



Admission includes a glass of wine and a mince pie

In aid of Nightingale House Hospice

Wrexham Hospice & Cancer Support Foundation (Limited by Guarantee). Company Number: 2906838 Registered Charity Number: 1035600. Registered in England and Wales.

ARTICLES - NOTICES CHARITY EVENTS

And/or ANY OTHER ITEMS for inclusion in the LDN. Please send. or drop it in, to:

> June Lincoln, 7 Llys Ann, Leeswood, CH7 4RW 07525929522 58 junelincoln@gmail.com

> > **Deadline for-**

DECEMBER '16 & JANUARY '17

EDITION

SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER.

Please send in well before the deadline.



I'm John, the new advertising editor.

I'll be making myself available to help out with anything IT related in the community, and also looking into hosting some web design training classes soon (if there is enough interest). Please get in touch with any gueries regarding advertising here, or even just to say hi!

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WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR READERS A



Methodist Church

LEESWOOD

4th December Worship 10.45 am Led by Trish Earlam

 11th December Worship 10 45 am Led by Rev Pat Christopher
 Family Service & Prize Giving 4 pm Led by Rev Pat Christopher

18th December Worship 9.30 am Celebration of the Lord's Supper Led by Rev Pat Christopher

24th December Jesus' Christmas Party 4pm (Come as a Nativity character!) Led by Rev Pat & Cheryl

1st January Worship 10.45 am Annual Covenant Service Led by Rev Pat Christopher

8th January Worship 10.45 am Led by Chris Cole

15th January Worship 10.45 am Led by Michele Jones

22nd January Worship 10.45 am Led by Rev Pat Christopher

29th January Worship 10.45 am Led by Rev Bernard Nixon

Rev Pat Christopher 01352 730313



Christmas Tree Festival at



Leeswood Methodist Church

Friday 9th December to Sunday 11th December Free admission!

All are welcome to this 'treemendous' event!

Best Tree Competition & 'Find the Mice' Treasure Hunt Trees include - Sock Tree (socks & undies for homeless families) Celebration and Remembrance Tree (hang a label to remember your loved ones)

Programmes £1 incl. drink Friday 5 to 7 pm Saturday 1 to 4 pm Sunday 1 to 4 pm

Family Service & Prize Giving Sunday 11th December 4 pm to 4.30 pm



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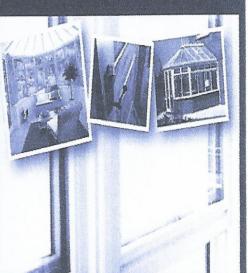
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Leeswood - Bethania Church - Coedllai

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 to Year 6 Wednesday 5:45 - 6:45

Lasers – Year 6 and over Wednesday 7:15 – 9:00

Putting the Bounce Back into Christmas

Christmas can fall a bit flat, if we are not careful. Nothing depresses my juletide mood more than navigating the crowded shops. I'm not a happy shopper at the best of times! Having said that, I just love the current John Lewis Christmas advert, featuring a boxer dog and a trampoline. It reminds me of a photo I saw on Facebook recently. It showed half the members of the leadership team of my former church enjoying themselves with childlike abandon on a bouncy castle. It had been put up in the church for a children's party, but the leaders got there first. Grow up, you lot! Then again, don't. Embrace your inner child!

Christmas is a time for unfettered joy. That joy comes from appreciating its true meaning. Matthew's Gospel reminds us of the reaction of the Wisemen to seeing the star which pointed to where Jesus was:

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. (Matthew 2:10)

Not just joy. Not just great joy. But exceedingly great joy. Christmas joy is rooted in God's gift to the world of his only Son, and the knowledge that we are deeply, deeply loved. So deck the halls. 'Tis the season to be jolly. And come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Blessed Christmas,

James



Please phone or check our website for details, changes and special events. Website – www.bethanialeeswood.org Phone Rob 01352 771607 or Rev. James 07711 034020



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CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN SERVICES DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER: ADVENT 2

4.00 p.m. Chaotic Carols A service for All the Family with the Choir of Ysgol Derwenfa The service will be followed by refreshments

WEDNESDAY 7th December

7.30 p.m. Holy Communion & Commissioning of the Rev'd Carole Poolman as Mission Area Leader (Area Dean) in Christ Church, Pontblyddyn. All Welcome.

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER: ADVENT 3 11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION 6.00 p.m. Evening

SUNDAY 18th December: Advent 4 11.15 a.m. Morning Prayer with

All Sele Selessie

SATURDAY 24TH DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS EVE 3.30 p.m. Jesus Birthday Party in Leeswood Methodist Church

11.00 p.m. Midnight Mass in St Mary's Church Nercwys

SUNDAY 25TH DECEMBER: CHRIST-MASS DAY 10.00 A.M. FAMILY COMMUNION

ALCANCE APPEND

SUNDAY 1st JANUARY: NAMING OF JESUS 11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY: BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION 6.00 P.M. EVENING

SUNDAY 15th JANUARY: EPIPHANY 2 11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY: EPIPHANY 3 11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY: EPIPHANY 4 PONTBLYDDYN, TREUDDYN & NERCWYS JOINT SERVICE please see notice board for Time and Venue

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT ALL OUR SERVICES

IN CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN 28TH JANUARY 2017

"COME FOR COFFEE" & "VICAR'S SURGERY" 10.30 A.M. – 12 NOON

> There will no "Come for Coffee" or "Vicar's Surgery" on 31st December

King Albert's Cakes

Mark Yaconelli, was an American pastor who came and spent six months in Wales earlier this year. After a walk with one of our youth leaders he wrote

Recently, I took a walk along the canals of Llangollen with Diocesan Youth Officer Tim Feak. At one point Tim stopped, leaned over a fallen, tree and pulled a black knob of fungus from the trunk. "This is a King Albert's Cake," he told me. Tim went on to explain that these dried black orbs of fungus were used by the Welsh in ancient times to keep a fire lit while traveling. "Back in the days when a community would travel from place to place, it was difficult to keep the fire lit. This black fungus was taken from the old fire, then wrapped in leaves or cloth where it would keep the spark smoldering for hours and hours until you arrived to the next valley and were ready to start a new fire."

