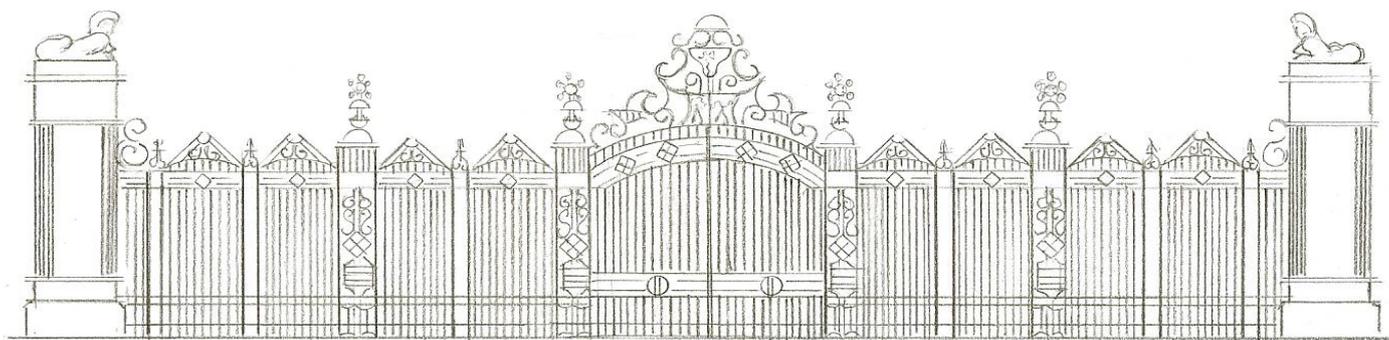


Leeswood & District News



BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

NOVEMBER 2015

ISSUE 345

FREE



Roll of honour

EDITORIAL

I don't know about you – but we are only just getting past Halloween and Christmas has already been in the shops for a while.

So I expect this will be the month of Christmas Decorations going up, Christmas Carols and songs in the shops and constant reminders about how many shopping days we have left to spend our money and buy the latest gifts for our friends and family.

The next issue will be our Christmas Issue – please let's have your best (or worst) Christmas Jokes, Poems, Stories etc lets make it a great Christmas read. Think of those lonely people – lets reach out and touch them too. You will notice that this issue includes some December events – why not ask someone who lives on their own, if they would like to go with you?

The weather men tell us we're going to have a really bad winter, cold and snowy – to match that of 1963 or was it 1965?? (Although they cannot tell us from one day to the next what the weather is doing!). So don't forget to keep an eye on elderly and sick neighbours to ensure they are warm and safe.

June

Articles Notices Charity Events

and ANY OTHER ITEMS for inclusion in the LDN. Please send to:

**June Lincoln, 7 Llys Ann,
Leeswood, CH7 4RW**

07525929522

jlincoln@btinternet.com

***Deadline for-
DECEMBER 2015
Wednesday - 18th
November***

Please send in well before the deadline.

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PONTYBODKIN LADIES GUILD LUNCH



Leeswood Community Centre

THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER

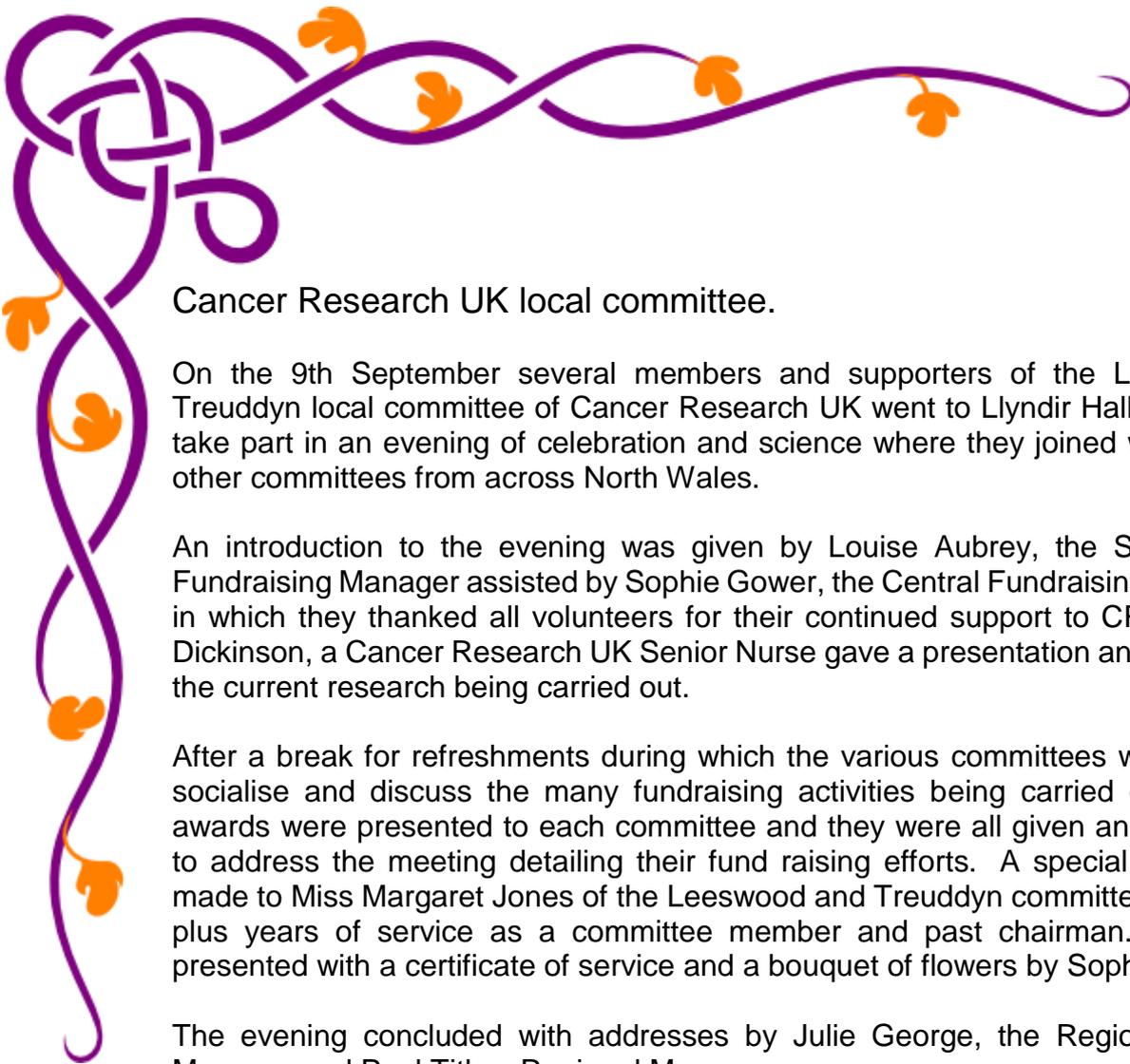
Names will be taken for the Christmas Lunch

**Two courses plus
tea and coffee**

£3.00

**Served noon 12 – 1.30pm
Proceeds to local charities.**

ALL AGES WELCOME



Cancer Research UK local committee.

