

# Leeswood & District News

March 2017

[www.leeswood-district.news](http://www.leeswood-district.news)

Issue 359

## Leeswood Archaeological Dig - In Pictures

Check out our feature back-section article on the Leeswood Archaeological Dig sent in by David Rule, featuring historic maps and colour images with a great historical piece to accompany it—very interesting. **Starts on Page 26.**

### Also in this edition:

- ☆ We continue to plead for help with the development and distribution of this paper
- ☆ Leeswood discovers the 'Forgotten Bowling Club'
- ☆ The carnival fundraisers have 2 special events coming up over the coming weeks
- ☆ We feature an extended 'Memories of an oilfield man' article

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Diane Bates celebrates a very special birthday this month:



### CONGRATULATIONS to

Diane on  
9th March 2017

Best Wishes  
From  
Everyone in Leeswood!

Happy  
Birthday



# Leeswood & District News

## Highlights in this new edition...

An update from the Pontybodkin Ladies Guild	Page 5
2x upcoming Carnival fundraising Events	Pages 7 & 8
News from the churches	Pages 9, 15 & 20
Leeswood Bowling Club	Pages 11
Carnival News	Pages 13
Memories of an oilfield man	Pages 17, 18 & 19
Technical Corner	Page 22
Allotments News	Page 24
March in the Garden	Page 25
Leeswood Archaeological Dig	Pages 26, 27 & 28

## Your Contributions

### Do you have an idea for a great article?

Are you aware of any local events or important notices that need to appear within this publication?

Please send, or drop it in, to:

June Lincoln,  
7 Llys Ann,  
Leeswood, CH7 4RW

07525929522

58junelincoln@gmail.com

**Deadline for Easter edition: Sat, 18th March 2017**

## Help Needed

# HELP !



We need your help!  
To help produce and distribute  
this Newsletter.

**Do you have a couple of  
hours a month you can  
spare for this  
community paper?**

We need a new editor, a fresh new committee and help with delivery. Are your neighbours getting it?

[More on this on page 3](#)

## Recent Local Events

The community gathered for the much anticipated rugby match between Wales & England on the 11th February 2017 in the Community Centre. While it wasn't the result some were hoping for, it was an excellent event made better by bringing the community together. **Final result: Wales 16—21 England.**

**Make sure you send in pictures of your community events so we can feature them here next month!**



# Leeswood & District News

We're looking at bringing a breath of fresh air to this paper

## HELP !



We need your help!  
To help produce and distribute  
this Newsletter.

### WE NEED TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- 1) **New Editor**  
*(to replace June)*  
Takes around a day a month at present. We are working to reduce this considerably over the coming month
- 2) **Committee Members**  
To bring in new life and a breathe of fresh air.
- 3) **Help with delivery**  
Maybe only your road (we only deliver around 300 around the whole village in total) - so not likely to be many per road. But it will help relieve some of the work for those that have maybe been delivering for over 20 years.

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# Leeswood & District News

## PONTYBODKYN LADIES GUILD

By Gill Burton

The meeting on the 26th January 2017 at the Community Centre was very short indeed. Due to ill health of members and the very bad weather only five were present and as nothing had been arranged it was decided to abandon the meeting.

The February 9th meeting was opened by our President, Mrs. Lucille Ingman, who then introduced Mrs. Maureen Calder, our very own member of the Guild, to give a demonstration

on Origami. Maureen is so clever with her fingers and concentrated on flowers, blossom, fritillary and poinsettia. They were beautiful. We all enjoyed the demo very much but thought it beyond us to produce any.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Jenny Webb. The raffle was drawn and Mrs. Lucille Ingman was the winner, Mrs Mary Morris won the special raffle.

### Sponsor

#### Leeswood and Treuddyn Cancer Research Committee



Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Doors open 7.00 pm.  
Eyes down 7.30 pm.

Community Hall, Leeswood

## Anniversary

The Pontybodkyn Ladies Guild will be celebrating their 50TH ANNIVERSARY in April 2017 – **Congratulations to all.**

## Future Meetings

### Thursday 9th March 2017

Speaker will be talking about the 'Women's Air Transport Auxiliary during World War II'. We particularly invite any ladies who were involved with, or had relatives/friends involved with the movement of Aircraft by female Pilots.

### Thursday 23rd March 2017

Not known

### Thursday 13th April 2017

1st Leeswood Guiding team about 'Guiding today'.

# Welcome!

All ladies from the surrounding areas (Leeswood, Pontblyddyn, Treuddyn, Nercwys, Pontybodkin etc) are cordially invited to our meetings. We generally meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, except August (next few meeting dates above). At the Leeswood Community Centre starting at 7.30 pm. Light refreshments and tea/coffee are provided. You will be very welcome.

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#### LEESWOOD HOSPICE SUPPORT COMMITTEE



ST. DAVIDS DAY  
Coffee Morning



Wednesday 1<sup>TH</sup> March  
10 am—12 am

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# Leeswood & District News

## Carnival Fundraising



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COMMITTEE

*are holding a*

**CAR WASH**

*£5.00 per vehicle*

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY  
CENTRE

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

**9.00am to 5.00pm**



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



# Leeswood & District News

## Carnival Fundraising



“UNLUCKY FOR SOME...”

“LEGS ELEVEN...”

“TWO LITTLE DUCKS...”

**LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

*invite the Community to their*

**EASTER PRIZE**

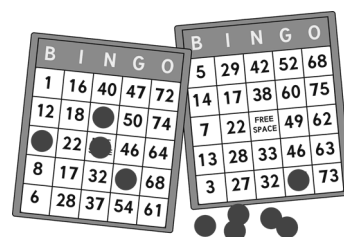
**BINGO**

*to be held at*

**LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL 2017**

**Doors open 7.00pm**  
**Eyes down for prizes 7.30pm**  
**Raffle Prizes**



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





# Leeswood & District News

## Church News



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

## Honest Prayer

We are about to enter the season of Lent, the period of prayer and self-discipline that leads to Holy Week and Easter. Prayer has been simply defined as 'talking with God'. Although listening to God is an equally important aspect of prayer. I have been talking with God since early childhood. I remember being six years old and in hospital to have my tonsils removed. In those days visiting hours, even for parents, were quite restricted, so I felt very alone and frightened. The most natural thing in the world to me was to talk to God about it. I would ask that God would help me escape and go home. Apparently, my little prayers were rather loud, and the source of some amusement to the nursing staff who were on duty.

Even though I smile to myself when I think of those childhood prayers in hospital, I am convinced that they were perfectly acceptable and valid to Almighty God. I am sure that God looks for simple honesty in our praying, not sophistication or eloquence. I recently came across the story of a woman who had spent several months visiting her dying husband in a Catholic hospital. One day, as she was leaving the hospital, in her anger and frustration she picked up some clods of earth and started throwing them at a statue of the Virgin Mary that was in the hospital grounds. The security guards moved to stop her, but the hospital chaplain intervened. "Don't stop her. Can't you see? She's praying." The biblical psalms are full of examples of venting one's feelings towards God.

Psalm 22 is a classic example :

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?*

*O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer. (Psalm 22:1-2)*

Being honest with ourselves and with God is far more important than the eloquence of language or the beauty of liturgy. One of the most important pieces of advice I have received on prayer is: "Keep it simple and keep it real."

God bless,

Rev. James

**A warm welcome to all – Croeso cynnes i bawb**

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**

# Leeswood & District News

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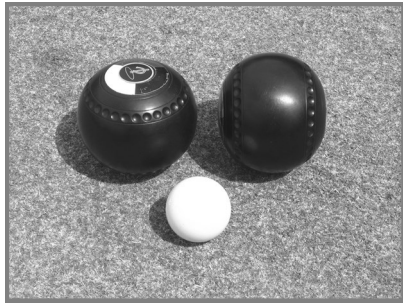
or call Wrexham 01978 720311

# Leeswood & District News

## Leeswood Bowling Club

You may or may not be aware but there is a bowling green and club in the village.

The green is behind the community centre and is in a very pleasant spot on a nice summers evening.



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

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

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

Bowls is not an old man's game as can be witnessed when watching a Wednesday night league game. It is played by all ages and sexes. We maintain the green ourselves but are looking for someone to cut the green once a week we will be able to pay a small amount. So if you would like to help in this way then use the contact at the end of this article.

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

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

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## Charities / Non-profits needed

Do you know of a charity that needs a new or better website that could benefit from my graphic design and website design work—completely free of charge?

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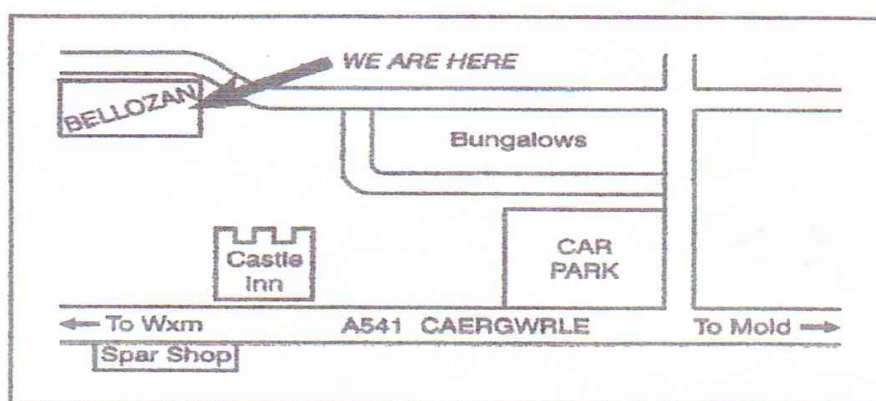
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# Leeswood & District News

## Carnival News

By Louise Hoyle Fennell



Hi everyone, well didn't that month go rather quick, although being the shortest of them all we shouldn't be that surprised! I'm afraid this write-up will be rather a short one too, as we only have the Quiz Night fundraiser to report on, although we do have our other fundraisers coming up which you will see the posters for in this edition and a mention of them towards the end of the write-up.

Before I do go on however, the Committee would like to congratulate our member Stephen on his engagement to the lovely Angharad and we wish them both every happiness going into the next journey of their lives.

Back to business and our Quiz Night held on Friday 17th February 2017 was entertaining, although numbers were sadly on the low side, but we still had a good night regardless and we didn't spot anyone slipping under the table with their mobile phone to Google how much the price of fish was nowadays! Thanks to those that did attend to support us and thanks to the "University Challenge" winners of the night namely Ray, Stewart and Joe who put back into the Carnival fund the £20.00 prize money, giving us a total of £72.00 raised. The young children also had a good night and were wonderfully behaved. They spent a little time towards the end sweeping up the floor (aren't they good) but using me personally as the brush to sweep up with. Thankfully I didn't get that dirty along the way, but at least we had fun. And that is what this is all about, holding these fundraisers, getting the village to come along and have fun, and build memories for these children. And us old ones don't forget!

