

Leeswood & District News

May 2017

www.leeswood-district.news

Issue 361

CARNIVAL CARWASH SUCCESS



☆ Local community comes together to make carnival fundraiser a triumph: more from Page 8.

☆ Plus we remember Thelma Mary Ferris –Jones and Joseph “Bryn” Jones



Leeswood & District News

Highlights in this new edition...

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Community Event



Leeswood Support Group presents
Prize Bingo
 In aid of Nightingale House Hospice
 Doors Open 7.00pm
 Eyes Down 7.30pm
 Wednesday
 3rd May
 2017
 Come along—all welcome
 Leeswood Community Centre
 Wrexham Hospice & Cancer Support Campaign Foundation (Limited By Guarantee), Company Number: 2906838
 Registered Charity Number: 1036600 Registered in England and Wales.

LEESWOOD HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP NIGHTINGALE HOUSE HOSPICE

Please come and support our Fundraising Bingo on the 3rd May. We have some amazing prizes available including:

- £30 Voucher – Clays of Chester
- £20 Voucher – Mococo
- £15 Voucher – The Party Shop
- Mini manicure voucher
- Handbag
- Whisky
- Martini
- Weatherspoons voucher

And many more.....

Leeswood & District News



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.



Sponsor

DID YOU KNOW?

This paper prints 350 hard copies which are distributed to 300 local homes in Leeswood, and the rest are distributed in the local Co-op.

Our website copies reach many extra members of our community, and further afield.

Your Ad Here?

New 2017 advertising rates

Format	Monthly	Annually
Large	£15	£180
Small	£5	£60

Contact John on **01352 344 399** or at **hello@j-d.design**
for more info

Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Leeswood and District News"

Leeswood & District News

PONTYBODKYN LADIES GUILD

Gill Burton

On the 23rd March 2017, at the Community Centre, the President opened the meeting and introduced our very great friend Mrs. Brian Jones. This time we had a lovely trip around Norway and, as usual, Brian gave us many statistics of Norway such as the population etc.

It was a delightful evening.

Refreshments were provided and served by Mrs. Maureen Calder. The raffle was won by Mrs. Dorothy Davies and it was Dots lucky day as she also won the special raffle.

The 13th April was the AGM for the Guild and the President, Mrs. Lucille Ingman, opened the meeting, and then passed over to the secretary, Mrs. Jenny Webb, who read the minutes of the last AGM. We agreed these were a true record. The President then gave a report of all the activities that we had achieved over the last year. The Treasurer, Mrs. Maureen Calder then presented her well laid out budget for us to view. Everything was satisfactory.

The luncheon report was given by Mrs. Anne Davies, who again expressed how very sad we all were that we had to stop providing the monthly lunch. She also stated that she had taken over the records for the lunches in 2006 and since then and until the lunches finished we had given away to various charities over £20,000. We also know that when we first began we raised approximate £8,500 for the clock to be built in the village so overall we are pleased that we were able to help so many people.

The Speaker Secretary, Mrs. Cynthia Flitcroft, reported how difficult it is to get people to attend without a large fee but had managed to get a variety of entertainment for us over the year, using some home grown talent as well. The Events Secretary, Mrs. Jane Lucy reminded us of all the lovely trips out we had enjoyed over the past year and that she hoped would be forthcoming this year.

The election of officers was next and everyone agreed to carry out their posts for another year. Mrs. Anne Davies had her name added to be Vice President alongside Mrs. Margaret Roberts.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Gill Burton. The raffle was won by Mrs. Doreen Kilpatrick and Doreen also won the special raffle. The President then closed the meeting.

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Leeswood & District News

Carnival Fundraising



CALLING ALL ENTRANTS! CALLING ALL ENTRANTS!



LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

invite the Community to the

PRINCE, ROSEBUD & QUEEN
COMPETITION & DISCO 2017

to be held at

LEESWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

on

SATURDAY 20TH MAY 2017

Doors open at 4pm

*Registration for the Prince & Rosebud event opens at 4.00pm
and closes at 4.30pm - competition commences at 5.00pm-5.15pm*

*Registration for the Queen event opens at 6.30pm and closes at
7.00pm - competition commences at 7.30pm-7.45pm*

With Special Guests: The reigning PRINCE, ROSEBUD & QUEEN 2016

*Afternoon refreshments - Bar opens 7pm - Disco follows close of events
If you have any queries, please contact a Committee Member*

*The Carnival Committee would be extremely grateful for your continuing support
as a Community to make this 2017 Carnival a success*

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

A New Creation

Easter 2017 has been one of the most amazing I can remember.

It all began on Easter Saturday evening. I went with my mother-in-law to the Easter Vigil Service at her church. At the beginning of the service we all went outside into the car park where a bonfire has been lit. From those flames, the Easter candle, representing the risen Christ, was ignited.

Each of us had been given a candle to hold. One or two let their candles from the Easter Candle.

Then the light was passed from candle to candle until the whole church was filled with light.

This, it seems to me, is a living symbol of what the Apostle John writes:

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. (1 John 4:7)

The love of God is the blazing centre at the heart of reality. We can receive that love into our lives, and pass it on to others.

Then on Sunday morning, I got up very early, while it was still dark, and went with some friends to the car park half way up Moel Famau. The views over Ruthin and the Vale of Clwyd are magnificent. But we were facing in the other direction to watch the rising sun. And as we did so, our cold bodies were warmed by its rays, and we sang:

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!

Our sun is the blazing reality at the heart of the solar system. It gives light and warmth and life to our planet. In the same way, Jesus Christ has come to bring the light of God's love to our world, and by his resurrection establish a new creation.

