



# REACH

Older People Active Lives



For comments, articles & info contact your Organiser or [opalreach@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:opalreach@opalservices.org.uk)

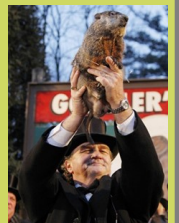
## RUBBISH NEWS!

Cheshire West and Chester council have announced that the garden waste collection service will now be suspended until Monday 1 March 2021. They would also like to hear your views on their proposed Waste Strategy, which will shape how the Council delivers waste services over the next 10 years. For more details and to complete a survey visit <https://participatenow.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/waste-strategy-consultation> or telephone 0300 123 7026 quoting 'Waste Consultation'.

## WHAT IS THE LINK BETWEEN CANDLES AND GROUNDHOGS?

The answer is the 2nd February, a date linked to celebrations, and if you look into history, surprisingly, the weather is also a common link. The 2nd February is Candlemas Day and in the past, Christians would take their candles to the church to be blessed as it was believed this brought with it blessings for the remainder of the winter. With a folksong, it evolved into weather forecasting -

If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Come, Winter, have another flight;  
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,  
Go Winter, and come not again.



In USA and Canada the date is Groundhog Day when according to custom a small furry animal can predict when spring arrives. This custom is believed to originate with German settlers, where according to German lore if the hedgehog comes out of hibernation and sees his shadow on 2nd, there will be "second winter". But since the 1993 film Groundhog Day, where the day kept repeating, it has taken on the meaning of every day being the same....and we have all experienced that in the last year!

## BLAST FROM THE PAST -

- 1587 Mary, Queen of Scots is executed at Fotheringhay Castle.
- 1845 2,000yr-old Portland Vase is shattered by a drunken visitor to the British Museum.
- 1859 One of the oldest known copies of the Bible, "The Codex Sinaiticus" (Sinai Bible) is discovered in Egypt.
- 1952 Queen Elizabeth II succeeds King George VI to the British throne.
- 1990 South African President F W De Klerk announces that Nelson Mandela will be freed on February 11th.

## REMEMBER WHEN? THE LLAMA CAME TO TOWN...

Our *In the Spotlight* star this week is Richard Cox and some of you may remember him bringing his Llamas to visit our clubs. We do hope he will come back to visit us once we are able to all meet up again.



## What's On - Line?

**ONLINE ELEVENSES** - update - now running every Thursday morning. All welcome.

**SHED TALK** - new Zoom session for men. 10th February @ 10am.

Please email [jean.toyn@opalservices.org.uk](mailto:jean.toyn@opalservices.org.uk) for more details of both events.

## Quizzical

Can you find the animals hidden in these sentences?

*In April I only went there once. (LION)*

- 1) It's only a kilometre away
  - 2) Your comb is on the table
  - 3) I'll sing: you hum on key
  - 4) The baby is naked
  - 5) If Roger arrives, we can ask him
  - 6) We will go at half past two
- (Golden Carers)

LAST REACH ANSWERS: 1) South Pacific, 2) Oklahoma, 3) Carousel, 4) Sweet Charity, 5) Evita, 6) The Sound of Music, 7) Oliver, 8) Frozen. WHO AM I: Mario Lanza

## Pets Corner

Carer Connect members, Sheila and Tom, sent us these lovely photos of their two whippets, Penny & Lacey.



## Who Am I?

6th of February 1917

I was crowned Miss Hungary in 1936 before emigrating to the United States in 1941. I became an actor and socialite in my new country. I was married nine times and my divorces always appeared on the front pages of newspapers! One of my husbands was Conrad Hilton and we had a daughter.

*"I am a marvellous housekeeper: Every time I leave a man I keep the house."*

## Spotlight On ...

### RICHARD THE LLAMA FARMER

#### Where were you born?

I am a true Yorkshireman born and bred. I call a spade a spade, loud and bold but also a bit of a whiner/misery and above all I don't like spending money! I love cricket and Geoffrey Boycott is my sporting hero! Not understood and largely despised by people from outside Yorkshire!

#### What's your earliest memory?

Of my cat having kittens when I was 5. They were the most beautiful creatures ever and I have loved cats ever since.

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

I love water and having a picnic by the riverside in the Yorkshire Dales (Wharfedale near Arncliffe/Kettlewell) is my heaven on Earth.

#### Who makes you laugh?

Dad's Army, pranks and set ups.

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

Yes, I was a university professor, teaching sports science at the University of California, Berkeley, then Liverpool, Leeds and finally Manchester. I still work part-time as a consultant to the British Modern Pentathlon Team. I have officiated at local, National, European, World Championships and the Olympic Games (starter of the swimming events). I still train daily in the pool at Winsford and swim competitively. I have written over a dozen books on sport (e.g. The Encyclopaedia of British Football, the Science of Canoeing), and 3 on llamas.

#### Which OPAL services did you visit?

I visited Helsby, Kelsall, Frodsham and Tarpoley OPAL Clubs.

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

Not really, my favourite quotes tend to be some song lyrics.



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Think about me, not my age