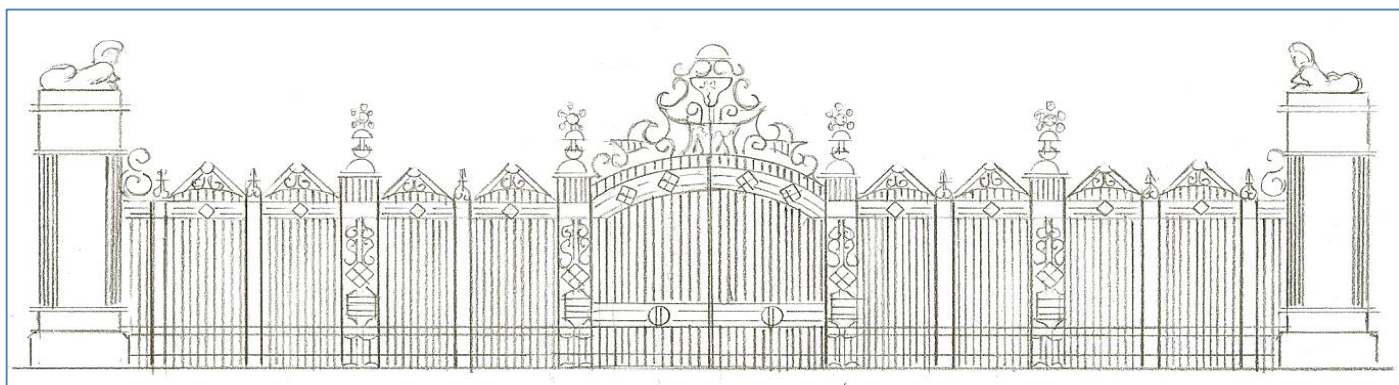


# *Leeswood* & District News



**BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

**JUNE 2016**

**ISSUE 351**

**FREE**



(front row) is Dana, Bethany and Taylor,  
(back row) The reigning Queen Estelle and reigning Rosebud Teegan.

## EDITORIAL

I was listening to someone talk the other day – and he was talking about how different things are for the younger generation nowadays, and how fast track their lives are. As adults, we can find this frustrating, especially those of us with teenagers. He was saying that we need to learn to let the new generation spread their wings, but be there supporting them. So instead of being grumpy old bears, we should be wise old bears – and help these young eagles soar and reach their potential. Realise that they will not, and cannot do things, the same way we did – realise that they have new ways of doing things, even if we don't understand it, embrace it and encourage them. Difficult sometimes for us to do this. But if we let our young eagles reach their potential and let them know just how proud we are of the heights they are reaching – then maybe they will be more accepting of us and include us. So just because we can/and are capable of doing the dad/mum dance at our child's 18<sup>th</sup>, maybe we should just accept that we are different (older) and should leave it to the teenagers. So I am really trying hard to be a wise old bear.

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-**

**JULY 2016 EDITION**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

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## **PONTYBODKIN LADIES GUILD LUNCH**



Leeswood Community Centre

**THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

Two courses plus  
tea and coffee

**£3.00**

Served noon 12 – 1.30pm  
Proceeds to local charities.

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

## **THE EGGMAN**

### Chapter 11

#### **The Prize-fighter**

During his rounds collecting eggs Tom heard stories about the Castlebar priest they were about to visit:

Paddy Byrne, the young successful prize-fighter from Dublin whom at the age of twenty-six ‘saw the light’ and gave up the chance to earn good money with his fists to join the church.

Paddy’s last fight was set up in an old warehouse prepared for the fight by arranging wooden crates to form a ring. His opponent was an ageing bare-knuckle boxer from the same neighbourhood. They were evenly matched and seriously hurting each other. After ten minutes of punishing ‘blow for blow’ brutality, Paddy delivered right cross that sent the older man crashing to the hard unforgiving floor of the warehouse. The sound of the opponent’s skull hitting the stone slabs would haunt him for the rest of his life.

That was the last punch Paddy Byrne threw as a prize-fighter. His opponent, prostrate on the hard floor appeared to be close to death. A priest was called to administer the last rites. Luckily he survived, although he never fully recovered and was so severely disabled that he never fought again.

In the days following the fight Paddy turned to the church praying for his recovery. He spent so much time in church praying that a priest moved to enquire. ‘What’s troubling you my son?’ Paddy tried to put the priest off saying, ‘I’m fine father.’ The wise old the priest could see Paddy was a ‘troubled soul’. Little by little he persuaded the young fighter to confide in him, and took his confession. After hearing the story of his last fight, he suggested that Paddy might find consolation in doing charitable work.

The ex-boxer soon became a common sight on the streets of Dublin, his warm smile and good humour bringing comfort to the poor and homeless as he distributed food and clothing. A year later with the priest’s help, he was accepted into a religious seminary in Roscommon. After two years of study, to gain field experience Paddy was posted to work alongside a street-wise priest in Galway where he saw at first hand the plight of the poor tenant farmers in their struggle for survival.

His no-nonsense style came to the attention of the Bishop at near-by Tuam. Six months later he was given the Castlebar posting where his muscular physique and quick wit made his reputation as a formidable negotiator with both the local population and the Military.