I took one of these cakes home and placed it on my desk as a reminder. Each of us must discover God on our own. Each generation must discover God anew. All we can do is pass the flame from one hearth to another. This is our work at this time. Finding the flame, nurturing the flame, bearing the flame, so that those in the future might find a place of warmth and come out from the cold.

CHRIST CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

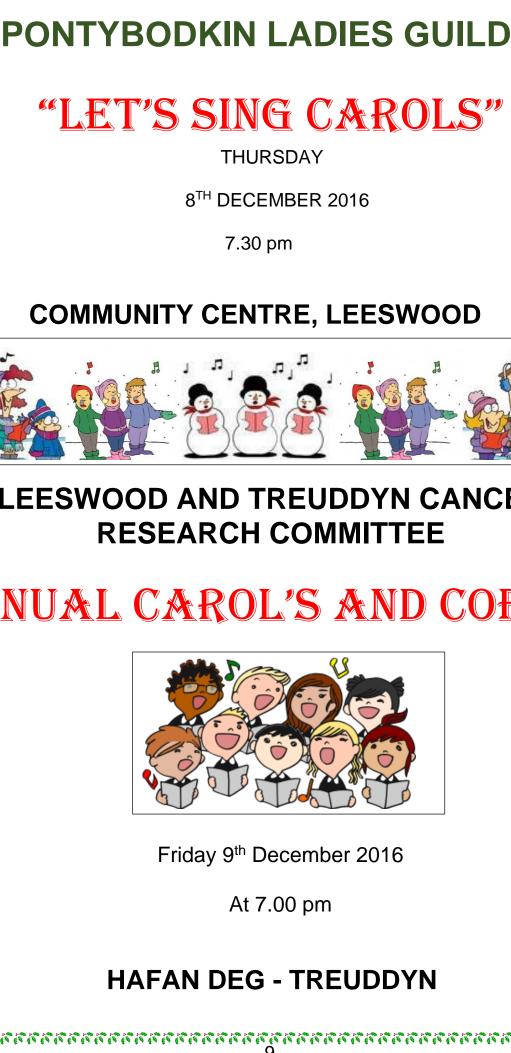
Rev'd Carole Poolman, Parish Priest. The Rectory, Llanfynydd, Wrexham. LL11 5HH. Phone: 01978 762304 Email: cc.sm@btinternet.com When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value. Later, the nurses found this poem among his things. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas editions of magazines around the country

CRANKY OLD MAN.....

What do you see nurses? What do you see? What are you thinking ... when you're looking at me? A cranky old man, not very wise, Uncertain of habit with faraway eyes? Who dribbles his food and makes no reply. When you say in a loud voice . .'I do wish you'd try!' Who seems not to notice . . . the things that you do. And forever is losing A sock or shoe? Who, resisting or not lets you do as you will, With bathing and feeding The long day to fill? Is that what you're thinking?. Is that what you see? Then open your eyes, nurse .you're not looking at me. I'll tell you who I am As I sit here so still, As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will. I'm a small child of Ten . .with a father and mother, Brothers and sisters who love one another A young boy of Sixteen with wings on his feet Dreaming that soon now a lover he'll meet. A groom soon at Twenty my heart gives a leap. Remembering, the vows that I promised to keep. At Twenty-Five, now I have young of my own. Who need me to guide . . . And a secure happy home. A man of Thirty My young now grown fast, Bound to each other With ties that should last. At Forty, my young sons ... have grown and are gone, But my woman is beside me . . to see I don't mourn. At Fifty, once more,Babies play 'round my knee, Again, we know children My loved one and me. Dark days are upon me My wife is now dead. I look at the future I shudder with dread. For my young are all rearing young of their own. And I think of the years . . . And the love that I've known. I'm now an old man and nature is cruel. It's jest to make old age look like a fool. The body, it crumbles grace and vigour, depart. There is now a stone . . . where I once had a heart. But inside this old carcass . A young man still dwells, And now and again my battered heart swells I remember the joys I remember the pain. And I'm loving and living life over again. I think of the years, all too few gone too fast. And accept the stark fact . . . that nothing can last. So open your eyes, people open and see. Not a cranky old man. Look closer see ME!!



Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within



Π,

LEESWOOD AND TREUDDYN CANCER **RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL CAROL'S AND COFFEE



Friday 9th December 2016

At 7.00 pm

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December/January in the Garden

We have been very lucky with the weather so far this Autumn, well in my opinion. I much rather have cold crisp mornings and cold sunny days, than the wind and rain we usually get late Autumn and into Winter.

Jobs for December/January

- **IF** we get snow, try to remove it from large shrubs, trees and conifers as it can snap branches if left on too long
- Winter is great time to plan next year's vegetable plots, get your seed catalogues and see what offers are in the garden centres
- Clear leaves and debris from borders and paths, as if left, can overwinter pests
- Sow Sweet Pea seeds into cold frames for early flowering plants

Real Christmas Trees

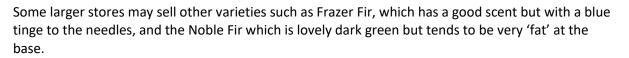
We might not all be ready to start thinking about Christmas just yet, but it is a good idea to start thinking about what real Christmas tree you may want to get.....if you are getting a real one that is! Between my cat and dog, I stick with a small artificial one!

