



Older People Active Lives

# REACH

Issue 7

For comments, articles & info  
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## REMEMBERING VE DAY

Before coronavirus and lockdown, there were grand plans afoot to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day both in our local communities and as a nation. To enable this to happen, the early May bank holiday was moved to this Friday 8th May. At OPAL, as with many communities, we had events planned, and we hope to combine the cancelled celebrations with marking the 75th anniversary of VJ Day in August. However, this very important date in history will be marked with Her Majesty the Queen's address to the nation at 9pm and will be followed by a national singalong of Dame Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'.

We would like to thank all of you who shared memories of the war years with us— and OPAL will be compiling a resource with the full stories to be used by OPAL Services when we meet again in person. Meanwhile, we have put together a celebration issue of Reach with lots of memories of VE - thanks to everyone who contributed.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST—75 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

- Winston Churchill declared 8th May *Victory in Europe Day*.
- Jersey and Guernsey were formally liberated by British troops on 9th May.
- Allies captured Rangoon from the Japanese on 10th May.
- 'Roll out the Barrel' was probably the most popular song sung on VE Day.



## THANK YOU HIDDEN HEROES

It has been THE good news story of the last few weeks. Last Thursday it culminated in Honorary Colonel Tom Moore's 100th birthday. What a milestone birthday he had – a fly past by a Spitfire and a Hurricane, record breaking number of birthday cards, a number one song and promotion to Honorary Colonel. General Sir Mark Head described him as having **"mature wisdom, no-nonsense attitude and humour in adversity [which] makes him an inspirational role model to generations"**.

We know so many of you are clapping on Thursday evenings but we would also like to mention all the carers and staff who work in nursing homes and in people's own homes.

thank you  
very, very  
very, very, very  
very, very,  
very, much

Many of our readers are able to remain safely in their own homes due to the hard work and dedication of these carers. There have also been some truly humbling stories about care home staff too. Many dedicated care home staff have sacrificed being with their families to stay at their place of work to prevent the spread of infection and keep residents safe. We thank everyone keeping us safe at this time.

## SCAMMER ALERT

There have been reports of scammers approaching homes offering services such as :



- Cleaning of your front doorstep or driveway. Scammers may claim it's going to kill off bacteria and help prevent the spread of coronavirus, but this is untrue.
- Doorstep coronavirus tests—the Government and NHS are not testing for coronavirus at people's front doors – so if someone turns up unexpectedly claiming to be able to test you for the illness, they are bogus.

## Riddles & Teasers

1. Which travels faster? Hot or Cold?
2. What can you hold without ever touching or using your hands?
3. What 5-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS : 1. A TOWEL 2. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?  
3. MAKE APPLE SAUCE!

## What's On?

*Captain Tom's War*, ITV, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm.

*Paddy O'Connell presents 2 hours of nostalgic memories and music to mark VE day*, Radio 2, Friday 8th May, 8pm.



## Quizzical



1. What was a popular dance in the streets on VE Day?
2. Which American president celebrated his birthday on VE Day?
3. What was the name of the temporary houses built after the war for those who had lost their homes?
4. What is the value today, of £1.00 in 1945?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS : 1. PLANE 2. ASH 3. SPRUCE 4. WEEPING WILLOW 5. DATE PALM 6. A) BAY B) BEECH 7. YEW  
8. CYPRESS 9. ROWAN 10. FIR

## In the spotlight....

### DOROTHY (KNOWN AS BUNTY) FROM FRODSHAM OPAL CLUB

#### Where were you born?

I was born in Frodsham, my father was the Sergeant of the Drill Halls.

#### Where is one of your favourite places to be?

Being with my mother in Port Sunlight during my school years. And with the other girls during the war working as a Land Girl.

#### Who makes you laugh?

Ken Dodd and Morecambe and Wise.

#### Tell us something we might not already know about you

I volunteered for the Land Army and worked on farms for 6 years, which I thoroughly enjoyed. Milking and working in the fields in Daresbury. I didn't like cutting the Kale in February, it grew 4 feet tall and we had to cut it by hand, I remember it being covered in icicles. I often worked a 70-hour week and got paid 23 shillings. We got one weekend a month off.

#### Did you have a career – if so what did you do?

For 28 years I was the landlady of a pub in Preston Brook. It was a great job that my husband and I enjoyed.

#### Which OPAL service do you use and what do you like most about it?

I have been a member of Frodsham Opal Club for 4 years. I love it—every week we do something different and interesting. We have a giggle (and I sometimes cheat at the quizzes with the lady who sits next to me!).

#### Do you have a favourite quote or poem?

'I shall pass through this life but once, so any kindness and good I can do, do it now, as I may not pass this way again.' Etienne de Grellet.



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**Think about me, not my age**

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