I think some people are of the opinion that quizzes are boring. They are anything but in my book if our quiz nights are anything to go by. Lots of shouting at the Quiz Master for clues because faces in fact look a little clueless, lots of debating at the table between adults who finally agree on an answer to a question, and then teenagers who muscle in with an overexcited "I know this one" and then they manage to throw the adults completely off balance. And just when us adults think we've got it as well! So we then go with the youngsters' answers because we think they are possibly a little more savvy than ourselves (because kids know everything don't forget and adults know nothing... obviously!) and then it ends up being the wrong answer after all that! But not all the time... obviously! Fun all round, honestly. Try it next time with us!

**Next month's write-up will include full details of the Queen/Rosebud/Prince Competition and disco night but, for now, please see below the dates we want you to watch out for and look for the posters in this edition for full details of them:**

### **CAR WASH**

Saturday 25th March 2017  
Leeswood Community Centre  
*More on Page 7*

### **EASTER BINGO NIGHT**

Wednesday 5th April 2017  
Leeswood Community Centre  
*More on Page 8*

# Leeswood & District News

## Sponsors

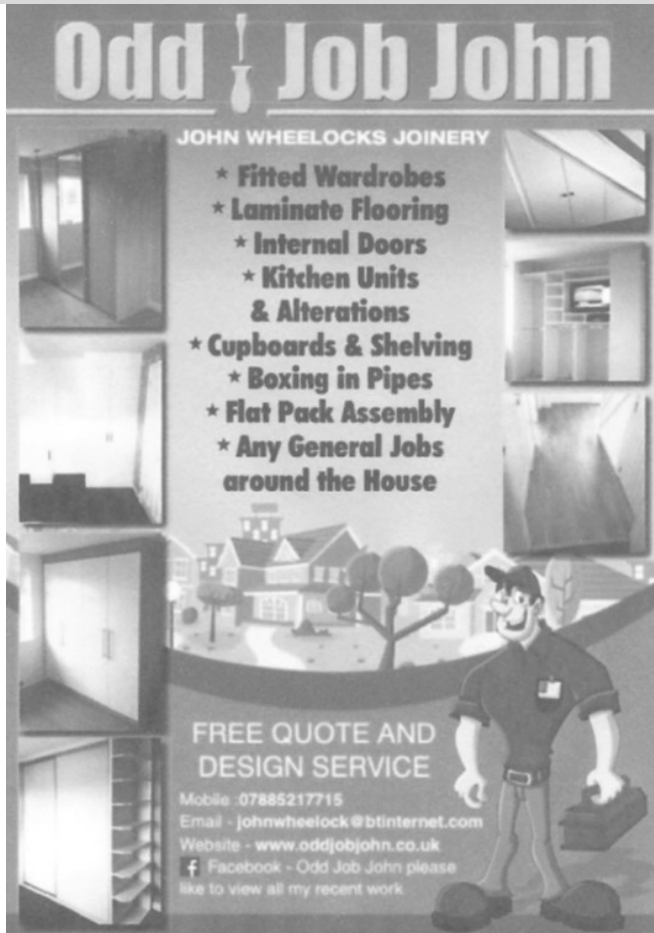
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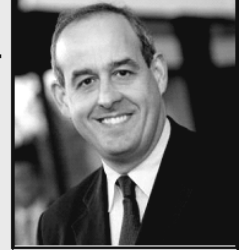
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### SEVEN WAYS TO CONTACT

#### DAVID



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# Leeswood & District News

## Church News

Pontblyddyn

### Christ Church

## Upcoming Services

#### Wednesday 1st March: Ash Wednesday

11.00 a.m. Holy Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes in Treuddyn Church  
17.00 p.m. Holy Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes in Pontblyddyn Church

#### Sunday 5th March: Lent I

11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
Celebrant: Rev John Poolman

#### Sunday 12th March: Lent II

11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
Celebrant: Rev Carole Poolman  
4.00 p.m. Evening  
Officiant: Mr Bryan Jones

#### Sunday 19th March: Lent III

11.15 a.m. Morning Prayer  
Officiant: Miss Marie Reynolds

#### Sunday 26th March: Mothering Sunday (Lent IV)

11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
Celebrant: Rev John Poolman

+++++

#### Sunday 2nd April: Passion Sunday (Lent V)

11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
Celebrant: Rev John Poolman

#### Sunday 9th April: Palm Sunday (Lent VI)

11.15 a.m. Holy Communion  
Celebrant: Rev Carole Poolman  
4.00 p.m. Evening  
Officiant: Mr Bryan Jones

#### Sunday 16th April: Easter Day

11.15 a.m. Joint Holy Communion  
for the Congregations' of  
Pontblyddyn, Treuddyn & Nercwys  
Celebrant: Rev'd Carole Poolman

## Always Welcome

CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN.

Is open every day between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and  
3.30 p.m.

## The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (1st March) with services in both Pontblyddyn and Treuddyn. It lasts for 40 days (excluding Sundays) as we remember Jesus life and all that led up to his death on Good Friday (14th April).

Many people give something up for Lent and this year Christian Aid is inviting people to get their friends and family to sponsor them to give up one of life's little luxuries such as Chocolate or Wine. You can find out more about that at [https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/christianaid/\\_give-up-for-lent](https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/christianaid/_give-up-for-lent).