God invites us to step out of the shadow into the light of his love.

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
Phone Rob 01352 771607 or Rev. James 07711 034020**

Leeswood & District News

In Memory: Thelma Mary Ferris –Jones

Doug Jones

I shall try to write this tribute to Thelma, not by telling you when and where she was born, which school and teacher's training college she attended and when did she start teaching, where and when did she meet Peter, where did they marry and when were the children born, in other words a factual account, Thelma deserves more and better than that. I have tried to write this tribute in the way that anyone who taught with Thelma or any former pupil now grown up would remember her and write about her.

We use the words "ladies and gentlemen" too often and too loosely these days but Thelma was a lady, a real gentlewoman in the true sense of the words. I think it was Barclay in his introduction to his commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke who said that, " a lawyer can see the worse in people, a priest tries to see the best in people, a doctor sees a person physically as they are but St Luke saw all people and loved them all. Thelma saw all the children in her nursery and loved them all. The motto of Ysgol Drwenfa is "Development through care", Thelma lived up to those words, she set the tone, she set the standards in those formative years, a tone and standard that the rest of us could only seek to achieve further on in the pupils journey through school. Thelma set the scene and instilled in the pupils to:-

"Look ahead to a life worth living

Full of hope, full of faith, full of cheer,

To a life that is made for giving

Without stint, without shame, without fear.

Thelma taught the Nursery pupils in the morning and sometime when a member of staff was on a course in the afternoon Thelma would cover that class on a supply basis, even Year 6. However well behaved and disciplined children are, Year 6 pupils will try to "play up " with supply teachers, but not with Thelma. I don't think I ever heard her raise her voice, even with Year 6. They remembered sitting on her knee in nursery when she taught and mothered them and they had such a profound respect for her. Yes Thelma instinctively mothered her pupils and even when they grew up she wouldn't hear an unkind word said about Ysgol Derwenfa pupils. Thelma, in the words of George Eliot, "Kept what was worth keeping and then with the breath of kindness blew the rest away". Or in the words of Thomas à Kempis , "she weighed her neighbour in the same balance in which she weighed herself".

We can all remember when Thelma retired from teaching and those of us who were members of staff or pupils at the school will recall that the song that the pupils sang for her at

the leavers service was Lulu's song "To Sir with love" but we changed the word "Sir" to "Miss". How true those words were where Thelma was in question. She has taken a generation of Ysgol Derwenfa pupils from "crayons to perfume" or after shave where the boys were in question. The song goes on :-

The time has come for closing books and long last looks must end

And as I leave I know that I am leaving my best friend

A friend who taught me right from wrong and weak from strong

That's a lot to learn, but what can I give you in return?

If you wanted the moon I would try to make a start

But I would rather you let me give my heart. To Miss with love

Today one does not have to stretch the imagination and say that the pupils of Ysgol Derwenfa loved Thelma Ferris-Jones or "Miss", they did, had and still have such a profound respect for her and everlasting fond memories.

The words that I used to describe Thelma in the leavers service were from one of Abba's songs, "I have a dream", in particular "I believe in angels, something good in everything I see" because her pupils at the time, present and former were her little angels.

Saying all this may sound as if Thelma was a soft touch. No. She had a strength of personality. "Within this velvet glove there is a fist of steel", and we saw this in the way in which she faced, coped and came to terms with her illness. She didn't give up, give in, give out. No she faced her illness head on without complaining, seek sympathy or attention. Indeed apart from Jean in school no one else knew that she was suffering from MS until about a year before she retired, we all thought that she had a problem with her hip.

I have been trying to crystalize Thelma's philosophy of early childhood education in a few words, and though I have the benefit of speaking two languages fluently I have had to turn to the ancients for the right words, that is Latin. Thelma with her grammar school education in the fifties when Latin was taught would recognise the words:-

"Amor gignit amorem" – love creates love

Thelma bach annwyl, we your former colleagues and pupils salute and thank you. "Hedd perffaith hedd" – Peter will know exactly what those words mean, and in words that you would recognise "pax eterna – eternal peace". All our love.

All the family wish to thank those who attended Thelma's funeral and donated over £600 to the Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Saltney.

Many thanks for your kindness,

Peter Ferris-Jones

Leeswood & District News

Carnival News

Louise Hoyle Fennell

Hi folks. We hope you all had a nice Easter break. Here we are again, and so soon too. These months are just flying by. Far too fast for our liking anyway! Only two left now until the Carnival itself so this month you'll find us hosting our most important fundraiser of them all, choosing our Prince, Rosebud and Queen. But before I go into that we would like to report on our last two fundraisers, the car wash and bingo.

On the 25th March 2017, we hosted our first ever car wash. (Personally, I honestly thought it would be a bit of a "wash-out". How wrong was I!) People were coming in their droves and our rota system sort of went out of the (car) window very early on. Driving my own dirty car up at around 9.35am, by then David, Leah, Clare and Joe had already washed about four or five cars! People were turning up in vehicles that did not even need a wash, but how lovely of them to come along anyway and support us. We were very lucky that that particular Saturday was a lovely day so we put a few chairs outside for people to be able to sit and have a chat whilst waiting for their cars to be washed. Community spirit was very much alive that day. Our retiring 1989 Queen, Teresa, made an appearance (picture one to the right) and our Chairman (Ray) got his hands wet too (picture two to the right), but not before he went to Hulsons to buy a load of pork pies to keep the hard workers going. Good man!

