

19 positives from the UK and elsewhere

As COVID-19 forces millions of people to self-isolate, Maddy Ness has picked 19 positive bits of news that should help your mind escape from these strange times.

Temps de lecture : minute

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Nature, economy, travel, creative ideas... To cheer you up, Maddy Ness selected some positive news from the UK and around the world which might make your day and help you to enjoy your self-isolation a bit more.

- Self-employed workers can apply for a grant worth 80% of their average monthly profits to help them cope with the financial impact of coronavirus. Up to a maximum of £2,500 a month will be paid in a single lump sum starting in June.
- Global air pollution has plummeted in the past six weeks as countries hit by the COVID-19 outbreak were forced to hit the pause button on the industry.
- Visit thousands of museums and exhibits online for free around the world with Google Arts and Culture.
- From Florida to Alaska, five US National Parks offer virtual tours you can take from the comfort of your sofa.
- The government will support 80% of workers' salaries and up to 75% of salaries at privately-owned companies for up to three months, as long as they do not let staff go.
- Airbnb will help house 100,000 healthcare professionals, relief workers, and first responders globally for free or by waiving all fees.
- Disney+ has launched in the UK and you can watch or rewatch all your

favourites: Star Wars, Disney, Marvel and The Simpsons. Monthly subscription costs £5.99.

- You can livestream the Northern lights right now and it's an incredible experience.
- According to the Tech Nation 2020 Report, the UK is Europe's top scaleup nation and UK tech continues to grow.
- A London-based patient has been declared 'cured' of HIV and he's the second one, as "there was no active viral infection in the patient's blood 30 months after they stopped anti-retroviral therapy".
- Scientists found a cleaner and 25 times more efficient method for hydrogen fuel production, using 'basic' ingredients: light from a mercury-xenon lamp, a solution of water and methanol, and iron oxide called $\alpha\text{-FeOOH}$.
- There are currently 76 solutions that can tackle climate change across energy, food waste, agriculture, land rehabilitation, industry, efficiency, transport.
- Netflix has announced the return of Money Heist (La Casa de Papel) part four on Netflix UK screens, on April 3.
- Good news in the travel industry as there has been a 229% year-over-year increase in international flight bookings made in the past weeks to the UK for January 2021 and a 171% increase for bookings to Spain.
- Meghan and Harry have left Canada to set up a new permanent base in California, according to reports. The couple took a private flight to the US and are living close to Hollywood, according to reports.
- Penguins are given freedom at a zoo in the US. Two of them, Edward and Annie, rockhopper penguins explore their empty aquarium as it temporarily shut down due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Penguins in the Amazon?! ☐☐

Some of the penguins went on a field trip to meet other animals at Shedd. Wellington seemed most

interested in the fishes in Amazon Rising! The black-barred silver dollars also seemed interested in their unusual visitor.

pic.twitter.com/KgYWsp5VQD

— *Shedd Aquarium (@shedd_aquarium) March 15, 2020*

- Netflix launch viewing parties. Netflix Party allows you to watch movies and TV shows with friends, wherever you are and adds a group chat so you can react and discuss together.
- "Britain's loneliest dog", a border collie has been adopted after spending 10 years at Last Chance Animal Rescue in Edenbridge, Kent.
- This man missed going for a coffee with his wife so she made their very own café in the garden: "It's only when you're not able to do the everyday things that you realise how much you take those things for granted."

<https://twitter.com/jsphst00/status/1241346794195386369>



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