Norway Spruce

- Traditional tree
- Lovely Christmas pine scent
- Good shape to them and bushy with lots of branches
- Cheapest variety
- They can drop their needles easier than other varieties

Nordman Fir

- Needle fast tree if treated correctly
- Good shape
- Can be open with branches
- More expensive that Norway Spruce



How to care for your Real Christmas Tree

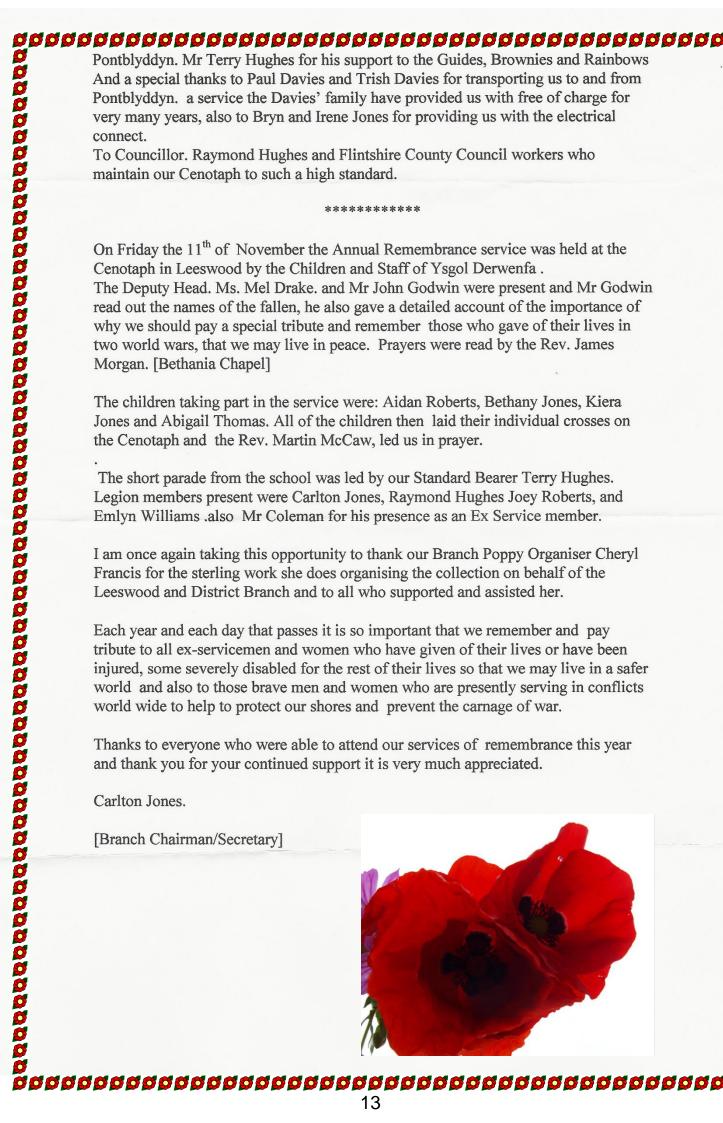
- Consider where to buy it from, get from an experienced seller that knows their trees
- Measure your space, including height and width
- You need a stand that will hold water, to keep your tree fresh
- Keep the water topped up treat like a cut flower
- Keep away from radiators and heaters that will dry the tree out
- Leave outside until you are ready to put it up, as this will help to keep fresh



Jenny Pitts MHort (RHS)



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Hello everyone. Hope you are all well. Firstly, I have to apologise to my fellow Committee Members and you, the readers, for omitting something very important from last month's write up. I forgot to mention what happened to the unclaimed prizes from Carnival Day itself! Third prize (if you recall) was the champagne hamper and that was claimed almost immediately, but the first prize of £100 and the Chester Zoo tickets for second prize went unclaimed.

We discussed at a meeting following the Carnival that we would advertise the winning programme numbers for at least one month and that, if they went unclaimed, it would be decided from there as to what to do with them. An overall decision was therefore made in the following meeting.

It was agreed by all that the Chester Zoo tickets were to be used in September's Bingo and the £100 would go to Christ Church, Pontblyddyn as a thank you for allowing us the generous free use of the Church on Carnival night to host the evening with the Flint Male Voice Choir. A cheque was therefore handed over to Mrs Melanie Condren by our Ms Leah Thomas Coleman on Saturday 8th October 2016 at The Big Brunch morning in the Community Centre. We are more than sure you all agree this decision was most certainly worthwhile.

Moving on, please don't forget our "Christmas" Bingo night is to be held on Wednesday 7th December 2016 (doors open at 7pm). We would absolutely love to see some new faces turn out to support us and for everyone to enjoy a good night. We truly have some fantastic prizes to be won such as food hampers, a beer hamper, and a beauty hamper (perfect for the day after the night before!). The Committee would particularly like to take this opportunity to thank Edward (Ted) Dutton and Rachel Hewitt for their more than generous donation of whiskeys and wine. Thank you both. And thank you also to everyone else who have gone out of their way to donate a prize, however big or small. We really, really appreciate it.

We will not be able to tell you the amount until February's edition as of course December and January's copy will be as one and will already have gone to press.

Finally, what with this month being very special indeed, a date has been decided by the Committee for Father Christmas to come and visit the village. The whole village! The big man himself has confirmed he has a few hours to spare on Sunday 18th December 2016 so that he can spread some festive cheer in and around the village. The float/sleigh will commence its route at 4.30pm starting from the junction of Dingle Road, heading down Dingle Road and into Maxwell Drive, coming back out onto the main road into the village. The float will then head towards the Prince of Wales into the likes of Oak Drive and so on and so forth, right the way through the village (you get the picture I hope), finally heading down County Road but turning back to be able to finish off down Pontybodkin Hill and out of the village. manoeuvring for the float/sleigh, but there will be some that it cannot attempt, (i.e. Derwen Deg and Albert Street) due to the volume of cars parked with very little or no room for turning. The Committee will however do their very best to alert those within the little avenues so that no-one misses out. Either that or they can wait for the merry tunes of Christmas blasting out to let them know he's almost there! One reason not to miss out though will be the confectionary on offer. Santa and the Committee will be handing out little chocolates/sweets (age related to suit) to give out on the journey.

Committee Members will be on hand on every part of the route (some dressed accordingly for the occasion - some need a little persuading still), and we sincerely hope that resurrecting Santa's visit in and around the village once more, after such a long absence, will give everyone a little boost in the run up to Christmas.

