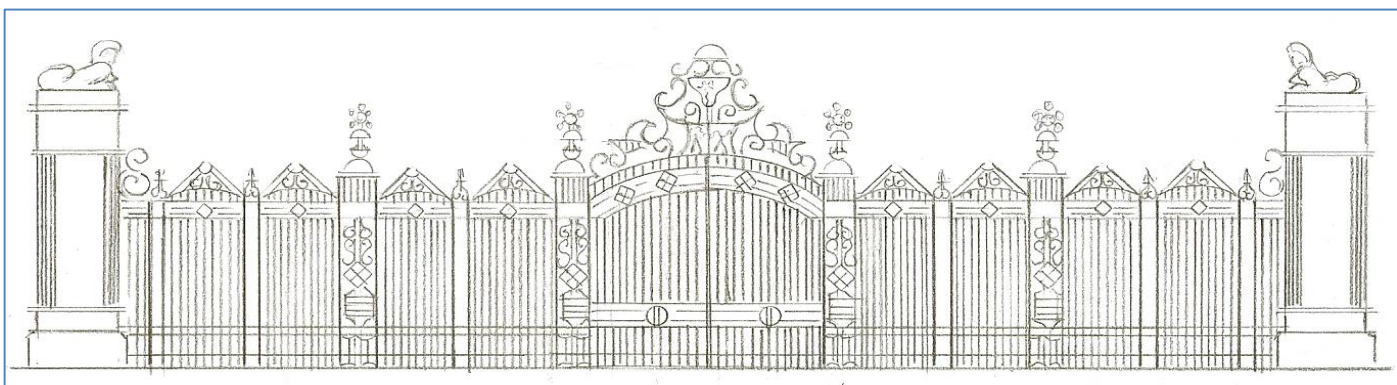


Leeswood & District News



BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

MARCH 2016

ISSUE 348

FREE



Margaret Richards; Councillor Ray Hughes (Chairman of Flintshire County Council); Barry Richards; Councillor Richard Williams (Chairman of Leeswood Community Council)

EDITORIAL

Spring is virtually upon us....I love to see the new awakening of the plants and trees, the new born lambs – it's like an opportunity for new beginnings each year! Easter at the end of March. Has anyone given something up for lent? Why not write and tell us about it?

How about a son or daughter passed exams or perhaps a driving test? Then why not share the good news? Would be great to have poems, jokes, quizzes, or maybe art work, or photographs. Good to have a report from the Bowls club this month – how about giving it a go?

Have you put in your application form for 'Leeswood's Got Talent'? Just in case you've lost the previous form, we have re-printed it for you on page 11.

I am trying to put this publication into a Web page to make it more accessible, to more people – although it is on Facebook, not all of us have (or indeed, want) access to Facebook. The Facebook page is: 'Leeswood & District News'.

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-
APRIL 2016 EDITION
FRIDAY 18th MARCH**

Adverts can be delivered in person or posted to -

*Margaret Pitts
21 Dingle Road, Leeswood.
Flintshire CH7 4SN
Tel: 01352 771304*

merg@btinternet.com

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FULL PAGE £15

HALF PAGE £8.50

QUARTER PAGE £4.50

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to**

'Friends of Leeswood and District News'

PONTYBODKIN LADIES GUILD LUNCH



Leeswood Community Centre

THURSDAY 17TH MARCH

Two courses plus
tea and coffee

£3.00

Served noon 12 – 1.30pm
Proceeds to local charities.

ALL AGES WELCOME

- * Back ache?
- * Neck pain?
- * Shoulder trouble?
- * Allergies?



- Migraine? *
- Stress? *
- Asthma? *
- Menstrual problems? *

* Issues in babies? *

Bowen is a very gentle therapy which can help ease these problems and more!

For babies, Bowen can be used to assist recovery from a variety of issues such as birth trauma, feeding and digestive problems such as colic, as well as sleeping difficulties. Because babies and youngsters appear to respond quicker than adults to treatment, improvement is often seen after only a couple of sessions.

Many people have tried chiropractic, osteopathy, physiotherapy, and come to Bowen as a last resort, but go away wishing they'd tried it first!

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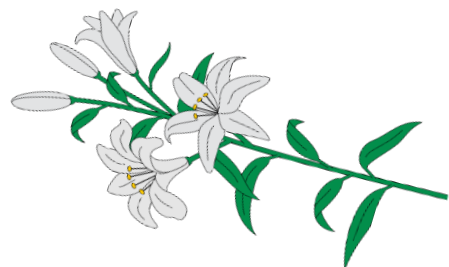
Or phone

**DAYTIME 01352 770286
 EVENINGS 01352 771537**

David, Paul, Yvonne and Ken would like to thank everyone for all their kind messages in memory of their Mother and Partner: - Dorothy Griffiths. The Loving Sympathy you have shown during their tremendously difficult time is so greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to attend the service and for the kind donations in memory of Dorothy. It is comforting to know how fortunate we are to be part of a strong community.

Donations: £500 – Christ Church, Pontblyddyn
 £500 - RNLI – Tenby





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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

Spoiler Alert - The Revenant

It is not often that the title of a Hollywood film gets me scurrying for the dictionary, but that was the case with Leonardo DiCaprio's latest, *The Revenant*. The word, I discovered, comes from the French 'revenir' meaning 'to come back'. In English 'revenant' can be used of one who returns from a long journey, or a spirit coming back from the dead – a ghost.

