

GOOD NEWS

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Season
continues
to ‘spring’
into life

The beautiful weather has encouraged colourful flowers and trees to emerge all over the country.

Photography by Amy Grace Upton

All over the UK, beautiful new flowers have begun to emerge. From tulips to apple bloom flowers to daisies in the fields, the world is beginning to see some new life and colour in a time of international tragedy and mourning. There have been reports coming in from all over the

UK with what can only be described as truly breathtaking photographs of some of the new arrivals. One fourteen-year-old resident from Lower Early commented, “It is very comforting to see such diverse life appearing everywhere from football fields to local council wildflower beds to our own back garden. During such troubling times, it is very nice to see something is benefitting from our indoor life. I don’t think I have seen so many flowers ever in my life in public spaces!”

The resident’s father agreed, and added, “Although my hay fever has been off the scale this year, and we only go out the house once a day!” His daughter

laughed and agreed, adding that her and her brother’s hay fever have also been suffering as a result. “It’s worth it though,” she made this very clear. “There is nothing more pleasant than to wake up and see that very close to home and far away, there is always life thriving, even when the human race seems to have trouble pulling themselves together a lot of the time.”

Here at Metro UK, we sincerely hope that everyone stays safe and healthy, and that reading about something more pleasant has helped make isolation more bearable. Make sure to follow all of our social media pages @MetroUK_GoodNews and share with us what you’ve been up to!

Boy sets up “Drive-by Joke Stand” to help spread laughter

Written by Amy Grace Upton

Instead of setting up a typical lemonade stand, 6-year-old Callaghan McLaughlin from Canada has improvised and set up a safe Drive-By Joke Stand to help spread cheer to his neighbours while respecting the social distancing rules. His mother

Kelsea wrote on Instagram, “Please drive by and hear a joke from this kid” with a smiling emoji surrounded by hearts following the statement.

The young boy had been looking forward to setting up a lemonade stand since the weather had

turned warmer, but could not because of the novel coronavirus.

Kelsea said that Callaghan had been using one-liners from a child’s joke book she had bought him months ago. Since her and her husband had been treated to hearing these jokes for a while, she thought it was time for her son to share them with the rest of the world and help cheer their neighbours up.

The youngster has been setting up shop every morning at the end of his driveway in British Columbia for at least one hour before taking an extensive lunch break and returning in the afternoon for another shift.

Callaghan also told Metro UK that he has been offering the jokes for free since he wants people to save their money for more important things – like groceries.



“There’s a lot of stress in the world,” he told Metro UK. “and I want to get some smiles on people’s faces.”

Many passers-by were happy to smile and wave at the young boy, but he was delighted to receive praise from Ryan Reynolds, calling Callaghan a “Hero.” on Twitter, after his efforts to make people smile was shared across many social media platforms.

Florida and Thailand See Huge Increase in Leatherback Sea Turtle Nests After Travel Bans



From fish returning to the Venice canals to deer in the streets of London, many countries quarantined from the coronavirus spread have allowed for nature to come back in some of the least-likely places.

Read more on p2



FUN FACT: Queen Elizabeth II holds the record for appearing on more currency than any other person in the world.

Leatherback Turtles are 'back'

Written by Amy Grace Upton

From fish returning to the Venice canals to deer in the streets of London, many countries quarantined from the coronavirus spread have allowed for nature to come back in some of the least-likely places.

Leatherback sea turtles has emerged. Endangered in this area of Southeast Asia, they are nesting in Thailand for the first time in five years.

The largest of all living turtles,

Florida and Thailand See Huge Increase in Leatherback Sea Turtle Nests After Travel Bans

Thailand is the most recent nation to make headlines from the wonder, after the Thai government placed a ban on international flights and a strong encouragement to adhere to social distancing rules.

Though the coronavirus has shut down Thailand's tourism economy, a season of peace and recovery for endangered

the Leatherbacks have made 11 nests on Thai beaches this spring—more than at any time during the last two decades.

"This is a very good sign for us because turtles have a high risk of getting killed by fishing gear and humans disturbing the beach," the director of the Phuket Marine Biological Centre told Metro UK.

Across the pond in Florida, too, the number of Leatherback sea turtle nests has shot up compared to last year.

Juno Beach is the most densely nested sea turtle beach in the entire world, with an estimated 21,000 nests last year from various species.

Only 2 weeks into the summer nesting season of 2020, staff at the Loggerhead Marine Life Centre have found and marked 76 nesting sites for the leatherback—a "significant increase" over last year's count along the 9-and-a-half-mile-long beach.

With no dogs or people walking over nests and exposing eggs, there's a good chance the eggs will survive the 60 days until hatch day.

"Our leatherbacks are coming in strong this year. We're excited to see our turtles thrive in this environment," Sarah Hirsch told Metro UK.

"Our world has changed, but these turtles have been doing this for millions of years and it's just reassuring and gives us hope that the world is still going on."

By the end of the nesting season, if the increased numbers continue, it could provide a crucial improvement for the vulnerable species.



Baby Leatherback Turtles pictures racing back to the sea after hatching

SWEDEN AND AUSTRIA CELEBRATING THE CLOSURE OF THEIR LAST COAL PLANTS

Ecologists are celebrating yet another environmental milestone as the last polluting coal-fired power plants in Austria and Sweden shut their gates.

Written by Amy Grace Upton

Sweden's original pledge to stop using coal was a target the country wanted to achieve by 2022, but the recent closure of Stockholm Exergi AB's Overmarket power plant means the nation will see their goal realized two years early.

"This plant has provided the Stockholmers with heat and electricity since 1989, (but) today we know that we must stop using all fossil fuels, therefore the coal needs to be phased out and we do so several years before the original plan," said Stockholm Exergi CEO Anders Egelrud in the statement.

Just one day later, Austria saw the last coal-fired facility in its country closed, as the Mellach

district heating plant in the city of Verbund shut.

The two countries became the second and third in Europe to have zero coal-powered electric plants, joining Belgium, which amazingly achieved its coal-free goal in 2016.

"With Sweden going coal-free in the same week as Austria, the downward trajectory of coal in Europe is clear," said Kathrin Gutmann, campaign director for Europe Beyond Coal. "Against the backdrop of the serious health challenges we are currently facing, leaving coal behind in exchange for renewables is the right decision and will repay us in kind with improved health, climate



protection and more resilient economies."

Seven more European countries have made arrangements to move on from coal by 2025, including France (2022), Slovakia (2023), Portugal (2023), the UK (2024), Ireland (2025) and Italy (2025), according to Europe Beyond Coal.

Natural market forces are forcing coal prices up, as sellers of coal power and shares in coal plants must sell with higher prices high to cover costs with the lack of requests.

According to statistics from Carbon Tracker, 46% of coal plants in the EU ran with some financial losses in 2017, while in 2019, the price of operating a coal plant was almost 100% higher than equivalent renewable operations.

With these two plants closing early, there may be hope for the rest of Europe's goals to be realized early, too.



[Images provided by Google]