On the 9th September several members and supporters of the Leeswood & Treuddyn local committee of Cancer Research UK went to Llyndir Hall, Rossett to take part in an evening of celebration and science where they joined with several other committees from across North Wales.

An introduction to the evening was given by Louise Aubrey, the Senior Local Fundraising Manager assisted by Sophie Gower, the Central Fundraising executive, in which they thanked all volunteers for their continued support to CRUK. Clare Dickinson, a Cancer Research UK Senior Nurse gave a presentation and update on the current research being carried out.

After a break for refreshments during which the various committees were able to socialise and discuss the many fundraising activities being carried out, service awards were presented to each committee and they were all given an opportunity to address the meeting detailing their fund raising efforts. A special award was made to Miss Margaret Jones of the Leeswood and Treuddyn committee for her 40 plus years of service as a committee member and past chairman. She was presented with a certificate of service and a bouquet of flowers by Sophie Gower.

The evening concluded with addresses by Julie George, the Regional Legacy Manager and Paul Titley, Regional Manager.



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Leeswood - Bethania Church – Coedllai

A warm welcome to all – Croeso cynnes i bawb

Sundays at Bethania

From the very beginning, Christians have met to worship God together on the Lord's Day, the day of Jesus' resurrection.

Morning Service

Our morning service begins at 10:15am and finishes about 11:30am. The service is structured but fairly informal in style. We sing contemporary Christian songs and some classic hymns too. The Bible teaching seeks to be relevant to our lives and journey of faith, and should be appropriate for those who are seeking faith as well as those growing in faith. A crèche is available for younger children. After the service we have tea and coffee, and sometimes a meal together as a church family.

Conversations of Faith

On Sunday evenings we meet at 6:00pm to read the Bible and to think about what God might be saying to us through it.

We call it 'Conversations of Faith' because -

- All are able to contribute, but no one is expected to or put on the spot
- No questions are off limits
- The session is for those who are seeking faith as well as those who are growing in faith
- We believe that God is able to speak through one another, not just through the person leading

Weekdays

Bright Sparks under 4s
Friday 9:30 – 11:00

High Fives Reception – year 5
Wednesday 5:30 – 6:30

Laser 11+
Wednesday 7:15 – 9:00

Musical Evening with Boarder Line

Friday 30th October 7:30 Community Centre
Open to all – ticket £3.
Year 6 and under, accompanied children free

To Life!

As a church minister I have had the privilege of attending a great number of weddings.

I have often been asked to say the grace at the reception meal; but I have never been asked to propose a toast.

5 | Wales we say, 'iechyd da' or 'good health'.
 || Ireland the toast is, 'sláinte',
 | When I lived in Denmark, the traditional toast was 'skål', which literally refers to a drinking 'bowl'. Perhaps my favourite international toast is the Hebrew, 'l'chayyim', which literally means 'to life'.

As the proud father of three daughters, that opportunity will probably come around sooner or later!

I like the idea of toasting to life.

Life is a precious gift from our Creator, to be celebrated in all its fullness.

Jesus once said about his followers,

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Religion is sometimes seen as life restricting rather than life affirming – a list of 'dos' and 'don'ts'. To be honest, I have experienced religious negativity; but my overwhelming experience of being a committed Christian is of something wonderfully life enhancing and enriching.

I can imagine Jesus at the wedding at Cana – or at one of the many other parties that the Gospels tell us he attended – leading the guests in a hearty, 'l'chayyim'.

So here's to the gift of life!

God bless, Rev. James

Please phone or check our website for details, changes and special events.

Website – www.bethanialeeswood.org
Phone Rob 01352 771607 or Rev. James 07711 034020

DAVID HANSON MP FOR DELYN

SEVEN WAYS TO CONTACT

DAVID



DAVID
HANSON MP

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Flint, Flintshire
CH6 5DH

OR

House of Commons
London, SW1A 0A

Phone me: 01352 763159

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(contact my office for details)

Fax me: 01352 730140

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NUTRITION

DUE TO THE BUILDING WORK
THERE WILL BE

NO COFFEE MORNING

IN CHRIST CHURCH ON 29TH NOV.

But we hope to have an open weekend on December 12th & 13th so that everyone can come and see the work that has been done on the Church.

UPDATE TO CHRIST CHURCH ON THE MOVE



**THE AREA AT THE FRONT WHERE THE FONT
WILL BE LOCATED**



THE KITCHEN BEGINNING TO TAKE SHAPE.

As you can see the building work in Christ Church is going well, we hope to be back in church sometime in November. Meanwhile the church remains a "Building Site", so for Health and Safety Reasons please don't wander in to have a look.

facebook Further News Updates about the church building and all our events can be found on the Christ Church Facebook page, and the Leeswood News Facebook page. Don't miss anything – join them both now!

CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN

SERVICES IN NOVEMBER 2015

IN LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER: ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS

9.30 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

THIS YEAR THE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE IN WESLEY METHODIST CHAPEL LEESWOOD

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER: 2ND BEFORE ADVENT

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLD

IN CHRIST CHURCH (WE HOPE!)

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER: CHRIST THE KING

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER: ADVENT SUNDAY

11.15 A.M. JOINT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOR THE CONGREGATIONS OF ALL THREE PARISHES.

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

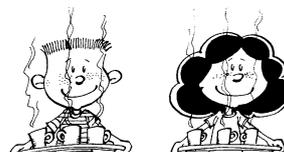
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER: ADVENT 2

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

EVERYONE WELCOME

THE BIG BRUNCH!



11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m.

7th November

in Leeswood Community Centre

Proceeds in aid of Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Rev'd Carole Poolman, Parish Priest.
The Rectory, Llanfynydd, Wrexham. LL11 5HH.

Phone: 01978 762304

Email: cc.sm@btinternet.com

Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana

During my early years in engineering someone made a statement which stuck in my mind ever since, and it proved itself to be right on many subsequent occasions. The statement was that the world consists of two kinds of people, those who do the thinking and those who like the thinking to be done for them. It is quite often the occasion that you hear people talking about new ideas or saying that things should be done in this or that way, but when it come to reality they back off just in case things does not go as successful as planned. There could also be a kind that stays on the fringes of any activity and as soon as something goes positively successful they try to get close to the centre of the activity and expect to share the glory with those who did the hard work. Inventers do sometimes take the initiative to venture into the unknown, and strive to achieve results to develop new ideas. There are several different categories of inventors, however, to be an inventor, one does not need to have any academic qualification or received a high level of education, although these qualities might come in handy at the development stages. One category of inventors are known as visionary inventors. A visionary inventor has the ability to visualise innovative project from start to finish, and can translate a vision into a practical development.

