



Older People Active Lives

REACH

Issue 18

For comments, articles & info
contact your Organiser or
opalreach@opalservices.org.uk

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS....

Wearing a face covering is mandatory in shops and supermarkets in England from today, but you can enjoy outside space without one, so here are some Reach suggestions.

This week would usually be the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show at Tatton Park, an annual event which showcases the splendour of gardens and plants. In its absence, the RHS are doing a feature on their website, looking back at regular favourites - www.rhs.org.uk. Many of you will have visited Tatton Park, and no doubt have enjoyed the Japanese Garden. The good news is this is now open for visitors, but tickets do need to be booked in advance.



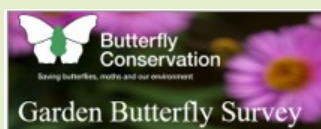
Another favourite with gardeners and lovers of gardens is the National Garden Scheme where people open up their own gardens for a few days a year for the public to enjoy whilst raising money for charity. In the spring, they organised for many of the gardens which would have been open, to make videos and there are now over 200 on their website for people to enjoy. Now lockdown has eased, some gardens are opening as planned but operate a booking system, see website for details - www.ngs.org.uk

BLAST FROM THE PAST... 15 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK (2005)

- The Provisional IRA calls an end to its 35-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland.
- Strongest tornado in the UK in over 25 years hits Birmingham, damaging homes.
- Astronomers announce their discovery of the dwarf planet 'Eris'.
- A team of scientists from UK and Australia say they have found high concentrations of arsenic from analysis of the hair of King George III.
- Australia beat England by 239 runs in the first Ashes Test at Lords.

LOCAL GARDEN SPLENDOUR...

This year, in addition to pictures of rainbows in windows, some villages have had an added treat in their gardens – scarecrows! Many communities took the opportunity to organise Scarecrow trails and here are some photos from local ones featuring Little Sutton, Huxley, Ashton Hayes and Bunbury. Thanks to people spending more time at home, and with children not in school, the number of entrants in each area exceeded all expectations and made a fun way to brighten up people's daily walks.



If your plants are attracting the butterflies and you are interested to know more about butterfly conservation, iRecord Butterflies is a free app that will guide you through the identification of any butterfly that you see in the UK and allow you to add your sighting to millions of other valuable records that inform the work of Butterfly Conservation.

OPAL Reach Team news

Thank you to everyone who took part and gave their views on OPAL Reach. The survey showed that 95% of you appreciate receiving OPAL Reach and that it has brightened up your life during these uncertain times. We have had so many lovely compliments so thank you—this one summarises them all *'Opal Reach is a great talking point, it's interesting, good factual information, to the point and covers a lot of ground.'* After 18 weeks, the OPAL Reach team are having a rest - so there will be NO edition next week. But Reach will be back week beginning 6th August.

Riddles & Teasers

Can you name the scarecrow literary characters made by residents of Ashton Hayes?



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS: 1. CABARET, 2. GUYS & DOLLS, 3. THE LION KING, 4. GREASE

Quizzical

ALPHABET QUIZ G TO L

G, H, I, J, K or L are used at the beginning of each answer - but not necessarily in alphabetical order.

1. This one conquers all.
2. I don't charge for growing but if you want less, then a payment you must make.
3. These come in packs and others make you laugh.
4. What is silent, small and quite likes a doorstep if given a chance?
5. What do cream, land and pack all have in common?
6. Craft, pen and carving are all what?

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS 1. HANDEL, 2. JULIE ANDREWS, 3. CORNET & TRUMPET, 3. REGINALD HEBER

In the spotlight....

SIMON FROM CARERS CONNECT

Where were you born?

Manchester.

What's your earliest memory?

Going to Old Trafford with my older brother to watch United play a night match against Fulham in 1967. I was 9 years old and United won 2-1.

Where is one of your favourite places to be?

Sat around our garden bar chilling out with a beer looking over the fields towards the Welsh Mountains.

Who makes you laugh?

Listening to Man City fans gloat about all their recent success when they could so easily still be stuck in the Third Tier of English Football (old Division 3) if they had not been bailed out with oil money!

Tell us something we might not already know about you

I love gardening and have worked hard to create an oasis based on permaculture principles for Carmel and I to enjoy - we were awarded first place for Most Edible Garden in the 2019 Sanctuary Housing Gardening competition.

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

I used to work in IT as a Network Technician until I had a brief change of career and became a Mortgage Advisor until the financial crisis hit in 2008.

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

Carers Connect – I like meeting and socialising with other Carers and listening to how they manage with their caring responsibilities.

Do you have a favourite quote or poem?

'When the seagulls follow the trawler, it is because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea.' Eric Cantona.



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FARRALL'S GROUP

Think about me, not my age

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