We can also give up a little bit time to attend an extra service every week during Lent. This year Compline, a quiet evening service, will take place every Thursday. The churches in the group will take it in turns to host the service.

The arrangements are as follows:

#### Thursday 9th March at 7.30 p.m.

in Treuddyn Church

#### Thursday 16th March at 7.30 p.m.

in Nercwys Church

#### Thursday 23rd March at 7.45 p.m.

in Pontblyddyn Church

#### Thursday 30th March at 7.30 p.m.

in Treuddyn Church

#### Thursday 6th April at 7.30 p.m.

in Nercwys Church

## Events

### 25th February & 25th March

"Come for Coffee"

& "Vicar's Surgery"

10.30 a.m. – 12 noon

in Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

Please note there will not be a "Come for coffee" on 29th April



## Contact Information

Rev'd Carole Poolman, Parish Priest.

The Rectory, Llanfynydd,  
Wrexham. LL11 5HH.

Phone: 01978 762304

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



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## 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.

### Trusts

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?

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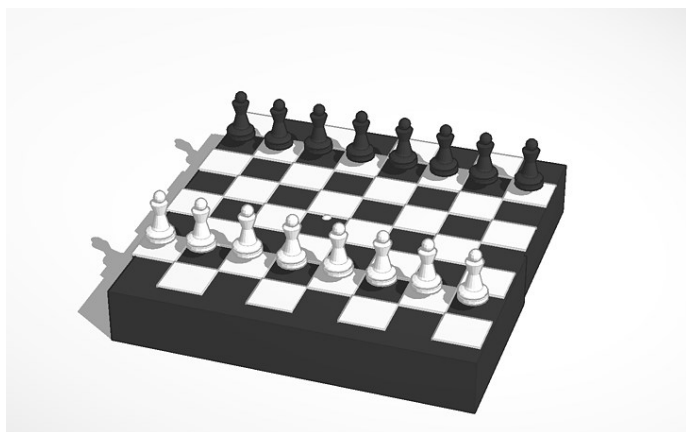


## Memories of an oilfield man

Tom Nicholson

### Carols Story

Thinking back; I compare my life with a book and each chapter being a different turning point in my life. Or maybe a game of chess; choose the correct move and you win, but the wrong one could be chaotic for the family. I did not think of what could go wrong at the time, I would climb that bridge when I came to it.



Anyway, who cared! Carol and the boys were here now, that was my main concern. I asked Mahmoud to drive us through Khan el Khalili (think that's how you spell it!). This was a huge open air market full, of colour and local characters, bicycles, dogs, donkeys and camels. The stalls displayed items from carpets to gold. Talking of gold brings back one memory of Luke Ussery the big American tool pusher. I remember going with him to the same market place and visiting a gold dealer who had a stall set up. Luke asked if he could make a belt buckle of gold in the shape of a horse shoe, the dealer assured him that he could and it would take a week. I was with Luke when he picked it up, we were both surprised with the quality of his workmanship and Luke was delighted. After a hell of a lot of bargaining he paid a couple of hundred dollars.

Walking around the bazaar we noticed a government gold embassy office at the end of the alleyway, so Luke called in with his belt buckle and asked for an appraisal. The officer looked at the buckle then reached under his counter for a cleaver; then to our amazement, he chopped the buckle in half then asked Luke to take him to the dealer. After a lot of shouting at each other the officer hit the dealer with his baton and demanded a return of Luke's money, then took the dealer away. He then left Luke with the two halves of a buckle, and me looking on in amazement. Anyway back to the bazaar; although it was still early morning, the market was buzzing. There were chickens, ducks, donkeys, various types of song birds, even monkeys on sale. There were numerous carpet stalls too. Carol and the boys were fascinated; I only wish that I had a camera with me then; if only to capture the looks of amazement on their faces. I also asked Mahmoud to drive through Garden City. This was an area where the wealthy residents, including all members of foreign Embassies lived. I remember noticing the security on the gates of each Embassy.

Immaculately dressed military guards were on patrol, except the British Embassy here were there are no guards only an elderly man sitting on a chair. I thought that was quite odd at the time. Carol was once invited to a party given by the American ambassador and his family invitations were given to the American expats. Carol was included, I was on the rig working at the time. I was thinking as they were all suffering from jet lag they would benefit from a couple of hours sleep, but they were too excited to sleep! It was decided we would explore Cairo the following day I thought maybe I should introduce them to the expat wives and families; the majority lived in Maadi and within walking distance. Tomorrow we would investigate Cairo and the Museum, as stated previously the oilfield is multilateral;

(continued...)

# Leeswood & District News

## Memories of an oilfield man

Tom Nicholson (continued...)

our neighbours included Jimmy King and wife Patty, their three children, Lynne, Barbie, and (Thumper) the baby. They owned a ranch in the Everglades Florida. Dale and Sheila Alderdice had no children and they came from Australia, Willy Johnstone (he was on the run) from Montana USA, was living with Humdinger; she had two children with him. There was also Johnny Steagall, married to Mary Belle; they came from somewhere in Texas, and had one son. Before I carry on with other friends let me tell you an interesting tale about Johnny Steagal. I will try to keep it short; John was rig tool pusher from the rig Estellea Tender 21, one of our sister rigs. We attended a few of his house parties and I must say, his parties were memorable to say the least! Jack Daniels, beer and plenty of cannabis cakes (don't ask). Anyway, the tale of John really needs an issue by itself. During one field break I had to return to England and have a medical (required every year), while I was there I bought a small cassette recorder. This was for my use on the rig, anyway when John saw this he asked if he could buy it off me.



