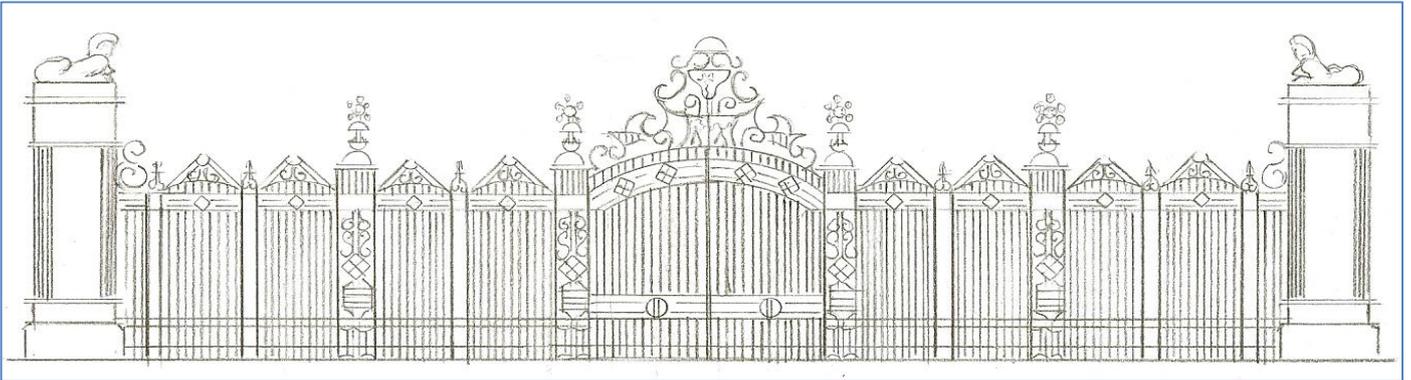


# *Leeswood* & District News



**BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

**APRIL 2016**

**ISSUE 349**

**FREE**



*Mrs Lucille Ingman, M.B.E*

## EDITORIAL

Do you remember back to the good old days when news was passed by word of mouth or by telephone? Nowadays with the internet and social network sites news spreads fast. At one time; the only thing online would be the washing and tablets came from a Doctor. Apple was a fruit. Isn't it amazing though how things have moved on. I remember using one of the first mobile phones, as part of my job at the time – it charged for hours, was the size of a small brick, and seemed just as heavy. To use you had to make sure you were not surrounded by buildings and it had a huge extendable ariel. I also remember seeing my first computer – it was in a very large room, kept at the right temperature. My first desk computer would take so long to boot up, you had time to go get and sandwich and make a cup of tea. Now I get upset if my tablet is not instantaneous. How we are now spoilt. It makes me wonder where it all will lead. Please send your letters, poems, jokes etc in to the publication – we NEED more input.

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-**

**MAY 2016 EDITION**

**MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

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## PONTYBODKIN LADIES GUILD LUNCH



Leeswood Community Centre

**THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL**

Two courses plus  
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Served noon 12 – 1.30pm  
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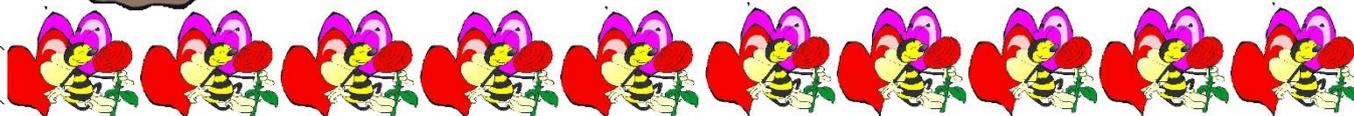
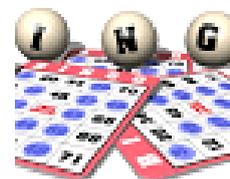
# BINGO

FOR LEESWOOD HOSPICE GROUP

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Doors open 7.00 pm - Eyes down 7.30 pm

At Leeswood Community Centre



80s Dance

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May

7.30pm

Tickets £5

(sorry – no children)



AT LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE  
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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

## A River Reborn

I think my favourite TV channel has to be BBC Four. Its schedule is full of interesting little gems. One such little gem I have been enjoying recently is *The River Taff* presented by writer and fisherman Will Millard. He traces the journey of the river from its source – a mountain spring in the Brecon Beacons – to its end as it flows into Cardiff Bay, and out into The Bristol Channel.

On the way the river passes through some beautiful landscapes as well as the industrial heartland of South Wales. Historically, the course of the river led to it becoming polluted and biologically dead.

When I was a boy growing up in Cardiff, my parents warned me that if I fell into the Taff I would more than likely die of poisoning than by drowning. But since the 1980s the Taff has undergone a massive transformation and regeneration. The pollution has been halted, debris and detritus has been removed, and Oxygen levels have gradually risen. The river has been restocked with fish, and nowadays salmon pass through a fish gate in Cardiff Bay and swim up the Taff. The highlight of the TV series was watching Will Millard catching a salmon in a stretch of the Taff passing through the centre of Cardiff – amazing. Having given the fish a little kiss (yuk) he released it to continue its journey upstream.

Regeneration – death being overtaken by new life – is the great theme of the Christian season of Easter. Christians believe that the physical body of Jesus was given new life. Death is not the end and does not have the final word. Not only that – God is able to bring transforming new life into our lives, our relationships and our communities.

As we say, in Cardiff, 'That's tidy'.

God bless and Happy Easter,  
Rev James.

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

Website – [www.bethanialeeswood.org](http://www.bethanialeeswood.org)

Phone Rob 01352 771607 or Rev. James 07711 034020

- \* Back ache?
- \* Neck pain?
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- \* Allergies?