In the film DiCaprio plays a man who returns from the brink of death. Fur Trapper Hugh Glass is severely mauled by a bear whilst on a hunting expedition on the American frontier in the 1820s. One member of the hunting party, John Travers (played by Tom Hardy), not wanting to be encumbered by the injured man on their journey back to civilisation, leaves Glass for dead in a shallow grave, and murders his half-Indian son, Hawk. In spite of his terrible injuries Glass manages to escape the grave, and so begins his arduous journey to find Travers and have his revenge. The subtitle of the novel by Michael Punke on which the film is based is – A Novel of Revenge.

My brother and I were able to watch the film on the IMAX screen in Broughton. The cinematography was as breathtakingly beautiful as the action sequences and storyline were gruesome. I can understand why *The Revenant* has been nominated for a host of Oscar awards.

There are a number of religious motifs in the film, particularly the theme of death and rebirth. Jesus Christ is, so Christians believe, the ultimate revenant. Following his ghastly execution, he is laid in a tomb. On the first Easter Sunday he emerges from the grave, not as a revived casualty nor as a ghost, but as one who has undergone bodily resurrection, and he appears to his followers. However, the mission of the risen Lord Jesus is not one of revenge but of grace and mercy. He had prayed for those who crucified him, 'Father, forgive them'. He now greets the disciples who had abandoned him and denied him in his hour of greatest need with the words, 'Peace, be with you.' He commissioned them to go into all the world with his message of forgiveness and grace.

The Revenant is a powerful film about revenge. The story of Jesus, the greatest story ever told, is about the triumph of mercy over revenge, love over hatred and life over death.
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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**CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN
SERVICES MARCH/APRIL 2016**

SUNDAY 6TH MARCH:

MOTHERING SUNDAY (LENT IV)

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

SUNDAY 13TH MARCH: PASSION SUNDAY (LENT V)

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

4.00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MR BRYAN JONES

SUNDAY 20TH MARCH: PALM SUNDAY (LENT VI)

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLD

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH: EASTER SUNDAY

HOLY COMMUNION (TIME TBA)

FOR ALL THREE CONGREGATIONS

IN **ST MARY'S CHURCH, NERCWYS.**

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 3RD APRIL: EASTER 2

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

SUNDAY 10TH APRIL: EASTER 3

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: T.B.A.

4.00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MR BRYAN JONES

SUNDAY 17TH APRIL: EASTER 4

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLD

SUNDAY 24TH APRIL: EASTER 5

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

THIS SERVICE WILL BE FOLLOWED

BY THE **EASTER VESTRY**

EVERYONE WELCOME

CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

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

Phone: 01978 762304

Email: cc.sm@btinternet.com

**LEESWOOD CHURCHES
TOGETHER LENT COURSE**

**THE PSALMS
PRAYERS FOR TODAY'S CHURCH**

7. 30P.M. WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT
in Wesley Methodist Church Leeswood

2ND March

Psalm 13 (How long, O Lord?)

Led by Rev'd James Morgan or Mr Ian Dyson

9th March

Psalm 23 (You spread a table before me)

led by Rev'd James Morgan or Mr Ian Dyson

16th March

Psalm 127 (Unless the Lord builds the house)

led by Rev'd Carole Poolman

All Welcome

OPEN CHURCH. Once the Builders have finally finished we will be opening Christ Church again every day between the hours of 10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. We hope to be able to do this from Easter onwards.



COME FOR COFFEE

IN CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN

26TH FEBRUARY 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.

USE OF CHURCH BUILDING. If anyone would like to use the church building, please contact Mrs Mel Morgan on 01978 762709 or 07746920325 email:m.condren@outlook.com

who will be able to discuss with you the fees, and the conditions of hire imposed by our insurers and church authorities.



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Email: animalsoutthebox@btinternet.com



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Councillor Richard Williams, Chairman of Leeswood Community Council, presented Mr Barry Richards with two engraved vases in recognition of his service as Cemetery sub-contractor and his wife, Margaret, was presented with flowers by Councillor Ray Hughes'.
Photo: left to right Margaret Richards; Councillor Ray Hughes (Chairman of Flintshire County Council); Barry Richards; Councillor Richard Williams (Chairman of Leeswood Community Council)



Councillor Richard Williams, Chairman of Leeswood Community Council, presented Miss Cheryl Francis with a picture of an owl in recognition of her 40 years' service to Leeswood Brownies. Miss Francis was also presented with flowers by Councillor Ray Hughes'.
Photo: left to right Councillor Ray Hughes (Chairman of Flintshire County Council); Cheryl Francis; Councillor Richard Williams (Chairman of Leeswood Community Council).

Leeswood Hospice Group



to be held at Community Centre

Wednesday. March 9th 10-12md

Price £3.

Raffle, Bottle Stall and Cake Stall



ENTERTAINMENT BY YSGOL DERWENFA PUPILS
PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US



"UNLUCKY FOR SOME..."

"LEGS ELEVEN..."

"TWO LITTLE DUCKS..."

LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

invites the Community to their

EASTER PRIZE

BINGO

to be held at

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

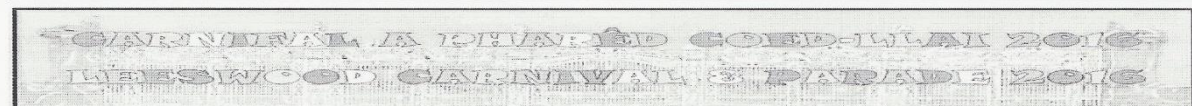
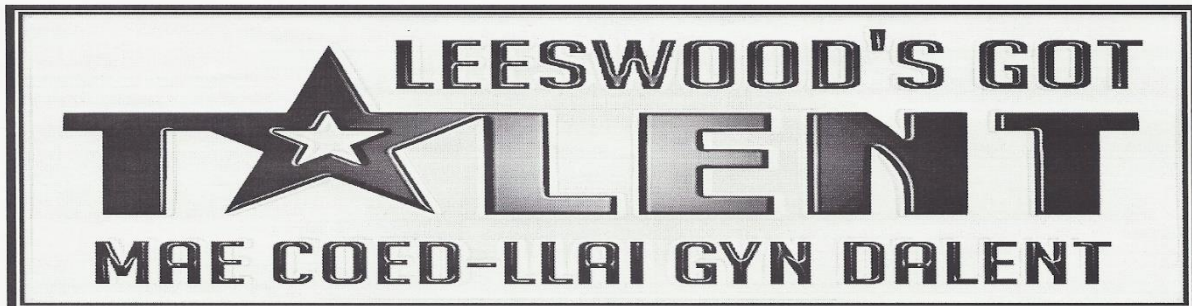
WEDNESDAY 9TH MARCH 2016

Doors open 7.00pm

Eyes down for prizes 7.30pm

Raffle Prizes

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



**EBRILLGfed
APRIL 9th**

- ★ **Do you dream of performing?**
- ★ **Do you have a hidden talent that needs to be showcased?**
- ★ **Do you think you can entertain our judges and our audience?**
- ★ **Then you just might have what it takes to win Leeswood's Got Talent!**

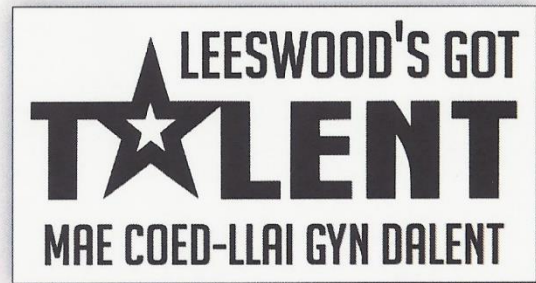
+ DISCO, RAFFLE, BAR & BBQ

Rules and regulations for the event can be obtained online through the Leeswood Carnival Facebook page. Exact times of event released in due course. Entry forms are available from Leeswood Carnival Committee members, various local media platforms, the Leeswood Carnival Facebook page and via the following link:

www.bit.do/LGT2016



**Ffurflen Gystadlu 'Mae Coed-llai gyn Dalent'
'Leeswood's got Talent' Entry Form**



Name of individual / group: _____

Age of competitor(s): _____

Description of act: _____

Estimated length of act (optional): _____

Resources (including music tracks, props etc.):

Contact information (email and/or phone and/or address):

Signed (parent / guardian for under 16s):

Alternatively, you can enter online
via the link below or by scanning the
QR code:



[bit.do/
LGT2016](http://bit.do/LGT2016)

**Telerau ac Amodau
Terms and Conditions**

Acts must be **no longer than 5 minutes** in length. All props, instruments and / or other material must be provided by the competitor(s) and at the risk of each competitor. Accompanying music must be sent to the organisers at least one week before any preliminary or final event. The date of the final event has been agreed as April 9th, 2016. Start and end times for the event will depend on the volume of entries but will be released as soon as possible.

All entries must be submitted (using the entry form) and presented to any Carnival Committee member by **midnight on March 12th 2016** at the very latest. Online applications must also be completed by the aforementioned date. Entries received after this date will not be considered. Applicants unable to compete are kindly asked to inform a member of the Carnival Committee at their earliest convenience. **Entry for non-competitors is £1.50.** Refreshments etc. will be available with proceeds going to the Carnival fund.

Successful competitors must be available to perform their act(s) on the day of the carnival. 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed acts will earn the right to showcase their winning talent on the day of the carnival in July 2016. Exact times for competitors will be provided at least 24 hours before the event(s). Organisers of Leeswood's Got Talent and the Leeswood Carnival Committee reserve the right to disqualify and/or deny competition to any competitor(s).

Applicants **under 16 years of age on April 1st 2016** will require parental consent to apply and to compete. Parents / guardians will be provided with a letter to sign on the evening of the event(s) and will therefore be required to attend with their child. For the purposes of media surrounding the event, photographs will be taken and shared.

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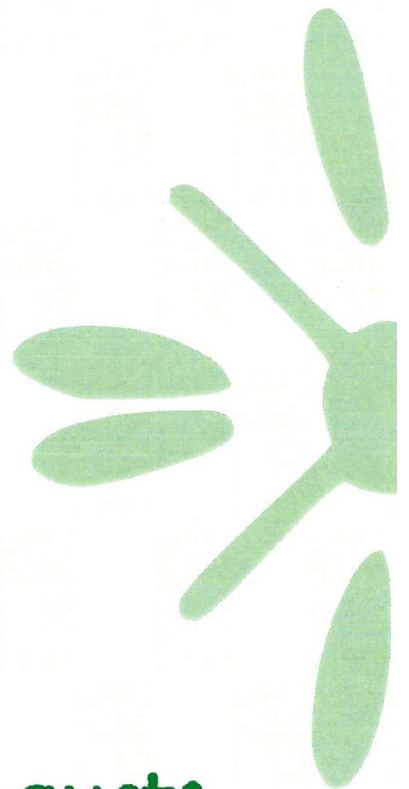
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Calendar for waste collection services 2015/16



If you have difficulty obtaining new waste bags please contact
Councillor Ray Hughes
3 Erith Street
Leeswood
Flintshire CH7 4SE
Phone: 01352 771372
Mobile: 07794208550

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MARCH 2016						
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MAY 2016						
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AUGUST 2016						
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Food Waste & Materials for Recycling will be collected WEEKLY ON THE SAME DAY

-  **Black Bin**
Non Recyclable Waste (Refuse)
-  **Brown Bin** (Suspended from 1.12.15 - 28.2.16)
Garden Waste
-  **Recycling & Food only**

Calendars may be subject to change due to adverse weather conditions.

