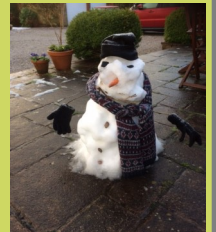




For comments, articles & info contact your Organiser or opalreach@opalservices.org.uk

WHAT A WEEK OF WEATHER...

We do hope you are all safe after the awful rains, winds and snow storms we encountered across the county last week. One of our volunteers, Sue, has sent us this wonderful photo of her new COVID safe visitor to cheer us all up!



HAVE YOUR SAY...

The next census is coming - Census Day is Sunday 21 March. As you may be aware, this takes place every 10 years throughout the UK.



By taking part, we can all help to inform decisions on services that shape our community, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes. It's important we all have the opportunity to fill in this questionnaire because the information shared affects the life of every single person living in England and Wales.

The census will be predominately completed online this time around, however a helpline will be provided for those who do not have access to the internet. We will keep you updated but in the meantime, you can visit www.census.gov.uk where there's a wide range information available.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

- 1547 9-year-old Edward VI succeeds Henry VIII as King of England.
- 1781 Mozart's opera 'Idomeneo' premieres in Munich.
- 1802 First celebration of Burns Night. It was later realised that the poet's actual birthday was 25th January.
- 1813 Jane Austen's 'Pride & Prejudice' is published in the UK by Thomas Edgerton.
- 1948 Mahatma Gandhi assassinated by a Hindu fanatic.
- 1986 Pope John Paul II and Mother Teresa meet in Calcutta.
- 1998 Michelangelo's 'Christ & the Woman of Samaria' sold for \$7.4 million.

BURNS' NIGHT

January 25th is Burns' Night where people celebrate the famous Scottish Bard Rabbie Burns, but like many celebrations, there won't have been as many Burns' suppers as usual this year. In the past Helsby What's Cooking, whilst not having a full Burns' night celebration, did enjoy a version of "cranachan", a popular dessert and some of Burns' poetry.

Recipe for Cranachan

(Saturday Kitchen)

Ingredients

- 570ml/1 pint double cream
- 85g/3oz porridge oats
- 7 tbsp whisky
- 3 tbsp honey
- 450g/1lb raspberries
- fresh mint, to garnish

Method

- Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them.
- Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries.
- Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.



What's On - Line?

ONLINE

RSPB BIRDWATCH - 29-31 JANUARY
www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/

Quizzical

What musicals are the following songs from?

- 1) Some Enchanted Evening
- 2) Oh What a Beautiful Morning
- 3) You'll never walk alone
- 4) Big Spender
- 5) Don't Cry For Me Argentina
- 6) Edelweiss
- 7) Food Glorious Food
- 8) Let it Go

What's On?

Friday 29th – Sunday 31st Jan it is **'BBC Radio 2 Celebrates the Musicals Weekend'** with hits played in every show, the main programmes are:
31st, 1-3pm, Radio 2, *Elaine Page on Sunday plays the 20 Greatest Show Tunes* as voted for by listeners,
31st, 7pm-9pm, Radio 2, *Sheridan Smith presents Musicals: The Greatest Show*, many performances by the stars, also available on BBC iPlayer.

Who Am I?

Born 31st January 1921

I am an American tenor of Italian ancestry, and a Hollywood actor.

I portrayed another famous tenor in the movie *The Great Caruso* in 1951 which turned out to be the top-grossing film of the year.

In the film *The Seven Hills of Roma* I sang *Arrivederci Roma*, which was later recorded by Dean Martin and Johnny Mathis.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS : 1) Victor Meldrew (Richard Wilson), One Foot in the Grave 2) Lance-Corporal Jones (Clive Dunn), Dad's Army 3) Del Boy (David Jason), Only Fools and Horses 4) Baldrick (Tony Robinson), Blackadder 5) Chuckle Brothers 6) Bruce Forsyth, The Generation Game. WHO AM I : NEIL DIAMOND

This is Your Life.....

ROBERT BURNS

Birthplace

Robert Burns was born on 25 January 1759 in a cottage on a farm in the village of Alloway, two miles south of Ayr. This cottage is now a museum, dedicated to Burns.

Career

After the death of his father in 1784, Burns inherited the farm but by 1786 he was in terrible financial difficulties: the farm was not successful and he had made two women pregnant. Burns decided to emigrate to Jamaica so to raise the money required for this journey, he published his 'Poems in the Scottish Dialect' in 1786, which was an immediate success. He was persuaded not to leave Scotland by Dr Thomas Blacklock and in 1787 an Edinburgh edition of the poems was published.

He married in 1788, but managed to spend the money from his first published poetry in 18 months so began work as an Excise Officer. However, this steady income gave him too many opportunities to continue with his hard drinking which had long been his weakness, and led to ill health.

Personal Life

In his personal life, Burns dedicated hundreds of lines of verse to the fairer sex and went on to father 12 children, nine with his wife Jean Armour. Burns died aged 37 of rheumatic fever which he contracted after falling asleep at the roadside (after a particularly vigorous drinking session) in pouring rain. The last of Burns' children was actually born during his funeral service.

Quote

John Steinbeck took the title of his 1937 novel *Of Mice and Men* from a line in Burns' poem *To a Mouse* "*The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men Gang aft agley*"

Source – historic uk



Kindly printed by



FARRALL'S GROUP

Think about me, not my age

OPAL Services (Rural West Cheshire)
PO Box 161, Whitchurch, SY13 9BG
www.opalservices.org.uk
© 2021 OPAL Services (Rural West Cheshire)

Registered Charity No: 1143753
Registered Company No. 7521625