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

\* Issues in babies? \*

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SERVICES APRIL/MAY 2016**

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL: EASTER 2**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

**SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL: EASTER 3**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: T.B.A.

4.00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MR BRYAN JONES

**SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL: EASTER 4**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLD

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL: EASTER 5**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN  
THIS SERVICE WILL BE FOLLOWED  
BY THE **EASTER VESTRY**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY: EASTER 6**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY: EASTER 7**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN  
4.00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MR BRYAN JONES

† † † † †

**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY: PENTECOST**

11.15 A.M. A HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE  
OF CELEBRATION AND REDEDICATION  
CELEBRANT AND PREACHER:  
THE RT REV'D DR GREGORY CAMERON,  
BISHOP OF ST ASAPH

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE.

† † † † †

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY: TRINITY SUNDAY**

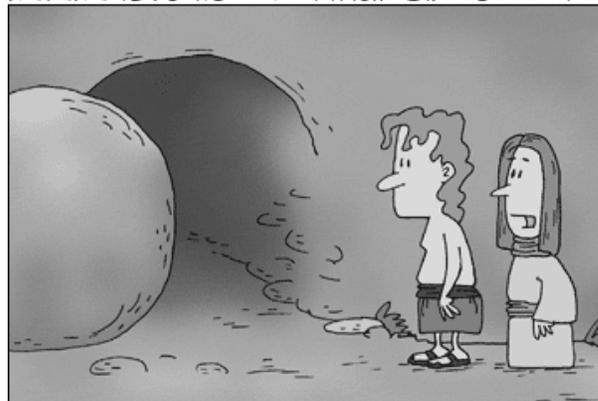
11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION  
CELEBRANT: THE REV'D DR RICHARD HAINSWORTH

**SUNDAY MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>: TRINITY 1**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLDS

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See John 20:1-18)

04-12-2004

**NOTHING IS CERTAIN EXCEPT WHAT AND TAXES?!?**



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IN CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN

30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 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 WILL BE OPEN** every day between the hours of 10.30 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. from Easter week onwards.

**THE DUCK RACE IS COMING ...**

**MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY AT 1.00PM**

**PONTBLYDDYN CRICKET CLUB**

*Ducks can be purchased in advance from Christ Church. Proceeds in aid of Christ Church funds*



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

**CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

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

Phone: 01978 762304

Email: [cc.sm@btinternet.com](mailto:cc.sm@btinternet.com)



**KEITH JONES**

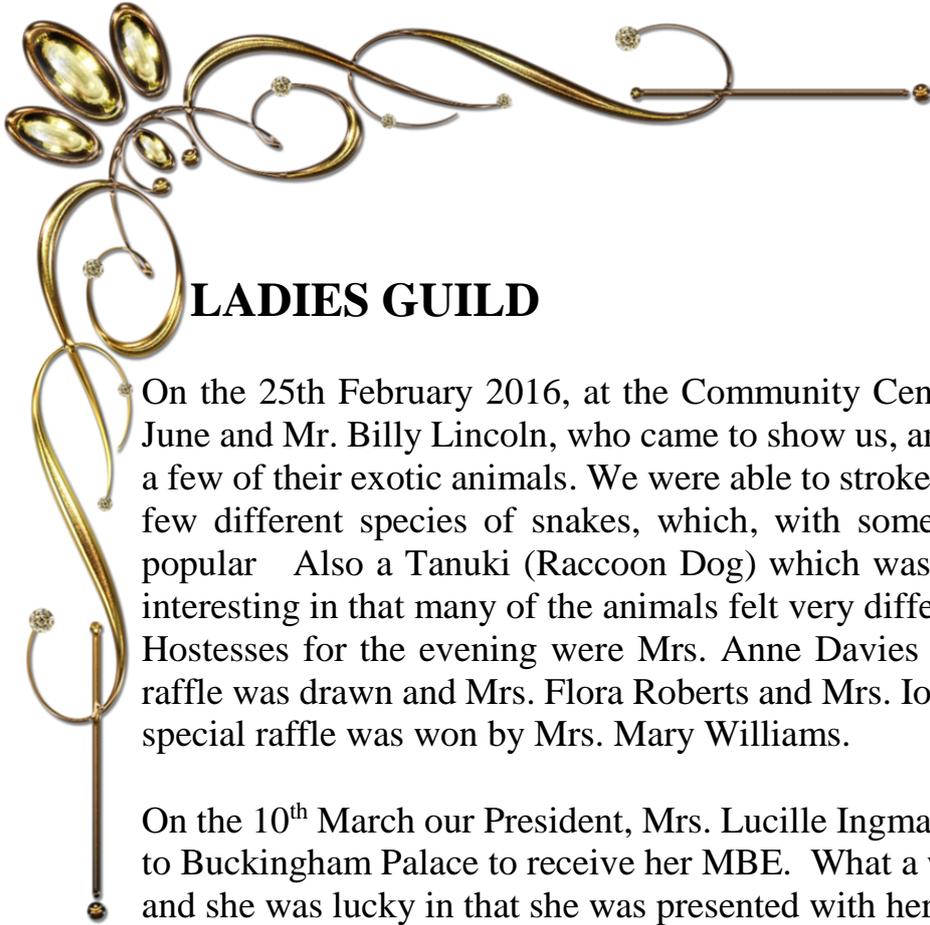
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## LADIES GUILD

On the 25th February 2016, at the Community Centre, our guest speakers were Mrs. June and Mr. Billy Lincoln, who came to show us, and for some of us to get up close to a few of their exotic animals. We were able to stroke and feel lizards, a chinchilla and a few different species of snakes, which, with some of our members, were not very popular. Also a Tanuki (Raccoon Dog) which was absolutely beautiful. It was very interesting in that many of the animals felt very different to how you would imagine. Hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Anne Davies and Mrs. Mildred Heyward. The raffle was drawn and Mrs. Flora Roberts and Mrs. Iola Griffiths were the winners. The special raffle was won by Mrs. Mary Williams.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March our President, Mrs. Lucille Ingman had the floor to tell us of her trip to Buckingham Palace to receive her MBE. What a wonderful achievement for Lucille and she was lucky in that she was presented with her award by the Queen. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Gwyneth Davies and Mrs. Iola Griffiths. The raffle was won by Mrs. Gwyneth Davies and Mrs. Mildred Heyward and Mildred was also lucky enough to win the special raffle.

