



Older People Active Lives

# REACH



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## OPAL News

As we said in the last edition of OPAL Reach, the funding for producing and sending out Reach has ended so this will be the last edition for the time being. We are keen to get your views about receiving this regular news-sheet so you will be either asked by your organiser for your thoughts, or receive an email survey. We hope you enjoy this final edition – a Jubilee Special, but first we have a special royal article.

## A ROYAL GARDEN PARTY



On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, OPAL's spirits were lifted high by the announcement that we had been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This special award came in Volunteers' Week and was in recognition of the outstanding work done by OPAL's many volunteers in their own communities. The award was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of The *Queen's* coronation and each year representatives of the charities are invited to attend a Royal Garden Party in celebration. Sadly in 2020 there was no possibility of the garden parties taking place but this year, quite unexpectedly we heard that our volunteer representative would indeed be invited to the Palace in 2022.

It was a near impossible task to single out two volunteers from nearly 200. All our volunteers make a special contribution to OPAL and every one of them is good enough to have been chosen, so we resorted to names out of a hat. The two names that emerged were those of Mary Thompson and Lesley Duggan. Mary is a former treasurer and volunteers with Tarporley OPAL Club and Lesley is a retired social worker who volunteers with the OPAL Carers' Support service. Here in their words is how their special day went:



What a wonderful day we had on Wednesday 18th May. The weather was perfect – blue sky and sunshine, but not too hot. The Palace and grounds looked stunning with the guests beautifully attired, the bands playing and the guards in their uniforms.

At 4 pm, the Royal Party, consisting of the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duke and Duchess of Wessex came out on to the terrace and the National Anthem was played. The Duke and Duchess of Wessex were in our line and a Gentleman at Arms asked if we would like to meet the Duke. We were brought forward. Prince Edward was delightful, shaking our hands and taking an interest in all that we told him about OPAL.

What a magical day this was and we feel so privileged and honoured to have been able to represent OPAL in this way. We had such a memorable experience, which we will treasure forever. A big thank you to OPAL for allowing us to represent you at this special occasion.

## WHO ATE THE CAKE?



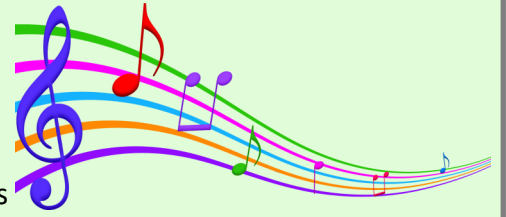
A celebration cake has 35 slices.

John ate 8 slices, Bill ate 6 slices. Mary ate 5 slices, and Olive ate 9 slices! What **fraction** of the cake is left?

## 1950's QUIZ

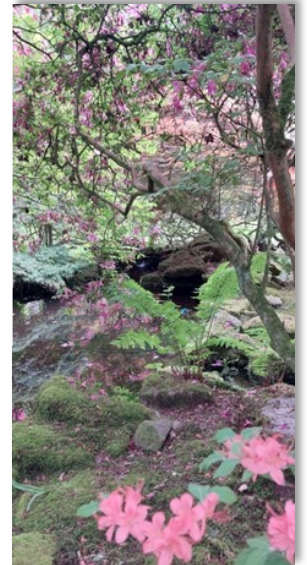
1950's music quiz – which artists sang these songs?

- Jailhouse Rock
- Tutti Frutti
- Peggy Sue
- Blueberry Hill
- I Walk the Line
- Summertime Blues
- Yakerty Yak
- Chantilly lace



### Manley Knoll Garden Open Day

Just before the Jubilee, OPAL had a VERY successful fundraiser – serving the refreshments at the Manley Knoll Garden Open Day. There were a record breaking number of visitors on the day. We would like to thank Mr and Mrs Timpson for offering OPAL the opportunity, and all the people who baked cakes, and the volunteers on the day both serving refreshments and at the plant stall.



### **And finally, OPAL would just like to say “Thank You”**

And last but not least, the OPAL Reach team (Gill, Julie and Zoe) would like to say a big thank you to all the people who have contributed to the production of some, many or all of the 80 editions of Reach. This includes

- Ilene and Sam for having the drive to create it
- members and volunteers, but especially, Alan, Steven, Tom for regular content
- Margo and Carole for proof reading
- Jackie for taking over production
- Izzy, James, Rich, Millie and Monica for posting out,
- Farrell's for printing without whom we would not have been able to start a regular OPAL Newsletter, nor continue for over 2 years. THANK YOU ALL

ANSWERS - there is 1/5 of the cake left

Elvis Presley 2. Little Richard 3. Buddy Holly 4. Fats Domino 5. Johnny Cash 6. Eddie Cochran 7. The Coasters  
8. The Big Bopper

OPAL thanks the following sources in this edition: Credits: Golden Carers  
For comments, articles & info contact your Organiser or [opalreach@opalreach.org.uk](mailto:opalreach@opalreach.org.uk)

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**Think about me, not my age**