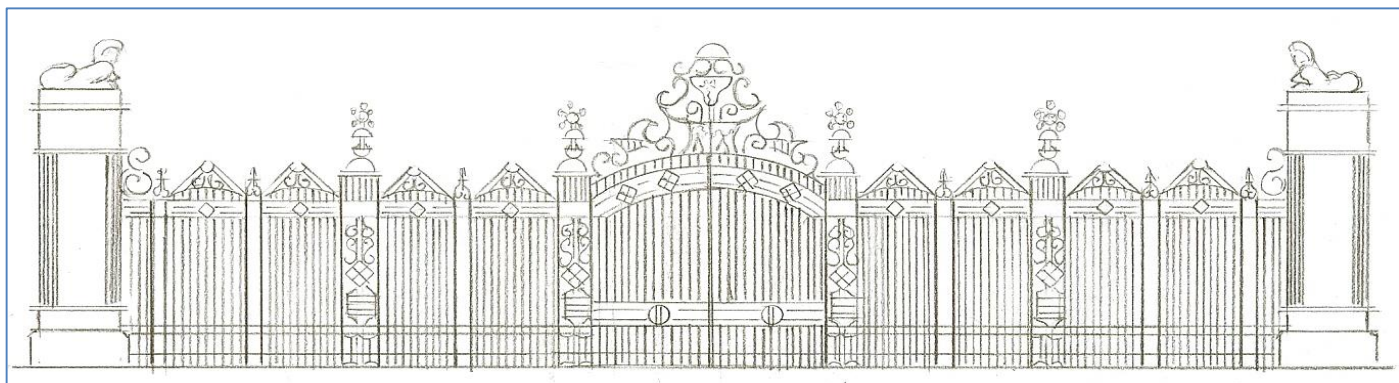




Leeswood & District News



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DECEMBER 2015
JANUARY 2016

ISSUE 346

FREE

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR



Articles Notices
Charity Events

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

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jlincoln@btinternet.com

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EDITORIAL

There will be no edition for January 2016 due to the holidays. The next one will be February 2016.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our volunteers, the publication would not get distributed without you!! Also to the people that print it, Margaret that does a great job of looking after the advertisers – but mainly to ALL our contributors that make the publication what it is. How about making 2016, the year more of our clubs and societies contribute – I will be tracking you down in the next couple of months, so be warned.

Just leaves me to say: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all – keep safe, keep warm and be kind to one another.

June

**PONTYBODKIN
LADIES GUILD LUNCH**



CHRISTMAS DINNER
17th December – 12 -1.30pm

Turkey Dinner / Christmas Pudding /
Glass of Wine.



£6.00



Contact Mrs Anne Davies – 01352 771514
If you have not put your name down
already.

Leeswood Community Centre

THURSDAY 21st JANUARY

Two courses plus
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Proceeds to local charities.

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**CHURCHES
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DISTRICT
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES
2015**

**A WARM
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AT ALL OF OUR
CHURCHES**

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

'Among the Christmas Trees'
10.45am at Leeswood Methodist Church

'Christmas Treasure Hunt' —
family worship and prize giving
4.00pm at Leeswood Methodist Church

**SATURDAY 12TH &
SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER**

Open Weekend at Christ Church
(11.00am – 4.00pm)

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER

'Chaotic Carols',
featuring the choir of Ysgol Derwenfa
4.00pm at Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER

Christmas Service
10.30am Cedron Congregational Church,
Pontybodkin

Carol Service for all the family,
featuring Bethania Puppets
4.00pm at Bethania Church, County Road

**CHRISTMAS EVE
24TH DECEMBER**

Churches Together Crib Service
3.30pm at Leeswood Methodist Church

Midnight Mass
11.00pm at Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

**CHRISTMAS DAY
25TH DECEMBER**

Christmas Morning All Age Service
10.30am at Bethania Church,
County Road

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Coffee, Cake and Carols Family Service
10.45am at Leeswood Methodist Church



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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

Sunday 20th December

4.00 pm Carol Service for all the family, featuring Bethania Puppets

Christmas Day 25th December

10.30am Christmas Morning All Age Service

It’s a Wonderful Life

I love watching old films. One of my favourites is the 1946 Christmas classic “It’s a Wonderful Life” directed by Frank Capra and starring James Stewart. It tells the story of family man George Bailey who gets into severe financial difficulties. He hits rock bottom and contemplates ending it all. But he is rescued by his guardian angel, Clarence, who shows him what life would have been like – and how much poorer for everyone else – had he never been born. The film is based on a short story originally entitled, “The Greatest Gift”. It has a very simple moral message: the greatest gift is the gift of life itself.



At Christmas we exchange all kinds of gifts with family and friends. The Christian message is that the greatest gift of all is God’s gift to the world of his only Son, Jesus.

Born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, Jesus came to share a new kind of life with the world – a life immersed in God’s love. He came to help us live lives that make a difference and enrich others. He said, **‘I came to give life with joy and abundance.’ (John 10:10 The Voice translation)**

We all know that life can be far from ‘wonderful’. But my deepest conviction is that, through good times and bad, our lives are made fuller and richer as we are guided by the teaching, example and living presence of Jesus Christ.

Do check out the film ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’. And why not go to church this Christmas and open your life to the Greatest Gift of All.

God bless,

Rev. James

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

Website – www.bethanialeeswood.org

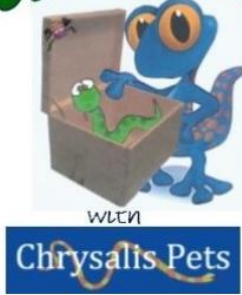
Phone Rob 01352 771607 or Rev. James 07711 034020



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OPEN WEEKEND

Sat 12th & Sun 13th December.

11.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Christ Church will be open
& light refreshments served.

Sunday 13th December

4.00 p.m. CHAOTIC CAROLS
with the choir of Ysgol Derwenfa
+++++

The Rt Rev'd Dr Gregory Cameron
Bishop of St Asaph
will join us for

A Celebration of Rededication and
Thanksgiving for 180 years of witness,
which will be held in the early part of 2016.