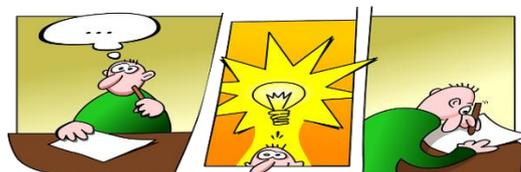
On several occasions, visionary inventors might find it difficult to make others understand the technicalities of an invention, and at certain times they might be told that their invention is not likely to work because nothing like it has been seen before, but then if something like it has been seen before, it will not be an invention, because an invention has to be something new, that has not yet been developed.

Another category of inventor are academic inventors, who might be employed by companies to use their academic knowledge to invent and develop new ideas which their employer might feel that there is a market for such a development, or that a market could be created to accommodate the development.

If a market already exists, the situation is referred to as a market pull, because the market is asking for such a vacuum to be filled. On the other hand, if a market does not already exist, and a company decide to create a market for the development, then a situation like this is referred to as a technological push, due to the fact that a technical development is being pushed on the market.

Irrespective of which ever category an inventor falls under, one has to keep in mind that all inventors strive to produce new ideas and develop gadgets that can create wealth not only for the inventors, but for all those who get involved at a later stage.

We all know that this country has produced great inventors, who developed great ideas by which they created enormous wealth both in this country and overseas. By creating a situation where one can have joint ventures overseas, will give this country more influence on decision making on a global level. With this in mind, one should feel positive that the future can be shaped by those who develop new ideas, and that the level of global influence depends upon the strength of what we manufacture in this country and sell abroad. These conditions have encouraged great inventors and industrialist to develop new ideas together, as they realised that developments does not happen by being an introvert, but to the contrary, ideas are turned into wealth by visionaries who can coordinate all elements for a collective success. It is important to keep in mind that the concept of a successful project starts with the inventor, then the industrialist, and finally marketing. Every step of the way is important, and one cannot be successful without the other, that is why all those concerned need to apply a positive collective effort.



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LEESWOOD AND TREUDDYN CANCER RESEARCH UK

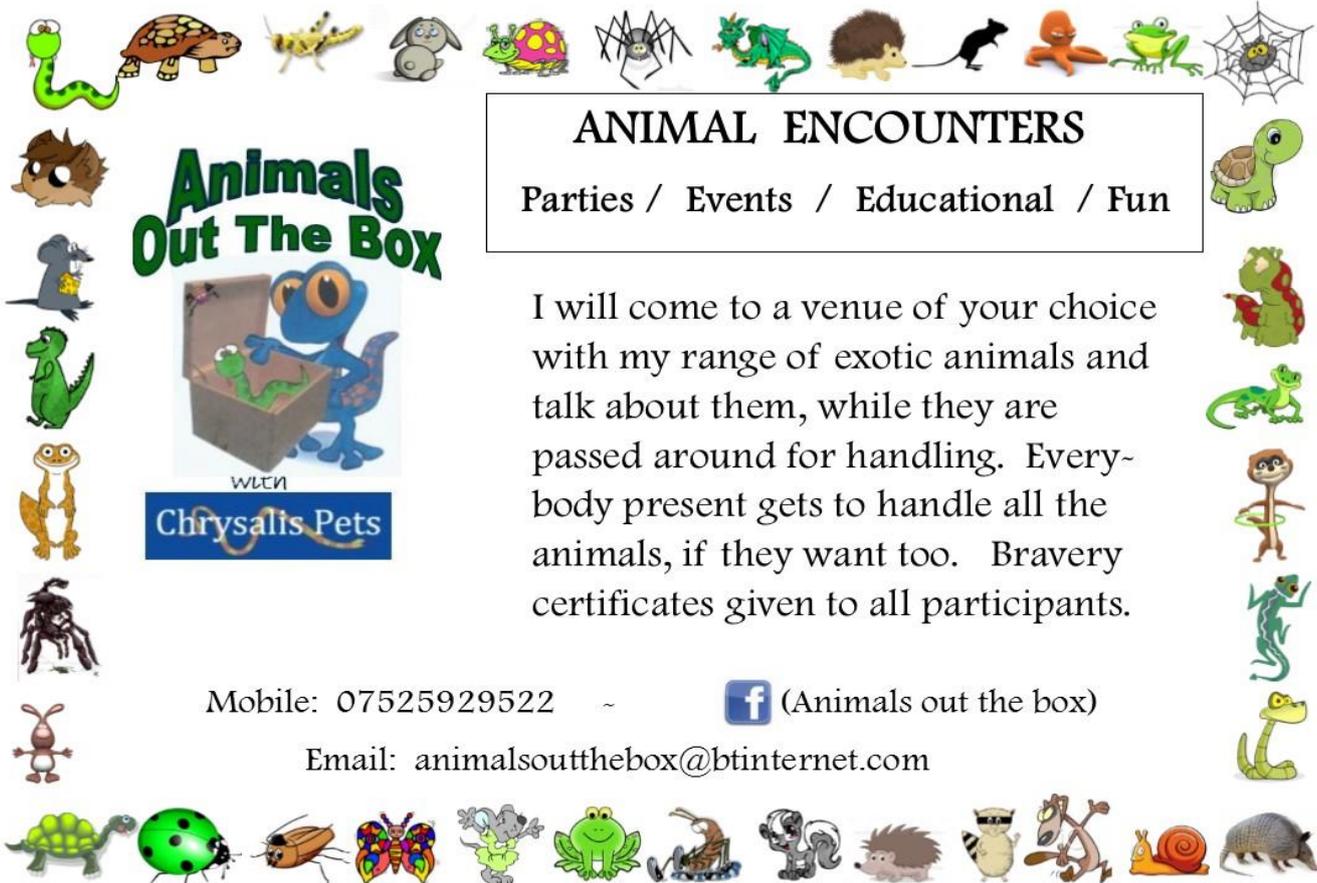


FRIDAY – 11TH DECEMBER - 7.00 pm

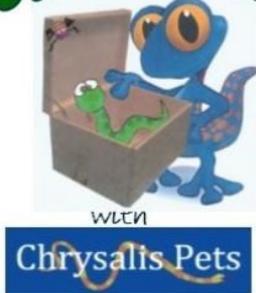
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Animals out the box - Chapter 2

(By June Lincoln)

Our first 'proper' paid booking was at a Christening. What a disaster!! I lost my nerve, couldn't talk to the children, the music was on too loud and to top it all one of the Rabbits escaped in the hall – the children found it funny as we both chased this animal round, underneath the seats, tables and benches.....cleaning up the 'raisins' as we went!! We still got paid – but don't think we were recommended for the animals, but possibly for the 'floor-show' we provided.

