



Older People Active Lives

REACH

Issue 79



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The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service



OPAL NEWS

This week, OPAL Reach is making the news – the next issue, edition 80 will be the last. Jane, OPAL chair has a few words and a thank you.

Our next edition will be a Jubilee special but will also be our last one for now. This is partly to do with the fact that we no longer have funding to produce it and partly because many of our readers have started to return to the routines and commitments they had before the pandemic and before we were all so restricted in where we could go and what we could do.

We really do hope you have enjoyed receiving and reading OPAL Reach and it may be in the future we recognise a need to restart it and are able to obtain funding to do so. A big thank you to all who have been involved in its production over the last two years. There have been a lot involved in a whole range of ways and without their time, effort and skill it wouldn't have been possible.

ENJOYING THE SUMMER

It is lovely to hear that many of you are able to get out and about and enjoy all the fantastic local events, and of course, book holidays! This issue has information about lots of local activities you may be interested in.

In the last edition we mentioned OPAL fund raising events in Manley, and it is always fantastic when we benefit from other organisations. In Huxley, the Happy Days team organise regular community activities and raise funds for local charities. Coming up in June, they have a Barn Dance (£15) on 25th June and a Summer Fete on 26th June. We would like to thank them for their support.



Things to do

With the Glyndebourne Festival starting this month, the opportunities for music, gardens and picnics has arrived. Whilst opera, formal dress and the expense of a venue like Glyndebourne in Sussex maybe not what most Reach readers look for, we hope you enjoy this penultimate edition of Reach with a music theme.

Chester Folk Festival



On the Friday 27th May- Sunday 29th May Chester Folk Festival makes a welcome return to Kelsall. They have a wide range of concerts at several venues around the village. There are many workshops available covering dance, music and spirituality. There is children's entertainment and ceilidhs, Morris dancers and market stalls, many musician's just turn up to jam together around the Morris Dancer pub. Camping is available. More information can be found at www.chesterfolk.org.uk photo taken from www.cheshirecitymorrismen.org.uk

QUEEN'S JUBILEE



Ken performing at Club

We are looking forward to the Jubilee, excitement is building and planning is in full swing for jubilee events at the OPAL Clubs. Members at Tarporley Club have been making bunting and elsewhere members have been getting into the party mood playing 1950's musical bingo, singing along to Elvis, The Supremes, Roy Orbison and Chuck Berry. The BBC will be covering all the events over the 4 day celebration. Starting with the Trooping of the Colour on Thursday 2nd June.



Bunting made by Tarporley Opal members

There will be a service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 3rd. The first beacon will be lit (there will be a beacon lit on Helsby hill). On Saturday 4th there will be a star studded live concert at Buckingham Palace, the line-up is yet to be revealed but it promises to bring together some of the world's biggest artists. Sunday 5th is the Big Lunch Day, with street parties, street theatre, music, carnivals and picnics going on across the UK and commonwealth.

FOLK FESTIVAL



How many words can you make out of FOLK FESTIVAL? There are 658, see how many you can find!

QUIZ TIME

1. Which American singer lived at Graceland?
2. What is another name for a harmonica?
3. Who composed The Blue Danube?
4. When is a lullaby usually sung to a child?
5. How many musicians in a quintet?
6. Which singer was known as "The big O"?
7. Does the prelude come before or at the end?
8. How many keys does a standard piano have?

DID YOU KNOW?



That the Bandstand in The Groves, next to the river Dee in Chester was funded by Charles Brown, of Brown's of Chester department Store? The yellow sandstone, cast iron and slate octagonal bandstand was built in 1913 at the cost of £350, and was listed as Grade 2 building in 1972. There are free concerts most Sunday afternoons in the summer.

ALL THINGS MUSICAL

As summer approaches we can make the most of the better weather and lighter evenings to enjoy some musical entertainment outside. Here are some sessions locally.

- There is live music Tuesday- Saturday 11am-12 at Castle Park Art Centre, outside under the gazebo, the sessions are free and you can enjoy some lunch from the Café as you watch.
- Helsby Blue Grass Club, based in Helsby Sports and Social Club, every Thursday evening 8pm-10pm, a lively group of performers, £1 entry.
- Tattenhall Music Society hold regular classical and jazz concerts at venues around the village, tickets cost £6-8.
- Frodsham Folk Club now runs on Tuesday 2.30pm-4.30pm at Castle Park courtyard and Friday's indoors at Castle Park, 4pm-6pm.
- The Raven Folk Club in Chester runs most Sunday evenings at the Bear and Billet Pub, 8.30pm, with some concerts online still.
- Manley Village Hall hosts 'Music at Manley' Concerts, you can find out more on their Facebook page.



CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERTS

Castle Park Arts Centre in Frodsham is presenting a number of community chamber music concerts. The second in the series is on Sunday 4th Sept will feature Jess Hughes, a post-graduate harpist from the Royal Northern College of Music playing pieces by Hindemith, Hasselmans and some popular classics. The final concert is on Sunday 4th Dec, starting at 19.30, where members of the BBC Philharmonic put aside their classical repertoire and perform some popular jazz standards, original contemporary jazz compositions and some festive favourites for Christmas ... and All that Jazz. –Further details: www.castleparkarts.co.uk

QUIZ TIME Answers – 1. Elvis Presley 2. Mouth organ 3. Strauss 4. At bedtime 5. Five 6. Roy Orbison 7. Before 8. 88

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Think about me, not my age