*Gill Burton*



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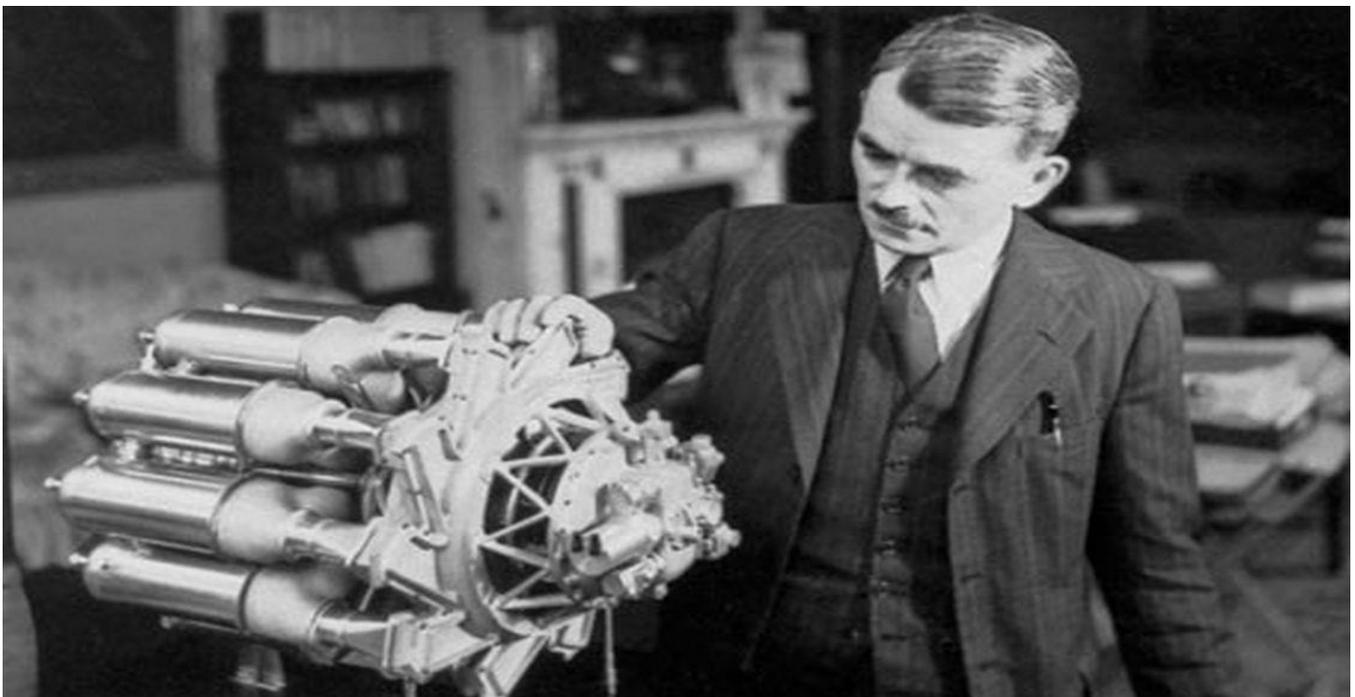
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## Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana

Phrases that you hear for the first time does make an impression on you, and if one relate the meaning of a phrase to a particular path of life, one can most probably remember the place where one was or who he heard saying that phrase. A phrase that made a good impression on my engineering career was that 'need is the mother of invention', and although I do not remember exactly where I was when I heard this phrase, I remember as if I heard it yesterday that that person that I have heard saying that phrase for the first time was my father.

In my path of life, I have witnessed the development of several inventions, and although they were not all British, most of them were invented by British engineers or British companies. One such a development was the invention of the jet engine by Frank Whittle. Sir Frank Whittle was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1907, and his father was a mechanical engineer, he had developed an insight into how mechanical things work or function. His first two attempts to join the Royal Air Force were unsuccessful due to his height, but he was accepted as an apprentice on his third attempt in 1923, and qualified as a pilot officer in 1928.

When Whittle was a cadet in the RAF, in his thesis he written that for an aircraft to fly long distances at high speeds, it needs to fly at altitude because the air is thinner and thus offers less resistance. The conventional engines of that time were not suitable to fly at high altitudes and Whittle felt that there was a 'need' to develop a new engine that can cope with such conditions. When he initially approached the Air Ministry they turned him down and he had to patent the idea on his own. Notwithstanding all the obstacles, Whittle persevered, and in 1935 the RAF secured him financially, he formed a company called Power Jets Limited, and started working on the development of his first jet engine.



The above illustration shows Sir Frank Whittle, proudly standing by a miniature model of his jet engine invention. A proud person that identified a 'need' and 'invented' a solution to fulfil that 'need'. In 1948 Sir Whittle retired from the RAF with the rank of air commodore and received a knighthood the same year.



Hello everyone, hope you are all well. Spring is officially now upon us, although I would say it sprung a while back. I have however just recently seen leaves on the school grounds so now I'm thinking we're actually seeing Autumn again!