The Committee will have their donation buckets with them so, if anyone is feeling generous, then any token, however small, will be gratefully received. We appreciate Christmas is the most expensive time so donations are not compulsory.

Please see the adverts in this edition for the Bingo and for Father Christmas.

Finally, before I finish off, please note that our AGM will not be held until the 10th January 2017. Things have been a bit hectic of late and, with Christmas creeping up on us so quickly, we thought it best to leave it until the New Year. Again, please see the advert in this edition for that.

Our next write up will of course be in February's edition and we will hopefully be able to report good things from the Bingo and Santa's visit, and the AGM.

Well, it just remains for myself and all the Committee Members to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very healthy and Happy New Year.

2017 -BRING IT ON!!!

Kind regards,

Louise Hoyle Fennell Committee Member LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE







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LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS DANCE

SATURDAY 17th DECEMBER 2016



8pm till 12 midnight Tickets: - £5.00





NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

SATURDAY 31st DECEMBER 2016



8pm till 1.00am

Tickets: - £12.00



Contact Clive Venables on 01352 770728

or

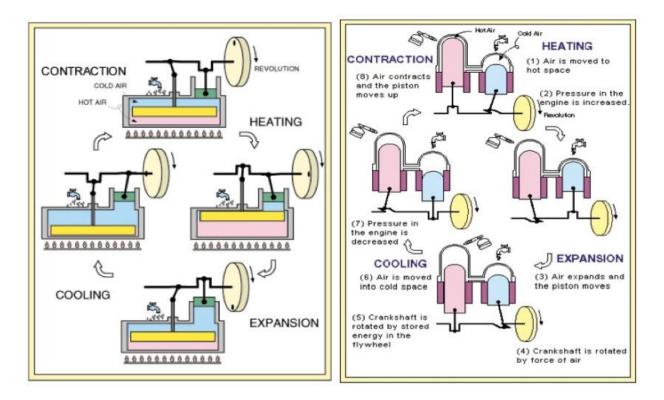
Marie Reynolds on 01352 770546



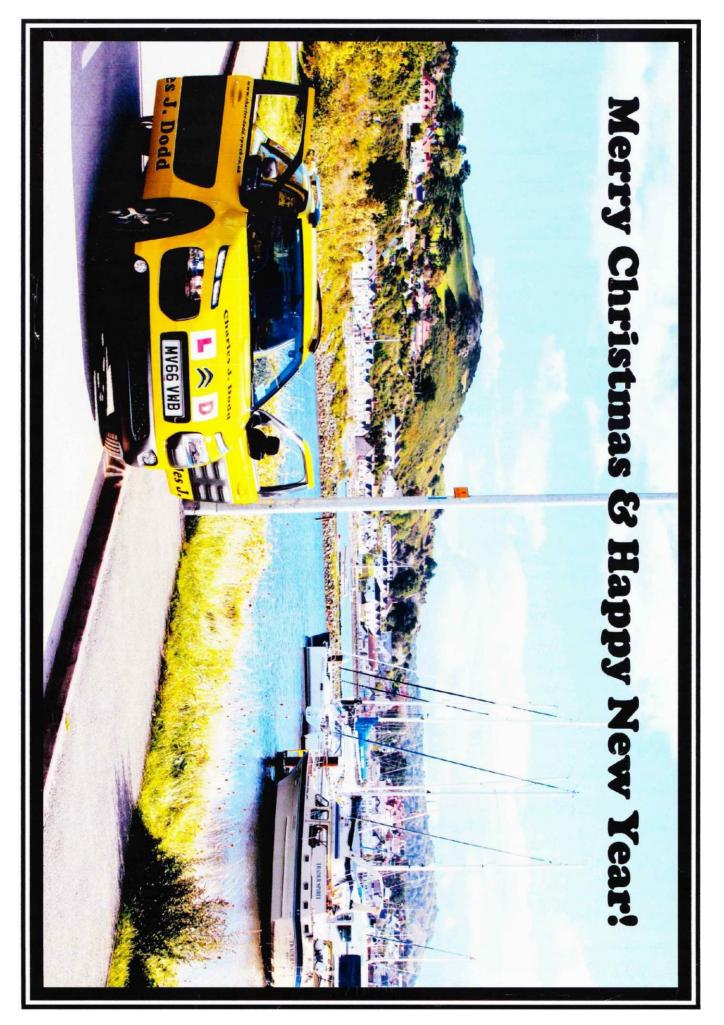
Technical Corner by Joseph Caruana

Since my childhood I have always admired those, who pushed the limits of industrial achievement, venture into the unknown, and express their ideas by inventing new devices. We have produced our fair share of invention, and we have produced original solutions to identified needs. One of these inventors was the reverend Robert Sterling. The Reverend Robert Stirling was born at Cloag Farm near Methven, Perthshire, the third of eight children of Patrick and Agnes Stirling and a grandson of Michael Stirling, inventor of a threshing machine. He inherited his father's interest in engineering, but studied divinity at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and was licensed to preach.

Nevertheless, the inclination towards engineering did prevail and he invented what is today known as the sterling engine. Several versions of the sterling have been developed, and these have ranged from a sophisticated industrial version, to a simple version that can be bought in kit form and built as a project in a garden shed. The following diagrams show the cycle of function of the sterling engine and it works as follows.



The engine consists of a chamber, in which air is moved from the cold side to the hot side by the movement of a displacer. When the displacer is moved to the cold side, it pushes the air to the hot side and vice versa. When the air is moved to the hot side, it expands and when it is pushed to the cold side it contracts. This expansion and contraction of the air creates a pressure and a vacuum respectively. The pressure within the chamber pushes the power piston outwards and the vacuum will pull the piston back where it was. The displacer and the power piston are connected by a crankshaft, and they are ninety degrees out of phase with each other. The above two diagrams explain the basics of how a sterling engine works, and it must be noted that as long as you have a temperature differential between one side of the expansion chamber and the other, the engine will work. In recent years, the sterling engine has been further developed, and it has been utilised to work directly from the heat generated by the, thus make it a solar engine.



