

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

20th - 26th March 2023



How important are guide dogs for those in need?



Let's look at this week's story



Sight loss charity, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, has launched an appeal for volunteers to help raise and foster guide dogs. Guide dog users rely on their companions for help inside and outside the home, and for many, for their independence. In a recent documentary shown on the BBC, journalist Sean Dilley told of his relationship with his guide dog, Sammy, who recently retired. After the programme aired, the charity had close to 5,000 people stepping forward to volunteer. Before the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, there were over 4,800 guide dog partnerships and now there are 3,695. More than one in five people who had a guide dog before then now do not.



Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad	angry	happy	confused	excited	worried	shocked	afraid
despondent disconsolate dismal doleful downhearted forlorn gloomy melancholic miserable woeful wretched	aggrieved annoyed discontented disgruntled distressed exasperated frustrated indignant offended outraged resentful vexed	beaming buoyant cheery contented delighted enraptured gleeful glowing joyful	addled baffled bemused bewildered disorientated indistinct muddled mystified perplexed puzzled	animated elevated enlivened enthusiastic exhilarated exuberant thrilled	agitated anxious apprehensive concerned disquieted distraught distressed disturbed fretful perturbed troubled uneasy	astonished astounded disconcerted distressed dumbfounded horrified staggered startled stunned surprised	alarmed apprehensive daunted fearful frantic horrified petrified terrified

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below about the guide dog shortage and the recent demand for volunteers.

Why is there a shortage of guide dogs?

The pandemic caused a decline in guide dog partnerships, as puppy breeding and training had to be paused.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (also known as Guide Dogs) reported that the average wait time for a guide dog has since increased from 12 to 18 months.



Living with a Guide Dog is always having your left-hand man close by. It's never having to ask one of the family to nip to the shop, it's taking your dog to work, it's knowing people are smiling at you when they watch us work. It's trusting him to keep me safe, it's heading out into a sighted world with nothing to fear and a spring in the step.

A guide dog owner. From [guidedogs.org.uk](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk)



Pictured: A guide dog at work.
Source: Hokkaido Guide Dog Association

Why are volunteers needed?

Guide dogs work very hard each day for their owners. They need a lot of training and volunteers are required in many stages of a guide dog's life.

Firstly, they help as puppy raisers, who look after puppies until they are old enough to begin advanced training. Then, dogs go to volunteer fosters, who take them to and from their training on weekdays and care for them at home outside of their advanced training hours.

Some people also take on and adopt guide dogs, once they retire from their guiding job, at about ten or eleven years old.



Is it something you feel you would like to do?

Resource one



Look at the resource below, which shares some information about what guide dogs do.

Guide dogs and their owners are partners. Together they can navigate their way around many places. Owners need to give their guide dog commands, instructions and lots of positive praise. Guide dogs give owners the confidence and support to live their lives to the full.

I don't like drawing attention to myself and that's hard because when you have a long cane you end up hitting bins and lamp posts and people stare at you. With Olivia no one can hear me coming now; I feel like a ninja!

Lucy, age 17, guidedogs.org



What can guide dogs help their owners do?

- Walk along the centre of a pavement, avoiding any obstacles.
- Stop at kerbs and steps.
- Find doors, crossings, and places in the local area that are visited often.
- Judge heights and widths to avoid bumping heads or shoulders/arms.
- Cross the road.



Pictured: a guide dog and owner, working together to cross a road.



Pictured: Lucy and Olivia
Source: guidedogs.org

Have you ever seen a guide dog?



Look at the resource below, which shares examples of aids some people may use.

Household tools

Items such as grabbing devices, stools, specialised handles/grips can help people carry out everyday tasks in their home.



Electrical devices

Phone apps, computers, virtual assistant technology (e.g., Alexa) and other devices can provide help in the form of voice recognition, subtitles, screen enlargements etc.



Educational tools

Schools and education settings may have tools to help learning such as pencil grips, overlays, book holders, page turners, counters.



Can you think of any other examples of aids people may use? Do you agree these are all aids?



Mobility aids

Crutches, wheelchairs, scooters help people move around.

Supportive cushions

Supportive cushions can be used to help someone's back, spine or muscles when sitting.



Hearing aid

A hearing aid helps someone hear more clearly.



Braces or supports

People may wear supports or braces on their ankles, knees, elbows, shoulders etc to help them participate in sports or other activities.





How important are guide dogs for those in need?



Reflection



Guide dogs can revolutionise the lives of those who are blind or partially sighted, giving them freedom to do things they may otherwise be unable to do. Volunteers make all this possible!





Mutual Respect and Tolerance

My behaviour, actions and words can affect others. Volunteering is an action that can affect others in a positive way and help make a difference to their lives.

Protected Characteristics



A guide dog can help someone who is blind or partially sighted to live their life to the full.





