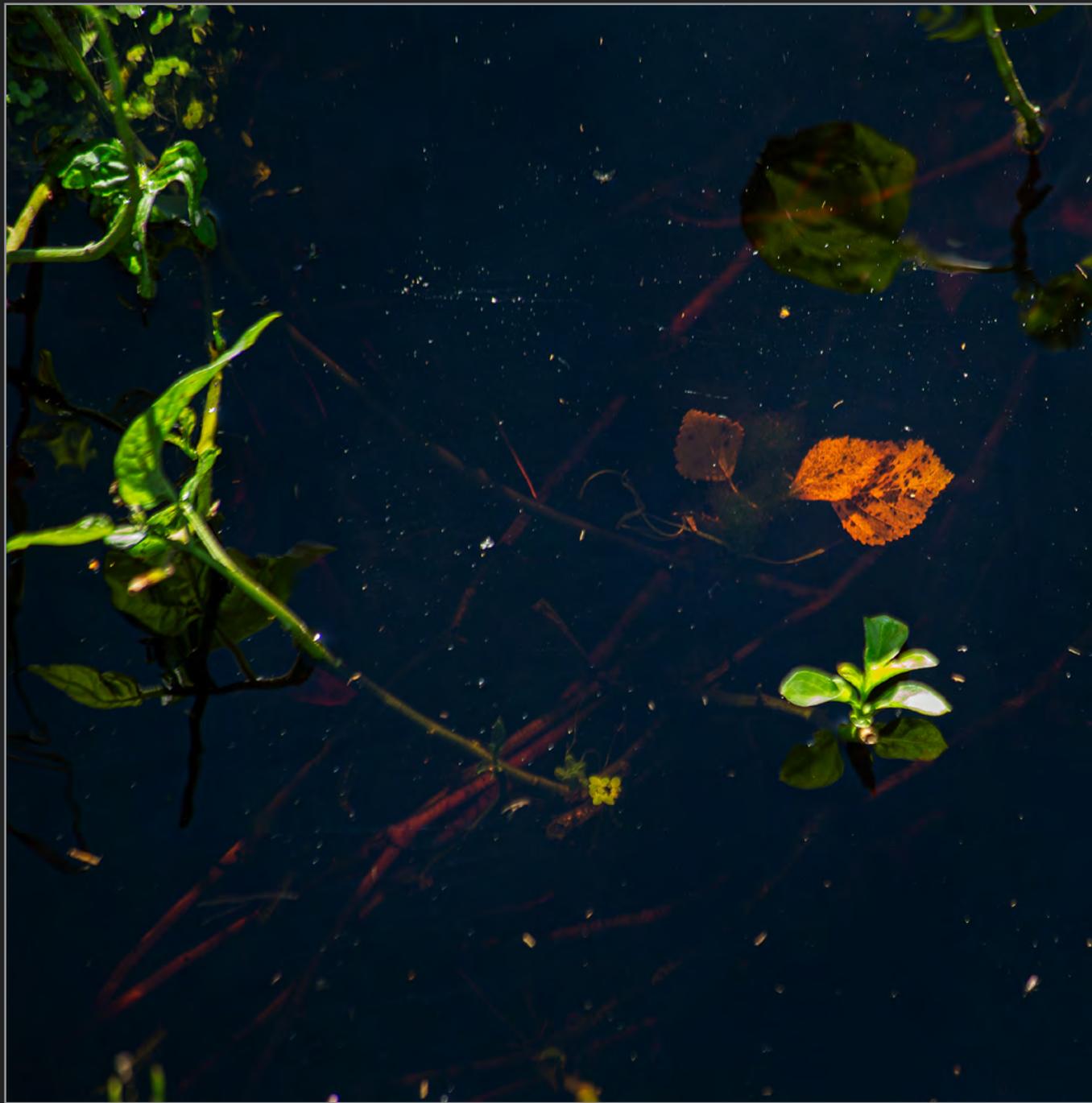
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KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Kartoffelferien
Af Keld Jensen

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: The potato holiday
By Keld Jensen

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