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2008

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS BROUGHT
UP IN A STABLE HOME



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IN CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN

30TH JANUARY 2016

10.30 A.M. – 12 NOON

The Vicar will be available if you wish to speak to her on Church Business or alternatively please contact her to make an appointment. Contact details below.

CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

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

Phone: 01978 762304

Email: cc.sm@btinternet.com

CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN SERVICES

DECEMBER 2015 & JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER: ADVENT 2

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER: ADVENT III

4.00 P.M. CHAOTIC CAROLS

WITH THE CHOIR OF YSGOL DERWENFA

OFFICIANT: REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER: ADVENT IV

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLD

Christmas Eve. 24th December

11.00 pm Midnight Mass

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 27TH DECEMBER: 1ST OF CHRISTMAS

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

SUNDAY 3RD JANUARY: 2ND OF CHRISTMAS

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: TBA

SUNDAY 10TH JANUARY: BAPTISM OF CHRIST

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 17TH JANUARY: 2ND OF EPIPHANY

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLD

SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY: 3RD OF EPIPHANY

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 31ST JANUARY: 4TH OF EPIPHANY

9.30 A.M. JOINT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

FOR THE CONGREGATIONS OF ALL THREE PARISHES,

IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, TREUDDYN

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY: NEXT BEFORE LENT

SERVICE TO BE ARRANGED

EVERYONE WELCOME

facebook Further News Updates about church and community events can be found on the Christ Church Facebook page, and the Leeswood News Facebook page.



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Of Kissing Boughs and Christmas Trees.



Kissing under the mistletoe



Mistletoe is an incredibly interesting plant in both how it survives and the vast amount of legend and folklore that surrounds it. It is usually found as a parasitic plant, growing on the branches or trunk of a tree, most often apple but occasionally oak, it sends out roots that penetrate into the bark in order to take up nutrients. From the earliest times mistletoe has been regarded as a magical and sacred plant in European culture being thought to give protection against poison, grant life and fertility, and be a mild aphrodisiac.

Some say the custom of kissing under the mistletoe derives from a Norse myth which decreed that no harm should befall anyone standing beneath this plant and that they should receive only tokens of affection. In Scandinavia mistletoe was seen as a way of making peace between enemies or for fighting spouses to kiss and make up.

Bringing mistletoe into the home is the survival of traditions from the ancient Celtic Druids, the Greeks and many other pre-Christian cultures. In the Middle Ages and later, mistletoe was hung above the entrances to doors, stables and from the ceiling to prevent witches and other evil spirits from entering the home.

Some say that the traditions of kissing under the mistletoe can be traced back to the Greek festival of Saturnalia and later with primitive marriage rites in the belief that it could bestow fertility.

In the late eighteenth century the kissing ball, a ball of mistletoe, evergreens, ribbons, and ornaments would be hung up and any young lady who stood underneath it could not refuse to be kissed. If the lady received a kiss it could blossom into a deep romance or a long lasting friendship. However if the lady did not receive a kiss she could expect not to marry the following year.



Holly Boughs

In late medieval England holly was also used to construct a kissing bough. It would be in the form of a crown and decorated with fruit, candles and coloured paper streamers, it might also have mistletoe entwined around the stems. The holly wreath that we hang from our front



doors is a remnant of this custom. Both pagan and Christian societies would also use scented evergreens as part of their Christmas decorations these would include juniper, bay and rosemary. These are all making something of a comeback, together with pine cones and baubles they can be woven into wonderfully scented wreaths or garlands to decorate our homes.

Holly has Christian symbolism in that the prickly leaves are associated with Jesus' Crown of Thorns, and the red berries are drops of blood. But it is also important in Celtic mythology where a Holly King was said to rule from the summer to the winter Solstice. A strong man would be selected to wear branches of holly and he would have a holly club, this is possibly the same source as both The Green Man and the Green Knight of Arthurian legend. From Roman times it was believed that the prickly holly leaves would guard against evil spirits and malevolent faeries.

Christmas Trees

Holly was also once the tree of choice for Christmas. The tree would be brought into the house and decorated on Christmas Eve with bows, and then, together with any other seasonal decorations, would be taken down on Twelfth Night. To take them down any earlier was



considered unlucky. Holly decorations however would be kept until the eve of Candlemas (February 2nd) or even until Shrove Tuesday when it was used as fuel for cooking the pancakes.

The fir tree, or Norway spruce, as a Christmas tree, originated as far back as the C16 in Strasburg and would be hung with paper flowers, sweets, apples and gold foil, from here it spread to many other parts of Europe and was introduced to this country in the early 1800's by German merchants. By the 1840's an illustration of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and family gathered around a fir tree at Windsor Castle made it a desirable addition to every home for Christmas although only the wealthy families could afford to buy one.

Since late Victorian times lights were added to the decorations on the tree, originating in the USA around the time that Thomas Edison invented the light bulb.

So America can be blamed for the excess of Christmas illumination we sometimes see nowadays.



And of course the most important part of decorating the tree is the fairy on the top. Although it is not really supposed to be a fairy but an angel, the Angel of the Lord that came down to tell the shepherds of the birth of Christ. Or sometimes there may be a beautiful large golden or silver star, sparkling from the topmost branches, the guiding Star of Bethlehem.

