



## MATTERS

### In changing times....

A month ago, in the middle of March, OPAL was preparing to write to you all with our quarterly newsletter including information about our new OPAL logo and to let you know that we were working full steam ahead on programmes to take our Charity forward in 2020 and beyond.

Today the more pressing news is all about the Coronavirus outbreak that is affecting everyone's lives and what OPAL is doing to support our communities. First and foremost, OPAL is supporting the CovidwestCheshire Community Response.



We are working hard to provide a rapid and appropriate response to our community. Our top priority in these unprecedented times has

been to continue to support the OPAL community and to make sure they are all safe. We closed our Clubs and services earlier than the official guidance, recognising that many are in a highly vulnerable group and that extra caution was called for.

Now more than ever it is vital that people stay connected with one another so we are proud to report that we have successfully, and at lightening speed, set up:

- \* A telephone befriending service
- \* A telephone IT support service offering those over 60 advice on using mobile phones, tablets and laptops.
- \* A fun and informative weekly newssheet called OPAL Reach which will be emailed or posted out to everyone in our OPAL community.

We will let you know about new developments as they emerge.

### Stop Press!



We have received great news from the Community Response Fund that our application for funding to help us continue our work through the Covid19 pandemic has been successful! This is great news and it means we can keep delivering our befriending and support services to our existing community and can also now consider supporting additional people through this difficult time.

We are extremely grateful to Chester West & Cheshire and to the Westminster Foundation for this financial support at a time when our normal fundraising activities have been brought to a standstill.

### A message from Jane Colville, Chair of Trustees

*To all our OPAL community - take care and stay safe. These are worrying times but we are here to support you wherever we can. For our wonderful OPAL volunteers - whether you are actively involved in delivering our new services or if you are having to self isolate along with so many others, I would like to say an enormous thank you for all you give. We are all grateful to have you.*

*Finally, a message to everyone -stay safe and don't hesitate to get in touch if you think we can help.....and by the way, we hope you like our new colours and our new branding!*



## Have you seen the OPAL Website lately? - [www.opalservices.org.uk](http://www.opalservices.org.uk)

As part of our rebranding work, we have refreshed the OPAL website. If you haven't viewed it lately, take a look now and see what you think. Click on the 'About us' page and watch the fantastic new OPAL video - highlighting the services we offer and featuring some very special guests! It is a wonderful reminder of what OPAL services are all about.

[HOME](#)[NEWS](#)[ABOUT US](#)[CONTACT US](#)[VOLUNTEER WITH US](#)[OPAL CLUBS](#)[CARER SERVICES](#)[GO-ONLINE](#)[BRANCHING OUT](#)[WHAT'S COOKING](#)[GET INVOLVED](#)[CORONAVIRUS](#)

## OPAL Support

Cheshire West has launched a website called 'Live Well Cheshire West' where you can find information about OPAL and other local services for residents in Cheshire West. If you are looking for information or services that can support you in the current situation, click on the link 'Coping with Coronavirus (COVID 19)' at [www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

**Live Well**  
Cheshire West

You will find OPAL under 'Telephone advice, support, listening services and online help', but don't forget you can also contact OPAL direct via

[contactus@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:contactus@opalservices.org.uk)



Below is a list of some useful support contacts. And remember, our OPAL Organisers have a substantial list of contacts in each of the areas we cover - do get in touch if you need any information.

**Cheshire West & Chester helpline - 0300 123 7031 (8am - 7pm)**

**AGE UK Cheshire COVID-19 Helpline - 01606 881660**

**Silver Line (for a cheerful chat, day or night) - 0800 470 80 90**

**Free Mental Health Support - [www.giveusashout.org](http://www.giveusashout.org)**

## And finally..... welcome aboard!



We are pleased to announce that **Brian Mackie** has recently joined our Board of Trustees. Brian brings valuable financial knowledge and skills to OPAL and has taken over from Mary Thompson as Treasurer. We would like to thank Mary for all she has done during her time as Treasurer since the charity started; happily she will remain a Trustee with us.

We also welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator, **Janet Handley**, who will focus on recruiting and supporting our much valued army of volunteers. For information on volunteering for OPAL please contact Janet via email - [janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:janet.handley@opalservices.org.uk)



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**Think about me, not my age**

**OPAL Services (Rural West Cheshire)**

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[www.opalservices.org.uk](http://www.opalservices.org.uk)

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