I was very reluctant at first but he made an offer I could not refuse. Little did I know what he wanted it for; but I was soon to find out. I gave it to him when we were on the rig, when we landed at the heliport in Cairo. John's wife was there to meet us, also in the car was another rig manager I think his name was Whitelaw or something similar to that. Before the drive back to the office where we had to report for a rig debrief, unbeknown to them, John had placed the small recorder that I had sold him underneath the seat. He suspected that they were having an affair, when we arrived at the office John asked them to wait in the car while we both went into the office.

They were still sitting in the air-conditioned car when we came out. After dropping me off they went home.

I don't know the result of that conversation but knowing John and Mary Belle I bet it was very vocal.

Three days later Whitelaw caught the next available flight back to the USA. John was not far behind him he also caught a flight back leaving Mary Belle in Cairo. I was going to keep John's tale short but I will continue as I found it quite interesting because it did not end there...

John and his wife came from one of these small western towns where everyone knows each other, anyway; Marybelle's father was the local deputy sheriff and this Whitelaw lived in the next town,

This is what I was told by Jimmy King who was a friend of theirs: John broke into his father-in-law's house and stole a gun, then went looking for this Whitelaw but found out he had immediately at his own request been transferred to the North Sea. John then had to return to Egypt ASAP before he was arrested. Many years later I met up with Whitelaw again, he was still in the North Sea. We both recognised each other but nothing was mentioned about Egypt until an electrician by the name of Tom Sweeney arrived on the rig (he had worked with us in Egypt)

(continued...)

# Leeswood & District News

## Memories of an oilfield man

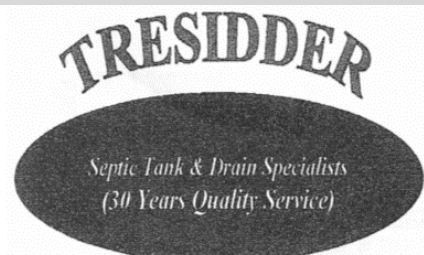
Tom Nicholson (continued...)

began to speak about that rig manager who had an affair with John Steagles wife. This was the same man who was sitting in the chair opposite, trying as much as I could; I could not shut him up. Tom did not know him well enough to recognise him, any way I am diverting away from Johns story. Everybody knew he was into cannabis etc. A lot of people used it then for recreational purpose only; but John began to go out to the Pyramids then into Sahara City and would stay there for days at a time, and it affected his work. Any other person would have been dismissed and made to pay for their own transportation back to the UK - family included. I know this happened quite often, but John was a member of the Buffalo society (masonic), he had friends in high places within the company so he and Mary Belle with their son were shipped back to the USA and told to get his problems sorted out before he could return to work. It was a couple of years before I heard anything else about John; it was when I was reading a monthly oilfield journal that I read about a semi-submersible oil rig that had run aground and wrecked somewhere in the China seas. The rig manager on board at the time was John Steagal! I know I keep deviating from our story but every time I think of an ex work mate it jogs my memory and I think it's worth mentioning, I decided that we would ask Mahmoud the taxi to take us to the Cairo Museum, and this was an experience we will never forget. The entrance was huge with a small desk where we paid our entrance fee then we were free to roam where ever we wanted to. I cannot believe it would be the same today. Each room of artefacts that we entered there had the guard standing near the door wearing the standard type of uniform that consisted of a pair of oversized shoes with no socks, a pair of trousers six inches too short and an undersized coat with no shirt; topped off with an oversized beret.

"Bacshes" he said, (think that's how it was spelt). I tried to explain that we had paid and produced our tickets, "No, no, Bacshes" he insisted; so I offered him fifty piestas. "No, no more" he insisted. Just to get rid of him I gave him a pound; "thank you, thank you" then he opened a glass cabinet and let me hold some priceless pieces amulets, gold handled knives and other bits and pieces. We could not believe it, this must have been a way of boosting their low income! This was amazing we could not believe it and the same thing occurred in the other rooms, this was something that I took advantage of and altogether I paid only ten pounds in total to hold the most amazing thing ever...

There was very little security until we came to the Tutankhamun room; this was a different matter, although the security was greatly increased it still left a lot to the imagination; and there were no restrictions on taking photo's if we paid the usual bribe. I think it's only fair that I restrict my memories to that for now; once I start I could go on and on! It was so good for us to see Tutankhamun in his natural environment and not like it would be when it went to London. I don't think it would have had the same effect on us. I will include some pictures of the boy King and his death mask and many other priceless items in the future.

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# Leeswood & District News

## Church News

Wesley Church, Leeswood

The **Methodist** Church 

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Led by Rev Bernard Nixon

**12<sup>th</sup> March** Worship **10 45 am**  
Led by Mrs Shirley Whyte

**19<sup>th</sup> March** Worship **10 45 am**  
Led by Rev Pat Christopher

**26<sup>th</sup> March** Worship **9.30 am**  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
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# Leeswood & District News

## Technical Corner

Joseph Caruana

Industry is an ongoing process, and like every ongoing process has a past, a present, with a projection for the future. The past can be sub divided into two sections; one would be the historical past while the other could be referred to as the recent past. The future can also be referred to in two sections; one would be the near future and the distant future. However, the present is something which is alive, the present is what is happening at the moment, and unlike the past or the future, it is not subdivided into anything.