Please note: This is the last year that we will deliver calendars. From 2016/17 they will be made available to view or print on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk or alternatively call 01352 701234 for more details.

Tuesday Your collection day for all services



Leeswood Centre Management Committee

Dance and Easter Bonnet Parade



At the Community Centre

Saturday 12th March
Price £5.



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Memories of an oilfield man

Ras Shokeir-1974 (continued)

Climbing over the four ft hand rail of Rig Tender 3, then stepping back onto the Quay side, I say Quayside but it was more like big boulders piled on the water's edge in the gulf of Suez, four inch braided mooring lines secured the Tender to the steel capstans these were sunk into a concrete base, with the water being so shallow and clear one could see the sea life, crabs small octopus and fish, quite often we would see Barracuda swimming around the tender they were attracted by the smaller fish, later on I would realise what an amazing fighting fish these were when caught on rod and line, (pity about the Tender, it looked like a pile of scrap dragged up off the sea bed) but I later became very attached to it, in those early days we treated our Rigs like football teams, rig crews from other companies would argue and become very competitive over them, but as I stepped onto that Quayside into that scrapyard into the unbelievable heat, I could not believe that I would be one those people,

“Right Tom, lets show you around the dock side” Jimmy King said, I was still coming to terms with his southern accent, “Tell me Jim, if this is a dock why are there no other ships etc.” I imagined the docks to be like Liverpool docks or maybe a little smaller “well it's not a real dock as such, but it was the only place available where we could work in shallow water, the main port of Ras-Gharib is about five miles away but there is some sort of community here though, come on I will show you around the camp” he replied,

“when do I start my shift and what are my working hours Jim” I asked “and what the hell is expected of me, if there is no Rig, no working cranes that I can see, no drilling operations, what is my position here?” he just stood there with a silly smile “I guess nobody has explained or told you anything about this operation. If they did, you would be on the next plane back to the UK”

“Ok lay it on the line and give it to me straight what's my job”? He looked at me took off his baseball cap scratched his head then spoke, “I am a Driller, but there is no rig as yet, Eric is the chief mechanic, but there is no engines as such, Brian is the chief electrician, we have expat assistant drillers but we are not drilling, we have three months to prepare the unit into a drilling mode, we have any amount of local labour, but is easier for us to do the work ourselves than try and explain what is required and use the locals to fetch and carry, we also have a 140ton crawler crane on site that is yours, we also have a couple of fork lift and dumper trucks for site use”, then he continued “As you know nearly all of Rig 22 is from the rig Aquarius that was recovered from the sea bed the electricians and the mechanics have a couple of local Egyptian trades men to help them but your crew will be from local villages so their English is zero, your job will be jack of all trades, the main one is to have all the derrick sandblasted ready for spray painting it has been dismantled and in sections, after painting you will get together with the engineers and drill crew, make a detailed drawing of the derrick then paint numbers on each section so that it can be easily reassembled if you can find any casual workers amongst your labourers that will make roustabouts for when we start drilling all the better, but they will not be employed by our company IDC, we have to go through the local headman, and pay him their wages and he takes his cut it's the system”,

“Hold on a minute Jim you must be joking I am a bloody crane op/deck supervisor not a rig engineer, or a scaffolder, or professional rig painter”, I replied,

“but according to your cv you have your certificate for erecting scaffolding and also completed, and have a certificate in painting through National paints Co for Offshore painting”

“But that's for maintenance only around the rig, what IDC is asking is way beyond my experience and I certainly would not be prepared to put people's lives at risk just to get the rig ready in time for drilling,” I was absolutely gobsmacked “we have had four crane op/deck supervisors in the last month, they decided that this project was just far too much for them and decided that they could not handle it, then demanded a return ticket back to the UK, but I have a feeling you are not one of the

normal Limeys (sorry Tom) guys we have had in the last few weeks” he gave me the impression that he would like me to accept these conditions I thought to hell with it why not and decided yep, I will give it my best shot and see what life has in store for me although it was the most challenging start of my career I was glad I did, and believe me it was very, very challenging.

Too late to back out now, I asked Jim for a guided tour around the camp, which was a little away from the Quayside, there were a number of portable cabins but there were two cabins joined together set apart from the others, outside there were four oil drums filled with concrete, a scaffold pole in each and a tarpaulin cover for shade and approximately twenty foot by twenty foot “what’s this place” I asked, “that belongs to the Comex divers, and sometimes they share it with the chopper pilots, we call it the clubhouse and after work we all get together under the cover have a few cold beers and shoot the bull, I will introduce you to the guy’s later when you settle in, some of the men you meet out here are so different from any you have worked with before nearly all of the pilots are Vietnam veterans and they are crazy guys”, the war was just ending so there were a bunch of guy’s trying to sort their lives out and for some reason the American people treated them as outcasts and seem to blame them for the war but I found they were a great bunch of guy’s and made good friends with the ones that I met,