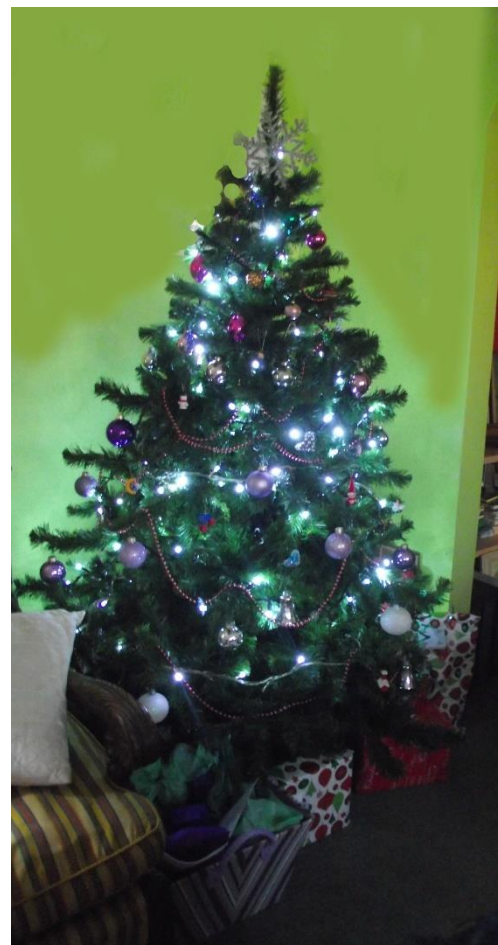


*Merry
Christmas
Everyone*

POST SCRIPT

I can remember my father going into the local woods every Christmas and coming back with a holly tree. This was in the 1950's and had been the tradition in our family for many years. I would sometimes accompany him and help to carry the prickly bush home where it would be placed into a bucket and wedged upright with rocks and bricks to keep it steady. The tub would then be wrapped in red and green crepe paper which would also be tied into a large bow fixed to the front. Once set up the tree would be decorated with glass baubles, paper chains and tinsel and have clip-on metal candle holders attached to the tips of the branches. These held small decorative, twisted candles that I seem to remember lasted for many years – although I think we did light them at some stage. The potential fire hazard doesn't bear thinking about.

By the sixties we had caught up with modern trends and had fir trees ! KVR



NEIL'S DRIVING SCHOOL

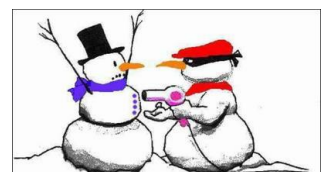
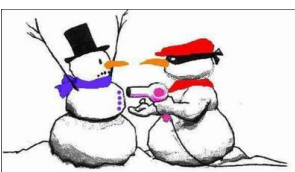


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and when I'm sad.

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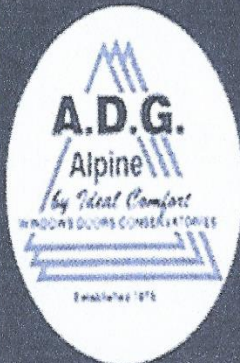
I trifle with it when I'm not hungry

And drink it when I am.

Otherwise, I never touch it

-unless I'm thirsty

- Lily Bollinger



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The Animal Kingdom at Bethania Church



This autumn half-term, Bethania Church hosted its annual children's holiday club. About 30 children from Leeswood village and beyond enjoyed themselves through games, singing, craft activities and stories.

On the Tuesday we were joined by June and Billy Lincoln from *Animals Out the Box*. They brought with them various lizards, snakes, spiders, rodents, and a very cuddly raccoon dog for the children to see, hear about and handle. It was amazing how interested the children were, and how brave they were in handling the creatures (all under careful supervision, of course).



Through Animal Kingdom, we wanted to convey to the children that God loves his creation and that we should cherish the good earth and all animals God has made. That also includes caring properly for our pets and treating other people with kindness and respect.

On the Sunday we had a great celebration service with the amazing Bethania puppets and heard the tale of Archie the rabbit, who made a live appearance.

We can't wait till next year!

Ranger Jim and Ranger Rob
Bethania Church



Trek to Machu Picchu

Rebeca Lucy (Granddaughter of Don & Mildred Heyward)

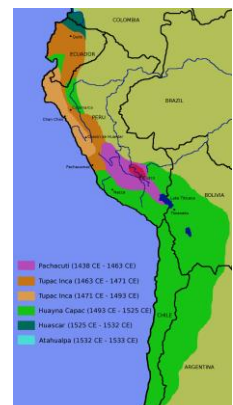
This August, thirty-one students from Exeter University including myself were lucky enough to venture to South America, and endure a five-day trek through The Andes to reach the lost Inca City, Machu Picchu. We faced this challenge with the determination to raise £93,000 for Worldwide Cancer Research and I can proudly say this is a mission we accomplished. This was made possible by the amazing generosity not only of my friends and family, but also from the general public and wonderful companies, including the Leeswood News (who graciously donated £200 to our cause).



Worldwide Cancer Research is an incredible charity which funds research into all types of cancer anywhere in the world. The charity works with specialists across the world and has so far funded 1,695 research projects in 34 countries. As we now know cancer affects approximately one in three people in the UK so I needn't stress just how important charities like Worldwide Cancer Research are.

The trek to Machu Picchu was the most physically demanding yet rewarding experience I have ever had the privilege of undertaking. For five days we hiked through jungle trails and across glaciers, whilst sleeping in the wilderness with no technology or hot showers! Many of us battled with altitude sickness and sore muscles, but on the sixth day: when we finally reached Machu Picchu, a true wonder of the world, it was all made worth it knowing we had completed this challenge and at the same time, raised an incredible amount of money for such a worthwhile charity.

To find out more about exactly what this wonderful charity does please visit: www.worldwidecancerresearch.org



Rebeca Lucy at Machu Picchu



Rebeca Lucy at Machu Picchu

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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 6th OCTOBER 2015.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Williams, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)

Councillor G. Sherwood, Vice-Chairman

Councillors J. Caruana, D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, K. McCallum
JP, D. Rule, J.E. Saul.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds - Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Atkinson and Terry Hughes.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST - MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr A. Roberts of Flintshire County Council was present at the meeting. Mr Roberts advised that the Unitary Development Plan expires at the end of 2015. However, this would stay in place until the new Local Development Plan is in place which could be two to three years away. The Unitary Development Plan had been written behind closed doors, this time it is different. Expressions of interest for areas to be developed have been invited across Flintshire. These areas, known as Candidate Sites, may or may not be owned by the individual submitting the expression of interest. Almost 800 Candidate Sites across the county had been submitted to Flintshire County Council. The next stage is the filtering process, Candidate Sites will be looked at with regard to planning criteria, also if these sites matched any already included in the Unitary Development Plan. Amenity areas, play areas and green spaces may already be designated as such in the current Unitary Development Plan. This new Local Development Plan will last up until 2030, it would be necessary to estimate what level of growth may be suitable for the community of Leeswood. Comment was made that one of the Candidate Sites was an area of the community that has already had planning permission refused, query raised as to why this area was included. Mr Roberts informed that these sites were not chosen by the County Council but submissions from the public, however, previous refusal is important in planning history. Observation was made that none of the sites that were partly developed or already had planning permission had been included with the candidate sites. Mr Roberts stated that he would look at the areas already committed in regard to planning and forward the details to the Clerk. The Chairman, Councillor R. Williams, thanked Mr Roberts for attending the meeting.

MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 1st September 2015 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor D.K. Crowther and seconded by Councillor C.E. Jones JP that the minutes of the monthly meeting be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA)

Referring to Minute 121 a) of the September meeting, it was advised that yellow lines at the junction of Bryn Clyd and King Street had been requested, no permission for these had been given yet.

INCLUSION OF COUNCILLORS NAMES IN THE MINUTES

It was agreed that Councillors names would no longer be included in the Council's minutes. However, the names of proposers and seconders would be included.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number 054190

Erection of extension to side of dwelling and extension to garage.

The Trees, Oak Park, Leeswood, CH7 4UH.

There was no objection to this application.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Application Number 053717

Demolition of existing garage and erection of triple replacement garage, single storey extension to rear and porch extension.

The Old Barn, Padeswood Lake Road, Padeswood, Mold, CH7 4HZ.

This has been approved by delegated officer.

Application Number 054046

First Floor extension and alterations to dwelling and erection of garage.

15 County Road, Leeswood, Mold, CH7 4RF.

This has been approved by delegated officer.

HANSON HEIDELBERG LIAISON COMMITTEE

At present, the Padeswood Plant of Hanson Heidelberg is burning scrap paper, this paper being on its last life cycle where it cannot be used for anything else. The heat exchanger is continually being improved. If other materials are intended to be burned then National Resources Wales will be informed. Query was raised if it was likely that tyres would be burned? Tyres are in short supply for incineration - there is no indication that these will be used in the foreseeable future. The bagging system is no automated and the bags are now plastic.

A request was made for the Council to visit the Plant - Councillor J. Caruana stated that he would organise this.

NOXIOUS SMELL IN THE COMMUNITY

Once again a noxious smell had been noticed in Pontblyddyn in the area from Rose Cottage, Tai Bowen to the Riding School/Alyn Bank Farm. It was pointed out that this could be related to land. The Clerk stated that this appeared to be a seasonal smell as it had been noticed at the same time of the year previously. Investigation was to be made with residents in the area.

BIG BUDGET/COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFERS

Notification of Free One Day Training on Tuesday 20th October 2015 between 10am and 3pm at FLVC, Corlan, Unit 3, Mold Business Park, Wrexham Road, Mold. This is open to 3rd Sector Organisations in Flintshire who are contemplating or already involved with CAT and seeking to understand the potential benefits and good practice principles in greater depth.

MOVEMENT OF 30MPH SIGNAGE AT STRYT CAE RHEDYN

This was now on the list of proposed highway works to be done. Investigation was to be made about the possibility of match funding the project and the cost involved.

ARRIVA WALES - BUS SERVICE ISSUES

The Clerk advised that following a visit to the Wrexham Depot Arriva by a member of the Council she had received an e-mail from Mr Mick Morton, General Manager, Arriva North West and Wales. An invitation had been sent to Mr Morton requesting that he or a representative attends the next meeting of this Council on Tuesday 3rd November at 6pm.

ONE VOICE WALES - FLINTSHIRE/WREXHAM AREA COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

The next Flintshire/Wrexham Area Committee Meeting will take place at Mold Town Hall on Thursday 8th October 2015 at 7.00pm. The Council representatives advised that they both had prior commitments that evening. However, Councillor G. Sherwood informed that he would try to attend.

WALES AUDIT OFFICE - EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2015-2016, 2016-2017 AND 2018-2019

Notification received that the Auditor General for Wales will become the statutory auditor following the amendment of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 by Section 11 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 and the completion of the 2014-2015 audit by UHY Hacker Young. This information was accepted.

MATCH FUNDING SCHEME - IMPROVEMENT TO CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS 2015/2016

Correspondence received from Ian Bancroft, Chief Officer, Organisational Change, Flintshire County Council, advising that this Council has been successful in obtaining £3,000 in match funding for the Phoenix Park Play Area. Confirmation of acceptance is required by 30th October 2015. All Councillors in agreement that this confirmation be sent.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Pot holes on the Hall Hill (before the Dovecote) and on Dingle Road were hopefully to be repaired.

b) Councillor R. Hughes thanked the Community Council for the donation of £100 to his Charities.

MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

a) **Street Light, Garages, Heol-y-Goron** - report that a street light was out in this area. This would be attended to. Councillor R. Hughes advised that he regularly went through Leeswood, Pontblyddyn and Padeswood checking on the street lights.

b) **Bethel Chapel verge** - the bushes on the verge had been cut by the new owners of Slievnamon. Comment was made that the verge was the responsibility of this Community Council. It was agreed that an approach be made requesting that the rubbish be moved and also, at the same time to explain that any work on the verge should be done by the Community Council.

c) **Chairman's Board** - it was noted that the Chairman's Board required updating. Approach was to be made to Flintshire County Council enquiring as to which sign writer they used.

d) **Change of Community Council name from 'Leeswood Community Council' to 'Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council'** - this was to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mold Town Council - invitation to the Mayor's Civic Service on Sunday 27th September at St. Mary's Church, Mold at 11am. Councillor G. Sherwood attended.

Flint Town Council - invitation to the Urdd Proclamation Ceremony on Saturday 3rd October from 12.45pm onwards.

Buckley Town Council - notification of the Mayor's Charity Ball and Dinner on Friday 6th November at the Beaufort Park Hotel, New Brighton.

Flintshire County Council - notice of Standards Committee Meeting at the Edith Banks Memorial Hall, Northop on Monday 5th October at 6.30pm.