Occasionally the local militia would ask his advice when dealing with disputes between tenants and agents of the absentee landlords gaining the respect of all.

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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

## Where Do We Find God?

I have had a deep sense of the reality and presence of God since early childhood. The wonder and beauty of nature, in particular, has been a channel through which God has revealed himself to me: whether watching dolphins swimming next to a boat, or spending a couple of hours in the back garden observing a meteor shower. I have met many people who have said something similar to me about finding God in nature. Some of them have gone on to say: 'I don't need church. Nature is my cathedral.' I certainly understand where they are coming from.

As a young teenager, I discovered God in another kind of beauty. The moral beauty and awesome presence of Jesus Christ captivated me as I read the New Testament for myself for the first time. At that age, I made the life choice to centre my life on Jesus. I firmly believe that decision has made my life more joyful, more purposeful, and it has seen me through some really tough times too.

Being a Christian means being a follower of Jesus, but not in the sense of a solitary religious quest. From the outset, people have followed Jesus as part of a community - a band of brothers and sisters. In Bethania we have recently ordered a new sign for our church. The sign refers to us as a 'church community'. A local church is a community, a family. Like any family, it is certainly not perfect. But my experience is that the love and goodness of God is to be found there too, in community.

God bless,

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**

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**SERVICES JUNE/JULY 2016**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: TRINITY 2**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: TRINITY 3**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

4.00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MR BRYAN JONES

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: TRINITY 4**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLDS

3.00 P.M. HOLY BAPTISM

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE: TRINITY 5**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY: TRINITY 6**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D JOHN POOLMAN

**SUNDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY: TRINITY 7**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: THE REV'D CAROLE POOLMAN

4.00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MR BRYAN JONES

**SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JULY: TRINITY 8**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

**SUNDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY: TRINITY 9**

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

**SUNDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY: TRINITY 10**

9.3-0 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION FOR ALL THREE

CONGREGATIONS IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, TREUDDYN.

*NO SERVICE in Christ Church that morning.*

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**25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016**

**10.30 A.M. – 12 NOON**

*Unfortunately, The Vicar cannot be available on this occasion if you wish to speak to her on Church Business please contact her to make an appointment. Contact details below.*

**On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
the Congregation of Christ Church  
held their Annual Vestry Meeting**

**At that meeting the following  
Leadership Team was elected.**

<b>Vicar's Warden</b>	Mrs E. A. Bryan
<b>People's Warden</b>	Ms M. E. Morgan
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mr R. Smith
<b>Secretary</b>	Miss M. Reynolds
<b>Deputy Warden</b>	Mrs P. M. Slater
<b>Licensed Reader</b>	Mr B. Jones
	Mrs S. Braisby
	Mrs B. Egerton
	Mrs H. J. Jones
	Mrs J. F. Kaufmann

**Mission Area Conference Reps –**

Mrs M. Morgan & Mrs S. Braisby

**Diocesan Conference Rep –**

Mrs S. Braisby.

**THANK YOU!**

To all those who joined us for our rededication service on May 15<sup>th</sup> it was very good to see you all.

**THANK YOU TOO!**

To all who supported our Duck Race in any way. We are very grateful to all our sponsors and those who give of their time and energy on the day. We will let you know the results next month.



Well, here we are again everyone. Another month on and another step closer to the big day. And, after our Prince, Rosebud & Queen Disco fundraising event on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016, we now have our newly appointed Prince, Rosebud and Queen for Leeswood Carnival 2016. We have Taylor Kendrick (aged 9) for the Prince, Bethany Jones (aged 9) for the Rosebud, and Dana Hughes (aged 13) for the Queen. They will of course all now be representing the village on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and we are more than sure they will do a great job and make us and their parents and families proud. Pictured below (front row) is Dana, Bethany and Taylor, with our reigning Queen Estelle and reigning Rosebud Teegan (back row).



This was an absolutely amazing night without a doubt. The Community Centre was packed out with lots of you in support and lots of handsome, well-dressed young men and a whole array of young ladies, all looking beautiful. Due to those large numbers however, the Committee will now have to discuss whether this will become a ticket only event each year on a first come first served basis. Nevertheless, a profit of £133.48 was made on the night thanks to the sale of raffle tickets and food.

The night itself did not come without its hiccups, one being that the disco did not start until 10pm due to the large interest in the competition, but some things such as that are simply unavoidable. But without these children taking part, we would not have a Carnival. Without these children taking part, we would have nothing to give them. We are grateful to all those who bravely took part and to their parents/guardians for allowing them to enter.

The way in which we try to run the competition gives us and everyone else an insight as to who these children are and their characters. Some of us only know them in passing on the road or down at school, but most of us know nothing about them otherwise. Some of us do not even know them at all, even by face or name. So to get to know their names and what they do inside and outside of school makes this better judging when it comes to the competition. Our Judges have a very important part to play in this event, and this is no mean task for them. We have a system in place where judging is by a majority vote based on everything put before them, particularly the hobbies and school interests portrayed by the children.