This country has a great industrial history, and it provided the world with an abundance of useful technical innovations, ranging from mechanical machinery, electrical items, and electronic gadgets. The different brands of cars produced this country, provided a variety that catered for different needs, and different budgets. This country has provided manufacturing licences to other countries, to produce British developed cars for them to sell them within an agreed territory. Our cars were winning races all over the globe. It was a great victory when the old mini cooper won the Monte Carlo Rally. It was the smallest car that entered the race, and against all odds it won the race. The old mini sold like hot cakes, and it was one of the prides of this country's manufacturing industry. Other sections of industry have excelled on the international arena, and the motorcycle industry produced machines that were winning race after race. The ship building industry was building most of the tankers that were needed to transport oil around the world. But that was the past, and whether it is historical past or recent past, we have to analyse it, in order to learn from it.

The present is now, the present is what we are doing, and what we are doing is what we are going to be judged on when it becomes the past, whether it is historical past or recent past. Future generations will analyse our industrial steps, and see whether we followed the right path. They will look into how we have developed the industrial wealth that we inherited from previous generation. They will probably have their own views and come to their own conclusions as to why our manufacturing industry has been sold off. Some of us at the present time, are taking the easy way out, and instead of manufacturing goods in this country, they are opting to importing goods which are manufactured abroad. On many occasions, I have spoken in favour of manufacturing goods in this country especially,

in this region. We have the technology, we still have the expertise, we may need a bit of encouragement, but need to change our mentality from relaying on just buying and selling (retailing) to manufacturing and selling.

If we want to secure a strong future, we need a strong manufacturing industry, we also need to have a vision of how we need to shape the future, and we need to be in the fray of the action. We have young people with a lot of talent in this part of the country, and we need to create manufacturing jobs for them (not just a job). We need to create jobs that will give them satisfaction; jobs that will make them feel proud that they are manufacturing something which is being exported to the four corners of the globe. If we manufacturing in goods in this area and sell the manufactured goods to another are we will be moving wealth from other areas to our area, more so, if we export our manufactured goods to another country we will be moving wealth from other countries to this country. There are a lot of products that we can manufacture in this area and sell abroad. There is also a number innovative systems that we can develop and put in practice. Nevertheless, the most important thing of all is that we need to encourage a mentality that instead of opting out for cheap goods made in the Far East will encourage to produce original solutions to satisfy what the market needs.

## Council Meeting Minutes

**Date of Meeting:** 03/01/2017

**Present:**

Councillor G. Sherwood, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair). Councillors J. Atkinson, D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, Terry Hughes, T. Hughes, C.E. Jones JP and J.E. Saul.

**Date of Precept Meeting:** 17/01/2017

**Present:**

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

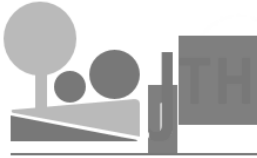
In attendance at both: Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

A copy of the minutes from this meeting and other meetings are available on the Leeswood & District News website, at:

<https://www.leeswood-district.news/minutes>

# Leeswood & District News

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# Leeswood & District News

## Leeswood Allotments

There is still not a lot happening on the allotments as the ground is too cold for planting. Some hardy crops such as broad beans and early onions can be seen on one or two plots. Other than that on nice days, which at this time of year are few and far between, the opportunity is being taken by members to have a tidy up. Cutting back of the autumn fruiting raspberries being one of the jobs.

On my plot I have now picked the last of the Brussel sprouts spending an afternoon in the kitchen peeling, blanching and freezing them. Probably have enough now to last till next Christmas.

February is the month when I start chitting potatoes ready for planting in March. Chitting by the way is when you leave the seed potatoes on the window sill, usually standing in old egg trays, and wait for them to produce shoots.

Potatoes are a good crop to grow on the allotment and fairly easy to look after. I try to choose blight resistant varieties, as for some reason potatoes seem to suffer from this condition on the allotments. Last year I grew the variety Orla as a main crop and these faired very well. They also stored well and even the field mouse who took up residence in my garden shed enjoyed a couple.

Talking of residence it would seem that a male pheasant has decided to make the allotments his territory. In full plumage he can be seen strutting around the plots unafraid of anyone. Not sure what he finds to eat but he wasn't interested in the bit of curly kale I threw to him. Supposed to be a super food as well!

Other wild life making their presents felt on the allotments are the moles. They, or it may only be one, have literally been popping up all over the place. They can be a nuisance when they do this in the middle of your vegetables as some members will testify.



Having the wildlife is part of having the allotments and it is a pleasure to watch the Robin picking over the ground you have just dug. Or the Blackbird collecting worms to take back to the nest. When you see all this you know spring is just around the corner.

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# Leeswood & District News

## March in the Garden

Jenny Pitts MHort (RHS)

Spring is starting to arrive....well hopefully we are getting some sunny days! We will all soon be itching to get out in the garden and get some jobs done. However be warned we could still get some frosts, so don't start sowing your seeds just yet, unless you are lucky enough to have a frost-free greenhouse available.