“what sort of hours do we work and when do I start” I asked Jim, “all of the expats meet at in the office (porta cabin) at 6am for a pre shift talk, your mate Melvin is in charge(rig manager without a rig at the moment)he will brief everyone on the days expectations, give you a list of work to be done, normally it’s an impossible amount of work for all of us, but we do our best, we try and finish for 6 pm,” I asked Jim “why did he take an instant dislike to me or was he like that with everyone” he replied in his deep Southern drawl “he is a god damn coonass” this was the first time that I had heard of this expression “what on earth is a coonass ”I asked, ” that’s a person who comes from Louisiana and the Mississippi and pretty low in manners ”he replied, as if that explained everything, I was none the wiser, so I let it pass,

It was still early afternoon, Jimmy told me it was too late for me to get changed and start work so we can just amble around and get use to the area, I noticed a few shacks constructed of plywood and pallets I asked him what they were for, “there are quite a few knocking around here, after the six day war with Israel in 1967 there were a number of displaced people with no homes and the government would not give them work permits so they hang around here hoping for some casual labour and they live in those shacks” he replied, I must say their living conditions were appalling I asked Jim about their toilet facilities, “you will see them going over into the sand dunes with their can of water and nothing else, they use one hand for their toilet use and the other for eating ”sorry I asked,

I noticed a number of dogs roaming around the cabins and shack’s, when I mentioned this to him, he told me these dogs just hang around the camp living on scraps, but the dog’s you have to be aware of are the desert dogs they are nearly all of a yellow/sandy colour they roam in packs and sometimes come into the camp, they can be dangerous, and sometimes rabid,

“ I reckon we will get back to the office now get some working gear for you, then get you settled in you cabin, have a bite to eat then we will go over to the Comex bar(four scaffold poles with the tarpaulin cover) for some ice cold beers, we all contribute towards the cold beer etc, In the morning we get to the galley around 5am have some breakfast, there is a cook(of sorts) and two galley hands they also clean the cabins” “Is Rig 22 our only rig in the Gulf? ”I asked, “No we also have Rig 21 Tender5 with the barge Estralita, our barge is called the Zarah, but rig 21 has been drilling for 6mths now, most of the expats who work on it live in Maadi in Cairo there are a couple of guys who commute to and from the UK, their wives refused to move here, so they are on a single man’s contract” he replied, “Is that where you live and do you have a family here with you” I asked him, “Yep, my wife Pat, we have both been married before, she has a daughter Barbie, and I have a daughter Lynne, and we both have a son Thumper, aged four,(his hers and ours)”in the years that I knew Jim I only ever knew his son as Thumper,

I was glad to be back inside the air conditioned cabin, Melvin Whitmire leaning back in his chair feet on the table “well what do you think our set up here” straight to the point, he never called me

by my name in the time that we worked together, (about 8mths until he transferred away from me I will explain the reason why in a later issue) I thought I would wind him up a little, “you know something Melvin, It is a lot better than I expected, I’ve lived in a lot worse places in Liverpool. I Think I will enjoy the challenge, and if all of my co-workers are as nice and affable as you then it’s going to be great” the other guys sitting around all gave me the thumbs up, Melvin took it as a compliment I think, but the gauntlet was thrown down, any way enough of that. the rest will come later “So Jims explained what’s required of you” yep and I cannot wait to get started in the morning and meet my crew”,

This is Jimmy King coming out of his house in Maadi, Cairo



On the right is my small 25ton crane, in Ras-Shokeir in the Gulf of Suez



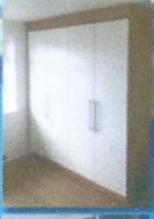
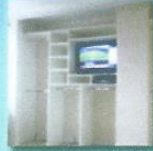
Teaching members of the crew how to splice a 3inch wire bridle for towing,



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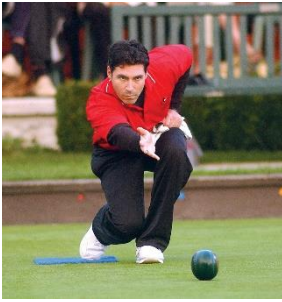
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Leeswood Bowling Club

You may or may not be aware but there is a bowling green and club in the village. The green is behind the community centre and is in a very pleasant spot on a nice summers evening.

The club has been in business since 1998, but as with lots of organisations these days it is struggling for members. So this is an appeal from the Club for anyone who might be interested in playing or watching bowls, to get in contact with us.

We play in two leagues but are in the bottom divisions, so we are not really that good. This means that the green will be in use on a Tuesday afternoon or a Wednesday evening. So it will be available to use at any other time.

We will be able to give some coaching in how to play and we all go down on a Monday evening for much needed practice. The club has a very friendly atmosphere and most of us do not take the game too seriously.

Bowls is not an old man's game as can be witnessed when watching a Wednesday night league game. It is played by all ages and sexes.

It is possible that the club will fold in the not too distant future due to lack of members, which would be a shame as lots of villages are envious of the facility we have.

If you are interested in getting into Bowls then contact *Rob* on 01352771607 for more information.



LADIES GUILD



On the 28th January 2016, the meeting in the Community Centre was left clear for us to finish off the social evening held previously, when it snowed quite heavily and we all left early.

Our social secretary, Mrs. Mildred Heyward had organised games and a quiz. Mildred comes into a bit of aggro when everyone moans the quiz is too hard but all in all we have a jolly good laugh. The winners were awarded small prizes. Hostesses were Mrs. Dorothy Davies and Mrs. Maureen Calder. The raffle was won by Mrs. Lucille Ingman and Mrs. Gill Burton (again!! It's getting embarrassing). Mrs. Maureen Calder won the special raffle.

On the 11th February Mrs. Jenny Webb, one of our Guild members, showed us slides and gave a running commentary on the two years, 1966/68. she lived in Malaysia and Singapore.