Flintshire County Council - request for items to be discussed at the County Forum Meeting at Gwernymynydd Village Centre on 22nd October.

.....

*The Leeswood Community Council
would like to wish all members of
the Community a Merry Christmas
and a very Happy New Year.*



LADIES GUILD

The Harvest Festival for the Guild was held at Cedron Chapel on Thursday, 22nd October 2015. The service was taken by the Rev. Pat Christopher, with a couple of readings by Guild members and the singing of traditional harvest hymns.

Refreshments were served after the service and everyone had a lovely chat to complete a very nice evening.

The President opened the meeting at the Community Centre on the 12th November 2015 and Mrs. Jenny Webb read a lovely poem.

Mrs. Maureen Calder then demonstrated, we all tried to follow her, in making a star which hopefully some would be able to decorate the tree in the Tree Festival to be held in the English Methodist Chapel in December. I don't think many will appear!!!

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Jenny Webb and Mrs. Gill Burton. Raffle winners were Mrs. Margaret Roberts and Mrs. Dorothy Davies and I was very lucky to win the special raffle.

The members of the Guild would like to wish you all A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.



Gill Burton



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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By Candlelight

On Friday 18th December 7-30pm

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LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE



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BOXING DAY CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT



On Saturday 26th December 7-00pm



With: Jennifer Pearson
Meriel Easton
Christopher Enston



Carols for all

Collection for Cedron Chapel and Urdd Eisteddfod

CEDRON CHAPEL, PONTYBODKIN

(For further information please contact Mr Christopher Enston)



PICTURES FROM CIVIC SERVICE – SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER





LEESWOOD AND DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION.

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE - 8TH NOV. 2015

On behalf of the above Branch and it's members I am taking this opportunity to pay tribute and extend my sincere thanks to everyone who assisted and supported us at this years Armistice Service and Parade. This year we had to rearrange the proceedings as Christ Church, Pontblyddyn is in the process of being refurbished.. Proceedings were reversed the assembly at 10.00 am at the Community Centre was followed by a short parade to the English Wesleyan Chapel where the Armistice service was conducted by the, Rev. Pat Christopher. [Methodist Minister] there was a large congregation and many of those in attendance complimented the minister on an excellent service bringing in the children was well received .

Lessons were read at the Chapel by Carlton Jones -[Branch Chairman], and Mr Vince Price, Branch Member. The collection at the Chapel in aid of this years Poppy appeal was taken by local legion members and realised the grand sum of £320.00.

Following the service at the Chapel a short parade to the Cenotaph was led by the Branch Standard Bearer Mr Terry Hughes, followed by standards from the Guides Brownies and Rainbows. A short service was administered by the Rev. Pat Christopher.

Wreathes were laid at the Cenotaph by Mrs Gwenda Hughes on behalf of the Leeswood Branch RBL, Councillor Raymond Hughes, [Chairman of Flintshire County Council], Councillor Richard Williams, [Chairman Leeswood Community Council], Mr. Andrew Jones,[Headmaster] Mr. Joseph Caruana [Allotments] Rev. James Morgan, [Churches Together] Don Heyward, [Community Centre] June Lincoln, [Leeswood & District News]. Mr John Furnival. [Hospice Group] and on behalf of the Guides, Daisy Allen.

The Flag Bearer at the Cenotaph was Mr Joey Roberts. Flag Bearers for the Guides Brownies and Rainbows were Caitlin Kendrick, Charlotte Kendrick and Chloe Weale.

Following the Cenotaph Service the bus transported those who wished to attend to a short service held at the Lychgate at Christ Church Pontblyddyn . The service was conducted by the Rev. Pat Christopher, and wreathes were laid by Leeswood Branch Members, Mr Glyn Garton and Mr. Emlyn Williams. also Mr Graham Sherwood, [Vice Chairman, Leeswood Community Council], Marie Reynolds [Leeswood Labour Party] and for the Brownies and Rainbows, Nell Hardy and Jose Allen.

Each year and each day that passes it is so important that we remember and pay tribute to all ex-servicemen and women who have given of their lives or have been injured, some severely disabled in all wars past and present, so that we can live in a safer world, and protect our shores from invasion and the inevitable carnage warfare brings





with it.. We must never forget the debt and gratitude we owe each and everyone of those brave present and past ex-servicemen and women who have given and still are giving so much to protect our freedom in conflicts world wide.

This years event saw a great number of local people and members representing local organisations present to pay tribute to the injured and fallen, which I am sure will be of great comfort to those who's family's have lost loved ones.

There are numerous people and organisations I wish to thank for their contribution, firstly the Rev Pat Christopher our Methodist Minister who led both services at Leeswood and Pontblyddyn.- Leeswood Branch Standard Bearer Mr Terry Hughes.our Flag Master Joey Roberts and to Clive Venables. To all organisations present on the day a Big Thank You.

And a special thanks to Paul Davies for transporting us to and from Pontblyddyn Church.

On Tuesday the 11th of November the Annual Remembrance service was held at the Cenotaph in Leeswood by the Children and Staff of Ysgol Derwenfa .

The Headmaster Mr. Andrew Jones led the service and read out the names of the fallen, he also gave a detailed account of the importance of why we should pay a special tribute and remember those who gave of their lives in war, that we may live in peace. Staff present were, Mr Andrew Jones. {Headmaster}, John Godwin, Helen McSpadden and Carol Ingley.

The children taking part in the service were: George Edge, Kiera Jones, Bethany Jones and Leo Catheral, all of the children then laid their individual crosses on the Cenotaph and afterwards the Rev. James Morgan led us in prayer.

The short parade from the school was led by our Standard Bearer Terry Hughes and Mr. Richard Williams [Chairman Leeswood Community Council]. Legion members present were Carlton Jones, Raymond Hughes Joey Roberts, and Emlyn Williams . To Joey Roberts our Flagmaster and a big thanks to the two persons present representing the armed services, and to all who attended this very special service.

I am once again taking this opportunity to thank our Branch Poppy Organiser Cheryl Francis for the sterling work she does organising the collection on behalf of the Leeswood and District Branch and to all who supported and assisted her.

