



Older People Active Lives



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contact your Organiser or
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WEATHERING THE STORMS...

As a nation, we do enjoy talking about the weather and this year has definitely given us something to talk about. It has been 40 days since St Swithin's Day, and whether it rained on 15th July or not, the prophecy has NEVER come true!

Weather folklore, according to Country Life, is a snapshot of a distant past when a general sense of what was in store was good enough. Country Life say that the folklore of "red sky at night, brings shepherd's delight" is far more reliable. This is caused by high pressure, which brings in the better weather, traps dust and dirt, dispersing blue light, and gives the sky a distinctive rosy hue.



Other popular weather predictors are less accurate. A pine cone is a good indicator of dry weather. Dry when open, and damp when closed but apparently the notion of cows lying down in a field as a sign of impending rain is misguided - they have to lie down at some point!



Whilst weather forecasting is still mixed, the world is benefitting from more accurate recording and 2020 has broken some records. The Spring of 2020 was the sunniest since 1929, and this followed the wettest February ever recorded. And before the storms of last week, the South of England had recorded its longest stretch of temperatures exceeding 34C since records began in the 1960s. But the weather in Cheshire is forever changing so we recommend an umbrella, sun hat, woolly coat and, of course, face mask if you are venturing out at the moment!

BLAST FROM THE PAST - 65 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK (1955)

- The last Soviet Army occupation forces leave Austria.
- The first Guinness Book of Records is published in UK.
- First solar powered car is demonstrated in Chicago.
- Slim Whitman was top of the UK charts with 'Rose Marie'.
- South Africa draw their penultimate tour cricket match against an England XI at Hastings.

REACH HOLIDAY

The OPAL Reach team are taking a holiday next week so no issue w/c 31/8. Next Reach will be sent out 10th September.

...TO A LAND DOWN UNDER

Farewell and Thanks to Janet and Harper...

This week's Spotlight couple are Janet and Harper who have been valued Volunteers at Malpas OPAL Club for many years. Sadly for us, Janet and Harper are heading back to Australia and they will be missed, but leave the Malpas club with many happy memories of their generosity and time given as a Key Volunteer and Driver.



The couple have also been wonderful hosts to some lovely events in the beautiful garden of their Malpas home and Janet shared the riches of her productive garden with the Club every year - fruit and vegetables, and seedlings and gardening advice!

We wish them Bon Voyage and best of luck down under!

Out and About...

Cheshire West and Chester Libraries

The following are now open :

Barnton, Chester Library at Storyhouse, Ellesmere Port, Frodsham, Great Boughton, Helsby, Hope Farm, Lache, Little Sutton, Neston, Northwich, Sandiway, Weaverham, Winsford, Upton.

All libraries, except for Chester, are opening on reduced hours and COVID-19 guidelines apply. Visit

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/libraries for more information.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS – 1) Crosby, 2) West Kirby, 3) Talacre, 4) Formby, 5) Penmaenmawr, 6) Llandudno

Quizzical

WEATHER WORD CHAIN

Turn **snow** into **rain** by changing one letter at a time.

- 1) To demonstrate
- 2) A place selling things
- 3) A very large boat
- 4) To lose your footing
- 5) Moved smoothly
- 6) Uttered
- 7) Attack

SNOW
SHOW
RAIN

In the spotlight....

HARPER AND JANET FROM MALPAS

Where were you born?

J: Canberra, capital of Down Under.

H: Maryland, USA, just south of the Mason Dixon Line.

What's your earliest memory?

J : My father going off to Canada when I was 3. He was in training there for a whole year.

H: The Queen's Coronation in 1953. I remember all the flags in the street. I especially loved the ones with lions or dragons on them.

Where is one of your favourite places to be?

J: Anywhere I can sit peacefully and listen to the sea crashing on the shore.

H: Easter Island, a fascinating tropical island.

Who makes you laugh?

J: Unlike Harper, I like clever humour.

H: My own jokes. No one else appreciates them, so I have to laugh at them.

Tell us something we might not already know about you

J: We met at a party in Madrid almost 50 years ago. Harper was the only person there who spoke English.

H: A year later I followed her all the way down to Australia.

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

J: I was a nurse and midwife in Australia, England, Spain and California.

H: My last job was trying to help people make the most of their money.

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

J: I am often the Key Worker on Thursdays in Malpas. Chatting and gossiping with the members. We all like a good gossip.

H: I drive the Malpas minibus. I love the members' smiles both going to club in the mornings and returning home in the afternoons.

Do you have a favourite quote or poem?

J: My grandfather read the poems of A. A. Milne to me as a child so "now we are six" holds special memories, as does Dorothea Mckellar's "I love a sun burnt country" which captures Australia.

H: I believe that "Luck is when preparation meets opportunity." Having been a Boy Scout many years ago, I think that we all need to "Be Prepared".



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FARRALLSGROUP

Think about me, not my age

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