Actually, a big thank you goes to Ysgol Derwenfa for holding a non-uniform day for us which raised £90.00, and also a huge thank you to the Leeswood Community Council for their very, very generous donation. We are very grateful.

March the 9<sup>th</sup> saw us host our Easter bingo night. We received so many donations from people for this that we decided to use some of them as raffle prizes in the next two events planned. There are far too many individuals to thank for those donations, but you all know who you are. Here are just a few of the prizes that were won at the Bingo...

Easter Hamper  
(every chocolate lover's dream)



Handbag Cake  
(donated by Bake you a Cake)



Pamper Yourself Hamper  
and other prizes



Thankfully, there were a lot of people supporting us on the night. The usual bingo crowd never fail to turn up to every bingo, not just held by us but by other organisations. The village is very lucky to have their constant support. It was also nice to see our very own little diamond Lucille Ingman fresh from the Palace after visiting her old mate Lizzie on St. David's Day to collect something called an "MBE" (I'm thinking that "Must Be Elizabeth" herself eh! We didn't see Lizzie at the bingo though, which is a shame). Nevertheless, a big congratulations again from us Lucille. It was also nice to once again see retired headmaster Doug Jones who always supports us, and not forgetting our 2015 Queen Estelle who very graciously attends every fundraiser we hold. We raised a "cracking" £613 on the night. It was originally announced as £633, but we had taken into account money taken for something else (eggs in a jar). However, £613 is quite "eggcellent" don't you think?!

Speaking of eggs, we did have at the bingo night a jar full of chocolate eggs which you could take a guess as to how many were in there for just a £1. If memory serves me right, the numbers start at 150 and end at 300. We decided that, as we did not sell that many numbers on the night, we would take the jar to the Co-op shop and ask them to try and sell the numbers on our behalf. The shop however have been holding their own Easter raffle so we thought that we would take the jar to the Community Centre on our Talent Contest Event on the 9<sup>th</sup> April and try and sell more numbers and then draw the winning number on the night. The jar may of course make its way to the shop in between so keep an eye out for it and don't forget to buy that all important number.

The Talent Contest, don't forget, is being held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016. We decided to "eggstend" (sorry, still in joke mode). We decided to extend (that's better) the deadline to

the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 as applications appeared to be a little slow coming in. Since the closing date however we have had a meeting and, due to the amount of interest shown, we have decided that we will open the Community Centre from 5pm. Even though there are only several applications, we are hoping that some budding stars may find the confidence to participate last minute and this could therefore make it a favourable fundraising event every year. The Talent Contest itself will take place between 6pm and 8pm, with registration for those competing being at 5.30pm. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> place will be announced on the night and will of course also have their star turn on stage on Carnival Day. I was going to do a stand-up gig myself but, going by the jokes in this write-up, I'd be more likely to be told to "sit down"!

As mentioned, doors open at 5pm and there will be a barbeque on the go (hopefully the sun will be shining) and there will also be refreshments available to buy such as pop, crisps and sweets for the children and tea and coffee for the adults. The bar will not be open until 7pm for alcoholic drinks. There will be a disco from 8pm.

May the 21<sup>st</sup> will see the last fundraising event before Carnival Day itself. This will be the all important Rosebud & Queen Competition. Sorry, that was meant to say Prince, Rosebud & Queen Competition. Yes, this year the Committee have decided (after a few comments last year) to give the young men of this village a chance to strut their stuff alongside the Rosebud and Queen hopefuls and earn a place on stage on the big day. The competition ages will be 5-10 for the Prince and the Rosebud and 11-16 for the Queen. The competition will run similar to what it did last year, but we will be starting at a slightly earlier time of 6.30pm for registration purposes seen as though we are incorporating the Prince this time. It was particularly busy last year and we did not expect nowhere near the amount of entrants that we had, so this time we want to give ourselves the chance to run the competition a little more smoothly and not rush things.

There is no entrance fee for the event. Of course if anyone is feeling a little generous on the night, we would greatly appreciate the odd coin or two being thrown in the donation bucket!

We must impress upon the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of the children entering the competition that there are terms and conditions on the reverse of the forms so they must be read before that all important signature is cast. Last year, it appeared that hardly anyone read the notes or terms and conditions that accompanied the form, even though they were informed of them, and these are in fact the most vital part of the event that you should concern yourselves with. We must also impress upon the fact that this year the Committee will not be able to provide any winner with transport for the parade. This has to be responsibility of the Parent(s)/Guardian(s), but the Committee are more than willing to give advice if needed.

If anyone has any questions however about any of the fundraising events, or indeed about the day itself, please feel free to contact any one of us either on social media via our Facebook page or by simply asking one of us when you see us out and about. Most of you know who we are by now, but here's just a quick recap of the Committee:-

Raymond Hughes (Chairman)   David Ellis (Vice Chairman)   Stewart Williams (Treasurer)  
Leah Thomas Coleman (Events Manager)   Clare Coleman (Secretary)  
Stephen Rule (Fundraising Officer)   Jane Abbotts (Fundraising Officer)  
Ally Harrison-Dean (Risk Assessment)  
Joe Williams (feet on the ground, good all rounder)  
Kelly Jones (our newly appointed member)  
and me...

With kind regards as always,

Louise Hoyle Fennell (wherever and whenever I'm wanted)  
Committee Member  
**Leeswood Carnival Committee**

# THE EGGMAN

## Chapter 10

Nora Murphy

The auburn-haired Nora occupied Tom's thoughts more and more to the point where he questioned how much he liked her.

'If I cannot stop thinking about her it must be love, or is it?

