

NORTH YORKSHIRE

● Piles of pen pals

A couple of issues ago, we told you about Harley Glen. He moved from Edinburgh to Harrogate just before lockdown and couldn't make new friends because of social distancing. His mum asked online for pen pals to get in touch and Harley has received 120 handwritten letters since then. The letters are from all over the world, but one closer to home is particularly special for Harley. It's a letter from Millie, who goes to Western Primary, the school he will be attending when schools reopen. Millie said it was nice to make contact with a future school friend. "Thank you everybody for sending me the letters!" a happy Harley said.



MANCHESTER

● Rocky weather

A BBC weatherman has brought smiles to people's faces after footage of him drumming along to the BBC News theme went viral. BBC North West weatherman Owain Wyn Evans finished his weather report, then rushed inside to play along with the music. The rocking report has been viewed over 5m times.



EDINBURGH

● Dash for cash

A healthy way to raise funds for the NHS has so far totalled more than £3.5m in donations. Olivia Strong created Run For Heroes, where one person runs 5km, donates £5, then nominates five more people to do the same. Olivia said: "The initial target was £5,000 and within four days we reached that, which looking back now is crazy. Reaching £1m was a good moment... I had a little cry!"



BRAMPTON

● Child-friendly visors

A designer has been working round the clock to make visors for care homes. Jon Stynes also joined forces with graphic designer Tim Ellis to create child-friendly visors. Jon said: "Some of the younger children are scared of the nurses in all their PPE [personal protective equipment], so hopefully this will help."



UK

● Digging in

The Government has allowed construction on HS2, the UK's new high-speed railway, to begin during lockdown. Some have criticised the timing of such an expensive project, but HS2 minister Andrew Stephenson said it will provide "thousands of construction workers and businesses across the country with certainty at a time when they need it".

NORFOLK

● Loo roll art

A gallery owner who challenged people to make art out of toilet rolls has been overwhelmed by the number of entries on social media. Sarah Whittle, who runs Pinkfoot Gallery in Norfolk, is asking people to paint or decorate a loo roll and upload it to social media with the hashtag #pinkfootloorollchallenge. She said: "I think every single one is incredible – I didn't expect the standard to be that high and inventive."



LONDON

● Nature nurtures cats

Mitcham Homing Centre in London has been playing nature sounds to relax their stressed-out cats and kittens. Senior cat care assistant Jane Francis said: "I downloaded ambient sounds, such as birdsong, rain, trickling streams, and the cats loved them." She added that the sounds are ones "which the cats will experience naturally when they eventually find their new forever homes".



NEWS IN NUMBERS

£13 million

was taken by fraudster Alistair Greig. The conman was jailed for 14 years after some investors lost their life savings while he was secretly spending their money on his lavish lifestyle.

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police dogs passed their training on the same day. Buddy, Vik and Arys are now members of the Durham Constabulary's Dog Support Unit. On his first day, Buddy got his first bad guy, sniffing out the thief's hiding place under a fallen tree.



£91,256.38

has been raised by Joe Wicks for NHS Charities Together. He has been doing weekday PE lessons on his YouTube channel for the last month. On Fridays, he does his exercise in fancy dress!

100m

is the length of a massive artwork designed to thank NHS staff. Jamie Wardley, from art collective Sand In Your Eye, was behind the giant thank you gesture, which was painted in a field in Mytholmroyd in West Yorkshire.