It makes you feel pretty good about the whole Carnival experience when people come along and get involved. We're not sure whether next time though we'll need a few more pairs of hands given the amount of cars lining up. You can see (picture 3 to the right) that, at one stage, there were several cars waiting. By that point I had already left for a prior engagement (honestly), but my hands were pretty raw by then anyway. But not as raw as some of the others who had been there from first thing in the morning right until the very end, washing some 60 cars. What grafters they are. (Personally, I'm in the shirker's queue so it looks like I've got some making up to do somewhere!)



A sincere thank you goes to everyone who came along to our car wash to show their support. After our initial layout of banners and the relevant essentials needed, we managed to make a very nice profit of £230.00.



Someone has asked if we will be holding another car wash soon and the answer to that is yes, but not before our hands heal first and all our nails that broke grow back!



Leeswood & District News

Carnival News

Louise Hoyle Fennell (continued...)

Moving on now to the Easter bingo on the 5th April 2017 and, once again, what a fantastic turnout it was for us. A huge thank you to all those who donated prizes and to those who also turned up on the night with donations. As we already had enough line and house prizes and raffle prizes on the night, those extra donations will most definitely go to good use as raffle prizes at our future events.

The "Guess the Name of the Easter Bunny" (which of course I was not allowed to take part in - it's all so wrong isn't it) was guessed correctly by Tracy Thomas. She had correctly chosen the name "Honey" for her partner, Ian Hare. How uncanny is that?

Hare/Bunny, you just couldn't write it could you!

Here are just a few pictures of the night showing a full house, our current Queen, Dana, helping with the raffle, and young Charlie from Leeswood and Alice from Mynydd Isa collecting "Honey" bunny for Mr Hare. Brilliant!



We must also thank Leah's mum for spending so much time wrapping most of the prizes to make them look "eggs"tra special (sorry, couldn't help it). Thanks Mrs C. You're a star! 😊

I can report that we raised £30.00 on "Guess the Bunny" and £615.50 on the bingo and, again, thank you to all those who supported this particular fundraiser.

I shall now finish the write up with details of the Queen/Rosebud/Prince Competition and disco night which is being held on the 20th May 2017. Like it was reported in last month's edition, numbers in attendance are high and it has therefore been decided to stagger the registration and event times so that it suits most, if not all.

Doors will open at 4.00pm to allow registration for the Prince and Rosebud. Of course we won't know of the numbers of interest until that point, but we estimate registration for this event closing by 4.30pm. Having said that we could be completely inundated but, hopefully, by 5.00pm to 5.15pm latest we will have got things underway.

Registration for the Queen event will start at 6.30pm, with those proceedings hopefully starting at 7.00pm or just shortly thereafter.



Leeswood & District News

Carnival News

Louise Hoyle Fennell (continued...)

We say "hopefully" all the way through this don't we? But we are hopeful and hopeful of the disco starting on time so that we can all relax a little and have a good time! Please note that there will be afternoon refreshments available but the bar will not be open until 7.00pm. Don't forget to spread the word regarding this event. Not everyone has access to social media, nor do they pick up a copy of the LDN and see these write-ups, so it is essential that they know about it so that they don't miss out.

Well, that is it for now folks. Our next write-up will include details of the Prince, Rosebud and Queen disco night and the all important names of those who are going to represent us at the 2017 Carnival. Can't wait!



Kind regards,

Louise Hoyle Fennell

Committee Member

LEESWOOD CARNIVAL COMMITTEE

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Leeswood & District News

J-D Design helps non-profit local publication, Leeswood & District News

John Davies (www.J-D.design)



There are approximately 2000 houses in Leeswood, a small village near Mold. Since 1984; the local community has come together to publish a local newsletter with articles contributed by local businesses and members of the village.

History

In January 1984, a member of the community Councillor Selwyn Roberts came up with the idea of a local community paper, which would be published and distributed around the community of Leeswood, monthly. He pitched the idea to other locals, who weren't as enthusiastic of the challenge at first; however after an initial public meeting on January 23rd 1984, the first editorial team of the Leeswood & District News was elected:

Editor: Mrs Lucille Ingman

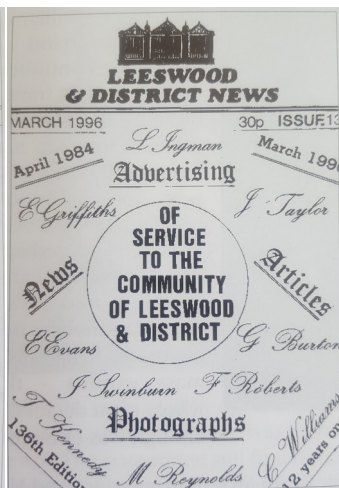
Secretary / Typist: Miss Elizabeth Evans

Editorial Team: Mrs Enid Griffiths
Mrs Irene Swinburne

Treasurer: Mr Terry Kennedy



1st Edition: 1984



136th Edition: 1996

During this initial public meeting, history tells us that the name was quickly agreed as "Leeswood & District News", with the local "White Gates" as its pictorial image. The methods of putting together the publication has changed a lot since the 80's, the rise of the computer has left the days of the whole team meeting in a big hall and spending hours cutting and gluing articles onto pages; in history.

Advertising Editor

In September 2016, J-D Design offered some of its charitable time to the Leeswood & District News. Since then, we have fully managed and edited the advertising and revenue collections for the Leeswood & District News. This allows the editor of the publication the time to focus on retrieving, moderating and implementing the papers articles and local contributions.