Other girls Tom had known and started to form a close friendship had left with their family to seek work abroad, making Tom reluctant to admit to himself that he was very fond of Nora, perhaps more than fond, perhaps in love.

People were beginning to notice too, his mother concerned about his moody demeanour asked,

'What's wrong with you Thomas walking around in a dream staring at nothing in particular, are you feeling unwell?'

On his next run to Westport Tom stopped the cart at the Boreen leading to the Murphy farm. After waiting a few minutes Tom concluded that Nora must be some way ahead of him on her daily walk to town. In his eagerness to catch up, the ever-willing donkey was urged to move faster than was comfortable along the uneven road at least until they came to the long incline as they approached the town.

To Tom's delight, in the distance he could just make out a familiar female figure with red hair flowing in the light Atlantic breeze and a red shawl over her shoulders walking slowly down the steepest section of the hill.

It was Nora and she was turning to look back as if expecting someone. Nora could hear the cart trundling ever closer down the hill and coyly continued walking swinging her wicker basket carefully slowing her pace to allow Tom to catch up.

Tom started the conversation.

'I waited for ye, Yee'll have to give a sign when you're on your way to town, it'll save me waiting and give us more time to talk.' Tom said almost in a whisper to prevent being overheard by passers-by.

'How do you think I could let you know.'

'We need to think of something to let me know you're on your way to town,' Tom said stroking his chin like a wise old man.



That made Nora smile as she said, 'I'll put a stick on the big marker stone at the end of our road.'

'Good idea but not a stick it might blow away it would have to be heavier more like a small stone.'

It was settled, every time she went to town Nora would place a small stone on the large marker stone at the entrance to the Boreen.

The arrangement worked, giving the young couple the opportunity to meet on Tom's regular journeys to and from the port.

Tom noticed the pretty young girl that occupied his thoughts sitting a little closer on every trip into town. On the last occasion at a point where the Boreen is shielded by overhanging trees Tom offered Nora a chance to hold the reins.

Nora moved closer to take control of the cart; Tom could feel his heartbeat increasing as he put his arms around the young colleen whispering, 'like this' his hands holding hers and the reins.

To Tom's delight Nora edged closer closing what little gap remained then turned looking directly into his eyes. This gave Tom the courage to hold her tighter and ask softly, 'do you have to go back to England?'

Nora replied with a kiss on his cheek and a squeeze of his hand.

Instinctively, with his heart pounding ever faster he held her tighter to him, kissing her this time on the lips, until breathless she pulled away gasping sorrowfully.

'Next time I see you, might be the last.'

'We better make the most of the time we have then,' Tom whispered.

Nora responded by pulling him closer.

After what seemed like an age locked in an embrace punctuated by 'don't go Nora,'

'I don't want to go Tom.'

'Promise me you'll write,' Tom mumbled taking the reins.

'I might not be going, if I do I'll write when I get to England, we'll keep in touch. I'll see you next week.' Nora replied giving Tom another mischievous smile that made him fumble for a reply.

'Y-yes see you next week, Tom Walsh, Knockaun, Ballingar, that's my address just in case I don't see you again,' Tom stuttered, as she recovered her basket from the seat.

'I know, it's on the side', Nora said pointing to the cart with her basket. Tom had forgotten his father's name and address was on the side of the cart.

---

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# Odd Job John

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## DAVID HANSON MP FOR DELYN

### SEVEN WAYS TO CONTACT DAVID



DAVID HANSON MP

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 Flint, Flintshire  
 CH6 5DH  
**OR**  
 House of Commons  
 London, SW1A 0A

**Phone me:** 01352 763159

**See me:** At one of my regular advice surgeries  
 (contact my office for details)

**Fax me:** 01352 730140

**Email me:** [david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.hanson.mp@parliament.uk)

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CALLING ALL ENTRANTS! CALLING ALL ENTRANTS!



## LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

*invites the Community to the*

# PRINCE, ROSEBUD & CARNIVAL QUEEN DISCO 2016

*to be held at*

## LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

*on*

## SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2016

*at 6.30pm*

*With Special Guests: The reigning ROSEBUD & QUEEN 2015*

*Registration for Prince, Rosebud and Queen Competitions  
close at 7.15pm*

*The Carnival Committee would be extremely grateful for your continuing support  
as a Community to make this 2016 Carnival a success*

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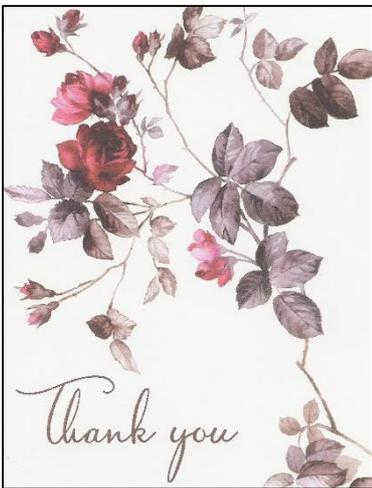
07834 944925

07889 114446

Tel/Fax: 01978 761666

Email: [keithjonesandson@btconnect.com](mailto:keithjonesandson@btconnect.com)

Unit 1 Derby Park Farm, Penyffordd,  
Chester CH4 0HU



Gwladys Rogers' family wish to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, shown to them in their bereavement.

Donations received in lieu of flowers were shared between the Methodist Churches of Leeswood and Connahs Quay.