Fortunately, we have not had another like it since.

Our home now was taken over by animals. We had vivarium stacks against more than one wall. Insects on the window sills. Tarantulas and Sugar Gliders in the Bedroom. Domestic (pet) Rats and Mice in Tim's room. Guinea Pigs and Rabbits in hutches at the side of the house, oh, and 3 cats. Our collection was growing!!

It was hard work looking after all these animals – and it could easily take a day checking and cleaning them all. It was not unknown though to see escapees wander across the floor of an evening – no, not the animals....but their food stuff, as in Crickets and Locusts, and for those of you who have been on holiday overseas, and listened with your other half, in the evening heat, the romantic sounds of the crickets – let me assure you.....romance is furthest from your mind when you have listened to them night after night in your house. Still kept the cats entertained and gave them live food. I studied on an Exotic Care and Animal Management course, as I thought that maybe it would be a good idea to at least have some idea of the animals under my care. Previous to this, I had relied on the internet (Wikipedia mainly), a few books, the local exotic pet shop (Stewart at Chrysalis Pets, Buckley), who had a wealth of information and advice at his fingertips. I passed this level 2 course with Distinctions.

So, I decided it was time to go to College to do the level 3 course on Animal Care. Except they would not take me on the course – not because they thought I could not do it, but because they thought I would be bored. They suggested I approached Glyndwr University. I was flabbergasted – ME ?? at uni ??, at my age ?? Could I do it ??

So one quick interview later – I was accepted on the Animal Studies Foundation Degree course.....Wow. A University student at somewhere in my 50's...

The summer before I started university was reasonably busy with encounters although most of our bookings were at fund raisers. What is it they say? Never work with Children or Animals and here we were doing both at the same time!!

I was still building my confidence in the business, not really realising our worth and sometimes feeling people booked us because we were the cheapest and because they almost felt sorry for us. I tried various ways of getting the information across to people and eventually over time a winning formula was beginning to emerge – as well as a good solid customer base. But we were still not where I felt we could be...

To be continued

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Leeswood Allotments

It's quieter down at the allotments now that the days are much shorter and most of the harvest has been gathered. However there are still jobs to be done and because there are less daylight hours you are still likely to meet up with someone each time you go.

Our plot has been reasonably productive this year and I have needed to buy very little from the supermarket's fruit and veg isles in the last couple of months. What I have managed to grow has also been supplemented by plants passed on by other allotment holders. They are a generous bunch of folk, always keen to pass on surplus produce and plants and to share their knowledge and the odd joke or two.....

**"Someone keeps putting soil on my allotment each night. It's a complete mystery!!....
The plot thickens. 😊**

Michael O'Leary was waiting at the bus stop with his friend Paddy Maguire when a lorry went by loaded up with turf.

O'Leary said... "I'm going to do that when I win the Lottery, Maguire!"

"What's that Michael?" responds his mate.

"Send me lawn away to be cut" replies O'Leary!!!! 😊

Newly planted strawberry bed

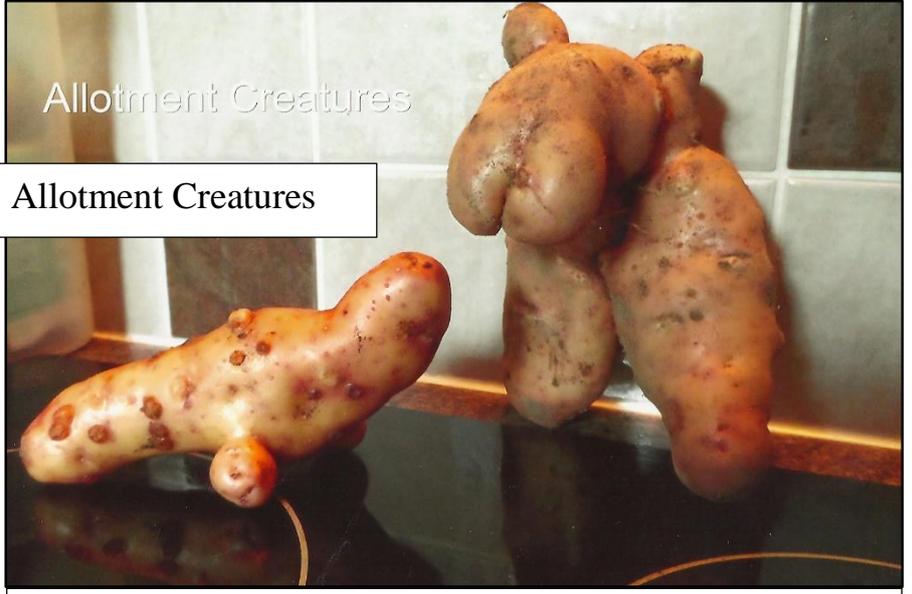


Empty veg patch prepared for next Spring





Final Dahlia's on the allotments in Oct 2015



Allotment Creatures

2 of the strange vegetable creatures emerging from the ground this year



Gwenda and Keiron Hughes



Keiron



Gwenda

VELOCITY ZIP WIRE – BETHESDA

Sunday 6th September was the day that Gwenda and Grandson Keiron Hughes took to the Zip Wire (the longest and highest in Europe) in aid of “The Chairman of Flintshire County Council Ray Hughes Charities”, which are:- Nightingale House Hospice in Wrexham, Clwyd Riding School for the Disabled in Llanfynydd and Mold area Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thank you to everyone for their support, when £1,830.20 was sponsored and will go to these worthy causes.

Fund raising has been from May 2015 until May 2016, which is the Chairman’s term of office. It is hoped that £20-25,000 will be raised during this period.

As you can see from the above, all the charities being supported are local.

The next thing locally will be the Christmas Fair, when again your support will be greatly supported (see page 20).

Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone.

Ray and Gwenda

THANK YOU

Up to now, we are having a wonderful year representing Flintshire County Council at different functions. It is an Honour for both of us as we travel all over Wales promoting the County.

Once again thanks to you all for your support.

CLLR Ray Hughes



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LADIES GUILD



I was unable to attend the meeting held on the 24th September 2015, but after asking around, I believe it was very interesting as it was to do with caring and looking after your feet. So watch out if you see some Leeswood ladies, of a certain age, running through the village !!!!

Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Mary Williams and Mrs. Gwyneth Davies. The raffle was won by Mrs. Lucille Ingman and Mrs. Gwyneth Davies and Mrs. Dorothy Davies won the special raffle.