It was a most interesting evening.

Refreshments were then served by Mrs. Mary Morris and Mrs. Gill Burton. The raffle was drawn and Mrs. Maureen Calder and Mrs. Mildred Heyward were the winners. The special raffle was won by Mrs. Anne Davies.

Gill Burton

THE EGGMAN

© James Maloney

Chapter 9

The League

As the cart rounded the bend at the Lockan crossroads Tom noted the Smithy doors were still closed.

‘That’s unusual,’ he said, pulling back on the reins stopping the cart where they had a good view of the house and the forge.

‘It’s not Wednesday.’ Martin said giving Tom a puzzled look.

Just as they were about to continue on their way, Anne Collins with her two youngest children close behind, appeared carrying a basket of potatoes freshly dug from the clamp close to the back wall of the smithy.

‘Where’s Dan, Mrs Collins,’ Tom inquired.

‘Called away in a hurry, something about repairing a plough, he sent Mick off with a message,’ she said, and then added ‘the strange thing is he’s not taken his tools.’

‘Perhaps the farmer had his own tools,’ Martin said, trying to justify Dan’s reason for leaving without the means to do his work.

‘We stopped, to say goodbye, I’m leaving for England today.’ Martin continued.

‘I’ll tell him when he gets back. Good luck in England Martin, your turn next Tom,’ Anne said, as Tom urged the donkey on its way.

Gradually Tom’s memory recovered, images of the night before slowly took shape, however something seemed to be bothering him something was not quite right.

His muddled head tried to remember the scene in the bar.

Friends seated at the round corner table.

Brothers Will, and John Rooney, nicknamed ‘The Firedogs’ by the regulars because they claim seats either side of the turf fire, lighting their clay pipes with paper spills placed in an old brass shell case crafted from old newspapers.

Although the Rooney brothers were not twins they were almost identical in looks.

Most people identified them by the groove in their teeth caused by gripping a clay pipe between their teeth. John had the groove on the left and Will on the right.

The others in the room were familiar faces apart from the two strangers standing at the end of the counter; they had entered the bar late in the evening, and were deep in conversation with proprietor Paddy Campbell.

Two more opposite characters you could not imagine, one tall and slim, with grey hair, and moustache to match, the other average height, with broad shoulders, a broken nose, and very little hair apart from a scruffy grey beard which gave the appearance of an upside-down head. His last recollection was of the two strangers following the landlord through the black threadbare curtain to the back room.

As they entered the room, the curtain pulled to one side, giving Tom a brief glimpse of an outstretched arm, greeting the two strangers.

He remembered thinking at the time that he had seen that arm somewhere before.

Whose arm was it? There was something familiar about it.

Why did Paddy Campbell take two strangers to his private room?

Tom's head was still suffering the after effects of the previous night, too scrambled for puzzles. He decided to change the subject.

'What were you saying about stopping to see the priest in Castlebar.'

Tom said, interrupting Martin's train of thought,

'Ah yes, well err, err.' Martin was struggling to find the words.

You heard about the landlords putting up the rents, rent-racking they call it.

Well...you know...my Uncle Tim and his family were cleared off their farm last week after the rent was doubled twice in a year, leaving him no way of paying.

Eventually he had to choose between feeding his family, and paying the rent selling anything of value...the cattle, the donkey and cart, as a last resort some better pieces of furniture.

He said he would do anything to feed his family things were that desperate.

Tim's neighbours, old Jim Duffy and his wife took all six of them.

Jim's wife was expecting the worse, and had made room for them, eight of them living in the one feckin room.'

Martin paused to allow Tom to think about what he had related, then continued.

'Jim and his son Ned Duffy are members of the new Land League committee, it didn't take much persuading for Uncle Tim to join.'

'I heard about the evictions, I heard my da talking about the League what do they do? 'Who's in it'? Tom enquired.

'It was formed to help farmers like Uncle Tim and to stop the English landlords clearing our people off the land they've been farming for generations. At the last league meeting they talked about organising events to raise money. Another proposal that was suggested is for all local business people to refuse to sell goods or give a service to anyone who works for the 'big house' or on their land.

That means on some estates they are having to have food brought in, and travel miles to have their horses shod.'

'I heard about agents asking people to work for them and offering good money last week in Westport, is it working?' Tom asked trying to concentrate.

'Well it's early days yet, they're sending more troops from England. As the evictions continue more are joining, new committees are being formed all over. We are all affected by the evictions, I heard the other day there's talk of Orangemen coming down from the north to work the fields. If the English bastards want to harvest their crops, it's going to cost them dearly. Lord Langton has had to set up his own smithy and bakery using a blacksmith and baker from his estate in England. The feckers are saying anyone that refuses to give a service will be charged with criminal conspiracy, whatever that is.'

'Yes but what's that got to do with the church?' Tom enquired.

'Well on Sunday after mass I went to see Father Quinn for his blessing, and to tell him I was going to England.

He said he was sorry to see me leave and would I call to see Father Byrne on the way to Westport to give him a letter.'

'But what's 'The League' got to do with the priest?' Tom asked again.

Father Quinn runs The League's Ballingar branch.

Father Byrne is the chairman of the 'The Castlebar Land League committee, the biggest in Mayo. Land League committees being formed from Cork to Donegal, and Father Quinn is looking for new members to strengthen the Ballingar branch. The evictions must be stopped. Would you like to join? You could take my place.' Martin suggested.

Tom thought about it for a while, eventually he said.