The rules are set fairly and concisely in that none of our Judges are permitted to vote for any member of their own family should they be taking part in the event. Each and every one of those children who take part has the right to do so, regardless of whose family they belong to. These rules are announced on the night before we start the competition and the same rules are also situated on the reverse of our forms and on the notes which accompany



them, which we ask parents/guardians to read and sign before allowing their children to enter. These rules and legal terms and conditions cover us as a Committee and those as parents/guardians, not to mention the children themselves. There is no “fixing” in our events, we can assure everyone that. Controversy should not even come into it. We are simply a small village Committee committed to doing our very best for all the children in the village and our surrounding villages who support us and the interviews allow us a small insight as to who the children are and their characters, and these are conveyed to both the Judges and everyone else standing in the room. We hope that clears up any speculation.

Let’s now concentrate on thanking a few people, namely Mrs Flora Roberts for handing out certificates and gifts to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places, our Judges Mr Carlton Jones, Mrs Lucille Ingman (MBE), Mrs Mair Floyd Hughes, and Mrs Gwenda Hughes who very kindly agreed to stand in for Mrs Mary Williams. Unfortunately, Mrs Eileen Garston could not make it on the night either, and the Committee send both Mary and Eileen “get well soon” wishes.

Also, thanks goes to Don Heyward and daughter Jane on the bar, Ceri Harrison-Dean for the disco, and to Queen Estelle and Rosebud Teegan for attending to hand over certificates, gifts and sashes for 1<sup>st</sup> places for Queen and Rosebud, and thanks to everyone else involved in the background such as Mrs Clair Ellis for running around for balloons for the room and cartons and crisps for the children. If we have left anyone out, please accept our apologies.

By the way, “Guess the Bear’s Name” was chosen by a Mrs Janet Williams of Caergwrle and “Theo” will be making his way to his new home shortly. Thanks to all those who bought a name. Your support is appreciated.



We will just leave you now with a few photos from the night and the Committee will now concentrate on finalising matters for the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016. There will be a further write-up and adverts for the beginning of July to let you all know about road closures, times, other events etc, so keep your eyes peeled and ears open.



Kind regards,

Louise Hoyle Fennell (Committee Member) - **Leeswood Carnival Committee**



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## Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana

As we go on with our daily lives we come across different developments in different ways and in different professions. We hear daily comments about the economy; some are good and encouraging comments; some others are not so good. The success or failure of an economy depends on the capabilities of those responsible for running the day to day affairs of industry and finance. It could be said that industry is a wealth creating sector, while the financial sector is the body that handles the wealth which is created by the industry. If the industrial sector creates enough wealth and the financial sector handles that wealth wisely, one could create an indomitable system that would reap further success.

One could see that industry and finance goes hand in hand, and one needs the other for a complete and mutual success. If one fails, the other will suffer, and will probably have to pick up the pieces to save the failing side, if not itself as well. If one suffers a setback, one needs to understand that one needs to be ardent and forge ahead with a well prepared plan. People in a position of decision making needs to be sensible and make decisions that are beneficial to all involved rather than pursue agendas that just further improve their personal standing within an organisation. One needs to be careful to invest in the right area and not get sidetracked by follies that could suck allot of finance that could be channelled wisely in an area where it could improve the production system.

It is true that the financial sector can invest their money where they please, and how they please. That is why so much investment has been pouring in the direction of the Far East notably China. Nevertheless, some people might need to remember, that it is our duty to retain wealth in this country and encourage further wealth creation. Commerce and industry could create a chain reaction, because unless you have the industry for people to work and earn a respectable dignified living, one could end in a situation where people will not have enough disposable wealth, which could lead to a weaker commercial environment...

If we look around us, we could see things that could be developed into successful commercial ventures, and if we do our home work correctly we could be successful in developing such ventures. However, in certain cases, it does emerge, that a major obstacle, is raising capital to start the ball rolling. Again, it is the duty of those in power to create a system that would create an atmosphere would encourage the younger generation to develop and utilise what we have at our disposal and export goods to identified markets, at a sensible profit. Some people say I want a job, some others say I want a career, but then there are others that would go that little bit further and say, I want to create an atmosphere that would create jobs; that would create careers. It is up to each one of us, to peruse individual capabilities, and apply those capabilities to a successful future.

One could come to the conclusion, that for an effort to be successful, all those involved need to make a collective and progressive contribution. In certain cases, there could be instances, where progress is held back because an idea has come from a lower rank. In cases like these, a good idea might not reach the appropriate level within an organisation, or it could get altered further up the line, and claimed by someone at a higher level within the organisation.

If whenever a new idea is proposed, one gets an answer like "we have already thought about that", one could close in; become an introvert, and holds ideas to him-self, which would eventually stifle progress. It is therefore essential, that those in charge of industrial, realises that it is their duty to cultivate and encourage fertile thinking. With this in mind, it might be beneficial, to create a confident atmosphere, where the workforce are not always looking over their shoulders, just in-case someone is watching.

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## Ladies Guild

At the last meeting of the Guild on April 28<sup>th</sup>, our A.G.M. was held. Members heard reports from all the officials and the refreshments were provided by all. The special raffle provided by Mrs Gwyneth Davies, was won by Mrs Jenny Webb and the splendid prize that had been purchased by Mrs Jean Wynne and presented to the Guild by her daughter, Julie, was won by Mrs Flora Roberts.