We had a very entertaining evening on the 24th September, at the centre, with a heading of "A Suitcase of Memories", some of which were thought provoking and others hilarious, it was a night to remember for a long time and all given by our great friend Mr. Chris Cole. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Margaret Roberts and Mrs. Jane Lucy.

*Raffle winners
Were Mrs. Margaret Roberts and Mrs. Jenny Webb and it was a lucky night for Margaret as she also won the special raffle.*

Gill Burton

LEESWOOD CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



would like to thank the Allotment Committee for their kind donation of £200 to the centre following their open day.



PONTYBODKIN LADIES GUILD

Would like to invite you to join them
for an evening of Carols

FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER
at 7.30 pm

(followed by light refreshments)



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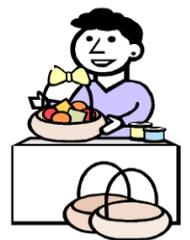


CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 2015

TREUDDYN VILLAGE HALL, 2.30pm-5pm

*Performance by Castell Alun Jazz Band
Playing Christmas Carols & other favourites*



Meet Father Christmas

Stalls

Refreshments



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Memories of an oilfield man, Hotel Hilton Egypt

Tom Nicholson

“My name is Mahmoud, may we stop at my house sir and you will meet with my family” the taxi driver asked me on our way to the Hilton Hotel, this was in the early hours of the morning and I had not slept for nearly thirty six hours, it had been in the early hours of the previous morning when we left home and drove down to Heathrow and I did not sleep on the plane, this combined with jet lag I was in no mood for visiting his relatives, “No I cannot visit your Family, all I want to do is go to bed, tell me where you live in Cairo and I will visit you” I replied, this was the wrong thing for me to have said, “very good sir when we arrive at the hotel I will give you directions to my home and I will show you around Cairo” what have I let myself in for I thought, I was only being polite but he took me at my word,

Finally we arrived at the hotel, I had never stayed in luxury five star hotel before not one like the Hilton anyway, “may I carry your bags sir” the taxi driver asked, “I only have one small back pack and I can carry that myself” I replied, “but it is not right for you to carry your bag yourself into such a hotel” I realise it was the tip he required, so I conceded to his wish and gave him my small rucksack, as we approached the entrance the doorman who was looked very elegant in his national Egyptian clothes and wearing a red Fez I immediately thought of Tommy Cooper, but he was not impressed by my old jeans and denim shirt, but still he opened the door for me and directed me to the reception desk, “Do you have a reservation sir” the receptionist asked, “I honestly don’t know I believe my company IDC has a room reserved for incoming employees, a mister Salah was to meet me at the airport but never arrived” I gave her my name and passport, she then confirmed that I was indeed booked into room two four five she also knew Salah “this happens every time, he is a lazy man and will not get out of bed please report him to your manager” with my patience slowly disappearing, if Salah turns up now I will gladly toss him in the Nile which visible from the hotel,

Never mind I have arrived in Cairo at the hotel and my bed awaits, “would you like a meal sent to your room sir if so you can call room service and order from the menu” she said, I had altered my watch to local time, it was 4 am, the paper work I received in London stated that Salah would be in touch with me the day after I arrived as this would give me a day to rest, who the hell is this Salah the company must rely on him as a local liaison officer or something, when we eventually meet I have a few words I want to say to him,

“I will have somebody take your cases up to your room” the receptionist said, but Mamoud had other ideas “The Mr Tom,” this is what he called me, “only has one bag, and I am in charge of it I will carry it to his room” I had to agree otherwise it may have turned physical,

I had asked the receptionist “what I should give Mamoud as a tip”, “normally drivers receive less than a pound tip from the airport” she replied, this was a lot less than I expected, so I offered him two pounds, this may have been a mistake because he insisted on calling for me the next day<sorry later on in the afternoon>I still wanted to go to bed, Mamoud was such an inoffensive likeable character I decided to use him whenever I needed a taxi which was quite often,

he was so reliable and he spoke fairly good English so whenever Carol needed a cab she would use him,

Stepping into my room two four five of the Hilton Hotel was like entering another world for me I had never seen such luxury, so different from the two up and two down terraced house in Liverpool where seven members of our family shared, I remember being very tired and the bed looked so inviting but I also needed something to eat, I decided to shower then order room service, then sleep for a couple of hours, I had been asleep for a short while when the Local alarm clock went off or so I thought, this horrible wailing sound as though it was coming through the walls, what the hell is that thought, I later found out it was the local Mullah in his little tower using mega speakers, calling the Muslim’s to prayer, this is a regular occurrence as I was in their country, it was their

custom so I had better get used to it, during the years I worked in the middle east Egypt was the least radical of all the other middle eastern countries and to be truthful I enjoyed working there,

After an amazing meal in the hotel's restaurant I was still waiting for the elusive Salah of which there was no sign, so I decided to take a little walk outside of the hotel, "Mr Tom, Mr Tom" I heard my name being called, it would be too much of a coincidence for any other person named Tom on the steps of the Hilton, and there he was Mahmoud the taxi "you come to my house now I have waited for you" god only knows how long he had been there, " alright Mahmoud" this man was haunting me there was no sign of Salah so I thought why not make use of him, I asked him to accompany me back to the foyer where I gave the IDC company address to the receptionist she then spoke to Mahmoud, and then informed me this was the former residence of Princess Fatma, relative of ex-King Farouk of Egypt, and the driver knew it well,

"But will you meet with my family first" Mahmoud said, this man was starting to drive me nuts, "Tell you what, I will use your taxi all day but first you must take me to the office and let me sort my business affairs then I will meet your family then you can show me around Cairo" this seemed to meet with his approval there was still no sign of Salah,

That drive to the office was something I will remember forever, any person who has driven around Cairo will understand avoiding donkey carts, boys pedalling bikes with bread stacked high on their heads, others with goat carcasses on the crossbar of their bikes going to market, camels pulling carts, I even saw a Rolls Royce silver ghost with the back converted so that a hand operated crane was fitted <what a waste> the drive took me to the Corniche this was the road alongside the river Nile, then we drove through a tunnel that went underneath the Nile, this was the same tunnel were a number of protesters were shot by the militia, and also the daughter of a friend of mine was run over and killed by a local bus and left on the roadside for two days covered with newspapers ,I will give details of those incidents in later issues,

Mahmoud must have felt very important driving through the ex-palace gates and the security man saluting his dusty old taxi, I was expecting to see a huge residence like our English palaces so I was a little disappointed, when it looked like a large English style Mansion with a large courtyard and double gates still it was fairly impressive building to be used as an office for the company,