### Jobs for March

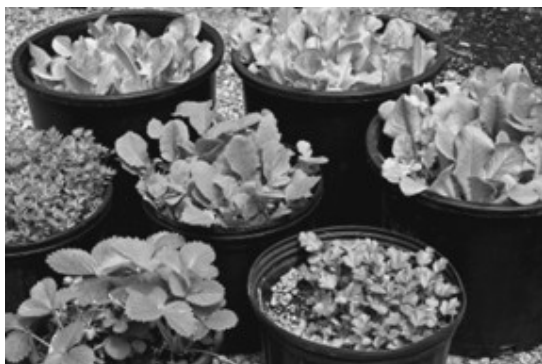
Now is a great time to get your beds, borders and vegetable plots ready for the season. Get them weeded, turned over and add in some much needed nutrients. Any herbaceous perennials you have left over winter will need cutting back and tidying up, remove last year's growth and any fallen leaves.

You may be thinking about your first cut of the lawn this month, but be careful if the ground is wet as you could make a mess. Lift the height of cut to prevent the grass getting too damaged.

### Fruit and Vegetables

In my opinion, nothing compares to home grown fruit and veg. Yes they may look a bit knobbly and wonky in places but the taste and sense of achievement is wonderful. Unfortunately not all of us have the time or space to grow lots of crops. If it is space you are lacking....I have two solutions for you.

Leeswood is lucky enough to have a great location for allotments and a great support network for everyone – so pop along and get your new plot. If that doesn't suit you, how about growing fruit and veg in containers. There really are plenty you can grow in a range of containers, whether you have a small space, patio or courtyard available....and I find it great to stop the dog trampling them too!



### Vegetables

Salad crops – these are great and easy to sow and grow. Choose varieties that 'cut and come again' and you will have fresh salad leaves all summer long, and even into autumn.



Tomatoes, Sweet Peppers and Chillies – these can be tricky without a greenhouse, but make sure they are positioned against a sunny, warm wall and you will enjoy the fruits in summer.

Peas and Beans – there is nothing tastier than fresh peas straight from the pod, mine never make it to the kitchen! Plant 4-5



plants/seeds in a 30cm pot and you will have plenty to eat all summer.

### Fruit

Blueberries – they love to be in soil with a low pH so if you haven't got that in your garden, you can plant them in tubs instead. Blueberries have beautiful spring flowers, summer fruits and vibrant autumn colour too (see picture), so win-win!

Strawberries – great in tubs as they will happily trail over the edge and it means you can keep the fruits off the soil, so they will not rot before you can eat them.

Raspberries – there are more and more bush varieties on the market that means you can grow them unsupported in containers.

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# Leeswood & District News

## Leeswood Archaeological Dig

In the second half of the 19th Century, Flintshire struck oil.

Strictly speaking, it struck cannel coal - a dense, smooth, shale-like variety of coal which can be distilled to make oil.

While that admittedly sounds a lot less thrilling than the discovery of a black gold "gusher" under the Flintshire hills, it nevertheless heralded a global investment frenzy to rival the early days of the California gold rush. Speculators ploughed close to a million pounds into a variety of coal-oil ventures from Mold to Queensferry. The vast majority of them were to lose their shirts. "It must have been absolutely astounding," said Dr Robin Chesters, Director of the Museum of the Scottish Shale Oil Industry, which has conducted extensive research into the Flintshire "oil-dorado". "It all happened so fast that some of the oil works weren't actually completed and others were put together so quickly that they began to fall down."

### 'Great Paraffin Case'

The seeds of the oil rush were sown in 1858 when an industrialist named Ebenezer Waugh Fernie discovered an exceptionally rich seam of cannel coal at Leeswood Green Colliery, near Mold. Seven years earlier the Scottish scientist James "Paraffin" Young had patented his process of producing oil from coal and established a highly successful oil works at Bathgate in West Lothian. Fernie suspected there was similar money to be made in Leeswood and he set about building an oil works near the colliery. But the budding enterprise was hampered by Young's patent and Fernie's numerous attempts at surreptitious oil production landed him in court.

The "Great Paraffin Case" was brought before the Chancery court in London in January 1864. It lasted 33 days, called 73 witnesses and became a cause celebre. The court found in Young's favour and awarded him substantial damages. But his patent expired a few months later anyway. That, together with the huge amount of publicity garnered by the case, meant that Flintshire's cannel coal reserves were suddenly ripe for the distilling.

"People who had been reading about this great court case and all the money that could be made realised that they could now go into the business and make their fortune," said Dr Chesters.

Would-be oil tycoons from all over Britain and abroad began ploughing money into coal-oil companies.

A total of 26 oil works and refineries were built in Flintshire, mainly near the collieries where the cannel coal was mined. People flocked to the area from far and wide in search of work, rents were raised exorbitantly and overcrowding was rife.

### Boom and bust

By late 1865, oil fever had Flintshire in its grip.

An account published in the Western Daily Press in November of that year describes the frenzied activity at the height of the boom:

"I pushed for Padeswood, a small station about two miles from Mold, in Flintshire, and landed at once in the very heart of the mineral oil region. "T'was as if I had fallen asleep in the train at Chester, and woke up amongst the "Oil Wells" at Pennsylvania."

"There was the identical mud, about the same quantity of smell, the same run of land, the same rough people, the same sort of fires and furnaces, cauldrons, retorts, kettles, stew-pans for oil and distilleries."

"There was a mad rush for cannel," says another report in the Oil Trade Review.

"Leases of property known to contain cannel were transferred at enormous premiums and every other holding of land not known to contain cannel was bored in all directions in the hope of finding it.