"In loving memory of  
THELMA MARY THOMAS  
(RCN, RCM & Queens Nursing)  
Erw Las, Stryt-Cae-Rhedyn, Leeswood.  
Dear wife of Selwyn Lloyd Thomas  
Sadly missed and forever in my  
thoughts"

## ★ CHARITY VARIETY ★

## ★★★★★ CONCERT ★★★★★

Compared by the renowned, Mr. Mel Blake, Comedian

★ Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 ★

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Performing, The Laughing Legends, Elsber School of Theatre Dance,  
Flint Male Voice Choir, Singers Andy Otley & Charlotte Croft

★ *The evening promises to entertain* ★



£10 Adult ticket, £7 Child ticket

★ All proceeds to the



For Tickets please contact Lesley or Karen, Civic & Member Services, 01352 702151

Or email: [chairman.assistant@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:chairman.assistant@flintshire.gov.uk)

Also tickets available to buy from:

Simmi Womenswear, 18a Grosvenor Street, Mold  
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# Dog fouling

Nobody likes seeing dog muck in public places. As well as being unpleasant, it is potentially harmful and whilst the majority of dog owners are responsible and do pick up after their dog, a small number of people choose to ignore the rules.

You can report fouling online – by the use of an e-form (go to Flintshire CC web page) - Alternatively:

- [Download the Flintshire App!](#) – report it using your mobile device. Submit anonymously or register. Benefits of registering include receiving updates on the progress of your report, ability to see all your previous reports and give feedback.
- View the [Streetscene telephone number](#) and speak with an advisor.

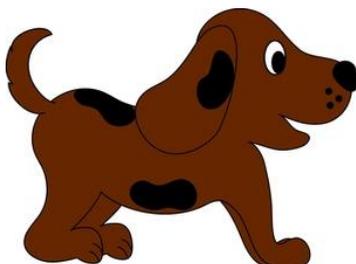
**What happens next?** - Your report will be sent to our Streetscene team. If you provided an email you will receive an acknowledgement with your reference number followed by a progress update later. If you didn't provide an email you can contact [streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk) for an update.

**Fines and enforcement against dog fouling** - If a dog fouls in a public place, then by law, the owner or person in charge of the dog at the time must clean up after it. This law is called the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005. A 'public place' means any area that is open to the air and which the public are entitled or have permission to have access (with or without payment). Some examples of the types of land covered by this Law are:

- The highways (for example roads, pavements and footpaths)
- Public open spaces
- Town centres and shopping precincts
- Car parks
- Playing fields
- School playing fields (Under the terms of Education Act 1996, Section 547, any person who without lawful authority is present on school, grounds and premises, causes or permits nuisance or disturbance may be prosecuted. This includes nuisance arising from dog fouling.)

It is an offence for those in control of dogs to allow fouling and then fail to remove their waste. Anyone that chooses to not clean up after their dog in Flintshire can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). The FPN charge for a ticket issued in Flintshire is **£75** and they are issued as an alternative to prosecution. North Wales Police and Flintshire County Council Enforcement Team proactively work together to ensure that our communities stay safe and green, and that those who choose to ignore the law, pay the price. Local authorities may also enact Dog Control Orders on relevant land after consulting on this issue. Read Flintshire County Council's Dog Control Owner.

Owners who bag the mess but then fail to put it into a bin, or take it home with them (i.e throwing it into a hedge, or hanging it from trees / gates) could face a maximum penalty of **£2,500** for a littering offence.



## Memories of an oilfield man meet the crew

It was late afternoon and a little late to start work, besides my crew were not on site until 6am the following morning, and it was too early for me to retire for the night, Melvin had decided to stay in the office (porta cabin) and prepare the work list for each department, ready for the next day, most of the other guys were still hanging around,

“don’t know about the rest of you guys but I am off to the Comex Bar” (four drums with a canvas cover) anybody else coming” the Scottish mechanic Willie Booth asked. It was a couple of months before I realised that Willie was a borderline alcoholic, “count me in Will” I replied, thinking this would help to introduce me to my new environment and work colleagues,

So with Willie leading the way, seven of us including myself, Jimmy King, Eric Whitfield the chief mechanic, Brian Kay, chief electrician, Luke Ussery, Tool pusher, Willie Johnson, another driller, set off to our alcoholic oasis,

When I think back now, what an odd looking group we were, walking in single file towards this home-made bar, little Willie Booth 5ft 6”, leading, followed by big Willie Johnson, 6ft plus, Willie always wore these striped blue and white bib and brace coveralls, the type that the old time American train drivers wore, he never wore a shirt or socks (little Willie and big Willie), these were the names I used to identify them, then there was big Luke, 6ft 8inches weighing in at 18st, Eric Whitefield, and Brian Kay were of average weight around 14st,

Many years later we all worked together again back in the North Sea, Brian Kay, s weight had increased to 20st, sadly both are no longer with us, then Jimmy and myself at the rear, then there were the dogs, skinny, full of mange, barking at our heels, also half a dozen children asking for (Baksheesh) money, by the time we arrived at the Comex bar we were absolutely knackered and in need of some refreshment, we were welcomed by two off duty chopper pilots, and three Comex divers, two actual divers and one mother hen as the third man was called, normally he was oldest of the divers who maintained the equipment during their dives,

I remember one diving operation, the divers were in the water at the same time as we were unloading food from our supply boat, the supply boats did not have refrigerated containers as they do now and all the meat products came in open topped baskets and coated with some sort of blue dye, (if anyone knows why I would like to know) anyway the rig doctor (medic) used to inspect the meat etc, by inserting a probe then he would decide if it was fit for human consumption or not, food that he decided unfit was thrown over the side by my roustabouts, who were standing bare footed on the meat in the basket, remember these are shark infested waters and it did not go down very well with the divers below, I really should not have laughed but it was amusing to see the divers surfacing so quickly then running around the deck in their rubber suits chasing my roustabouts, the bosses were not pleased as the divers would have wait for hours until the waters were safe enough for them to resume diving,