'I was stopped by a roadblock last week, English soldiers searched the feckin cart, opened all feckin the boxes...the bastards, broke no eggs though, said they were looking for guns, that was the third time this month. One fecker looked at me with a bit of a smile on his ugly face as if he knew me, never seen him before, very strange.'

Tom's face turned two brighter shades of red as his blood boiled just thinking about the harassment they have to endure.

'Yes I'll join, and our Michael might be persuaded to as well.'

'Too late, he's already joined,' Martin said with a wry smile.

'He's what they call a 'Moonlighter'; there are a few of them from the Ballingar area now.' Martin returned.

'That's where he's been going at night, the sly fecker; I thought he was chasing a woman'.

'What's a Moonlighter, I've heard Mick talk about them to his friend but he always changes the subject when I ask,' enquired Tom.

'He kept it quiet because he's sworn to secrecy, the less you know the better, now that your joining you'll find out anyway', Martin said.

'Moonlighters go out at night making life difficult for anyone co-operating with the English bastard in the Big House. Threatening his workers, torching his barns and maim his cattle, anything to get even for the misery he causes. We're fighting for fair rents¹.

I'm not saying our branch members go that far, Father Quinn is against violence except in certain circumstances.' anything that will help stop the evictions,' Martin added passionately.

'When I join, I'd want to go out at night, I don't think my da would like me to be a Moonlighter, I don't think he'd risk two sons being caught by the feckin English.' Tom said still trying to concentrate on steering the cart around the water filled potholes.

Around the next bend Castlebar came into view greeting the boys with the strong earthy smell of turf from the numerous household fires causing a dark blue haze over the town. Martin thought of Father Byrne and how they would be received.

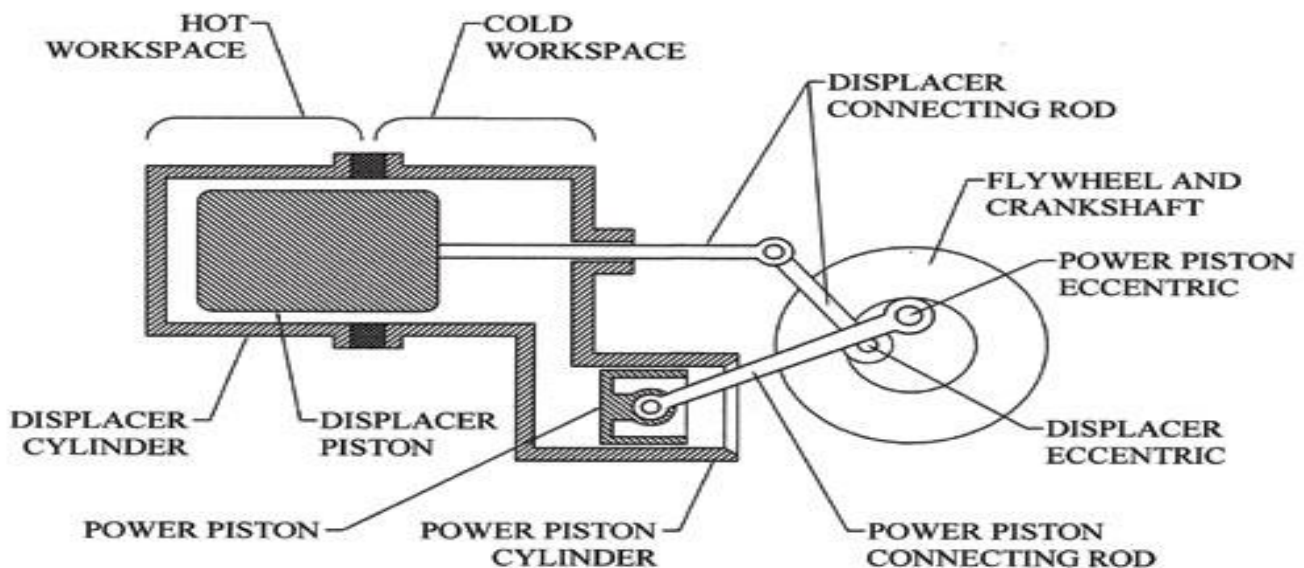
Tom had other things on his mind.

¹ *The land league fought for the three f's, Fair rent, fixed tenure, and free sale.*

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Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana

It is common practice that when solids, liquids, and gases are heated they expand, and when cooled they contract. The rate at which they expand and contract depends on their physical structure. For example, steel expands and contracts at a much slower rate than air. The amount of expansion and contraction of a substance depends on what is known as the coefficient of expansion. Each substance has a different coefficient of expansion, which is why different substances expand and contract by different amounts. Because of its rate of expansion and contraction, air is used in a comprehensive range of applications, where rapid expansion and contraction is required. One such application is found in what is known as the Sterling engine which is another British invention. The figure below shows a cross sectional view of a basic functional sterling engine, and it works as follows.



When the displacer piston moves back and forth within the displacer cylinder, it reciprocates the air within the cylinder. As the air moves from the cold workspace to the hot workspace it expands, thus creating a pressure within the cylinder. The pressure pushes the power piston outwards, which will in turn rotate the flywheel via the connecting rod. When the displacer piston reverses its position, it pushes the air to the cold side where it contracts and creates a vacuum. The vacuum will pull the power piston inwards which will continue rotating the flywheel. As long as there is a temperature difference between the two ends of the displacer cylinder, the air will continue to expand and contract each time the displacer piston reciprocates it within the cylinder.

These days, sterling engines come in different forms and sizes, some are very simple and can be bought in kit form, others are more advanced with the probability of being more complicated. Nevertheless, irrespective of how advanced these engines have become, the origin started in this country, and it was invented in this country by Rev. Sterling.