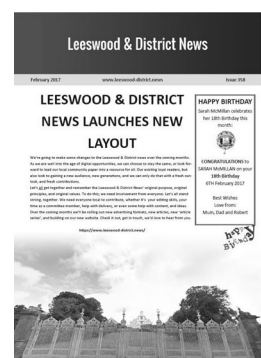
New Website

The publication started 2017 with a brand new website (<https://leeswood-district.news>) provided free of charge by J-D Design. This new website allows the editorial team to upload each monthly edition, giving a wider audience of the publication to those that don't get the paper delivered, or have an interest in catching up with the local news.

Publication Redesign

The editors of the Leeswood & District News were in need to modernising the publication to modern standards - J-D Design saw another opportunity to help the team (free of charge) with a complete re-design of the publication. It was very important to retain the historic fundamentals of the design (like the name and white gates), but spring a breath of fresh air into the paper.

Check out the change of the front cover here, comparing the old version and the new version:



Future Plans

The editorial team have plans to load the archive of all historic versions of the local newspaper onto the website, to build up the full collection and keep the history of the paper alive forever. There are copies of all 361 copies to date, but it will be a huge task scanning old copies onto a computer!

Leeswood & District News

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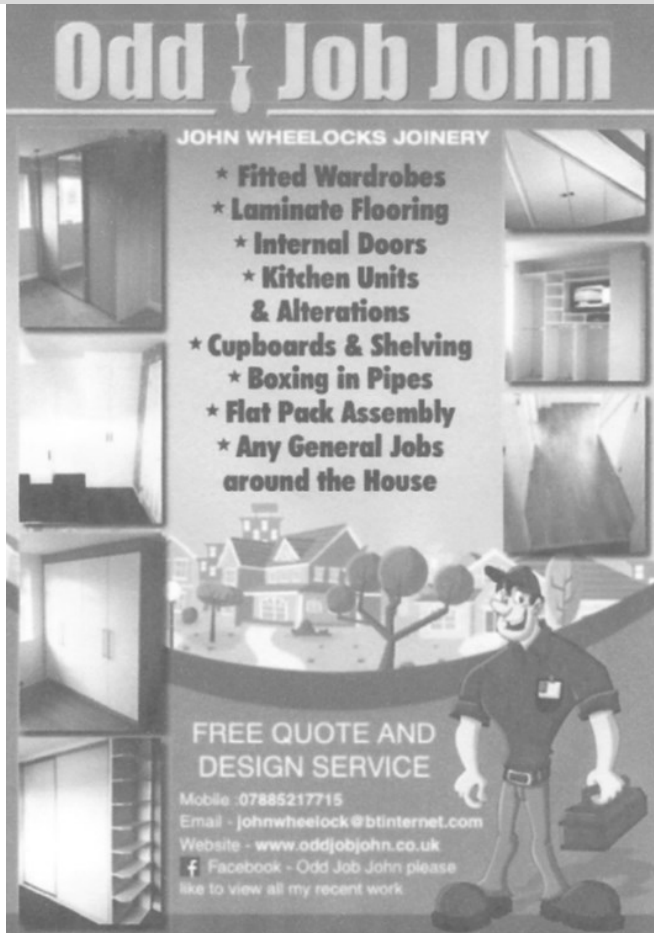
Odd Job John

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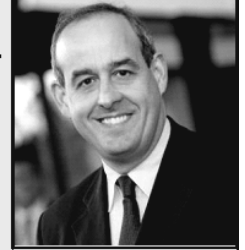
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DAVID HANSON MP FOR DELYN

SEVEN WAYS TO CONTACT

DAVID



DAVID
HANSON MP

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

Phone me: 01352 763159

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

Fax me: 01352 730140

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Leeswood & District News

Church News

Pontblyddyn

Christ Church

Upcoming Services

SUNDAY 7TH MAY: 4TH OF EASTER

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: REV JOHN POOLMAN

SUNDAY 14TH MAY: 5TH OF EASTER

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

6.00 P.M. EVENING

SUNDAY 21ST MAY: 6TH OF EASTER

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

OFFICIANT: MISS MARIE REYNOLDS

SUNDAY 28TH MAY: 7TH OF EASTER

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 4TH JUNE: PENTECOST

LEESWOOD CHURCHES TOGETHER

WALK OF WITNESS

MEET AT THE CENOTAPH AT 10.00 A.M.

SERVICE IN METHODIST CHURCH AT 10.45 A.M.

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE: TRINITY SUNDAY

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

6.00 P.M. EVENING

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE: TRINITY 1

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE: TRINITY 2

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

SUNDAY 2ND JULY: TRINITY 3

11.15 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

CELEBRANT: REV JOHN POOLMAN

3.00 P.M. BISHOP GREGORY'S VISITATION

IN ST MATTHEWS BUCKLEY

Always Welcome

CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN.

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

THE DUCK RACE IS COMING

MONDAY 29TH MAY AT 1.00PM

PONTBLYDDYN CRICKET CLUB

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



THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE NOMINATED AT THE RECENT ANNUAL MEETING IN CHRIST CHURCH.

To serve at Mold Mission Area Level:

Appointed as Mission Area Warden
Mrs Melanie Elizabeth Morgan

Mission Area Representatives for Pontblyddyn
Mrs Sue Braisby & Miss Marie Reynolds

+++++++

In Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

Vicar's Warden – Mrs Ann Bryan

Peoples Warden – Mrs Melanie Morgan

Nominations for Church Committee MEMBERSHIP

Helen Jones

Roger Smith

Johanna Kaufmann

Sue Braisby

Pat Slater

Marie Reynolds

Barbara Egerton

Bryan Jones

"COME FOR COFFEE" AND SEE OUR OLD REGISTERS!

IN CHRIST CHURCH, PONTBLYDDYN

All the old church registers will be available for inspection, if you are doing your "Family Tree" this is your chance to look things up.