Thanks to all who were able to attend the occasion and for your tremendous support.

Carlton Jones.

[Branch Chairman/Secretary]





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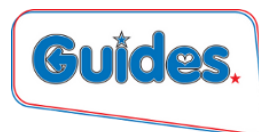


A PROFUSION OF HOLLY BERRIES

The holly tree in the corner of our garden was full of beautiful, shiny, crimson berries in the first week of November when this photograph was taken. After daily visits from blackbirds, thrushes, wood pigeons and possibly others which I haven't spotted, there are now far, far fewer! By the time it comes to "Deck The Halls with Boughs of Holly" I'll probably have to buy artificial berries to attach to the bare branches. Do I mind? Not in the least! I'm more than happy to exchange my holly berries for visits from the garden birds, especially if those blackbirds come back in the spring and sit at the top of this same holly tree and sing their beautiful song. So, merry, bounteous Christmas to all the garden birds who come to visit.



Kath O'Marah



We were invited to the Community Centre on Tuesday 3rd November to celebrate with Cheryl the fact that she has been involved in the Guiding movement for 40 years since she was a Brownie herself. There were lots of people there from Guiding and from the community including Cheryl's Brown Owl when she started, who is Margaret Jones, also Lucille Ingman and Dea Saul previous Guiders in Leewood. Eveline and I became involved when the two previous Leaders Margaret Jones and Elaine Brewitt were finishing for different reasons and we went along as interested parents to see what we could do to help keep the pack going and ended up running it for 27+ years with Cheryl.

During that time, we did lots of different activities, had trips out and forged lasting friendships. We worked well together as a team and had lots of laughs. We were joined in latter years by Alison Weetman when her daughter Megan came to us, Megan is now a Leader herself.

It was good to catch up with Guiders and girls we haven't seen for a while and nice to see some of our Brownies have worked up through the ranks and become Young Leaders and Leaders themselves.

Cheryl continues to carry Guiding forward with her involvement with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, she was also District Commissioner for a number of years.

Beryl Fazal & Eveline Biggadike





Having taken a well deserved month off after the success of the Carnival in July, the Committee are back in full swing. The feedback from many has been wonderful. There are things we can undoubtedly learn from and things we can of course build on to make next year's event even better, but the overall enthusiasm has certainly given us a determination to carry on. Who would have thought we would ever see anything like this in our little village again, that swell of people. It puts a smile on our faces every time. And yours we bet! This is the reason to keep going, but help is very much needed.



October saw us host our first fundraiser towards the 2016 Carnival. The Bingo night produced a "full house", although admittedly was not as hectic as our first hosted back in April. We raised a healthy £586.00 thanks to those who attended to support us.

There will of course be plenty more fundraisers over the coming months so keep your eyes peeled for the adverts in this paper, on the notice boards in the village, and via social media on our Facebook page. For various reasons not everyone has access to these, so word of mouth is still one of the best ways of advertising.

Our AGM is being held in the Leeswood Community Centre on Monday 7th December 2015 at 7.00pm for those of you that are interested in coming along. Having had so many people on the day saying they would love to come onboard then we are pretty much expecting the room to be full!

Jokes aside, we would really like to see you at our AGM supporting us and the village. We are desperate for more volunteers on the day itself as well as assistance in our fundraisers. It is important that we have the help and, should we be lucky enough to gain the support so desperately needed, then a sub-Committee can be formed.

We look forward to seeing you.

Regards,

Louise Hoyle Fennell
Committee Member



LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

invites the Community to their

A.G.M.

to be held at

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2015

7.00pm

VOLUNTEERS FOR A SUB-COMMITTEE ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED TO ASSIST IN FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND ON CARNIVAL DAY - IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND CAN GIVE YOUR TIME AND SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL

WITHOUT VOLUNTEERS WE WILL STRUGGLE IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO BECOME BIGGER AND BETTER EACH YEAR

SO...

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US
AND WE'LL KEEP BRINGING YOU THE CARNIVAL ☺**

Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana

When we purchase a new item, we would all like to say that we bought a quality item, however, the quality of a product can be divided into several sections. The section that most people do understand is the material from which the product is made. This understand this section of quality, we could take as an example, a wrist watch. There are several different ways of assessing the quality of a wrist watch. Some watches are made from expensive materials, others have all the technological gadgets known to-date. The question is: What is the main purpose of a wrist watch? With this in mind, we all know that the main purpose of a wrist watch is to tell the time as accurately as possible.

If someone buy a wrist watch because it is made of expensive precious material, then the watch is not being purchased because for its' capability to tell the time accurately, but because of the decorative materials added to it. In this case, a wrist watch could have primarily been bought as an item of jewellery, and secondly as a devise to tell the time. Here we have a case, where someone has bought a piece of jewellery that could also tell the quality of time. This is where the quality of an item comes in two forms, one is the quality of the material used, and the other is its' ability to perform its' main function.

On many occasions, quality is mistaken for value for money, and if one is not careful one could buy items which do not perform to the standard one expects them to do. To achieve an affordable product that gives world class performance, manufacturers might have to implement lean manufacturing processes and cut waste in order to produce quality products at a competitive price.

In today's industrial climate, manufacturers cannot afford to waste raw material, because material cast money, and if you waste raw material you will be wasting money. With that in mind, and with customers hunting for cheaper prices, one needs to be as efficient as possible. If a supplier of steel is audited by a car manufacturer who buys steel in large quantities, and the car manufacturer find out that the steel supplier is wasteful in the way he produces steel, he will immediately ask who is paying for the waste, and if he feels that the cost of waste is passed on to him he will promptly ask for cheaper prices or source his raw material elsewhere. It is clear that no one wants to pay for process waste, and every one would prefer a leaner for efficient production system. Waste has a double effect, firstly it is a loss of material, and secondly it costs money to dispose of it or recycle it, therefore, the production of waste should be eliminated or at least reduced to a minimum.

It could be said that efficiency starts at the very beginning, and that every time inefficiencies occur at the early stages of a production process, it multiplies every time there is another inefficiency further down the production line. It is therefore imperative to start right, do right, and finish right, because if we do not supply what the customer wants, in a way the customer wants it, the customer will find another supplier.