"The little town of Mold became suddenly so important that the inhabitants of the neighbouring city began to consider whether it might not soon become desirable to describe themselves as living in 'a place called Chester, near Mold'."

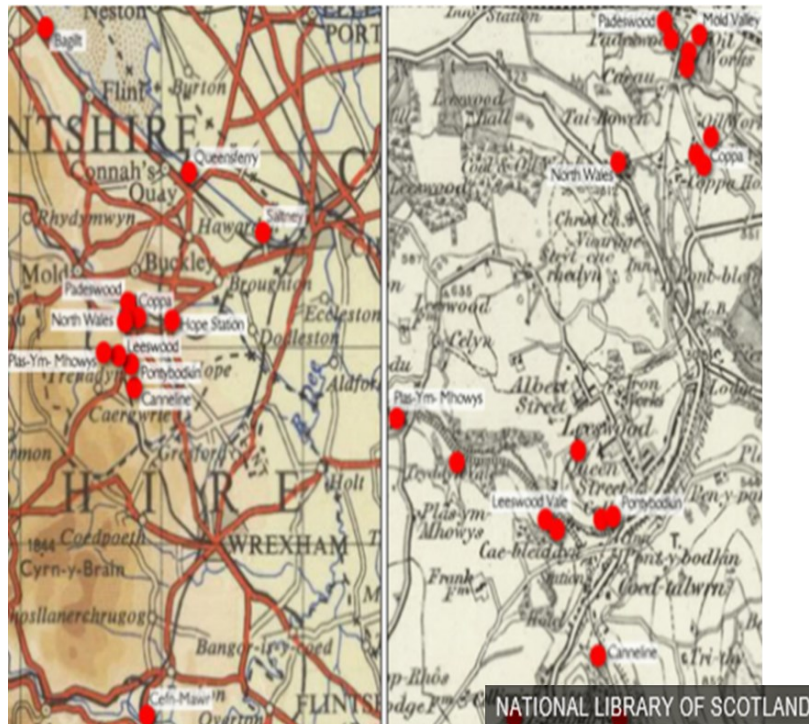
But the boom proved to be short-lived. Just 18 months after the Flintshire oil stampede had begun, the industry was on its knees and cheap US imports were to blame.

(continued...)

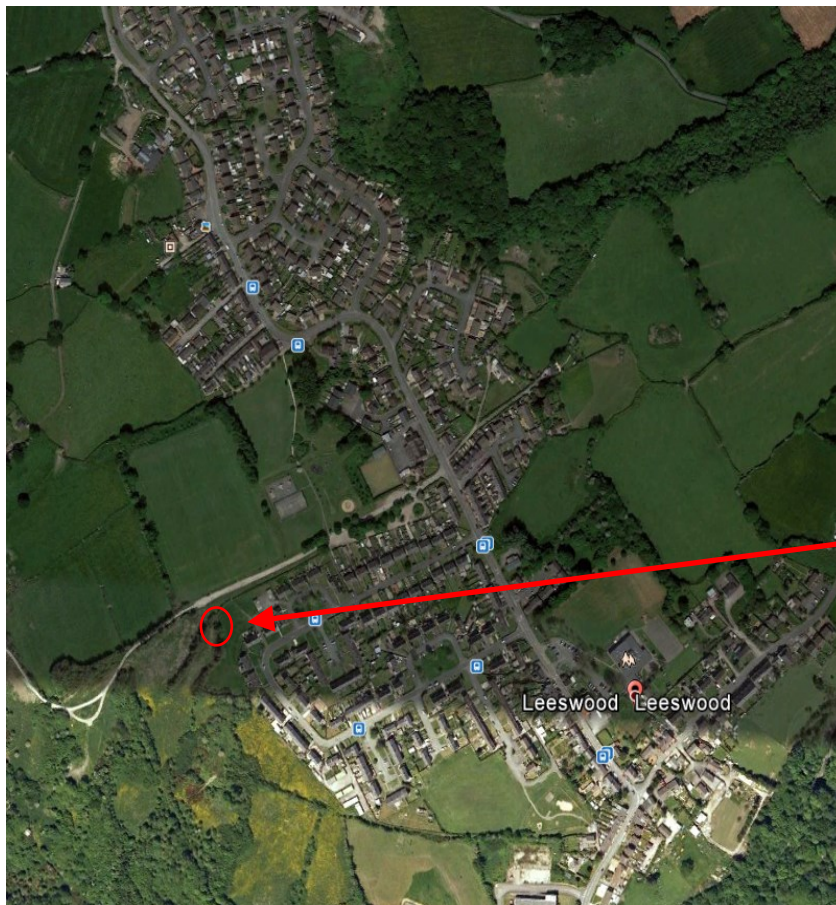
# Leeswood & District News

## Leeswood Archaeological Dig - In Pictures

By David Rule (continued...)



At the height of the boom, 26 Oil works were set up in Flintshire, many of them around Leeswood.



Blue markers are only data that

Circle identifies Engine House

# Leeswood & District News

## Leeswood Archaeological Dig - In Pictures

By David Rule (continued...)

I came across the dig after walking the dogs and came across some archaeologists working behind the Bungalows at Bryn Clyd. The photos below show the remains of the Engine house which generated power to the Mines in Leeswood.



The article explaining the history of the Oil 'rush' in 1865, the maps and the pictures of the Archaeologists dig, have been researched and put together by: **David Rule**