27TH MAY 2016

10.30 A.M. – 12 NOON

The Vicar will be available if you wish to speak to her on Church Business or alternatively please contact her to make an appointment. Contact details below.

Contact Information

Rev'd Carole Poolman, Parish Priest.

The Rectory, Llanfynydd,
Wrexham. LL11 5HH.

Phone: 01978 762304

Email: cc.sm@btinternet.com



What is an NISA?

A New-ISA, or Individual Savings Account, is a scheme that allows individuals to hold cash, shares, bonds and unit trusts, free of tax on interest and capital gains, and further tax on dividends. They replaced Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) and Tax Exempt Special Savings Accounts (TESSAs).

What is a 'NISA Allowance' and how much is it?

The NISA allowance refers to total amount that you can deposit into an NISA each tax year. The allowance is currently £20,000, and this amount is available until April 2018. After this, your allowance for the current tax year will be lost and you are unable to back-date this, so it's a case of "Use it or Lose it!".

What are the uses of NISAs?

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Leeswood & District News

Memories of an oilfield man

Tom Nicholson

Another day in the office

I had one more day at home before my field break was over and it was time for me to return to work, I decided to call into our office near the Nile for an update of what was happening with the rig, "I was hoping that you would drop by, you are in for a busy four weeks so this will take some time to explain" Gus Henderson the divisional manager told me, this sounds interesting I thought to myself, "why what's happening out there" I replied, "let's have a beer while we talk, he called for Salah to fetch the usual case of Stella beer. He asked how Carol and the boy's were settling in, after a general chit chat, he informed me that the sections of the rig derrick was now ready to send out to the platform and that I would be expected to make all the specialised crane lifts, as the local Egyptian crane operators were not experienced enough (I also had the new title of Barge captain) this covered a multitude of tasks, "you have seen our 75ton crawler crane on the beach in Ras shukeir, we have to load it onto a supply boat then transfer it onto the barge Zarah. First you will load the sections of the derrick onto the boat then drive the crawler crane onto the stern end, have another beer Tom "Gus said, (the third one) "Ok Gus I have no problem with loading the derrick sections but how do I get the crane onto the boat " I asked, "Easy the gate at the stern end of the boat drops down you will then lift specialised walk boards and place them in position for driving the crane onto the deck of the boat, then pick the boards up and bring them on board as you will need them again" (another beer please) "once you reach the barge you will drive the crawler crane onto it" he informed me with a strange smile on his face, " are you forgetting something Gus, we will be in a hundred foot of water" I replied "that's no problem we can Jack the barge down to water level then you do the same as you done on the beach, place the boards in position and drive it across from the boat and onto the barge once it is on the barge you need to secure the crane to barge deck using the anchor points then start lifting the derrick sections onto the platform, that's easy" (another little smile) "would you do it Gus" I asked him "no bloody way, do you think I am crazy, but I am sure you will be able to handle it Tom" no wonder that they had such a high turnaround of employees for

my position, "you will have a team of steel riggers from the Philippines and hopefully all of those sections that you and your crew sandblasted and numbered will all fit together, they are costing a load of dollars for the job so you have to keep them working. Any more questions?" "can I have another beer please" I asked, "by the way Pete Opteway will be out there he is the supervisor from rig 21 his son also named Paul and your son are of the same age so they will be going to the same school (more about that pair later) any way you have not met Pete yet, he is great guy but a very hard task master" this was very true as I found out, later I worked with Pete for many years in various countries, then when I returned to the North Sea his son Paul was given to me as a trainee roustabout his dad asked me to take him under my wing and clip his ear when needed, all these years later young Paul is now in charge of his own rig,

I will not say that I was not concerned about returning to Ras Shukier I just did not know what to expect, remember this was well before the health and safety rules so I would be flying by the seat of my pants so to speak. After shaking hands and wishing me a safe hitch on the rig I left the office I must admit I was a little tipsy but faithful Mahmood the taxi was there waiting to take me home to carol where I told her about my oncoming work hitch, but I think she was more concerned about getting the boy's schooling sorted out, 8am my taxi arrived to take me to the airport where the battered old DC 3 fixed wing airplane with the same ex vet pilots waiting to take me to my second home in the desert, at least this time I knew what to expect as we approached the landing strip I could see the wind sock hanging limp and not a breath of air and alongside the bench (two drums with a plank across) there was my mate Melvin Whitmire sitting in his air-conditioned cab. There is no way I am sitting in the back of the truck this time so without waiting to be asked I opened the cab door and climbed in. We still did not speak, I must say that I received a better welcome from my Egyptian crew than him. They did not like working with Jimmy Danes he was my opposite number he did not live in Egypt he chose to commute to the UK and this had been his first trip abroad the only thing he had said to me before he left was "I've written everything that's going on and left it in the office and the best of luck" with that he made a dash for airplane and he was gone. I don't suppose we will see him again I thought to myself, at least Eric was there with Willie Booth

Leeswood & District News

Memories of an oilfield man

Tom Nicholson (continued...)

