

theday.co.uk/goodness-gracious-2023-in-positive-news-4



Crushing cancer: Olaparib was developed to help people with breast or prostate cancer.

Should we be glad, not gloomy? This year has seen amazing advances in science, hopeful developments in politics and extraordinary stories of human kindness and resilience.

What's happening?

Elle Gianelli is giving socks for Christmas — to people she has never met. The 17-year-old shares her love of bright socks by sending them to old people in 92 US care homes.

"Maybe they don't have family," she says, "or maybe they live super far away and they're only getting, like, a postcard."

In a year full of grim headlines, stories like this offer real hope.

Find out more

There has been good news every month this year. In January, the US approved the first **vaccine** to protect bees against diseases. In February, the James Webb space telescope discovered six galaxies 100 times larger than expected.

In March, Britain and the EU agreed on the Windsor Framework as a solution to **Brexit's** biggest problem. In April, Brazil's president created reserves covering 1.5 million acres to protect **indigenous** people.

In May, the **WHO** declared an end to Covid-19 as a global health emergency. In June, four children who survived a plane crash were found safe after 40 days in the Colombian jungle.

In July, scientists found a way to harness electricity from the atmosphere. In August, Simone Biles won a record eighth US gymnastics championship. In September, a painting by **Van Gogh** was recovered three years after being stolen.

In October, the WHO approved a vaccine for **malaria**. And in November, 41 construction workers from India were successfully rescued after two weeks trapped in a collapsed tunnel.

Should we be glad, not gloomy?

Some say

Yes! There are people all over the world doing good things. It is a minority of people who behave selfishly.

Others think

No! The headlines this year have been dominated by conflict and climate change. We have much to be sad about.

Some people say

"There is too much bad news to justify complacency. There is too much good news to justify despair."

Donella Meadows (1941 – 2001),
American scientist

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. Connect

How do you feel about this story? - Has this been a good year for you?

2. Wonder

What questions do you have? - For example: Are some people born optimistic?

3. Investigate

What are the facts? - Which of these pieces of good news is the best for you?

4. Construct

What is your point of view? - You have to write a thank-you letter to say thank you for your year. Think about what you would say.

5. Express

What do others believe? - What can we look forward to in 2024? Take it in turns to say.

6. Reflect

What might happen next? - Imagine you are asked what made you happiest in 2023. Write a diary entry about it.

Glossary

Vaccine - A biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease. A vaccine typically contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism, but in its weakest form.

Brexit - The UK's departure from the European Union.

Indigenous - Ethnic groups who are the original or earliest-known inhabitants of an area or country: for example, Native Americans in the USA.

WHO - Short for the World Health Organisation.

Van Gogh - A Dutch Post-Impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art.

Malaria - A serious parasite infection transmitted by mosquito bites. It is one of the world's most lethal diseases.