MONDAY CRAFT GROUP

I am very pleased to be able to report that the 'Monday Craft Group' meets regularly in the Community Centre, Leeswood. The group is growing, the numbers of Ladies attending are very encouraging, usually around twenty and there is no reason why we cannot increase numbers and we would also welcome any Gentlemen who wished to join us.

At the moment, the Arts and Crafts that are being enjoyed are as follows:- Tapestry, Origami, Cross stitch, Knitting, Crochet, Beading, Toy making, Sewing, making Christmas Decorations of all kinds !, Card-making, Embroidery, Drawing & Painting and Lace-making – I am sure there are others too !! We all just bring along whatever we are working on at home and with all these arts and crafts going on there's every opportunity to try a new craft with help from someone who has already achieved or mastered the skill you would like to learn. We all share our expertise happily and enjoy passing on whatever we can.

This year we have enjoyed a trip to Event City in Manchester to the Knitting and Stitching Show, where we all came home with even <u>more</u> ideas and we had a joint outing with the P+Q group to Bridgemere in Cheshire and the Quilters Trading Post at Buerton, also in Cheshire.

The Monday group meets fortnightly, in the Community centre, Leeswood at 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm, on Mondays !! Tea or Coffee and biscuits are provided and it costs £1. If you would like to join us, please do, we would love to welcome you.

Check when the next meeting will be with Mrs Maureen Calder on 01352 770694.



C. Flitcroft

LADIES GUILD

At the meeting on the 27th October 2016, in the Community Centre there was only six members, plus my sister who was on a visit, in attendance. Mrs. Cynthia Flitcroft told us a little of how Christmas decorations came about and where they originated and then we all got into a craft evening making decorations, which Cynthia had cut out, to be kept to decorate the tree at the festival to be held in the ~English Methodist Chapel. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and managed to produced quite a few items. Refreshments were provided and served by myself. The raffle was drawn and my sister was

Refreshments were provided and served by myself. The raffle was drawn and my sister was the lucky winner, the special raffle was won by Mrs. Margaret Roberts. Margaret, the Vice Chairman then thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

On the 20th November, our speaker for the evening was Mr. Alan Flitcroft. Alan is writing his memoirs in quite a few volumes and read us extracts. He kept us entertained and interested all evening. It would be lovely to hear some more of his stories at a future date. \Mrs. Anne Davies provided the refreshments. The raffle was won by Mrs. Gill Burton and Mrs. Flora Roberts won the special raffle. The President, Mrs. Lucille Ingman thanked Alan for entertaining us and for everyone attending.

Gill Burton

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL, FROM THE LADIES GUILD Carols story

It had been nearly nine weeks since I had left Carol and the boys, needless to say I was excited and I have to admit a little apprehensive, I had been living in Egypt for nearly three months now, and for me it was not only a great adventure that would pay the bills but it would hopefully create a better future for our family, but I have to admit that I was beginning to enjoy the culture change, for me it was ok but how would Carol and the boys fit in, when I was talking with the other expats they admitted that their wives and kids hated it and some were not prepared to give it a chance and went back home after a couple of months this was not only the Brits but some Americans, and Ausies. Particularly the wife of Martin the Norwegian Driller who had left him to return to Norway leaving him to cope with a teenage daughter, she was killed a couple of months later, I was going to mention Martin and his daughter in a later issue but it is such a strong and sad memory I have decided to include it in this one, When he was working on the rig his fourteen yr old daughter was left in the charge of his house keeper, I remember times when I would be at the horse stables near the Pyramids and she would be hanging around the stables with the local Egyptians I tried many a time to send her home but she would never listen, below is a photo of Martin before he received the sad news of his daughter I think her name was Maria or something similar I could ask Dennis but that is his memory not mine, she was a class mate of his, apparently the accident happened when she was riding on a moped down the Corniche this was the name of the road running alongside the river Nile when she was run over by a lorry or a bus, I know this sounds unbelievable in this day and age but she was left on road side verge covered in newspapers for whole day before her body was removed, but this sad tale does not end there, Martin was on the rig when this accident happened and was not informed by the office until two days later, the reason we later found out, was that there was no driller to relieve Martin on the rig, (such was the oilfield then) when he finally left the rig and the day of the funeral arrived there was no sign of her coffin (it had been mislaid) two days later it was located we never found out where Maria had been, but she was finally given a Christian burial, Martin never

returned to the rig and I have never heard from him again, I apologise for diverting from Carols story,

Vicky from London office had given Carol a whole List of essentials that would help to make our stay in Egypt a little better because there were lots of things unavailable there, Carol also had to think of items to keep the boys occupied, they were a little old for toys Paul was 9yrs old and Dennis was nearly 14yrs, their bikes had been sold as we did not think they would be used, my stereo and vinyl records were a must, we had taken Dennis out of college and not knowing what kind of education he would receive Carol loaded up with home study books and anything to assist them,

The truck arrived at our house in Manchester and our shipment was on the way to Egypt, Carols father (and dog) had moved into our house acting as a house sitter, Carol told me that she and the boys had hardly slept for two weeks, questions, questions and more questions, most of them she had no answer for, two weeks after the shipment had left, the time had come for them leave for Manchester airport, and then London Heathrow little did I know that I and the boys would never return to that house again, and two years later Carol went back and put it up for sale,

Their flight was due to land around 1-30am needless to say I had not bothered going to bed that day, so I was hanging around the arrival lounge most of the day waiting for her flight, by the time her flight was announced I was absolutely shattered (tired) two hours after her flight had landed I had watched all of the other passengers being greeted by their loved ones then leave the airport but there was still no sign of mine, I am not ashamed to say there were a few tears in my eyes(must have been the sand) where the hell are they I was thinking, I know they boarded at Heathrow all passengers had left and only a couple of policemen, soldiers and a few airport employees were around so I decided to go looking for them,