mechanic the ex 2nd world war pilot (alcoholic). Willie Johnston a Driller from Montana, Jimmy King another Driller from the Everglades, Tom Sweeny electrician, Pete Opteway, Norwegian and a couple of other expats, for some reason they were all glad to have me back. "Thank god your back perhaps we will get something done now" said Jimmy in his slow western drawl, we have been waiting for you, Jimmy Dane has done nothing but moan and upset the crew". Pete was now in charge of the project (not Melvin) I must say this about Pete he was a hell of a hard task master but a fair one as long as you done your share and made an effort, we got on great together over the years. "Now that we are all together we will go through the project plans" he asked me if Gus had explained where we were up to, I told him I had a rough idea then he brought us up to date, " your priority will be to load the derrick sections then drive the crawler crane onto the boat we have had a special steel and timber ramp constructed in the shipyard it's designed to fit from the quayside to the stern of the boat we have also made anchor points on the barge Zarah. The barge engineer will jack down until it's water level is equal to your boat then when you are alongside fit the ramp to the barge and drive the crane across, when the crane is on the Zarah secure it using the turnbuckles on the anchor points, then you and your crew will lift the sections of the derrick into position for the steel erectors. This will take over a week hopefully, after the first section is in position you will then work with the mechanical department and place the draw works etc., inside and onto the drill floor, these are the priorities get that sorted then we start on the next stage, as you all know we have a dead line to meet and there is a penalty clause in our contract ok, any questions no, good let's go"

We decided to have something to eat first as we did, not know when we would have time to eat again, after I had eaten I decided to have talk with my crew which had increased to ten members,

Oh boy were they glad to see me, Mohamed, he was the man that I had promoted to charge hand was the first to welcome me "Mr Tom, Mr Tom welcome we are happy to see you, Mr Jim shout all the time and he would just point at things" "never mind Mohamed call the crew together I need to tell you what's happening" it was a lot easier for me to tell him then let him explain it to the rest of the crew, and the new members of the crew seemed eager enough to start, "Ok everybody let's get started. I will not go into all the details of loading the lower derrick section and draw works etc onto the boat I had already drew a deck plan so that all lifts had to be in a lifting order of priority, needless to say all were fairly heavy averaging 30-40tons and I was still coming to terms with the crawler crane I had only ever driven one three times this crane was a Manatowc with 120ft boom(jib) 75ton swl, and had a pair of chain tracks the same as a military tank, to turn right I would have to lock the right hand chain track and the left track would carry on and turn, and vice versa, it was also very old, (I heard the company had a new one but it was stolen from the quay side of the Suez Canal) imagine how could anybody steal a 75ton crane with a 120ft jib and nobody had seen anything, It took us two day's to load the boat with the first section etc, we were ready on the third day, to be honest this would not be a job for the faint hearted and I will not say I was nervous (I was terrified) but I was now committed and had to appear confident (which I was not) in the next issue I will explain why I was driving the crane chain smoking sometimes with two or three cigarettes in my mouth at the same time.

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Leeswood & District News

Church News

Wesley Church, Leeswood



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Leeswood & District News

Technical Corner

Joseph Caruana

During my early years in engineering someone made a statement which stuck in my mind ever since, and it proved itself to be right on many subsequent occasions. The statement was that the world consists of two kinds of people, those who do the thinking and those who like the thinking to be done for them. It is quite often the occasion that you hear people talking about new ideas or saying that things should be done in this or that way, but when it come to reality they back off just in case things does not go as successful as planned. There could also be a kind that stays on the fringes of any activity and as soon as something goes positively successful they try to get close to the centre of the activity and expect to share the glory with those who did the hard work.

Inventers do sometimes take the initiative to venture into the unknown, and strive to achieve results to develop new ideas. There are several different categories of inventers, however, to be an inventor, one does not need to have any academic qualification or received a high level of education, although these qualities might come in handy at the development stages. One category of inventors are known as visionary inventors. A visionary inventor has the ability to visualise innovative project from start to finish, and can translate a vision into a practical development.

On several occasions, visionary inventors might find it difficult to make others understand the technicalities of an invention, and at certain times they might be told that their invention is not likely to work because nothing like it has been seen before, but then if something like it has been seen before, it will not be an invention, because an invention has to be something new, that has not yet been developed.

Another category of inventor are academic inventors, who might be employed by companies to use their academic knowledge to invent and develop new ideas which their employer might feel that there is a market for such a development, or that a market could be created to accommodate the development.

If a market already exists, the situation is referred to as a market pull, because the market is asking for such a vacuum to be filled. On the other hand, if a market does not already exist, and a company decide to create a market for the development, then a situation like this is referred to as a technological push, due to the fact that a technical development is being pushed on the market.

Irrespective of which ever category an inventor falls under, one has to keep in mind that all inventers strive to produce new ideas and develop gadgets that can create wealth not only for the inventers, but for all those who get involved at a later stage.

We all know that this country has produced great inventors, who developed great ideas by which they created enormous wealth both in this country and overseas. By creating a situation where one can have joint ventures overseas, will give this country more influence on decision making on a global level. With this in mind, one should feel positive that the future can be shaped by those who develop new ideas, and that the level of global influence depends upon the strength of what we manufacture in this country and sell abroad. These conditions have encouraged great inventers and industrialist to develop new ideas together, as they realised that developments does not happen by being an introvert, but to the contrary, ideas are turned into wealth by visionaries who can coordinate all elements for a collective success. It is important to keep in mind that the concept of a successful project starts with the inventor, then the industrialist, and finally marketing. Every step of the way is important, and one cannot be successful without the other, that is why all those concerned need to apply a positive collective effort.

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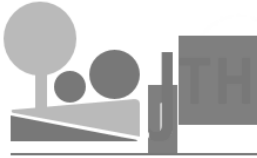


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Council Minutes

Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council

THE MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2017.

PRESENT

Councillor G. Sherwood, Chairman of the Council (in the Chair)

Councillor J. Caruana, Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillors D.K. Crowther, R. Hughes, Terry Hughes, T.