Our first meeting in May, was held on May 12<sup>th</sup>, Mrs Ingman, President, welcomed all and gave a special welcome to Mrs Michelle Pheonix who joined us for the first time. The meeting was started by Mrs Maureen Calder who read a very apt poem. The evenings event was the chance to see the pictorial record, in DVD format, of Mrs Ingman's Investiture with her MBE on St. David's day, this year, at Buckingham Palace. It is certain to say we all enjoyed the pictures of the spectacle, we heard the history of the investiture ceremony and Mrs Ingman told us about the conversation she had with the Queen. Mrs Ingman declared that it was a really wonderful experience and one that she will never forget. We enjoyed the film, it was a delight to watch.

After refreshments the arrangements were made for our next Charity lunch which will be on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May with the Treuddyn and Leeswood Cancer Research being the charity beneficiaries. The April lunch raised funds for the Leeswood Carnival committee. The tea hostess was Mrs Maureen Calder and the raffle winner was Mrs Ingman. The special raffle was provided by Mrs Flora Roberts and was won by Mrs Cynthia Flitcroft.

C. Flitcroft.



# FOR LEESWOOD HOSPICE GROUP

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

Doors open 7.00 pm - Eyes down 7.30 pm



Gillian and Julie and families would like to thank everyone for their kind sympathy during their recent bereavement, of our Mum and Nan Jean Wynne.

Also we would like to thank; Rev. Carole Poolman, Brenda Kendrick and her sister Joyce, H.J. Williams & Son, Ysgol Derwenfa, Ladies Guild, Mothers Union, Pontblyddyn Church and the over 60 club. Total donations were £608 shared between NSPCC and Church. A big thanks again.



Love from Gillian and Julie



## Leeswood & District Angling Club

Well, spring has sprung and we are well on our way into the delightful summer. Nights are getting lighter and the water temperature is slowly rising, which in turn sees the pool springing into life again. Water boatmen on top of the surface layer glide around like Tourville and Dean on ice and we find the carp taking in the first warm rays of sun, warming up their backs ready for the first feeding frenzy of the year.

North End has been quiet and dormant over the winter season, only the hardy anglers have attempted to fish in between the rope lines which are covering the pool from November till mid March. If you are wondering why these are put on every winter, it's to stop the cormorants from landing and taking off to eat our stock of fish. They fly in from the Dee and eat in between 2-3 lb of fish each per day, in 2010 we counted 9 cormorants in one sitting. We lost most of our stock that year. We also introduced 'baskets' into the pool at that time for any small fish to use as a safe haven, they have a 3x3 inch mesh so they can swim into the baskets without the cormorant getting to them. Fingers crossed, the measures we have taken have kept them at bay up till now.

In early March we stocked 400 common and mirror carp, 400 crucian carp and 300 bream. Delivered from Derby I'm pleased to say all survived the long trip and are now getting caught regularly. Pleasure fishing has started off well, Ted Lane having quite a few good sessions with the carp lads Lee Pryddych and Tom Evans having some good catches so far. Pic can be seen of the fish on Leeswood & District AC facebook page.

Rod and pole anglers are catching early rising tench on pellet, corn and caster, as well as the silvers and the odd greedy carp.

With great sadness, we lost our committee member Mr George Kettle after a short illness in March. George has been a member of the club since it started up in the early 70's, he would always attend work party's and meetings, helping out where he could (although, I think he went more for the pints of Fosters than the meetings most times!). George will be sorely missed by all at the club, his departing has left a gap which can never be filled. We would like to give our condolences to his family and thank them for the kind donation given to us in George's memory.

Our first match up the pool was on 10<sup>th</sup> April, was a cold day but clear.

1<sup>st</sup> Anthony Gunning (Cec) 11lb 4oz

2<sup>nd</sup> Rob Palmer with 8lb 6oz

3<sup>rd</sup> Ken Rowlands 8lb 4oz

Kens catch included a Tench of 3lb 11oz, with John Burness catching a lovely Perch of 2lb

Second match was held at Weston Pools on 7<sup>th</sup> May

1<sup>st</sup> Anthony Gunning (Cec) 47lb 4oz

2<sup>nd</sup> Rob Palmer 43lb 8 oz

3<sup>rd</sup> Stephen Price 42lb 8oz

Licences for 2016 are now available from Gary Pierce on 07599064455. Prices are as follows: Adults £25.00 per year, Juniors £10.00 per year (under 16's)

Please note : By law, Environment rod licences are need by anyone 12 years of age and over to fish any freshwater in England and Wales. These can be purchased online or at the Post Office.

