



Forests the size of your playground!



*Pictured: An urban forest in Downtown Taipei, Taiwan
Source: Person-with-No Name*

Hundreds of tiny forests the size of a school playground are springing up in towns and cities all around the world. Using a method first created in Japan, the soil is prepared with nutrients and native trees are planted close together to produce a rich, dense forest in only a few years. Described as 'resilient bubbles of nature', they create a small ecosystem, an environment where lots of different plants and animals can live together and thrive. Dutchman, Daan Bleichrodt, from Tiny Forest IVN said, 'We're densely populated in Holland, but every neighbourhood has about 200 square metres of barren land that can be converted into a natural forest.' The British government has allocated funding for twelve mini forests to be built in the UK, but will this be enough to affect climate change? Daan replied that thousands of square metres would be needed to make any real change. However, he was confident that it would benefit the world in a different way. 'We can educate a generation of kids to learn how to restore forests,' he said.

Nigerian town's new ambulance

When pregnant women in Nigeria need to get to hospital to have their babies, most people have no transport. They rely on neighbours, who may have a car or even a motorbike. So, a woman called Halima, living in the village of Bardo, called a meeting. She said, 'Women in the village are a team and we make sure issues that affect us are resolved.' They decided to put funds together to buy an emergency vehicle to transport women to hospital quickly when they are about to have their babies. They named the vehicle 'Haihuwa Lafiya', which means 'safe motherhood'. Families pay a small amount of money to use it. The driver, Yunusa Mohammed, drives his emergency 'ambulance' very carefully. He said, 'I always make sure that I keep calm when I drive. I do this job with a lot of pride. I see it as my duty.'



*Pictured: Most towns and villages rely on donkey or ox and cart for transport
Source: Rod Waddington*



Hughie's beads of courage

Ten-year-old Hughie regards The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital as his second home. Because he has an illness called leukaemia that affects his blood, he has visited more than fifty times, often for checks on his blood. The doctors and nurses there have been so kind. They gave Hughie a necklace so that each time he has his blood taken, he is given a black bead to add to it. He already has fifty-six 'beads of courage' on his necklace for each arm or thumb prick he has endured. His best friend, Freddie wanted to do something to say thank you to the hospital for helping his pal to be brave, so he ran two kilometres every day to raise some money for the hospital. When he appeared on BBC Breakfast on Christmas Day, two generous viewers topped up Freddie's total from £185,000 to a whopping £200,000! Both Hughie and Freddie adore music,



Pictured: Hughie (right) with his best friend, Freddie before his diagnosis

Source: @GabSutton

so, they agreed that some of the money should be spent on music therapy. Some of the remainder will be spent on a Belmont infuser. This piece of equipment warms up blood donations so that when blood transfusions are given to patients like Hughie, the blood is the same temperature as his body and does not cause hypothermia.

Your thoughts on last week's news...

I think our lives would be different because we would have to walk everywhere.
Logan – age 9

Transport is very important in our lives as we can travel places and get lots of food.
Esther – age 10



What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:

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Our lives would be different with no transport because we use transport so much, the bus, the car as well as trains and walking! No transport means that we couldn't fulfil many tasks but it won't be that bad because it would help with air pollution.
Fannie K – age 10

/ think...



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