Hughes, C.E. Jones JP, K. McCallum JP, 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 and J. Phoenix.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor T. Hughes made a declaration of interest in regard to item 8 on the Agenda, the Planning Application numbered 056601 for land at Ivy Cottage, Queen Street, Leeswood. As he lived almost directly opposite the proposed new development, Councillor T. Hughes felt that it would be inappropriate for him to take part in any discussion.

POLICE LIAISON

As PCSO Poppy Hadfield-Jones was in attendance, item 5 on the Agenda was brought forward. PCSO Hadfield-Jones explained that she had been away on training courses for a number of months and because of this had been unable to attend the Community Council meetings. The Clerk informed that PCSO Hadfield-Jones had been sending reports but to the incorrect e-mail address, this had now been resolved.

PCSO Hadfield-Jones presented a report of activity for the period 10th November 2016 to 7th March 2017:

Incident update – Leeswood

10/11/2016 – Common assault. Occurred on the school bus and was dealt with by the Community Resolution process.

19/11/2016 – Common assault. No further action due to lack of witness evidence.

20/11/2016 – Drink driving offence. Charged and disqualified from driving or having a licence for 24 months.

08/12/2016 – Theft of petrol from car.

13/12/2016 – Theft of jewellery. Charged and court appearance on 12/01/2017.

16/12/2016 – Theft of petrol from car.

27/01/2017 – Theft from vehicle on Ffordd Celyn. Undetected.

12/02/2017 – Criminal damage (vehicle) on Sycamore Drive. Undetected.

01/03/2017 – Theft on Queen Street between landlord and tenant.

02/03/2017 – Criminal damage (vehicle) on Eaton Place.

Undetected. PCSO Hadfield-Jones advised that she would be keeping an eye on this area. It was hoped that a camera would be provided by Flintshire County Council in order to assist monitoring the area. Some Community Councils have their own camera and PCSO Hadfield-Jones stated that she would approach this Council if she thought it would be necessary.

Incident update – Pontblyddyn

12/11/2016 – Currency offence at the Bridge Inn,

Pontblyddyn – fake £50 notes used. Currently being investigated alongside a series of other similar events – this is a wider issue extending to the Wrexham area.

The Chairman, Councillor G. Sherwood thanked PCSO Hadfield-Jones for attending the meeting.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application reference number 056601 – 7 no dwellings.

Ivy Cottage, Queen Street, Leeswood, CH7 4RQ.

This item on the Agenda was brought forward as a member of the public, Jane Rogers of Hazeldene, Queen Street, Leeswood was present. Mrs Rogers was in attendance to express her concern about the proposed new development at Ivy Cottage.

Councillor R. Hughes advised that he would not be commenting on the planning application this evening.

Councillors made observation that this part of the village was a problem area with the on-road parking from outside the Co-Op shop to the junction with County Road. Cars already struggled to travel along this length of the highway and it was a heavily congested area. Lorries and buses would find it even more difficult. Additional large vehicles associated with the development could only exacerbate the problem in this area. It was pointed out that £54,000 had been spent on providing a safe walkway to the School due to the lack of pavement from the Co-Op to the School entrance in order to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the area. Remark was made that the bus stop had been moved from directly opposite the Chip Shop to just beyond the Co-Op car park entrance for safety reasons, if this development was to take

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Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council (continued..)

place would it mean that the bus stop would have to be moved again and if so where to?

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the development at Ivy Cottage, Queen Street, Leeswood be objected to on the following grounds: -

- a) the congestion already existing in the area which could only worsen with a new development and the works associated with it,
- b) the concern for pedestrians in the area, making reference to the safe walkway erected for access to the School and
- c) the potential move of the bus stop which had already been changed for safety reasons.

Councillors R. Hughes and T. Hughes did not vote on this.

MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Tuesday 7th February 2017 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor D.K. Crowther that these minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

The minutes of the Donation meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 had also been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor C.E. Jones JP and seconded by Councillor J. Caruana that these minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

ACQUISITION OF LAND – CEMETERY REQUIREMENTS

Correspondence had been received from Natural Resources Wales requesting information that adequately assesses the risk posed to controlled waters in order for NRW to determine whether an extension to the Cemetery would be acceptable.

The information required would involve a Tier 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment as a minimum, with subsequent further assessment to be undertaken if necessary. Cemeteries have the potential to cause pollution of controlled waters. The degree of risk is dependent on many factors and each proposal must be considered on a site-specific basis. Natural Resources Wales would require that any planning application would need to be supported by the following risk assessments which are based on Environment Agency

guidance contained within 'Assessing the Groundwater Pollution Potential of Cemetery Developments' (2004), which is based on R&D Technical Report P223, 'Pollution Potential of Cemeteries' (2002).

With regard to the Groundwater Stage 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment, the initial site assessment should define potential pathways and receptors in proximity to the site. The developer must undertake a preliminary site assessment, which should include the following:

- a) Identification of all water features both surface and groundwater (ponds, springs, ditches, culverts etc.) within a 300 metres radius of the site. Use made of any of these water features. This should include the construction details of wells and boreholes and details of the lithology into which they are installed.
- b) Details of the thickness and type of soils and rocks underlying the site.
- c) Confirmation of the depth of the water table (especially with respect to the maximum depth of burial) and its variability
- d) The anticipated rate of burial.

The Clerk advised that she had e-mailed Natural Resources Wales about this request and was waiting for a reply.

CEMETERY

Suggestion was made that a copy of the Cemetery by-laws should be put on the notice board by the gates to the Cemetery. Observation made that these would leave no room for anything else on the notice board. It was proposed that the Clerk should produce an abridged version of the by-laws, highlighting the areas where most issues are likely to occur. All Councillors in agreement.