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Mr Fish

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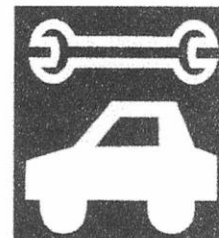
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# Memories of an oilfield man

## meet some of the expats:-

Before we move on from Willie Booth, here are a few more tales about him, and there were quite a few because he was such a character, I recall one particular difficult working hitch (time on the rig) Willie was having mechanical problems with the Cat engines down below in the engine room, this was to be expected, as these engines no doubt came out of Noah's Ark, this working hitch was a little stressful for everyone because we were also having problems with the mud pumps these had stopped pumping, (these are huge pumps that send the mixed mud down the well,) Willie was working twenty fours solid with only myself and a local donkey man assisting him, (donkey man is basically an oiler and greaser for the mechanic) so myself and Willie were doing most of the work, as I say we had a rough couple of weeks between the engine, and the pump room the heat was unbearable, as there was no air conditioning we only had two big fans these were called Bug blowers their main purpose was to keep the bugs and flies away, and not for cooling, most of the time we were both be stripped down to our underpants (not a pretty sight) "I've had enough of this crap, I really am going to quit as soon as I land on the beach," Willie said in his Glaswegian accent, I took it with a pinch of salt as Willie quit every week, "ok Will no problem but let's get these pumps sorted first," working between the engine room and the pump room while waiting for parts that more often than not were the wrong ones to arrive from god knows where,

After twenty eight days working in temperatures reaching the nineties we were more than ready for Crew change, I could hardly wait for the chopper to land on the sandy strip with its lonely limp wind sock (no wind) Willie climbs down the steps and starts walking off in the opposite direction away from the two oil drums with the plank of wood on top that was our seating area where we expected my (mate) Melvin to be waiting to pick us up, he was ten minutes late as usual, not much fun in the burning heat of the day, "Were the hell is that Scottish idiot walking to" Melvin asked, "he quit and he's walking home" I replied,

"his choice, let's get back to the office for a rig debrief, you have a couple of hours before your flight back to Cairo, let's go" "hold on Melvin you can't just leave Willie walking in the desert in this heat" "Tell you what, let's get back to the cabin then you can turn around and go pick him up, maybe that will teach him a lesson it will not be more than ten minutes" this man is unbelievable I thought, it was a good job the camp was a short distance, as soon as we stopped the other guy's stepped out, I asked Jimmy King if he would come with me (safety in numbers I thought) then I climbed into the driver's seat and went looking for Willie, this must have been one of the most craziest things he could possibly do, walking in the desert not knowing in which direction to go, nobody ever knew what was going through his head, although in later years I met many more oddballs similar to Willie, (but he was great mechanic)

I drove slowly following some sort of goat track, he cannot be too far away I was thinking as we drove over the top of the first small sand dune I could not believe what I saw, "get a load of that Jim" There was our Willie, carrying his beat up little suitcase held together with string, all five foot six of him but he was not what I was looking at, It was Willie with two Bedouin Arabs mounted on very tall light coloured camels one either side of him (I later found these were a type of racing camels) this was one time I wish I had my camera, two fully dressed Arabs carrying 303 Le Enfield rifles last used in ww11 with a bandolier of bullets across their chest, the rider plus camel was about 8ft-10ft in height and Willie 5ft-6, this little group halted as we approached, neither of us could speak the others language then, I learned a little Gulf Arabic in later year's the only words spoken came from the Bedouin they placed one hand across their chest spoke in their language and carried on with their journey, I believe that they were riding alongside Willie for his own safety, I will never know,

Willie was a great guy when he was sober, but I believe this is all down to his war time experience, one more short story before I leave him; every field break there would be drinking parties in Willies house (and everyone else's house for that matter) this time he had a full house and everybody was invited including Ameena's Egyptian friends and relatives, this time the party ended with him opening the bedroom window and throwing everything through it, this included his war time medals with their ribbons, the stereo equipment and furniture soon followed, he never did recover his medals, that was my mate Willie.

Ok let's go back to Ras-Shokar on my first day in our Comex bar, more about Willie when we moved to Cyprus, but here we were into our second bottle of Jack Daniels, and half a crate of (wonderful) Stella beer, "hey Will (Willie Johnson) how come you ended up here, it's a long way from Montana USA" I asked him. It was not until later I realised it is best not to ask questions about some guy's personal lives, but he was ok with it,

"I wanted to get as far away as possible from my ex-wife and her family, they are a bunch crazy hillbillies" he drawled, he then began his story, "I had always worked on Land rigs in the states but a lot of the wells run dry (dusters they were called) so I had a choice, the Gulf of Mexico or the North sea and there was no way I would be going to the North sea from what I had heard about it, so it was the Gulf but I had to retrain from Land rigs to Offshore, and boy was I in for a shock until now I had only worked on land rigs so the only thing I knew about offshore drilling was what I had been told, when you think about it on land rigs you drill straight down and there is only the land formation to think about, but offshore, not only is there the water depth and that can be a couple of hundred feet before you even reach the seabed and begin drilling, then the rig, plus the boat movement, and the adverse weather conditions it's a whole new ball game Xmas trees on the seabed, then there is the divers going down" "no need to tell me Will I worked the North sea for a couple of years" I told him, "anyway carry on with your tale of woe" as I said, we were all well into our liquid refreshment by now and forgetting that I would have a very early and interesting day tomorrow,

