



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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contact your Organiser or
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Older People Active Lives

KEEPING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT...

As promised last week, here are some more Christmas happenings in our areas..

Santa's float will continue its usual visits to Tarporley and surrounding areas this year with Duddon, Utkinton, Eaton and Little Budworth on Thursday December 17th starting at 5.30pm, Tarvin on 18th and Tarporley on 19th both at 5pm.



ONLINE ELEVENSES



Last Thursday morning (3rd December) CWAC libraries and OPAL hosted their first online coffee morning and we were delighted that over 20 people joined the zoom to have a coffee and a chat. A librarian demonstrated how to recycle old books into a Christmas tree and there was a lot of reminiscing about the very snowy Winter of 1962/63.

The next online eleveneses is next Thursday 17th December...at 11am! If you would like to join us to talk about Christmas food, follow the link on the library Facebook or email jean.toyn@opalservices.org.uk for the link.

READER ZOOMS

Our friends from The Reader are starting 2 new Zoom Shared Reading groups which will be running every week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 2pm – 3:30pm. The groups will start on the 15th and 16th December and are open to all Cheshire West & East Cheshire residents. For further information contact alison.finegan@thereader.org.uk

Xmas Facts Part 2

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Like many Christmas traditions, Christmas cards date from the Victorian era. Queen Victoria sent the first official Christmas card. Sir Henry Cole, the first Director of the V&A, commissioned the first commercial Christmas card in 1843. He ordered a print run of 1000 cards and sold them for a shilling each.

The design depicted two acts of charity – “feeding the hungry” and “clothing the naked” – plus a family party scene. www.postalmuseum.org

Ever wondered why robins are so popular on Christmas cards?

People nicknamed Royal Mail postmen "robin redbreasts" owing to the red waistcoats they wore from the mid 1800s. During this time, robins began to appear on Christmas cards as symbols of the men who delivered them, and have continued to be associated with Christmas ever since.

CHRISTMAS DOWN UNDER - a catch up from Harper and Janet in Australia..

"I promised to keep in touch, and finally I have time after what has been a hectic 2 months. Starting with our flight, 24 hours with masks on the whole way then into quarantine two weeks with Harper, in one room meals delivered to a table outside the room, no other human contact and yes we are still married.

On our release we were delivered into an almost normal world, and we lucked out. We found a lovely 3 bed 2 bath villa in an over 55 community, only 6 years old and ready to move into. As we could move quickly (funds in bank), three weeks later we were in! It has lovely gardens and in some ways reminds me of England as it has definite seasons. At the moment it's spring and like the U.K. we have had a lot of rain."

We will think of them having their first Christmas in their new home in a summer climate! Perhaps they will spend it similar to Dorothy - who featured in our holiday supplement - when she was in Brisbane, in the sunshine under the canopy of her campervan...



It's a Cracker....



What did Cinderella say when her photos didn't arrive on time?

One day my prints will come

What is Santa's favourite pizza?

One that's deep-pan, crisp and even

Why was the turkey in the pop group?

Because he was the only one with drumsticks!

Pets' Corner



Looking super
Christmassy
this week is

May, our first horse volunteer, getting ready to deliver activity packs to our members!

Quizzical

1. Which country created the eggnog?
2. If you were born on Christmas day what would be your astrological sign?
3. There are 365 days in a year; which number is Christmas Day?
4. What hovers above angels' heads?
5. What is the biggest selling single song of all times?
6. What is the main ingredient in gingerbread cookies?



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS :
 1) COMIC, 2) TWIST,
 3) ENVELOPE, 4) XEROX,
 5) CADILLAC, 6) OHIO,
 7) EAGLE, 8) WIDOW

In the Spirit of

CHRISTMAS PAST.....

In a change for our usual Spotlight section, we thought you might enjoy taking a look back at some of our OPAL Christmas memories... This week it's crafting and baking and fundraising... can you spot your club/session here?



Kindly printed by  **FARRALL'S GROUP**

Think about me, not my age

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