There are no protected markets any more, and everybody can buy from whoever they feel is giving the best deal. This country can produce alot of industrial products, at the right price and on time. In today's global market the whole world is our market, and we are competing against other countries. It is therefore our duty, to minimise waste, and perform efficiently.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year.
Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda.





CHRISTMAS DANCE

(HELD BY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)



On Saturday 19th December
7-30 to 11.30pm

£6

To include a Jacket Potato with choice of filling
Mince Pie or Apple Pie and cream



BAR OPEN

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Emma Wynn:01352 770455, Mildred Heyward:01352 771188, Marie Reynolds:01352 770546
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NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

(HELD BY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)



On Thursday 31st December
7-30 to 1.00am

£10

Tickets include Buffet and Sweet



BAR OPEN



(TICKETS FROM ABOVE RE: CHRISTMAS DANCE)

PLEASE COME ALONG , ENJOY THE EVENING, AND SUPPORT YOUR CENTRE

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE



THE EGGMAN

© James Maloney

Chapter 8

Storytelling



Tom and Martin never tired of listening to a good story even though they had heard most of them many times.

A farmer might stop at the smithy to pass on news heard while visiting a market many miles away, or just to hear the blacksmith relate a story from his repertoire.

Ghost stories and tales about unexplained happenings were the most popular.

Like the night Dan had to take a detour around the bog on his way home from the market.

The Howling Dogs

'On a cold winter's night I was on my way home from the market.

One minute the moon would light my way, the next it would be pitch-black, so dark that I couldn't see my hand in front of me.'

Dan rattled his four-pound hammer on the anvil to emphasise the point...he liked to tell his stories standing at the anvil.

'I had to rely on my old gelding Duke to lead the way until the moon found a window in the dark cloudy sky. I was almost home; just about to pass the house of an old friend when suddenly'...this time a sharp tap on the anvil startling the listeners...'Duke stopped, I turned him around and walked back a few paces thinking he'd gone lame or picked up a stone.

No matter how hard I tried, he would not walk on something was spooking him.

I jumped down and tried to lead him past house.

Duke stood firm, I pulled the halter, there was no way he would go on.

Then, from within the house, I heard my friend's dog howling, howling like I've never heard before.

It was quiet at first gradually getting louder and rising in pitch like the wind blowing across the bog.

The howling was taken up by another dog about a mile away, then another until at least four dogs singing in this macabre chorus.'

To create a more dramatic effect Dan's voice dimmed to little more than a whisper then just as the listeners leaned forward straining to hear the chilling tale he rattled the hammer louder causing gasps of fright which added to the horror of the story.

Dan continued the narrative waving his arms, and crouching as if it was happening in front of him.

'Without warning a sudden gust of wind almost knocked me off my feet, a dark almost transparent figure few passed me shrouded by a grey mist and appeared to enter the house.

The mist swirled around the house as if wrapping it with its spirit until it spiralled up to the sky and disappeared in the clouds.

As the mysterious mist left the house the howling stopped. First the howling in the house stopped then, one by one, just as it had started, the mournful chorus went quiet as each of the dogs ceased their spine chilling noise.

I waited a few minutes shaken by what I had witnessed.

What had I witnessed?

After one more failed effort to persuade Duke to walk past the house, we made our way back to the fork in the road, then followed the old path around the bog field at the back of the house.

The next day a cold shiver shook my body when I received news that the friend whose house Duke refused to pass had collapsed and died at about the same time that I would have been passing his house.'

Dan's striker Mick Fox was always the first to thank Dan after a story around the anvil for he has a reputation as one of Mayo's best storyteller; honing his art on the visitors to the forge during breaks, often telling his yarns in instalments if they were particularly busy.



Some nights Mick...always in demand for a good story...would go from bar to bar; it was his way of obtaining free ale.

The two boys heard Mick relate his wondrous tales when he called at their favourite bar, sometimes going there just to hear his stories.

On these nights Mick rarely had to buy a drink and usually finished the night rolling his way home. Some of his stories were asked for time and again.

Eager listeners would say 'let's have the one about the old lady with the magic stick or the one about the little man in the tree.'

Tom and Martin were there when he related the one about the 'tired soldiers'.

Feigning reluctance, standing to his full five foot six height Mick would take a deep breath...enough to expand his barrel chest...slowly look around the room, take an extra large swallow of ale clear his throat and begin.

The Silent Army

'Even though this happened many years ago I remember it as if it were yesterday.'



Then a pause to slowly scan the listeners with a wide-eyed fixed stare to ensure he had the attention of the crowd.

'It was late in September just before midnight.

The full moon lit up the hillside as if it was midday causing the few trees to cast long shadows like fingers pointing the way as I made my way home.

Occasional passin clouds dimmed the moonlight like snuffin candles, then one by one they come to life lightin the path as the clouds continue on their way.'

'I had been checking my Poteen¹ up on the High Bog, as well as filling a few bottles to take to market...it's not there now so don't go feckin lookin for it...and was walking up the Boreen, thinkin how bright the moon was.

The silence was broken only by a light wind blowin through the trees at the top of the hill and the call of an owl in the distance.

As I passed the three-acre field, the one with the standing stones, out of the corner of my eye I saw something move.

At first I thought it was the shadow of the clouds passin in front of the moon.'

Then he pauses as he picks up his jar, looks deeply into it to increase the tension and takes another swig of ale.

'Gradually, I could just make out the shapes of men on horseback.

Thinkin it might be the Guards and not wanting to be caught with the bottles stashed in my coat, (the one with extra pockets, special for bottles).

I looked around for somewhere to hide.

As they got closer I sensed something wasn't right; not a feckin sound could be heard.

I froze to the spot, shaking with fear, me few old teeth rattling louder than the bottles in my pocket.

I dropped to the ground, almost cried out as the bottles pressed into me feckin ribs, leaving me bruised for days.'

'Slowly the riders emerged from a kind of damp foggy mist; I could see that they were soldiers, very weary looking soldiers with their bodies bowed over the horses.