"we were having some marital problems, it was ok for the first couple of years but then it began to get physical and at times we both ended up visiting hospital with minor injuries, things came to a head when her brothers, cousins etc, started calling on me to teach me a lesson; it wasn't too bad in the beginning, as you can see I am a big guy and I gave as good as I got, but then they came carrying guns that they pointed at me while the other two beat the crap out of me, it was time for me to go, and working in the gulf would be a way out for me even if it meant leaving the three kids with her, I sent her money every month but after a year she started asking for more and more, - then another guy moved in with her so I called it a day, and stopped sending her money, then she took me to court soon I fell behind with her payments, I was also having problems with the tax man, so the best thing I could do was look for an overseas contract which was tax free earnings, no doubt they will all be waiting for me when I eventually return to the States" I asked him how long had he lived in Cairo "been here for three years with IDC I worked on the Estralita, tender 21, that's another rig further down the gulf" I then asked about his social life here "I was here for a month when Humdinger came asking if I wanted a house keeper so she moved in" "surely that's not her real name" I asked, "I could never pronounce it so we settled on Humdinger, and we have two kids now" the one time Carol and I met them in Cairo I we thought they were local Egyptian children with American accents, running around barefooted, before I finish talking about Willie Johnson there was this time when he purchased a chaise Lounge from a local Egyptian while he was sitting on it he happened to feel down the side of the upholstery and found a silver chain mail purse filled with all kinds of goodies a pair of diamond earrings, very ornate bangle, and a colourful broach, he knew I was interested in antiques so he asked my opinion,

I found the Egyptian equivalent of a hallmark on most of his items, "tell you what Will I will take a chance on them being genuine and offer you £500 (around \$1000)" I thought he would agree at first "nope don't think so, think I will take them into the city to a jewellers, if you come with me I will buy you a bottle of Jack Daniels" I was glad to go with him, we found them to be very genuine rubies and diamonds with white gold, and very valuable, sad to say Will had the earrings broken

down and made into a huge ugly signet ring, he sold the rest for a reasonable amount of money “guess that will go to the taxman when I go back to the States, which he did when his contract ended, leaving Humdinger with their two kids in Egypt with a small lump sum, that was Willie Johnson from Montana and there are more characters like him that I worked with, some running from the local police in the states such as Johnny Steagle but I will save him for later, as I say the oilfield was a great place if a person had reason to leave his country of origin for some reason,

I will introduce more of my co-workers in later issues but it was now 2am and we were all feeling the effects of the alcohol (me in particular,) we still had to make our way back to the tender and hopefully I will be able to find my cabin and bunk bed, if it was not for the cook standing near the gangplank (access to the tender) having a cigarette then giving me a helping hand down to the sleeping quarters or I would never have made it, he recognised me after being introduced earlier in the day,

“ Wake up, wake up Mr Tom (SabaHel khair) good morning ”thank god he spoke a little English, this was the same cook who helped me to my cabin two hrs ago, and I felt like hell, my cabin was fitted with a small porthole window and measured ten foot by eight foot containing two bunk beds with a small side cabinet and no washing facilities, we had communal showers etc. for the expats unless one was a rig manager or tool pusher, I barely made it cursing myself and promising not to touch the evil drink ever again, the pot water we used for showers etc. came from portable tanks so it was never really cold always tepid, it was a type of brine (a little salty) any after a very quick shower I made my way to the galley I was a little surprised to see my drinking buddies from the night before were already eating a full cooked breakfast, which sent me immediately back to the toilets, I eventually returned to the table” what are you lot laughing at” I asked, “take a look in that mirror mate” Willie said, I never recognised the face staring back at me, yesterday I had a reasonable tan this morning my face was white and my hair was standing up like the Jedward twins due to the salty brine water that I had showered in, and to be truthful the way I was feeling I didn’t care, my first breakfast on tender 3 consisted of plenty of water and dried bread,

“Time to meet your crew mate let’s go ”Jimmy said, I would like to say we changed into working gear such as coveralls, hard hat, safety boots etc, but we didn’t, Jimmy and myself proceeded down the gangplank, standing near the bottom were the most motley bunch of characters you could imagine, seven of them dressed in what can only be described as rags, they had no safety wear either, “Meet your crew mate” with a silly grin on his face, not to mention the seven smiling new members of my crew, the only one not smiling was me, “what the hell am I supposed to do with this lot”, I asked “If you take them to that sand dune over there that’s where the dismantled derrick is

your job is to sand blast all parts ready for painting as you know, I suppose you know how to use a sand blaster Tom”, “Yes of course I do I went on a training course in Aberdeen when I blasted and painted the decks on Sedneth 701 but the company supplied all the safety gear these don’t have any”

“We don’t have much in the stores yet but there are some safety goggles and they can wrap rags around their faces and they are glad of the work” sad to say that this was a general working practice in third world areas at the time, it could never happen now in this day and age, (so they say) “there is a small mobile crane for you to handle heavy metal parts and there is plenty of sand so we will see you about midday” with that he left me there with the crew,

what next I thought scratching my head, let’s see what we have here, “Is there anybody here that can speak English” I asked the group, one man answered that he spoke a little English, that’s a good start I thought, “what is your name” “Mohamed Atir Abid ”he answered in broken English, he was the only one among them who could, “my name is Tom” and he ended up being my right hand man, we worked together for the number of years that I worked in Egypt, there was a lot more to Mohamed which I will explain later, he was involved in the six day war with Israel,