I asked Mahmoud to return for me in two hours "no no I will wait for you to finish your business" he replied, he must have plenty of time on his hands, "ok as you wish" so I left him talking to the guard then entered the building, as I approached the desk which may have belonged to the Princess it looked very old, on this desk was the name Mr Salah, at last the elusive Scarlet Pimpernel, and here he was dressed in a suit wearing a tie and looking very important, after a few choice words in his ear, he asked me to tell Mr G Henderson who was the divisional manager that he met me at the airport and took me to the Hilton, why I agreed I don't know but anyway he was pleased that I agreed, we later became friends <sort of> and was a great help when Carol moved to Cyprus I will explain in later issues, anyway he accompanied me up the grand staircase and into the office of Mr Henderson, "sit down son, you must be Tom Nicholson, our new Deck supervisor" then he picked up his phone and said "Salah bring some beer up" he sounded very sharp and abrupt, surprise must have shown on my face " I have to speak like that to Salah otherwise he takes advantage of my good nature and will start telling me what to do, did he meet you at the airport this morning Tom? If he did it will be the first time, he probably asked you to tell me he did" what could I say "yes Mr Henderson he did" I replied "never mind we both know different don't we, Salah where is that bloody beer" he shouted through the open doorway, this should give you some idea of how the office in Cairo was run,

The twelve pack of ice cold Stella beer that he placed on the desk would not last long in this heat "help yourself and let's get down to business" he had my work history sent from the London office in his hand, Did Vicki in London explain your job description"? He said, "she did but was very vague about it" I replied, "whatever she told you, forget it as she has no idea what goes on in this division but I must say you are better working here than our Nigerian division at least the locals here do not hold drilling personnel for ransom" this was starting to sound interesting what the hell have let myself in for I thought, after a couple more beers he told me about the rig and the crew I

would be in charge of,

“First of all there is no rig as such, part of it is on the sea bed in the Gulf of Suez” what could I say to an opening statement like that, so I let him continue, “let me explain, the rig you will be working on used to be named the :Aquarius: <oddly enough this is my birth sign> This was a three legged Jack up rig working in the Gulf, the rig had been on location for three weeks when the formation underneath one of the legs collapsed causing the rig to tilt, the derrick then skidded off the barge and the whole lot turned upside down, have another beer Tom you look like you need it, when you fly out to Rash a Khir <I think it is spelt like that ,it’s been a long time> this is a small port or dock in the Gulf, you will see a jack leg showing above the water, that was the Aquarius, sadly there was a loss of eight personnel, but the survivors were compensated and given a job for life” “will I be working with any of these survivors” I asked, “yes but there is only one who wanted to go offshore again we call him is Shorty, this guy is about four foot six<see him in the Photo> he was found after a day and a half clinging to an empty oil drum floating in the Gulf. And remember there are more sharks in these waters than any else, so you can imagine the state he was in when he was picked up, yet he still wanted to work offshore, we gave him a job as a motor man oiling and cleaning the engines, you will meet him when you go out”,

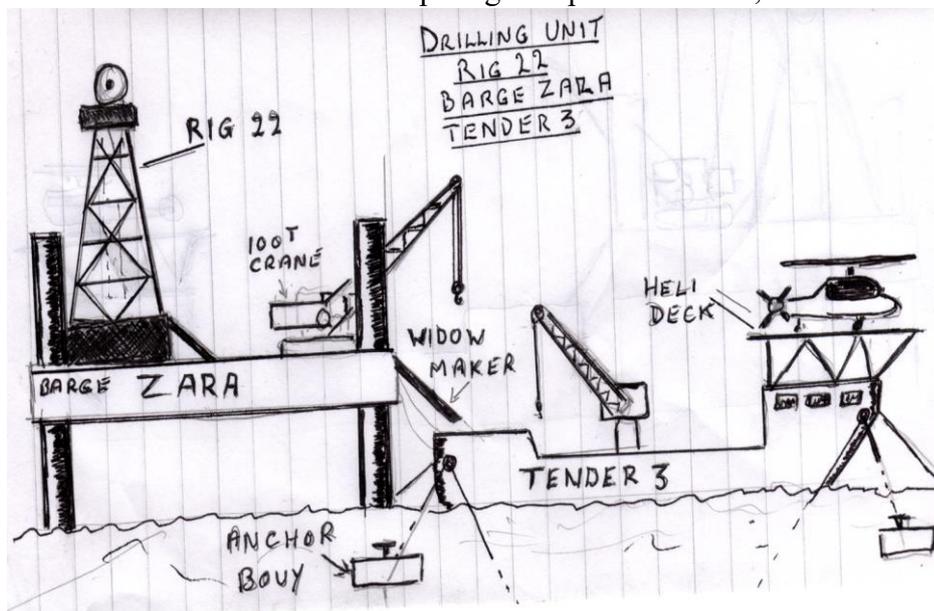
“We have salvaged everything except the barge the one with the jack legs showing above the water, so until the rig is ready for drilling you will be in charge of the cranes and all the labour this includes casual workers from local villages” and the rig will be named Jubilee 1 the barge that carries it is called Tender 3, Is there any questions you would like to ask me”? Yep I thought when is the next flight back to London, but did not say it I had made my bed and decided to sleep in it, “what is the living arrangements while all this work is going on”? “there are cabins on the tender, a little rough but liveable as you will find out”

“ok I am looking forward to the experience let’s go for it” Gus he had asked me to call him by his first name, seemed to be satisfied with my attitude said “great to have you on board Tom, and hope to meet your family when they come over, you are not expected on the rig for three day’s so you are booked in our room in the Hilton, it will give you time to look around Cairo I will get Salah to drive you” “no thanks” I replied if its ok with you I have Mahmoud the taxi outside I will use him” “no problem retain him until you fly out and give me the bill” we had some more beer then shook hands then I went and told Mahmoud the news you thought he had just won the lottery the way he smiled, “now Mahmoud let’s meet your family” the drive was like a magical mystery tour in and out of alley ways down side streets, adobe houses made from clay bricks until we stopped outside his home, his wife and three children must have been expecting me, “sit sit please Mr Tom” I would, if there had been a chair of some sort, so sitting on the carpet like Ali Baba I was served with chai <tea> and different kinds of cake very sweet and sickly, his family were the nicest people you would wish to meet, who would have thought a lad from the streets of Liverpool would be sitting on a carpet being entertained by an Egyptian family and treated like royalty, they were only a normal working class family like myself, I could go on for ages talking about the three day, s been driven around the Souks and bizarre markets with Mahmoud the taxi, but I will do that at a later date,



