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**OPAL OUT AND ABOUT** - whilst OPAL services such as Reach, befriending calls and activity packs are set to continue, over the last couple of weeks we have also started to open some clubs and services again. Members (and volunteers) enjoyed the opportunity to catch up face to face for the first time in a very long time. Cakes and refreshments were served and at Tarporley, members enjoyed a taxing quiz about the Olympics. At Helsby, Frodsham and Tattenhall clubs members enjoyed some old favourite games and Kelsall members were kept busy with a keep fit session! BreakTime Plus carers enjoyed a boat trip on the River Dee this week followed by a sandwich lunch at a café - thankfully, the rain stayed away and everyone enjoyed learning some very interesting facts about the history of the River.









#### TECH TALK THIS MONTH IN HISTORY ANIMAL WATCH GARDEN TIPS TECH TALK ANIMAL WATCH

#### SPACE EXPLORATION



Humans have always looked up at the sky. From using the stars to navigate the seas, to the obsession with sending a person into space, space exploration began in fiction many years before the technology was developed to make it a reality.

Exploring space is very expensive, and it took Government space programmes to fund the first successes. This was followed by the private sector developing commercial space activity when the benefit

of using satellites as telecommunication relays was identified. More recently, entrepreneurs saw the commercial potential of offering space travel, and in July, both Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic Space Ship Two and Jeff Bezos Blue Origin spacecraft hit the headlines as they both successfully travelled to the edge of space. See over the page for details of the oldest person to space travel.

### IT'S ALL IN THE STARS.....

As the nights get longer, it is a good time to look up at the skies and enjoy a celestial show. The Perseid meteor shower has been taking place since July 17th and ends on August 24th where, if the weather conditions are favourable, stargazers can see up to 200 meteors entering the Earth's atmosphere.

The Milky Way is at its clearest from late August to September. Light pollution and even the brightness of the moon can affect how stunning the night sky is, so finding a

Here in Cheshire we have the UNESCO World Heritage site of Jodrell Bank. Meteor showers, and in particular the August Perseids, have a special place in the history of Jodrell Bank. The 1946 shower marked the start of Jodrell Bank becoming an astronomical observatory and Bernard Lovell becoming an astronomer. To find out more visit

bank/ If you need any help learning how to access website information, OPAL GoOnLine volunteers are always happy to help. Contact you organiser for further information.

If you would like to know more about star gazing,
then here are some useful
websites -

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Darkskydiscovery.org.uk

★ Gostargazing.co.uk

Kielderobservatory.org

## **FUN & QUIZZES**

# Up, up and away!

- 1) What does the acronym NASA stand for?
- 2) Name the first woman in space?
- 3) Who was the first American in space?
- 4) Who said: "The eagle has landed!"
- 5) Who was the first person ever to spacewalk?

# Who Am I?/Where Am I?/What Am I?



Can you name the object in this photograph?

# Can you fill in the spaces of these popular songs?

1.	Catch a falling	6. Fly me to the
2.	It's only a paper	7. The has got it's hat or
3.	River	8. Here comes the
4.	Man	9. Dancing in the light
5.	Dust	10. Seasons in the

# This is Your Life...

### WALLY FUNK—THE OLDEST PERSON IN SPACE

**BIRTH PLACE** – Mary Wallace Funk was born on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1939 in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

**EDUCATION** – as a child she was interested in mechanics and flying. She had her first flying lesson at the age of 9. She graduated top of her class at St Stephen's College, Missouri in 1958. In 1964 her work in aviation was honoured when she became the youngest woman in the history of the college to receive the Alumna Achievement Award.

**SPACE CAREER** – Although aviation was her passion, in February 1961, at the age of 21 Wally volunteered for the "Women in Space" Programme run by William Randolph Lovelace, which had the support but not the official sponsorship of NASA. Only twenty-five women were chosen for testing and she was rated 3rd in the field of 13 qualifying candidates. The group was dubbed the "Mercury 13" in reference to the NASA "Mercury 7".

AVIATION CAREER – With her dream of going into space being thwarted as NASA didn't consider female astronauts until the late 1970s, Wally continued to pursue a glittering career in aviation. She was the first female air safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board, the first female civilian flight instructor at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and the first female Federal Aviation Agency inspector.

SPACE TOURIST - On 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021, Funk became the oldest person to go to space, breaking a 23-year record held by John



Glenn, setting this record on Blue Origin's New Shepard spacecraft during its suborbital flight.

## QUOTE

"I did everything they didn't expect a girl to do"

LAST EDITION'S ANSWERS: FILM ANAGRAMS 1)Titanic 2)28 Days Later 3)Psycho 4)Rocky 5)The Godfather 6)The Departed 7)The Irishman 8)The Wizard of Oz 9)Fight Club 10)Spectre. WHERE AM I: Dee Bridge, Farndon. NAUTICAL FLAGS: 'Good Job You Are So Awesome!'.

OPAL thanks the following sources in this edition: www.ninety-nines.org, Isidoro Martínez on Unsplash., SpaceX on Unsplash, Golden carers.com

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

Think about me, not my age