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LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI

AN EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2016.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Caruana (in the Chair)

Councillors J. Atkinson, D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, Terry Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, K. McCallum JP and J.E. Saul.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors D. Rule, G. Sherwood (Vice-Chairman) and R. Williams (Chairman).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

POLICE LIAISON

PCSO 3461 Poppy Hadfield-Jones was present at the meeting. She presented an Incident update report.

04/11/2015 – Anti-social behaviour (personal) – this is a civil issue.

04/11/2015 – Anti-social behaviour (personal).

04/11/2015 – Anti-social behaviour (personal).

11/11/2015 – Criminal damage to a vehicle (slight – not noticed immediately).

18/11/2015 – Anti-social behaviour.

18/11/2015 – Contact record (possibly not an incident but was necessary for Police to have communication).

26/11/2015 – Anti-social behaviour.

12/12/2015 – Threats.

14/12/2015 – Harassment (there was an arrest).

02/02/2016 – Burglary other than a dwelling (garage left open).

Community Beat Managers are going to be phased out. Generic changes are to take place within the Police Force – how neighbourhood policing teams will function – these changes will not be drastic. Plain clothes officers are to work with the Community Police Team.

MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2015 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor Terry Hughes that the minutes of the monthly meeting be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

VACANCY FOR A COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR

There had been three applications for the vacancy of Community Councillor. These were from Mrs J. Lincoln, Mr N. McCallum and Mr J. Phoenix. Councillor K. McCallum JP declared an interest being the father of one of the applicants. Following a procedure of voting, it was decided that Mr J. Phoenix be informed that his application had been successful. The unsuccessful candidates were to be written to and thanked for their interest.

ACQUISITION OF LAND – CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

It was reported that the Legal Department of the Flintshire County Council had closed their file on this. There had still been no success in trying to arrange a meeting with Mr George Owens. It was suggested that consideration be given to once again looking at alternative sites. All Councillors agreed that suggestions should be discussed at the February meeting.

CEMETERY

The Clerk advised that the Cemetery sub-contractor had e-mailed stating that he intended to possibly looking at laying the big hedge in the Cemetery during the next few months. Also, he was waiting for the ground to dry up before removing the clay and replacing with topsoil. It was suggested that a meeting with the Cemetery sub-contractor should be arranged on site. The Clerk was to attend to this.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications.

Reference was made to the planning application discussed at the last meeting: -

Application Number 054041

Use of land for the erection of a solar photovoltaic array including meter and inverter kiosks, security cameras, fencing and gates, temporary construction compound and access track.

Celyn Farm, Stryt Cae Rhedyn, Leeswood, Mold, CH7 4SS.

A photograph of the solar photovoltaic array was made available for Councillors to look at. It was pointed out that Flintshire County Council were obliged to provide a certain percentage of this within the County. All Councillors agree that this matter was to be put on the agenda for the February meeting.

PLANNING DECISIONS

Application Number 053621

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

Report was received that Flintshire County Council had refused this application and it had gone to appeal. At the appeal stage, half of the plan had been approved with the other half refused. This is considered to be unusual as a planning application is generally approved or refused in its entirety. Questions had been raised as to why this plan had been treated differently.

SPEED CAMERA IN PONTBLYDDYN

Comment was made that the speed camera was now in place and this would hopefully deter speeding and save lives. This speed camera had been paid for by a grant. Councillor R. Hughes was thanked for all the work that he had put in supporting the installation of this speed camera. It was observed that whilst there had been a noticeable reduction in speed coming off the dual carriageway and through the wooded area, this had not translated to the village of Pontblyddyn itself where vehicles will still be travelling much quicker than they ought to be.

CHANGE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL NAME TO LEESWOOD & PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A letter has been sent to the Legal Services Department at Flintshire County Council formally requesting that the Leeswood Community Council changes its name to the Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council.

This request is made under Section 76 of the Local Government Act 1972.

BARRY RICHARDS – RETIREMENT GIFT

All Councillors were in agreement that a pair of large engraved vases were to be purchased as a retirement gift for Mr Barry Richards. The wording on these is to read 'For Barry Richards – in appreciation of the long service to our Community. Presented by the Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Community Council'.

POND AREA ON PHOENIX PARK

An e-mail had been received from Mr Richard Roberts of Organisational Change, Flintshire County Council advising that this matter had been passed on to Mr Alan Roberts who would respond in due course.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – MATCH FUNDING ON PHOENIX PARK

Richard Roberts of Organisational Change, Flintshire County Council advised that the old adventure trail on the Phoenix Park play area is to be replaced with a new play structure that has climbing ropes, nets and climbing beams. It is hoped that this work will be implemented before the end of March 2016.

MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

- a) Community Christmas Lights – Councillor J.E. Saul was thanked for the work he does in arranging the installation of the Christmas Lights in the Community. Comment was made that there were some of the lights that had not been lit during the festive period. It was understood that the bulbs on the fittings had been checked and replaced where necessary, however, if there was no power reaching a particular standard there was no way of inspecting this.
- b) Dog fouling on Maxwell Drive – it was brought to the Council's attention that there was dog fouling on Maxwell Drive. Remark was made that there are dog fouling disposal bins in the Community to be used. It was unfortunate, but Maxwell Drive was not the only area to suffer from this problem. There was little that could be done unless catching the owner of the dog not clearing up after and reporting the incident.

FOR A FULL VERSION OF THE MINUTES PLEASE SEE THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE: -
<http://leeswoodcommunity.org.uk>

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