"No you cannot go there sir" this came from some officious looking gentleman behind me "why not" I asked, "you are not allowed to cross this line" pointing to a painted white line, was only me standing there and no barriers or gates to prevent me, I asked him why not, "it is not allowed" he replied then held his hand out and said "bacsheesh" (do not remember how to spell It) but it means a cash bribe this would prove to be an accepted practice, I decided to play along with him and gave him two Egyptian pounds and this done the trick "quickly sir follow me" with that he escorted me towards the luggage area he then wished me good morning then walked backed to his white line,

I saw Carol and the boys, they were standing near the two luggage trolleys that were fully loaded after all the hugs, tears and kisses were over I asked what the problem was and why they were still waiting there,

"All the luggage is accounted for except for my suitcase and it contains all of my clothes apparently it has gone missing and I don't know what to do" it was now around 3-30am and we were all tired, "let's leave it for now and we will get the office to sort it out for us, it was six weeks before Carol had her clothes delivered to our flat, her suitcase had been taken off at Nairobi Africa, and for six weeks she was walking around in clothes borrowed from Dennis with the odd Egyptian dress thrown on, I thought she looked good dressed as a local, a good job it was not Dennis who had lost his clothes I dont think Carols clothes would suit him,

I had arranged with Mahmoud the Taxi to be outside the airport for 2-30am, I never made allowance for the long delay hoping that he would still be there waiting for us but there he was fast asleep in his Mercedes taxi (very old merc held together with string) was I glad to see him. you bet I was, Right Mahmoud take me to the "city of the dead", this was opposite Palace "Mohammed Ali"(not the boxer) I believe he was a leader who reformed Egypt and had this Palace built and named after him, the boxer Casius Clay adopted the name when he converted to Islam,

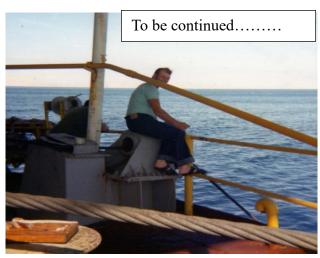
I was about to play a joke on Carol and the boys, I had asked Mahmoud to stop in the "City of the dead" this was a small community of clay adobe houses with no windows but had tv antennas everywhere they also buried their dead in holes in the walls, various locals had given me this information. when we arrived the locals were sitting crossed legged smoking hubble bubble pipes this is a type of hookah four or five men would be puffing away from the centre unit that was cooled by water making a hubble bubble sound, sometimes they contained tobacco but mostly it was hashish. Most of these people were very poorly dressed mostly rags and homemade sandals,

"Sorry love but this is only place I could find for us to live but we will get used to it after a while, the boys were horrified, Carols reply was not the reaction I had hoped for "If this is the best you can find then we will have to make do until we find a better place at least we will be together" she replied without a smile and she was serious, "Right Mahmoud take us to Maadi quickly" then I told Carol about Gordons flat that we could use until we found one our own, we ended staying for six weeks, with the original idea of living in the City of the dead, Gordons place was like the palace,

I had arranged to have an extra week field break to help the family settle in and sort out the schooling, also I thought it would be better if we had a little pleasure time together and introduce them to the different culture as we would be here for a year or two and believe me it was certainly different, below is photo of Palace Mohamed Ali and to the right is or was the city of the dead,

Tom Nicholson









COULD YOU HELP A CHILD IN CARE?

Lily came to us aged 12 having been out of education for almost two years. With patience, kindness and understanding, her foster carer supported her back into education and **NEWFOCAS** helped her to understand and come to terms with her past. She became an achieving pupil and is now studying at university and is doing very well. She regularly keeps in touch with her foster carer.

NEWFOCAS provide support from an established team of social workers 24/7, respite and sessional support, 26 days holiday per year, excellent training, weekly supervision, a generous allowance plus enhancement payments.

If you have a full driving licence, spare bedroom and are computer literate, please contact **NEWFOCAS** for a chat to see if you could help a child in care.



or more information about fostering call: 01244 550 300 or visit our website www.newfocas.co.uk



An Inspirational story about fostering....



Sylvia is an inspiration to us all; at 77 'years young' Sylvia is still fostering children and young people for **NEWFOCAS** Therapeutic fostering agency. Sylvia originally commenced fostering in 1971 for the Local Authority, continuing her commitment to children and young people in 2002 by fostering for **NEWFOCAS**.

Sylvia fostered with her husband until his death a few years ago. Sylvia has gained a vast amount of knowledge and has looked after some of the most challenging children and young people **NEWFOCAS** have had in their care over the years.

This is what Sylvia says about how she fosters:

"With my husband, I had been fostering for thirty-one years and have gained a lot of experience in dealing with all sorts of foster children, as well as bringing up our own children. I treat all children as individuals whilst recognising that each child has different levels of emotional needs and development. I deal with any negative behaviour through discussion with the child and listening to them. I can actually spend hours talking about 'this and that', and supporting them through difficulties".

NEWFOCAS provide a Therapeutic Social Worker for each child and a Supervising Social Worker for each carers to provide expert guidance in both day to day and complex situations.

Before dealing with an issue Sylvia said "I will always take one step back and discuss different strategies, often with the NEWFOCAS social workers, to enable me to handle it well".

Sylvia is still fostering for **NEWFOCAS** and is always learning new skills and gaining more knowledge about fostering therapeutically and how to deal with situations that arise day to day as a foster carer.

Everyone who works with her is inspired by Sylvia who, despite her vast knowledge and experience, nevertheless continues to want to learn and develop her skills as a foster carer.

Sylvia says that she would recommend fostering to anyone considering it, and has been very happy with her decision to undertake this rewarding work through **NEWFOCAS**.







Is Your Life Insurance in Trust?

Many people have life insurance, whether that is to protect a debt such as a mortgage, or simply to ensure that your family has a financial safety net. If people are not insured, a family could be left behind with funeral expenses to meet, a mortgage to pay and possibly without their main family bread winner. It is therefore no surprise that life insurance is one of the more common types of personal protection.