Not like those feckin English barstards, these had ragged red uniforms with gold braid and red hats with a black brush on the front.

The horse's heads were drooped.

Where the eyes should be there was nothing, just empty sockets and although it was a cold night there was no breath from their nostrils, they looked as tired as their riders.'



¹ Poteen, alcohol made illicitly typically from

Mick then paused for another swig of ale. Wiped his lips with the back of his hand.

'French soldiers' Tom whispered to Martin, 'Sh, sh I know I remember this story,' Martin whispered back. 'A cold chill went through me body.' Mick continued. 'I thought I must be dreaming till I felt the pain from the bottles pressing against me sore chest. All was not as it should be,' Mick said with another wide-eyed stare around the room.

*I froze with fear as they came towards me.
Tramping behind the horsemen about two dozen foot soldiers, two in the front rank tapping a single beat on kettle drums, not a sound...feekin silent drums?
All heads bowed like the horses...most with their uniforms in tatters.
Not a sound was to be heard, even though the hooves of the horses were uncovered.
They looked as if they were floating a couple of inches above the ground.
They were coming straight at me. I thought they would trample me into the ground.
I said a silent prayer, a 'Hail Mary'...He says a prayer as if it was happening.*



'With hooves coming closer and closer I wanted the ground to open up,'

Then with fixed stare of mock fear in his eyes, Mick slowly looked around the room at the enthralled listeners, slowly he picked up his jar, lifted it to his lips and almost drained it. 'Now where was I?'

*'With me heart beating like a feekin bohran gone mad and the feekin hooves less than ten feet from me I could see that under the red hats they had no face just a sallow grey skull with strips of skin hanging like a torn net curtain.
Faceless feekin soldiers they've come to take me to the next world 'shall I stay or run?'*

His face contorted in mock fear as he continued the tale with even more agitated fervour his voice rising to a dramatic crescendo, then suddenly and slowly in a soft voice.

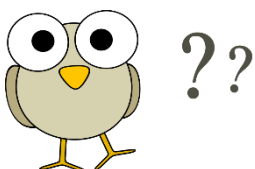
*'The leading riders entered the stone circle which seemed to light up, the light got brighter until the centre was glowing with the light of a thousand church candles.
I watched shaking with fear for what seemed like an hour as they entered the centre of the circle. Gradually one by one they vanished as if swallowed up by the light, horsemen and the foot soldiers gone.*

*It was dark again, as if a great wind had blown out all the candles at once.
Everything was back to normal it was like they had entered a hole in the centre of the stone circle.
'Where the feck had they gone?'
I was shaking so much I grabbed one of the bottles lining me coat.
Now was a good time to try the Poteen.
Half a bottle later I recovered enough to look closely at the stones to see where they had feekin gone.
Nothin had changed, there was no sign of how they could have disappeared.
Two more swigs and I was ready to carry on up the old turf-track.'
The next day I went to the field with the stones, nothin had changed, everythin looked the same till I went into the circle.'*

With a twisted smile Mick paused again for effect. 'In the centre of the ring of stones...Mick looked around the room again sticking his head forward to emphasise the look of wonder on his face...the grass was scorched like some fecker had set a fire.'

Suddenly he burst into song. 'The French they came and chased them out and Castlebar is free. Castlebar is free boys. Castlebar is free'.

At this point Mick struggled to his feet, downed the remaining ale in his jar and retired to the back yard, leaving the listeners to wonder at the meaning of the tale.



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Two thirds of the way

Flint 2016 Urdd National Eisteddfod

Treuddyn, Nercwys and Leeswood have raised a fantastic £8,500 towards the Flint 2016 Urdd National Eisteddfod appeal fund, with further promises of support that will bring the total to £9,500 - two thirds of the way to our target of £14,000. The Urdd has brought great benefits to generations of children, giving the opportunity to take part in performing, art, science and craft. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to date. Can you help to raise the final third of our target by making a donation, large or small, host an event, or know of people with links to the area that would possibly make a contribution that would move the appeal closer to its target?

Please send your contributions to Mrs Ceinwen Parry, 7 Ffordd Carreg y Llech, Treuddyn 01352 771333 or contact Helen Roberts if you would like any assistance to arrange an event, 01352 771100, talwrn.glas@btinternet.com

If you pay taxes send a note to confirm that you are a UK taxpayer and that you wish the Urdd to claim the tax back on your donation through gift aid, please include your name and address and postcode. Thank you.

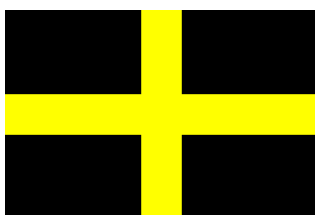
Dwy ran o dair o'r ffordd

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd Fflint 2016

Mae ardal Nercwys, Coedllai a Treuddyn bellach wedi codi cyfanswm gwych o £8,500 tuag at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yr Urdd 2016, gyda addewidion sydd yn mynd ar gronfa at £9,500. Dwy ran o dair tuag at ein nôd o £14,000. Mae'r Urdd wedi dod a budd mawr i blant yr ardal dros genedlaethau gan roi cyfleoedd i gymryd rhan mewn perfformio, arlunio, gwyddoniaeth a chreff. Diolch yn fawr i bawb am ei cymorth a'r cyfraniadau hyd yma. Allwch chi helpu i godi y treuan olaf drwy wneud cyfraniad, bach neu fawr, cynnal digwyddiad, neu yn adnabod pobl sydd a chysylltiad â'r ardal a fyddai o bosib yn fodlon cyfranu, a fyddai yn helpu i'r ardal i gyrraedd yn agosach at ein nôd?

Anfonwch eich cyfraniadau at Mrs Ceinwen Parry, 7 Ffordd Carreg y Llech, Treuddyn 01352 771333 or contact Helen Roberts if you would like any assistance to arrange an event, 01352 771100, talwrn.glas@btinternet.com

Os ydych yn talu trethi anfonwch nodyn i ddweud eich bod yn hapus i ni ddrebyn y dreth yn ôl, gan gynnwys eich enw a'ch cod post. Diolch



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