UN Rights of a Child



Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Guide dogs can help people who are blind or partially sighted become more independent and to participate actively in the community.



Useful vocabulary



Appeal

A request to the public for money, information, or help.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association has launched an **appeal** for volunteers to help raise and foster guide dogs.

Companion

A person or animal that someone spends a lot of time with.

Guide dog users rely on their **companions** for help inside and outside the home, and for many, for their independence.

Demand

A need for something.

Read the information found on the assembly resource about the guide dog shortage and recent **demand** for volunteers.

Retired

To stop working permanently.

Journalist Sean Dilley told of his relationship with his guide dog, Sammy, who recently **retired**.

Revolutionise

To radically change.

Guide dogs can **revolutionise** the lives of those who are blind or partially sighted.

Volunteers

A person who does something, often to help others, without being paid.

Volunteers make all this possible!

Can you use them in your writing this week?

Europe's longest cycle tunnel



Pictured: Bergen, Norway Source: Canva

Bergen, a city on Norway's southwestern coast has announced that it will be opening Europe's longest cycle and pedestrian tunnel next month. The purpose-built, temperature controlled tunnel (constantly at 7 degrees Celsius) will link residential areas with the city. As the area is surrounded by mountains and fjords, it is hoped that the 2.9km tunnel will encourage people to leave their cars behind to use more environmentally friendly modes of transport. Project manager, Arild Tveit,

says that it will take 8-10 minutes to travel through the tunnel on a bicycle and 35-45 minutes on foot. The Fyllingsdalstunnelen, which cuts through the Løvstakken mountain, will also be the world's longest tunnel, specially built for this purpose. The Fyllingsdal tunnel will have a grand opening with a tunnel race and a parade. The tunnel has well-lit rest areas, colourful dynamic lighting, sculptures, and artwork along its route.

Would you like to travel through a really long tunnel?

Youngest yoga instructor

Praanvi Gupta, from Dubai, has been declared the world's youngest yoga instructor. She was 7 years 165 days old when she completed her teacher training. She is now certified by the Yoga Alliance Organization, after completing their 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training Course. She was inspired to start learning yoga after watching, and then joining, her mother at the age of four. She then attended classes and was quickly encouraged by her teacher to train to lead her own classes. Praanvi said, 'My yoga journey has not been an easy one. I have had to attend regular

school, beside keeping pace with my academics and extra-curricular activities. But I have not given up on yoga. It is my love and passion. I am so happy I passed the teacher's training programme. Now I can teach my friends and other children who want to learn yoga.' Praanvi believes that yoga can be useful to increase flexibility, focus, and concentration in people of all ages, leading those who practice it to a healthier and happier life. Her advice to other children is, 'Dream big and believe in yourself!'

Would you like to learn a skill to teach others?



Pictured: Praanvi Gupta teaching yoga Source: Learning with Praanvi, YouTube

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Wild Isles Wildlife



Pictured: A puffin. Source: Canva

National treasure, Sir David Attenborough, has released a new collection of programmes filmed solely in the UK, which celebrate its wildlife and wild areas. 'Wild Isles' is a set of five programmes, the result of a collaboration between the RSPB, WWF, and The Open University, working with the BBC and filmmakers, Silverback Films. This is the first time the renowned conservationist has made a series set entirely in Britain and Ireland. Sir David, who has worked at the BBC for over 70 years, said, 'In my long lifetime, I have travelled to almost every corner of our planet. I can assure you that in the British Isles, as well as astonishing scenery, there are extraordinary animal dramas and

wildlife spectacles to match anything I have seen on my global travels.' The series, which took three years to film, aims to highlight the UK's varied and precious wildlife, and inspire the public to help protect it. The programmes explore the lives of a large variety of amazing creatures, including killer whales, foxes, wild horses, golden eagles, and puffins. Series producer, Alastair Fothergill, said, 'I have always wanted to cover the British Isles and our natural history with a similarly ambitious and epic approach. I hope the audience will be genuinely surprised by the richness of our natural history. At the same time, I hope they will recognise how fragile and precious it is.'

Last week's topic:

Could you do more to protect your local area?

Yes because nature deserves as much treatment as we do and it has been around much, much longer than we have. Mother Nature deserves praise as we are part of her!

Gabriel



Yes because we could go litter picking out of school.

Caitie

Yes as we can stop littering and we can also maybe plant nature. We also can try not hurt the animals.

Eliza

Yes, since even if you're protecting one type of species does not mean can't protect others

Toby

Let us know what you think about this week's news?

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TAKEHOME



How important are guide dogs for those in need?



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Things to talk about at home ...

- > Have you seen a guide dog? How did you know it was a guide dog?
- > In what ways do you think a guide dog will help someone who is blind or partially sighted?
- > Why do you think lots of people volunteered to help raise guide dogs?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

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