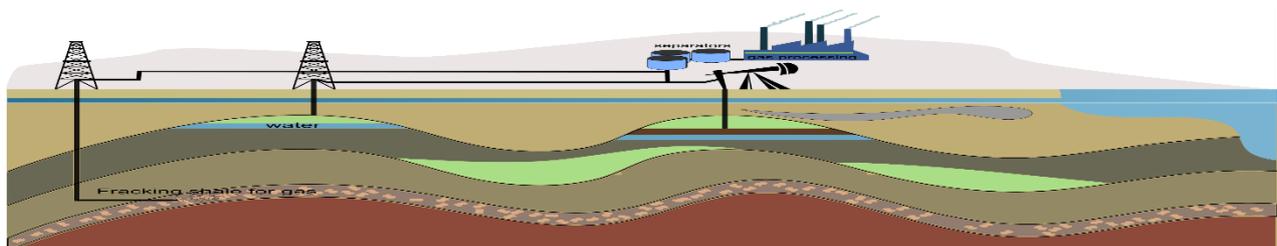
you can see Shorty in the above photo, the American on the left is Willie Johnston, from Montana

he lived in Cairo with an Egyptian lady only known as “Humdinger” so named because no one could pronounce her name, they had two kids together, he left them behind when his contract ended, the other American is Luke Ussery we became a good friends, the man sitting down at the front was the rig welder, I cannot remember his name now, nearly all of the roustabouts <labourers> and roughnecks <the men who worked on the rig floor> came from local villages, the photo above shows my 100ton crane on the deck of the barge “Zara ”this is being towed by two supply boats, these boats sailed from New Orleans and based in the Gulf, this drilling unit came in three sections, the Zara was jacked up to drilling depth the rig22 was erected on the barge I will explain in the next issue how this was done, so we have the barge with the rig on, but there was no room for living accommodation or storing drill pipe or chemicals etc., so we had a 1940s ship that was used during WW2 as a floating hospital, this was converted into living quarters and drilling equipment with a small 25ton crane on the deck, the whole unit was called a tender, so we have a Tender assisted drilling rig, I have no photo of the complete drilling unit and not being the best of artists this may give you an Idea of what it looks like, I imagine all the units in the Gulf are scrapped now, but they still use similar units called swamp barges in parts of Africa,



But I am getting ahead of myself let us go back to the airport I had arranged for Mahmoud the taxi to meet me at the hotel then take me to the domestic air strip where I was the only passenger booked on the plane, the plane was a fixed wing propeller Dakota <DC 3>this was used in Vietnam the guns had been removed <thank god< but the only seats available were wooded benches either side with waist seatbelts obviously the pilot and co-pilot were American, the flight and the landing strip is another story for the next issue,

to be continued





CHRISTMAS FAYRE

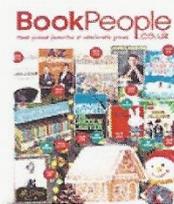
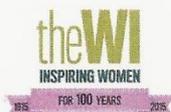
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Hospis Tŷr Eos



THE EGGMAN

© James Maloney

Chapter 6

Martin's House

As the donkey cart approached the Cassidy house Tom could see the brown paint on the slightly ajar door peeling like tears which gave the house a sad appearance, as if it too was sorry to see young Martin leave.

Tom's nose soon sensed the delicious aroma of cooking drifting into the street, making him wish he'd been able to eat a more substantial breakfast.

(The night before, Martin, Tom and a few friends had had what is known in Ireland as an 'American Wake'¹ at Campbell's Bar...Tom was still feeling the effects.)

Martin emerged from the dimly lit interior closely followed by his father carrying a bulging canvas bag placing it carefully between the egg boxes before greeting Tom with a weak smile.

'Now would be a good time to check the boxes again,' Tom thought inspecting the tailgate and ropes at the back of the cart.

When Martin took his place alongside at the front of the cart Tom could see from his pained expression it was a difficult time for the family. Just as they were about to leave his mother appeared at the door dabbing teary eyes with her apron. His ageing mother who found it hard to accept that her youngest, her baby was leaving home to live in a far off place, even though almost every family in the town has a son or daughter living away.

Martin jumped down stooped over his mother's diminutive form his arms holding her tight, with glassy eyes he said, 'don't be frettin ma, I **will** write, and send some money as soon as I can.'

Tim Martin's father stepped forward putting his hand on his shoulder and in a low voice said...as he had said to his other children before they left home, 'Good luck son look after yourself don't forget to write. Don't forget the letter she gave you for your sister and tell her to keep writing it's a great comfort to your mother.'

'Yes da, I won't forget, don't worry, I'll write as soon as I'm settled.'

Martin looked back waving to his parents with a tear in his eye until the cart turned the corner into Main Street and kept looking back even though they were out of sight.

The town was beginning to come alive. The smell of freshly cooked food mingling with smoke from newly ignited turf confused Tom's senses, making him feel hungry and queasy at the same time.

Familiar faces appeared in the low doorways of the simple grass-thatched cottages lining the street.

A pungent earthy odour wafted under their noses as a black-shawled woman crossed the road with a steel shovel at arm's length carrying a wad of glowing turf to re-ignite the dying embers in a neighbour's hearth.

¹ *An American Wake is held to celebrate a friend or family member immigrating to America.*

A pause to allow a barefoot girl to pass as she drives a large gaggle of geese into town. Henry Meagher once ramrod straight, now in his seventies; his back bowed like the few trees that survive the wind-swept slopes of Croagh Patrick is arranging galvanised baths, buckets and pans and along the narrow walkway in front of his hardware shop. Every few yards Tom had to pull back on the reins, to allow friends to wish Martin (a popular character in the town) a safe journey or some other blessing. Some chided Tom with 'your turn next,' or, 'when are you leaving us.' Tom replied with 'one day perhaps or I'll go when you go'. A few minutes later the boys were heading back to the Lockan crossroads with. 'Good luck, safe journey Martin,' still ringing in his ears. Apart from a farmer walking his horses from the fields for another day of toil, they had the road to themselves. Tom realised that this would be a difficult journey for his friend sitting next to him staring blankly at nothing in particular. Tom decided it was wiser to leave him to his thoughts...leaving Ballingar his parents and all the people he had grown up with.

'They're on their own now' Martin said breaking the silence.

'If things work out I'll make enough money to pay for tickets to join me, that's if I can persuade them to leave Ballingar', he added.

More silence then, 'Oh yes I almost forgot, I've a letter from Father Quinn to Father Byrne in Castlebar it's on our way, hope you don't mind stopping?'

A few minutes later.

'Campbell's bar was good craic last night, you made the most of your last night in town!' Tom said changing the subject. 'The boys gave you a send off to remember, my ribs are sore with laughing and my head hurts like hell,' Tom said trying to hold his ribs, his head, and the reins at the same time.

There was little reaction from Martin apart from a slight nod.

He was still thinking about what he was leaving behind, his ageing parents, his brother, and everything he was most familiar with, the future was uncertain, and exciting at the same time.

The leisurely pace along the quiet road lulled Tom into a false sense of security until he almost fell off the cart when one of the wheels found an extra deep hole in the road.

Using the reins to save himself he pulled so hard it caused the straining donkey to emit a loud rasping noise followed by gas that made them cover their faces.