Anyway back to the bar, the five of them had been drinking most of the day and were well on the way to being drunk (happy drunk I’m glad to say) they called us Limei’s and we called them Yanks and nobody took offence, I was the new face and I suppose a topic for conversation,

after being introduced by Jimmy, Larry one of the pilots told me to help myself to drink from the big fridge underneath the canopy, “what kind of beer is there Larry” I asked “Stella, Stella and more Stella and a couple of bottles of Jack Daniels the dark Stella is supposed to be like your Guinness and the light Stella is a light beer, they are both crap but they serve the purpose when it’s chilled, your guys will have told you that we all chip in and keep the bar stocked”

In the early 70s we could buy alcohol in Egypt although it was very expensive we all brought duty free spirits with us even if it was illegal on the worksite, in later years I worked in Saudi Arabia and we had a large still on board our rig, but more about that one in later issues,

I decided on a Stella and a Jack Daniels chaser, and I must say it went down a treat the only thing

that was making me apprehensive was the gun on the table, besides Larry and his mate, even I knew guns and alcohol do not go together,

“Sorry Larry but I don’t feel comfortable looking at that gun there, what the hell is for” I said, “Sorry if you feel like that but after leaving the service it travels everywhere with me”, I thought what the hell is wrong with these guys and what am I doing here with a bunch of nutters, “how on earth did you bring it with you from the states”

“there are way’s” that was all he told me,

“But we are here on a work site not in bloody Vietnam, so there is no reason what so ever for a loaded gun to be on your table alongside drink so why is it there”

“The thing is we have plenty of feral dogs around this camp, also there are the desert dogs that roam in packs, and some carry rabies and that is the reason for the gun, but if it concerns you I will put it out of sight”

“good now let’s have a drink” I must say that evening was my introduction to some of the most unusual characters I had met so far, but there was many more to come, I thought I had an interesting life until now, but this was the beginning of a whole new ball game,

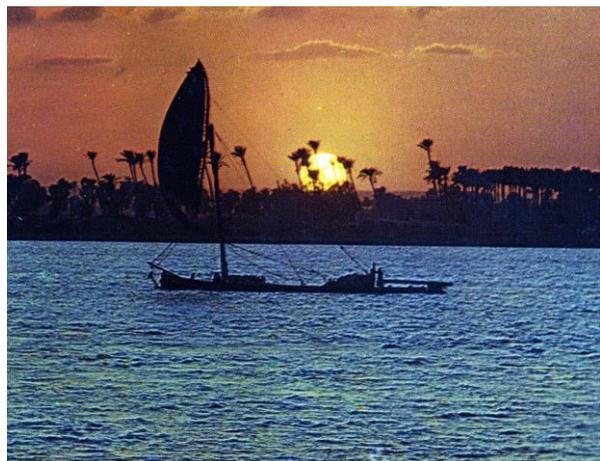
Life can’t get much better than this I thought to myself, sitting here watching the amazing Egyptian sunset, the clear star filled sky, and the shooting stars which were quite common, with a group of like-minded men, a bottle of Jack Daniels and fridge full of crappy Stella beer, what more can a man want,

I will start with Willie Booth the Scottish mechanic, he was seventeen years of age and working as an apprentice mechanic, then he was called up for his national service he chose the RAF and trained and qualified as a pilot, at eighteen years old he was flying Spitfire planes he was one of the lucky ones that survived, later when we became friends I asked him about his time flying Spitfires reluctantly he would tell me some horrific tales and I began to understand why he had a drinking problem, he later completed his apprenticeship as a mechanic, Willie was in his late forties to early fifties when I knew him, while based in Malta he met his wife who was serving as a military nurse, later they decided to move back home to Scotland where they both continued their profession until Willie decided to work in the oilfield, at that time our company had an office and division based in Malta, so they decided to return and live there, Willie was employed on Land drilling rigs based in Libya, and his wife worked as a Matron in the Maltese hospital, when I met him his wife had decided she could not handle Willie and his drink problem so they separated and she returned to Scotland,

It was scary working on Land rigs in Libya while colonel Gaddafi was (President) and in charge, Willie told me a few tales and these were confirmed by other land rig workers that I knew, one such story went like this, during drilling operations a desert Nomad dressed in old and worn robes would walk into the camp and ask for food and water then depending on reception he received he would either close the rig down or provide a new contract, this was Colonel Gadhafi, dressed as a tribesman, he was nuts, so Willie decided to work Offshore where there was no alcohol (ha,ha) more about the stills we made on the rigs later, he asked for a transfer to Egypt, where he lived alone in an apartment in Maadi Cairo where he remained drunk as a lord for the whole two weeks of his leave,

As I mentioned there were a number of expats living in Maadi and there was always the locals knocking on the door asking for work as cleaners, gardeners, in fact anything, and Willies flat was no exception, while under the influence, this one particular lady complete with tribal scars claiming that she was a Sudanese Princess on hard times (honest, Carol can confirm this) she asked Willie if he needed a house keeper /come cleaner etc, as I said Willie was drunk so he invited her in and there she stayed for the years that we knew him, her name was Amena, she was also a very astute business woman she always made sure Willie was sober enough to make his return trip back to the rig in time for crew change,

Sometime later when Carol and I decided to move to Cyprus, Willie and Amena came also, and during the time they were there Amena and Willie purchased two new taxi cars duty free and had them shipped over to Egypt, also she opened a market in Maadi (it was all in her name)but she did buy a flat in Willies name, I can honestly say that during the time that we knew them she kept his place clean and him well fed, even if he did show up at the airport with the occasional black eye, besides he had no one else, there are a few more tales about him in later issues, but he was just one of the characters I called a friend, and I will talk of them later,



some members of my crew, I will introduce more in later issues above is the Nile by sunset,  
to be continued

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2016.