<u>Trusts</u>

Although life policies are quite common, we often find that life policy trusts are not. Although we always endeavour to set these up for our clients, some existing policies may be missing this valuable component.

Trusts allow you to protect what is yours from taxes and probate expenses, but they can also allow you to retain control of how the money is used. In simple terms this means if you were to pass away, a trust will deliver your desires promptly and outside probate delays. This can ensure your family has access to the valuable funds quickly, during such a crucial time.

Does it cost anything to set up a trust?

Trusts are simple to set up and are often free of policy charges. It can be something as straightforward as a form and a few signatures (including the policy holder and your chosen trustees). Clickery can help you ensure the documents are completed correctly.

Do I have to set up a new policy to put it in trust?

A trust can be set up alongside a new application, or can in most instances, be added to an existing policy. You therefore do not have to set up new insurance to access this benefit, however, a review of your insurance planning can be wise as part of a general 'financial health check.'

How can Clickery Help?

We can help you to review your protection planning to 1. Ensure you have the appropriate cover in place to meet your needs, 2. To ensure any existing or new provider is competitively priced and provides a quality service and 3. To ensure any new or existing policy is placed in trust and that the relevant trust documentation is completed correctly. We can also advise your trustees on their responsibilities. For a free no obligation protection review, contact us to find out more.

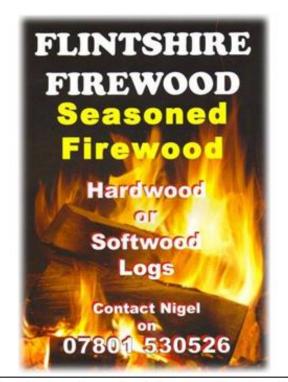
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Website: www.clickery.co.uk



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LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI A PONTBLYDDYN

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 4th OCTOBER 2016.

PRESENT

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

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds - Clerk to the Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Atkinson, C.E. Jones JP, T. Hughes, K. McCallum JP and J. Phoenix.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Alan Hatton-Yeo of Volunteering Matters Cymru, Helen Jones and Ella Jackson from Flintshire County Council were present at the meeting to discuss the possibility of joining a pilot scheme regarding Age Friendly Communities.

The World Health Organisation Age-Friendly Domains cover; a) Social Participation, b) Respect and Social Inclusion, c) Civic Participation and Employment, d) Housing, e) Transportation, f) Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings, g) Community Support and Health Services and h) Communication and Information.

Improvement cycle for Age Friendly Communities: -

Years 1 and 2 Planning – a) involve older people, b) assessment of age-friendliness, c) development an action plan and d) identify indicators.

Years 3 to 5 Implementation – a) implement action plan and b) monitor indicators. Evaluate Progress – a) measure progress, b) identify successes and remaining gaps and c) submit progress report. The membership cycle is of five years – this will hopefully give continual improvement.

In 2014 there was the launch of the Ageing Well in Wales Programme. All Local Authorities signed the Dublin Declaration and commitment to an Age Friendly Wales. 2015 saw every Local Authority in Wales develop an Ageing Well plan. For 2016/2017 there is to be a refresh of the Older People's Strategy.

Wales is aspiring to be a nation of Age-Friendly Places. These are somewhere where local people can come together to decide to change one or more things to make improvement for those who live there especially as they age. It might be something small but significant, such as not parking on pavements so people with mobility problems, mothers with prams or anyone with visual impairment can move around more easily and safely. A recognition of lonely people in the community and the setting up of something such as a 'Casserole Club' to cook for others and share once a month. The local school children may be able to help with the older members of the community with gardening or putting their wheelie bins out.

There are eight simple steps to becoming an Age Friendly Community: -

1) As a community make a decision that you want to create change. As a first step, it is necessary to have a map of all things that are already happening within the community and to consider a way of how people can find out about these activities and how you can take part.

2) Start a community conversation. This could be an event, a shared meal or a series of talks between existing groups. It may be useful to have someone from outside the community to act as a facilitator to these conversations.

3) Take the ideas and prioritise one or two to work on. Be realistic about the ideas chosen, that they can make a positive difference for people in the community.

4) Think how these ideas can be put into practice, what needs to happen and who is going to do what and over what time scale. Go for ideas that are both achievable but at the same time will make a difference. Turn this into a plan of practical action and commit to making a change.

5) Submit the plan to the Ageing Well in Wales programme for recognition as a place that is working to become more age friendly. Be recognised for the plan and be endorsed as an Age Friendly Community.6) Implement the plan. Work together in the community to make your plan work. If things don't go how expected, work to find a solution.

7) Assess to see if the plan has made the difference you expected. Look for all the unexpected benefits; a) people knowing more about what is going on; b) more people volunteering in the community and c) people feeling more part of where they live. These are important changes.

8) Recognise and celebrate achievements. Hold a community party. Stop and remember that being Age Friendly is ongoing then consider how to make it even better.

Support is available from: -

Ageing Well in Wales Resource Hub, National Expert Lead on Age Friendly Communities, Older People's Strategy Co-ordinator, Older People's Engagement Worker.

Funding is available from: -

Local Authority Welsh Government Funding for Engagement,

Big Lottery grants (Awards for All, People and Places, 'Celebrate') community grants,

Big Lottery Accelerating Ideas Plot – decision deferred to December 2016.

Councillors agreed that a start would be to hold a public meeting on a suitable date where Alan Hatton-Yeo, Helen Jones and Ella Jackson could attend. The Clerk was to liaise with Helen Jones regarding this.

MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 6th September 2016 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor R. Williams and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes that these minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

CEMETERY

Councillor R. Hughes offered to contact the Blacksmith in Padeswood about the repairs required to the Cemetery gates.

The Clerk had spoken to Mr Blackwell, Stonemason and he was prepared to have a meeting on site at the Cemetery in November regarding the re-alignment of headstones. This work would be carried out in January/February of the new year.

28

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application number – 055986 Erection of extension to provide lift facility. 7 Riverside Court, Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4HA.

All Councillors agreed that there was no objection to this.

EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2015/2016

The External Audit Report for 2015/2016 was presented to Council. A change was required to the Annual Return as the Fixed Assets had been overstated. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor D. Rule that the Return be amended and the findings of the External Audit be accepted. All Councillors agreed.

MILLENNIUM CLOCK

The Clerk informed that the work on the Millennium Clock has now been completed.

POND AREA ON PHOENIX PARK

Councillor R. Hughes advised that Flintshire County Council were preparing to start work on the pond area at Phoenix Park. It was hoped that the Community Council would consider providing £1,900 towards the cost of the work. Councillor R. Williams proposed and Councillor Terry Hughes seconded that the money be given with all Councillors in agreement. The Clerk was to contact Mr Alan Roberts at Flintshire County Council to inform him of this Council's decision.

FLINTSHIRE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Members had already received notice of the joint meeting between the Flintshire Standards Committee and Town/Community Councils to be held on Monday 3rd September 2016 at Pentre Halkyn. Councillor J. Caruana attended. This item was to be included on the Agenda for the next meeting so that Councillor Caruana could present a report.

PUBLIC OMBUDSMAN SERVICE FOR WALES – GUIDANCE ON CODE OF CONDUCT

Already circulated to Councillors – the Public Ombudsman Service for Wales has issued revised guidance on the new model code. This was accepted.

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL LDP WORKSHOP

Correspondence from Flintshire County Council advising of workshops being held over three days during October in the Alyn and Deeside Room at County Hall. The Chairman, Councillor G. Sherwood and the Clerk are to attend the workshop held on Tuesday 25th October 2016 between 5.30pm and 9.00pm.

ONE VOICE WALES WREXHAM/FLINT AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016/2017

Details of the One Voice Wales Wrexham/Flint Area Committee Meetings 2016/2017 to take place at Gwersyllt Community Resource Centre have been received. These are to be held on 29th November 2016, 2^{nd} March 2017 and 7^{th} June 2017.

MODEL COMPLAINTS POLICY RECOMMENDED BY PUBLIC OMBUDSMAN SERVICE FOR WALES

A copy of the Model Complaints Policy as recommended by the Public Ombudsman Service for Wales has been received. Councillors agreed to adopt this. Once the policy had been adapted it would be put on the Community Council website.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) <u>Vehicle parking issues</u> – the issue with vehicles parking part on the pavement at Bell's Corner was causing drivers to travel over the white line on the wrong side of the road. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Inspector Jonathan Bowcott of North Wales Police asking how this could be stopped. A further problem was the parking on the junction of Bryn Clyd and King Street. Vehicles are parking too close to the junction which was presenting problems for traffic especially the bus service.
b) <u>Part re-surfacing of road through Leeswood village</u> – work has now been completed on the road surface patching. It is now in good order and white lining will start soon.

MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

a) Household Recycling Centres Buckley and Nercwys – it was brought to the Council's attention that both would be closed for a period in the new year at the same time. Councillor R. Hughes was to investigate this.

b) Civic Service 18th September 2016 – Councillor R. Hughes thanked the Chairman, Councillor G. Sherwood for an excellent Civic Service. The Chairman thanked the Clerk and Revd Pat Christopher for their work in putting on the Civic Service.

c) Honours Board – this had now been updated.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Holywell Town Council – invitation to the Mayor of Holywell's Civic Service to be held on Sunday 16th October 2016 at St Peter's Church, Rosehill, Holywell at 10.30am. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Joseph Caruana is to attend.

b) Bags of Help, the community grant scheme from Tesco – information regarding a grant scheme to improve green spaces and increase community participation. This was to put on the Council website.c) Letter of complaint re a property on Maxwell Drive, Leeswood – this was anonymous, it was agreed that no action be taken.

d) Boundary Commission for Wales – correspondence regarding the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in Wales Initial Proposals – this item was to be put on the Agenda for the next monthly meeting.

For a full version of the minutes and other Community Council and Community news please visit our website: -

http://leeswoodcommunity.org.uk



A little something to colour in to help relax you over this stressful time.....





Drop a Pebble in the Water

Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash and it is gone; But there's a half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on, Spreading, spreading from the centre, flowing on out to the sea. And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

Drop a pebble in the water: in a minute you forget, But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet, And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown; You've disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.

Drop an unkind word, or carelessness: in a minute it is gone, But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on. They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the centre as they go, And there is no way to stop them, once you've started them to flow.

Drop an unkind word, or carelessness, in a minute you forget; But there's little waves a-flowing, and there's ripples circling yet, And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you've stirred, And disturbed a life that was happy where you dropped that unkind word.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a splash and it is gone; But there's half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on, Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave, Till you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget; But there's gladness still a-swelling, and there's joy a-circling yet. And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.





"UNLUCKY FOR SOME...

"LEGS ELEVEN

"TWO LITTLE DUCKS...

LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

invites the Community to

RISTMAS" PRIZE



to be held at

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2016

Doors open 7pm/Eyes down for prizes 7.30pm Various hampers, vouchers, drinks & gifts to be won Light refreshments/raffle prizes

"SO PUT DOWN YOUR REMOTES AND DON YOUR COATS. EMMERDALE CAN WAIT AND SO CAN CORRIE, WE PROMISE YOU FAITHFULLY YOU WON'T BE SORRY!"

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT US AND WE'LL KEEP BRINGING YOU THE CARNIVAL ③



"SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN"

LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

host an evening with Father Christmas in and around the village on

SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2016

commencing at 4.30pm from the junction of Dingle Road into the village

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FLOAT/SLEIGH WILL ATTEMPT EVERY ROAD AND CUL DE SAC ON ITS ROUTE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALBERT STREET AND DERWEN DEG (DUE TO RESTRICTIONS)

PLEASE ASK ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY UPDATES, OR YOU CAN JOIN THE LEESWOOD & DISTRICT NEWS FACEBOOK PAGE TO READ OUR FULL WRITE-UP

DON'T FORGET TO LISTEN OUT FOR SANTA ON HIS SLEIGH! MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE & A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT IN 2016

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