That did it.

That broke the spell.

'The flippin donkey farted,' Martin said as the boys laughed with their hands over their faces.

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Odd Job John

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LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Williams, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)
Councillor G. Sherwood, Vice-Chairman
Councillors J. Atkinson, D.K. Crowther, Terry Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, D. Rule and J.E. Saul.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds - Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Caruana and K. McCallum JP.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

POLICE LIAISON

PCSO 3461 Poppy Hadfield-Jones circulated all members with a report of incidences in the Community. These details are as follows: -

10th July - County Road - Common Assault (neighbourhood dispute)

12th July - Common Assault (domestic) - this issue will not affect anyone else

1st August - Theft (dispute of ownership) re panels of fencing

2nd August - BOTD (arrest, lack of evidence)

13th August - Bryn Clyd - criminal damage/burglary - no clarification of what items were missing

15th August - Co-Op Store - shoplifting - this had been detected

16th August - Co-Op Store - shoplifting - undetected

17th August - Maxwell Drive - criminal damage - this was in hand - there had been quite significant damage over an extensive period of time

View, Pontblyddyn - theft of two front wheels of a vehicle. The victim of the theft had a heart attack after this happened. Alyn

PCSO Hadfield-Jones advised that cameras are fitted in areas where a significant burglary has taken place or victims are routinely targeted. Enquiry was made as to whether these cameras were in situ permanently. This is not the case - for approximately four to six weeks. Residents of the property are offered an opportunity to purchase the camera at a cost of £112.

Reference was made to the plans for the Remembrance Sunday service. This year the service was to take place at the English Methodist Church and the laying of wreaths was to take place at the Cenotaph on Bells Corner, Leeswood first then a bus was to take those attending to Christ Church, Pontblyddyn, in order that wreaths could be laid at the lychgate memorial. It was observed that in recent years there had not been a Police presence to control traffic, especially on the main road in Pontblyddyn. Chief Inspector Sharon McCairn asked if a copy of the itinerary could be sent to PCSO Hadfield-Jones.

PCSO Hadfield-Jones advised that posters would be given to the elderly for Hallowe'en. These could be put up on the front doors stating 'Yes welcome' or 'No please don't knock'.

MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2015 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor C.E. Jones JP and seconded by Councillor G. Sherwood that the minutes of the monthly meeting be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

VACANCY FOR A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

This matter is ongoing.

ACQUISITION OF LAND - CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

There had been no further information as to the progress of this matter.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number 054046

First Floor extension and alterations to dwelling and erection of garage.
15 County Road, Leeswood, Mold, CH7 4RF.

All in agreement that no observations were made.

PLANNING NOTIFICATIONS

Application Number 053621

Appeal Reference Number APP/A6835/A/15/3129436

Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey, single storey and first floor extensions.
Station House, Alyn Lane, Llong, Mold, CH7 4JR.

An appeal has been made to the Planning Inspectorate following the REFUSAL of planning permission. This is to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written representations and a site visit by an Inspector.

PLANNING DECISIONS

There was no notification of any planning decisions.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There was no further information available on this matter.

HANSON HEIDELBERG LIAISON COMMITTEE

In the absence of Councillor J. Caruana, there was no report.

BIG BUDGET CONVERSATION/COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER/S

No further information had been received.

ONE VOICE WALES - MOTIONS FOR AGM SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2015

Correspondence has been received from Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales regarding the motions for the AGM being held on Saturday 3rd October 2015. Agreed that this be accepted.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITIONS

A report following the judging of the Best Kept Village Competitions has been received from Flintshire County Council. Suggestions made was that a map be enclosed in future to highlight areas within the community of note, that more narrative is supplied when advising of improvements made in the community and that the sheltered housing accommodation estate is separated into two applications. Agreed that these comments be noted and the correspondence accepted.

MOVEMENT OF 30MPH SIGNAGE AT STRYT CAE RHEDYN

The movement of the 30mph signage at Stryt Cae Rhedyn is of low priority as there had been no accidents reported in the area. If the Community Council were prepared to consider match funding then it could be done within eight to ten weeks, otherwise it was on the list of works to be carried out in due course. The cost of the match funding is likely to be in the region of £3,000 which would be shared between Flintshire County Council and this Council. Observation was made that there was insufficient sight distance of that sign to reduce speed. Comment was made that it was unlikely to stop speeding if the sign was relocated.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

- a) Yellow lines are to be painted on the left hand side of the junction between Bryn Clyd and King Street.
- b) On Leeswood Hill the Leeswood sign is to be relocated from the bottom of the hill to the verge coming up the hill just beyond B.E. Davies Coaches yard. A Pontybodkin sign will also be erected.
- c) In 2016 bungalows are to be built in the area at the rear of Maes-y-Meillion, Leeswood.
- d) A street light was out by the factory on the Pontybodkin Hill. This would be attended to.
- e) Councillor R. Hughes thanked everyone for supporting his Just Desserts fundraising afternoon.

MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

- a) **Cemetery, Pontblyddyn** - There was an issue with litter and Councillors agreed that erecting an official sign stating 'Please put your rubbish in the bins provided' should be given consideration.
- b) **Arriva Bus Service** - A complaint had been received regarding the Arriva Bus Service not going around the Bryn Clyd/Heol-y-Goron estate as per the timetable. This had caused distress as someone had been waiting for the bus to attend a hospital appointment. A member advised that he had walked to the main bus route for a bus but it had not turned up. He had complained to Flintshire County Council who were going to send for a taxi on his behalf and also cover the cost of this. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Arriva Wales at Wrexham to request that they attend a meeting of this Council and at the same time advising that someone from this Council would be prepared to meet with a representative of Arriva Wales to travel around the route. The Clerk stated that she had written to Arriva Wales at Wrexham on two separate occasions and neither letter had received a reply. A member offered to call in at the Arriva Wales Wrexham Depot to see the manager and advise him of this.
- c) **Dog Fouling in the Community** - It was pointed out that there was a lot of dog fouling in the Community, in particular, in the area of Phoenix Park. Observation was made that there was a lot of dog walking in the dark. The Clerk concurred with this stating that she was aware of this activity especially due to the evidence of torch light on the area of Phoenix Park late at night.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Flintshire County Council** - request from the Assistants to Councillor Ray Hughes, Chairman of the Council, as to whether the Community Council would consider giving financial assistance towards his fundraising Charity events. It was proposed by Councillor C.E. Jones JP and seconded by Councillor J. Atkinson that a donation of £100 be made. All Councillors in agreement.

PONTBLYDDYN SERVICE STATION

PONTBLYDDYN SERVICE STATION

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service station

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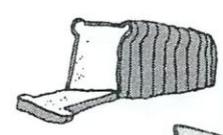


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