#### PRESENT

Councillor R. Williams (in the Chair)

Councillors J. Caruana, D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, K. McCallum JP, J. Phoenix, D. Rule, J.E. Saul and G. Sherwood (Vice-Chairman).

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.

#### WELCOME - NEW COUNCILLOR

The Chairman, Councillor R. Williams welcomed the newly co-opted Councillor, John Phoenix to the meeting.

#### MR. MIKE EASTWOOD, FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL STREETSCENE AREA SUPERVISOR

Present at the meeting was Mr. Mike Eastwood, the new Streetscene Area Supervisor. Mr. Eastwood who is based at the Alltami depot, has taken over the areas previously covered by Mr. Dave Bell and Mr. Bill Jones, this area is spread from Dobshill to Rhydtalog.

Repairs to the highway on Dingle Road, the Hall Hill and the area of Alyn Bank Farm, Pontblyddyn are due to be carried out. The 30mph area on the Chester Road is due to be extended and the signs will be moved soon.

Reference was made to a street light on Dingle Road (outside number 26) - it seems to go out on its own then comes back on - this will be looked at. Other street lights that are out (outside 20 Heol-y-Goron and 4 Rhodfa Helyg) will also be attended to.

Mr. Eastwood advised that four more officers had been taken on in order to enforce litter picking and dog fouling. These are both subject to £75 fines. Signs notifying of the fines will be put up in shops and on lamp posts.

Query was raised as to whether highway signs were cleaned. Mr. Eastwood informed that there is no specific team that attends to this but the Streetscene workforce do clean them when noticed or if reported.

The Chairman, Councillor R. Williams, thanked Mr. Eastwood for attending the meeting.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor K. McCallum JP and seconded by Councillor J. Caruana that the minutes of the monthly meeting be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

Also circulated was the Precept for 2016/2017 as discussed at the meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016. It was proposed by Councillor J. Caruana and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes that this be accepted - all Councillors agreed.

## **CEMETERY**

Councillors R. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP and the Clerk had met with Mr. Aled Davies at the Cemetery on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January. Discussion took place on the work that required doing during the winter season. This involved: - a) clearing of the bank by the notice board at the entrance to the Cemetery; b) laying of the beech hedges; c) other hedging work and d) tree trimming.

## **PLANNING DECISIONS**

Change of use of existing detached storage building to provide holiday let accommodation. Alyn Bank Farm, Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn, Mold, CH7 4HG. This has been approved by delegated officer.

## **HANSON HEIDELBERG LIAISON COMMITTEE**

It was reported that there were currently no environmental issues involving the plant at Padeswood. Further information was that apprentices were being taken on.

## **MISS CHERYL FRANCIS - LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION - LEESWOOD BROWNIES**

Miss Francis' gift has now been completed. It was remarked if there was a plaque on it - the Clerk stated not. Comment was made that it had been agreed that a plaque should accompany the gift - if necessary the Clerk was to have the picture re-framed in order that this could be accommodated.

All Councillors agreed that the gift be presented to Miss Francis following the Donation Meeting which was to be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

## **CHANGE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL NAME TO LEESWOOD & PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

It had been agreed by the Flintshire County Council that the Community Council name could be changed to Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Community Council. The necessary procedure to formalise this was now in progress.

## **BARRY RICHARDS - RETIREMENT GIFT**

Mrs. H. Greenan of Hayls-Craft had provided the two commemorative vases to be presented to Mr. Barry Richards. Councillors expressed their gratitude to Mrs. Greenan

and it was agreed by all that she had done an excellent job with the engraving. A letter was to be sent to her stating this.

Mr. Barry Richards and Mrs. Richards were to be invited to attend the Community Centre on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February following the donation meeting to receive the vases.

#### **FREE WORKSHOP - AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES**

Correspondence was received from Helen Jones, Older Peoples Strategy Co-Ordinator, Flintshire County Council advising of 'Creating Age-Friendly Communities' free workshops on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This was accepted.

#### **BEST KEPT COMMUNITIES COMPETITION - JUDGES' INFORMATION EVENING**

Received from Janet Kelly, Competition Co-Ordinator, Flintshire County Council, correspondence informing of Judges' Information Evening to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 6.00pm. Councillor R. Hughes and the Clerk were to attend.

#### **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**

Information from Pennie Corbett, Principal Libraries and Arts Officer, Flintshire County Council advising of the new three week rota for the mobile library service. It was agreed that this information be placed in the Leeswood & District News.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor R. Hughes advised that he had the following events organised for his County Council Chairman's Charity Fund: -

- a) Bingo Evening to be held at the Leeswood Community Centre on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March,
- b) Chairman's Charity Dinner to be held at the Beaufort Park Hotel on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March - £35.00 per ticket,
- c) Charity Concert on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April at Theatr Clwyd - £10.00 per ticket.

#### **MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE**

- a) Mrs. Lucille Ingman MBE - it was agreed by all Councillors that a letter be sent to Mrs. Ingman congratulating her on her recent award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours list. The Clerk pointed out that Councillor J.E. Saul had already put a piece about Mrs. Ingman on the Community Council website.
- b) Community Council website - The Clerk informed that the Community Council website looked really good - all thanks to the effort of Councillor J.E. Saul. Councillor C.E. Jones JP supported these remarks.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Connah's Quay Town Council - invite to Chair's Civic Ball on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at a cost of £20.00 per ticket. This was accepted.

**FOR A FULL VERSION OF THE MINUTES PLEASE SEE THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WEBSITE: -**

**<http://leeswoodcommunity.org.uk>**

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