So there we were me leading my merry men who carried shovels, and sieves for the sand, heading out to my work area I was so engrossed with my project that I did not notice the other expats standing near the handrail laughing like hell, as we set off they all starting singing Hi Ho Hi Ho it's off to work we go, and for two weeks they called Tom Nick and his seven dwarfs, it took a while for me to live that down, how did I end up here, a crane operator from what was then a state of the art modern oilrig in the North Sea to a scrap yard in the desert, I don't know but I was beginning to like it,



This is our cook who helped me to my cabin



this photo was in a previous issue but the guy top left is Willie Johnson the man sitting in front is a trainee derrick man, the three small guys were members of my crew, the American top right is Luke who I will mention again,

as I mentioned before all my crew were casual labour and their salary was paid direct to their elder spokesman who deducted his share,



as seen before this is Mohamed Atir Abid but I think he needs a more than a few lines written about so I will include it next time.

**(to be continued)**

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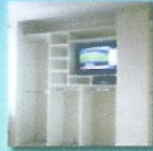
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DAVID HANSON MP

**Write to me:** 64 Chester Street,  
 Flint, Flintshire  
 CH6 5DH  
**OR**  
 House of Commons  
 London, SW1A 0A

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**See me:** At one of my regular advice surgeries  
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**Fax me:** 01352 730140

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

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## LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF LEESWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016.

#### PRESENT

Councillor R. Williams (in the Chair)

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

#### DECLARATION OF INTEREST - MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes 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.

#### POLICE LIAISON

PCSO 3461 Poppy Hadfield-Jones was unable to attend the meeting and had sent an e-mail to the Clerk. In her e-mail PCSO Hadfield-Jones explained that she had been unable to attend recent meetings as she had been on a course which had interrupted her normal working pattern. She went on to say that she had intended to attend the meeting this evening but had been unable to gather the latest statistics from the server at Mold Police Station as it was down. PCSO Hadfield-Jones added that she would attend the next meeting.

Comment was made that there seemed to be a gang with twelve plus members roaming through the village - the ages of the children quite diverse. Further concern was expressed at this and it was pointed out that it had been a long time since the community had seen this type of activity. It was suggested that the Clerk should e-mail PCSO Hadfield-Jones drawing her attention to this. All Councillors were in agreement.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

This matter was moved up the Agenda as Councillor R. Hughes had to leave the meeting early due to another commitment.

Legion D'Honneur, Mr J.K. Hughes of Ffordd Siarl - Councillor R. Hughes informed that he had attended the ceremony honouring Mr Hughes on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016. It had been pleasing to see Councillor R. Williams, Chairman to this Council also present. Mr. Hughes had been awarded a medal and a certificate, very gratifying to see a member of the Community honoured in this way.

Water coming off fields, Dual Carriageway Pontblyddyn - this matter was to be attended to.



30mph Stryt Cae Rhedyn, Leeswood - the movement of the sign was in progress. There is a legal process which involves the advertisement of the intention to extend the speed limit around the corner.

Double yellow lines on the junction of Bryn Clyd/King Street, Leeswood - these were a possibility and it was hoped that they would alleviate the issues with parking on the junction.

Dingle Road, Leeswood - it was pointed out that the road had deteriorated badly and could cause damage to vehicles. This is to be repaired.

Street lights - these were out on Dingle Road in Leeswood and also opposite the Fferm in Pontblyddyn.

Flintshire County Council's Chairman's Charity Dinner - Councillor R. Hughes stated that this had been an excellent evening and had raised £4,140 on the evening. His Charity fund for the year was now in the region of £17,000.

New Flintshire County Council properties in Leeswood - report was received that the Flintshire County Council were looking to demolish the Council garages at Maes-Y-Meillion and Heol-y-Goron. It was the intention to build three two bedroom bungalows and four two bedroom apartments on the site at Maes-Y-Meillion. Two three bedroom houses and three two bedroom houses were hoped to be built on the site at Heol-y-Goron. A public consultation is to take place at the Community Centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April between 3pm and 7pm.

Council vans outside 49 Heol-y-Goron, Leeswood - comment was made that there had been a number of vans parked outside this property and these were causing problems with traffic. Councillor R. Hughes stated that he would look into this.

### **CEMETERY**

The mole problem in the Cemetery is being dealt with. Mr Aled Davies has laid traps and these are being monitored.

### **PLANNING APPEALS**

Planning Reference - 054344

Appeal Reference - APP/A6835/D/16/3144068

Triple Garage with ancillary accommodation over.

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

An appeal has been made to the Welsh Ministers following the Flintshire County Council refusal to grant Planning Permission.

### **HANSON HEIDELBERG LIAISON COMMITTEE**

It was reported that there are no issues with dust emissions. Wagons are being loaded inside the plant and any spillage can, therefore, be contained. Any impact on the environment is minimal. There is currently a problem with complaints regarding noise.

### **POND AREA ON PHOENIX PARK**

No further information had been received regarding this matter.

