



Older People Active Lives

# REACH

Issue 67



Kindly printed by **FARRALL'S GROUP**

## ADJUST, ADAPT AND SUPPORT

This year's OPAL Annual Report has now been sent out with email invitations to the virtual Annual General Meeting. The theme for the report is 'Adjust, Adapt and Support' and relates to OPAL's experience over the last year during the pandemic. There will be three guest speakers at the meeting, who will also speak on the same theme relating to their quite different spheres of work and experience. Please contact your Organiser for further information.



## CLUBS & SESSIONS

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
<b>Kelsall OPAL Club</b> – weekly	<b>OPAL Clubs</b> - Frodsham and Tattenhall - weekly	<b>What's Cooking</b> Helsby 10, 24 Nov	<b>OPAL Clubs</b> - Helsby, Tarporley and Malpas - weekly	<b>Carers Event</b> 10-minute talks from unpaid carers Chester - 20 Nov
	<b>What's Cooking</b> Frodsham 2, 16, 30 Nov Farndon 9, 23 Nov	<b>BreakTime Plus Social Gathering</b> 27 Oct Waverton 3 Nov Tattenhall 10 Nov TBC	<b>Branching Out</b> Info and chat – Frodsham 4, 11, 18 Nov	
	<b>Branching Out</b> Frodsham Christmas craft 16, 30 Nov	<b>BreakTime Plus</b> Carers Consultation 17 Nov - Tiverton	<b>Online</b> 11s Zoom 28 Oct, 25 Nov Knitting Zoom 18 Nov	
		<b>GoOnline Session</b> 3 Nov – Tiverton 17 Nov - Tiverton	<b>Carers Coffee Morning &amp; GoOnline Sessions</b> 4 Nov – Malpas 18 Nov - Malpas	

OPAL are now offering face to face services as well as regular online sessions, but many are running less frequently, or with fewer members in a group, or for a shorter time scale than in the past as each service finds ways to offer a safe way to meet up, whilst adhering to COVID advice. This means that some sessions are operating on a pre booking system and some now have a waiting list. If you would like to find out more, please contact your Organiser.

## THE END OF BRITISH SUMMER TIME – 31ST OCTOBER 2021

The clocks always go back an hour on the last Sunday of October, marking the end of British Summer Time, and giving us all an extra hour in bed! Thankfully most smart phones, computers, and other devices connected to the internet, normally update the time automatically, but it still leaves most households with several clocks to alter manually.

Chester has two wonderful clocks. Did you know that Chester Eastgate Clock is considered Chester's most iconic landmark and the second most photographed clock in the World after Big Ben? Plus, until 1974, J B Joyce clockmakers of Whitchurch sent a technician every week to wind it! And, although Chester Town Hall was opened in 1869, the clock on the tower was only added in 1979. It is unusual as the clock only has faces on 3 sides – the west facing side remains blank. Some Cestrians say that this is because this wall faces Wales and 'Chester won't give the Welsh the time of day.'.....



## FUN & QUIZZES



### TIME QUIZ

- 1) 'Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubly so' is a line from which book?
- 2) In Great Expectations by Charles Dickens, Miss Havisham has all the clocks in her mansion frozen at precisely what time?
- 3) Often known as 'The First American' who is thought to have first said: 'Time is Money'?
- 4) What is the name given to the shadow-casting object on a sundial?
- 5) What is the study of measuring time and mechanical time-keeping devices called?
- 6) Which European capital city is famous for its astronomical clock?

### WHO AM I?

I was born on 8 January 1908 in the slums of St Pancras, London. At the age of 16, I met the art collector Hugh Blaker, who became my unofficial guardian, arranged for me to train as a jockey, and helped me to enter the Italia Conti Academy. I appeared in numerous Shakespearian plays, including The Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar. During my career I played mainly policemen, soldiers and thugs. In 1958 I played the sergeant in the first Carry On comedy film, 'Carry On Sergeant'. In 1963 I became the first ever actor to play 'Doctor Who'.

### SPOTLIGHT ON... THE SPEAKING CLOCK

**When was it first introduced?** 24<sup>th</sup> July 1936.

**Why was it first introduced?** The Speaking Clock was created specifically by the General Post Office (GPO) to settle disputes over time. Prior to this the nation was largely run on mechanical wind-up clocks that were prone to drift and increasing numbers of people were ringing telephone exchanges to ask the time. Operators had been trained to check the exchange clock on the wall and say 'The time, by the exchange clock, is...' but this was not precise to the second and operators could not always answer when the caller wanted. So, it was decided that there should be a telephone number people could ring to be given the correct, accurate time.

**Who was the first voice of the speaking clock?** The first voice of the Speaking Clock was London telephonist Ethel (also known as Jane) Cain who was selected from a pool of 15,000 telephone operators who worked for the GPO in a nationwide competition to find the 'golden voice'. The judges were poet laureate John Masefield, actress Dame Sybil Thorndike and chief BBC announcer Stuart Hibberd and Ethel was awarded the princely sum of 10 Guineas (the equivalent of £10.50 today) for her work.

**How many Speaking Clock voices have there been?** There has only actually been 4 permanent voices, although guest appearances for charity have been increasingly popular. When Pat Simmons, a London telephone exchange supervisor, won the second competition to find a voice for the Speaking Clock, her prize in 1963 was £500!

**Is the speaking clock still used today?**

Yes, despite access to accurate digital devices the Speaking Clock service still receives in the region of 12 million calls a year, with demand peaking on four time-sensitive days: New Year's Eve, the two days a year the clocks change and Remembrance Day.



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS : 1) ALASKA 2) PENCILLIN 3) PICKLING 4) LUNE 5) EDINBURGH. WORD : APPLE  
OPAL thanks the following sources in this edition : Wikipedia.com, aroundchester.blogspot.com, the-historypress.co.uk/articles

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

*Think about me, not my age*