



## RSPB BIG BIRDWATCH 29 – 31ST JANUARY



We know many of our readers feed the birds in their garden and during the pandemic watching the antics of visiting birds is all the more appreciated. The RSPB have been carrying out a garden bird count since 1979. If you would like to get involved with this year's count, visit [www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/). If you cannot get online, we can post out the details. If you would like to take part please let your organiser know.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The photographs submitted for the 2021 OPAL Calendar by OPAL volunteers have not only been much admired by those receiving the calendar as a gift, but have also helped raise over £450 towards OPAL funds. This total is a combination of sales of the calendar and the Christmas Ecard which also featured photographs taken by the volunteers. In addition to extending our thanks to everyone who participated, we are offering other Ecards, such as Birthday, Get Well and Congratulations. Please visit <https://www.dontsendmeacard.com/charities/PAOL> for more details.



## BLAST FROM THE PAST - This Week in History

- 1858 – Mendelssohn's 'Wedding March' premiers at the wedding of Queen Victoria's daughter.
- 1881 – Thomas Edison & Alexander Graham Bell form the Oriental Telephone Company.
- 1905 – The world's largest diamond, the Cullinan, discovered in South Africa.
- 1908 – Lieutenant General Robert Baden-Powell publishes 'Scouting for Boys'.
- 1921 – Agatha Christie publishes her first novel 'The Mysterious Affair at Styles'.
- 1924 – Ramsay MacDonald forms Britain's first Labour Government.
- 1924 – First Winter Olympic Games begin in Chamonix, France.
- 1926 – John Logie Baird gives the first public demonstration of television.
- 1983 – Tennis star Bjorn Borg announces his retirement at the age of just 26.

## KNIT FOR OPAL

Last summer both volunteers and members started knitting and crocheting squares to make blankets for use in OPAL clubs and behind the scenes, lots of the squares have been received, stitched together and we have 8 complete blankets. Although we are not able to collect your completed squares due to the current lockdown, please do keep knitting as we will continue to make blankets. If anyone wants to try a different simple pattern, we have a wrist warmer pattern available. We hold regular OPAL Knitting zoom meetings open to anyone with an interest in knitting where we chat and discuss future ideas. Please contact us at Reach or via your Organiser for more details.



## OPAL ACTIVITY PACKS

Many people find their mood is low in January, but along with the vaccine news, this week OPAL Reach are helping to boost your wellbeing with a Laughter extra, AND as we cannot deliver our bimonthly activity packs due to lockdown, a POSTAL activity pack is also being sent to everyone who receives their Reach in an envelope. We hope you enjoy it.

## What's On - Line?

As part of Health and Wellbeing Week Online, Cheshire West and Chester Libraries are providing a week of free online activities including **Cheshire Wildlife Trust Wellbeing with Nature** and **Healthwatch Cheshire West Virtual Chat**. Visit [www.ticketssource.co.uk/cwaclibraries](http://www.ticketssource.co.uk/cwaclibraries) to book.

ONLINE

## What's On?

*Stanley Baxters Best Bits and More, Friday*  
22nd January, 10pm, C5

*Queen Victoria: In her own words, Saturday 23rd*  
January, 9.30pm, C5.

*Zoo (wartime drama about Belfast Zoo in the Blitz)*  
Sunday 24th January, C4, 4.35pm.



## Quizzical

Can you name the comedy show or comedian linked to the following sayings?

- 1) I don't believe it!
- 2) Don't panic!
- 3) Lovely jubbly
- 4) I have a cunning plan!
- 5) To me, to you
- 6) Nice to see you, to see you nice

LAST REACH ANSWERS: 1) BABES IN THE WOOD, 2) BARON HARDUP, 3) ALADDIN & CINDERELLA, 4) HANSEL & GRETEL. WHO AM I: MOHAMMED ALI

## Who Am I?

Born : 24th January 1941

I am an American singer-songwriter and I have sold more than 100 million records worldwide.

I was born in Brooklyn, New York, to a Jewish family descended from Russian and Polish immigrants.

I attended New York University as a pre-med major on a fencing scholarship; however when I was just 10 units short of graduation, I was offered a job writing songs for \$50 a week and I dropped out of college to accept it.

I have had 10 No. 1 singles including Crackling Rosie, Love On The Rocks, I Am... I Said, Forever in Blue Jeans and Sweet Caroline.

## This is Your Life.....

### Ronnie Barker

#### Birthplace

Ronald William George Barker was born on September 25, 1929 in Bedford.

#### Before he was famous

He initially trained as an architect but decided that he did not have the necessary talents. His first paid job was as a bank clerk.

#### Career

Like many a versatile performer, he started his career as an entertainer in repertory theatre, where he was able to play a wide range of roles and develop his talent for accents, voices and verbal dexterity.

During the 1960s, Ronnie became well-established on radio, providing multiple voices for "The Navy Lark". He also became a regular face on television, appearing in The Frost Report (1966) with a memorable sketch about Britain's class system, with John Cleese and Ronnie Corbett.

In 1971, Ronnie teamed up with Ronnie Corbett again, this time for a BBC sketch series called The Two Ronnies (1971). This series proved enormously popular, continuing until the late 1980s. In addition to "The Two Ronnies", Barker starred in the popular BBC sitcoms Porridge (1974) and Open All Hours (1976) where he became lifelong friends with David Jason.

In 1988, he retired from acting to run an antiques business.

#### Personal Life

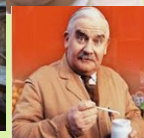
He was married to Joy Tubb for 48 years until his death in 2005.

Despite his extrovert performances on television, Barker remained a quiet, retiring man, much preferring to spend time with his family rather than mix with the celebrity crowd.

#### Quote

"Don't just crit there siticising."

(Source – imdb and bbc)



Open All Hours

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Think about me, not my age