Observation was made that there were four footballs in the pond area and concern was expressed that children may make an attempt to climb over the fence to retrieve these. It was agreed that the Clerk should speak to Councillor R. Hughes the following morning to advise him of the situation

and to request that the Flintshire County Council remove these footballs in order to prevent any possible danger to children.

#### **WITHDRAWAL OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES**

Mr Steve Jones, Head of Streetscene & Transportation, Flintshire County Council, had provided details of the proposed withdrawal of Bus Services that will affect this Community. Workshops have been arranged to take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 4pm and 7pm. It was agreed that Councillor Terry Hughes and the Clerk would attend.

#### **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SUSPENSION OF RIGHT TO BUY COUNCIL PROPERTIES**

Denise Naylor, Community and Enterprise, Flintshire County Council had e-mailed advising that the Flintshire County Council were seeking to apply to the Welsh Assembly Government for a suspension of the Right to Buy Council properties in Flintshire for a minimum of five years. She went on to state that during 2016, the Council will start its ambitious Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) which will see 500 new council and affordable homes built across Flintshire over the next five years. The new Council homes will be managed by the Council and the remaining 300 affordable properties will be managed by the Council-owned NEW Homes housing company. By suspending the Right to Buy, Flintshire will not only retain its existing council housing stock levels but will also safeguard these new properties to maximise the housing opportunities for local people living in Flintshire.

In order to submit an application to Welsh Government Ministers before the pre-election period commences, the closing date for receipt of all views on the proposal was 16th March, 2016. Because of this date, the details had already been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk reported that eight Members had responded to a request for views and the majority opinion was in support of the Flintshire County Council's wish to put in a request to the Welsh Assembly Government for the Suspension of the Right to Buy Council Properties for a minimum of five years. An e-mail was sent to Flintshire County Council by the deadline date advising of this.

#### **DOG FOULING**

Correspondence received from Margaret Parry-Jones, Environment & Social Care Facilitator, Flintshire County Council, (again already circulated to Councillors - replies were needed by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016), requesting 'thoughts' on dog fouling in the Community and an opinion on an initiative taken up by Barking and Dagenham Council to run a pilot scheme regarding Dog DNA Registration. The Clerk reported that four Councillors had replied and that there were three thoughts - a) if it was successful in Barking and Dagenham then running such a Scheme in Flintshire would be broadly supported; b) it was believed that dog fouling was still a problem in our Community but not so much so that it warranted the Scheme being put forward. It was also considered that the cost of such a Scheme could be put to better use and c) that the majority of dog owners in the Community are responsible and it is the minority that need to be targeted. Any DNA Registration Scheme would need to be cost effective and it is unlikely that the 'irresponsible' dog owners would sign up voluntarily. A suggestion of hefty fines for dog owners who deliberately allow the fouling of play/sport areas. Flintshire County Council had been e-mailed a letter outlining these points by the deadline date.

#### **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SUMMER PLAYScheme 2016**

From Alan Roberts, Public Open Spaces Manager, Flintshire County Council, details of the part funding available for the provision of the Summer Playscheme 2016. The cost will be £900 for the first three weeks and then £260 per week thereafter. It was previously agreed that the Community

Summer Playscheme would be of five weeks' duration. Flintshire County Council had been informed.

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Correspondence from Andrew Farrow, Chief Planning Officer, Flintshire County Council, informing that there will be consultation on the document 'Key Messages: Setting the future direction for the Plan - Tell us what you think'. The consultation period was to commence on 18<sup>th</sup> March and end on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE**

- a) Main Road, Pontblyddyn - it was brought to the Council's attention that heavy vehicles are travelling at speed through the night along the A541 Pontblyddyn village.
- b) Mr Vince Roberts, ex-Headmaster Ysgol Derwenfa - sad news received that Mr Vince Roberts had passed away. It was agreed that the Clerk would try and obtain an address to write to his widow expressing the Council's condolences.
- c) Community Council meeting agenda - this is now being put on the website.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Buckley Town Council - advising of the Mayor's 'Buckley Sings' Charity Concert to be held at the Elfed School, Buckley on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 6.30pm. This was accepted.
- b) Electric Communities - correspondence from Silas Jones, Energy Development Officer, Cadwyn Clwyd. This was accepted.
- c) North Wales Community Health Council - seeking views about the District Nursing Service in North Wales. This was accepted.
- d) North Wales Community Health Council - news release advising of selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for the year 2016/2017. This was accepted.
- e) Leeswood Senior Citizens - thank you letter received re donation.
- f) Air Ambulance Wales - thank you e-mail received re donation.
- g) Welsh Border Community Transport - thank you letter re donation.
- h) Pontblyddyn Mothers Union - thank you letter re donation.
- i) Christ Church, Pontblyddyn - thank you letter re increase in Churchyard grant.
- j) Bethania Chapel - thank you letter re donation.
- k) Rainbows/Brownies/Guides/Rangers - thank you letter re donation.
- l) Leeswood Methodist Church - thank you letter re donation.
- m) Christ Church Pontblyddyn - invitation to Council members to attend the 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Re-dedication on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Nine members plus wives are to attend.

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

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**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL WISH TO INFORM RESIDENTS THAT THERE  
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