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Financial Regulations in preparation for the Audit 2016/2017. The Clerk was thanked for her work.

It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor C.E. Jones JP that they be accepted. All Councillors were in agreement.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Various documentation relating to the Age Friendly Communities scheme starting in the Leeswood and Pontblyddyn communities had been received from Mrs Helen Jones, Older People's Strategy Co-Ordinator, Flintshire County Council. Also received was the Age Friendly City Indicator Pilot Final Report re Fishguard and Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Leeswood & District News

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Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council (continued..)

The Clerk reported that a press release had been issued by Flintshire County Council and this had been published in the Chronicle newspaper on Friday 24th February 2017.

Applications for the position of Age Friendly Communities Project Co-Ordinator had been received and the interviews were planned for Monday 20th March 2017.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL OWNED STREET LIGHTING

Councillor J.E. Saul had compiled maps of the street lights in the Community from the information received from Flintshire County Council. These had been circulated to all Councillors.

Councillor R. Hughes advised that he would get in touch with Mr Darrel Jones, Street Lighting Manager, Streetscene, Flintshire County Council, requesting a survey of the Community Council street lights. At the same time, he would ask for a written quotation for replacement on a new for old basis. All Councillors were in agreement.

BUS STOP AT LLONG

Councillor R. Hughes reported that he had visited Mr and Mrs Limb at Llong regarding their request for a bus stop at Llong. It had been established that three buses passed through daily. Katie Wilby of the Transportation Unit, Flintshire County Council, had informed that an assessment of the suitability for a bus stop in Llong was underway and the outcome would be reported to the Community Council.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2017

Councillor Terry Hughes informed that he had attended the Information Evening for the Best Kept Village Competition 2017 on 8th February 2017 at County Hall. The Best Kept Village Competition is sponsored by a number of businesses and organisations, Airbus, Warwick International and Tesco amongst them. There were many positives for the Leeswood village, these included the Community Centre, the Cenotaph and the play areas. Pontblyddyn village also had positives, in particular the Cricket Ground and the newly refurbished Church. Councillor Ray Hughes had also attended the Information Evening as County Councillor. The Judges had mentioned accessing the Community Centre and it had been agreed that if they contact a keyholder on the day they were coming to judge the village they would be able to have a look around.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ASSESSMENT OF WELL-BEING FOR FLINTSHIRE

E-mail correspondence from Sam Perry, Policy & Performance Support Officer, Flintshire County Council about the Assessment of Well-Being for Flintshire. Members had been circulated with a copy of the 'Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire' – Area Profiles.

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 is a new piece of challenging legislation promoted by the Welsh Government. This ground-breaking legislation aims to improve further the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales now and for the longer-term. The Act is underpinned by seven 'well-being' goals.

Public sector partners need to work together to achieve these goals. The first step required of public sector partners is to make a deep analysis of the conditions of 'well-being' in the communities they serve by using all available data. The second step is to agree a 'Local Well Being Plan' for collective action. An Assessment provides a contemporary picture of life and well-being in Flintshire. Themes included in the assessment will be the things that matter to the residents of Flintshire.

The Assessment of Well-being for Flintshire is now complete for consultation. All documents, including a summary, profiles for each of the seven areas and a link to the full assessment are available on the Flintshire County Council's website.

There is also an online feedback form with just five questions to respond to. The closing date for feedback is Friday 31st March.

It was pointed out that this information could be useful when considering the new Age Friendly Communities initiative. All Councillors in agreement.

ZURICH MUNICIPAL INSURANCE 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Zurich Municipal Insurance regarding the Policy renewal for the forthcoming year. Some changes had been made and the Council were now insured for eight roadside seats at a value of £600 per seat and six notice boards at a value of £1,000 per board.

The street lights are insured for just over £11,000, given the amount of street lighting columns that the Community Council have in their ownership, it was felt that this was insufficient and that in reality a sum of £80,000 to £100,000 would be more realistic. Councillors were in agreement that the Clerk should seek advice from the insurers regarding the street lights.

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Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council (continued..)

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Water running down Dingle Road, Leeswood – Councillor R. Hughes reported that Flintshire County Council would be looking into the issue of a spring located on Dingle Road with the intention of diverting it into a ditch.

MATTERS OF AN IMPORTANT NATURE

a) Councillor D. Rule article in the Leeswood & District News – Councillor Terry Hughes brought attention to the excellent article written by Councillor D. Rule on the Archaeological Dig taking place near the site of the old garages at Maes-Y-Meillion, Leeswood. All Councillors agreed that it was very interesting and thanked Councillor Rule for his work.

b) Castle Cement Liaison Committee meeting of 6th March 2017 – Councillor J. Caruana advised that both he and Councillor R. Williams had been unable to attend the Castle Cement Liaison Committee meeting held on Monday 6th March 2017. Information had been received that a feasibility study was to take place regarding a cement mill number 5. A screening and sloping document would be submitted. Although it may be necessary to undertake a full environmental study.

CORRESPONDENCE

Llanfynydd Community Council – correspondence received from Llanfynydd Community Council requesting a possible contribution from this Community Council to the cost of the play scheme provided in Pontybodkin during the school summer holidays. It was pointed out that the Community Council already provide a play scheme in Leeswood which is well attended and it was believed that it would be inappropriate for the Council to make a contribution towards another Community's play scheme. All Councillors in agreement.

IN MEMORY OF JOSPEPH "BRYN" JONES

Joy and Family wish to thank everyone for their kind expressions of Sympathy shown to them in their Bereavement, also for donations in lieu of flowers, for Bersham Ward, Wrexham Maelor Hospital (a total of £600).

Joy Jones

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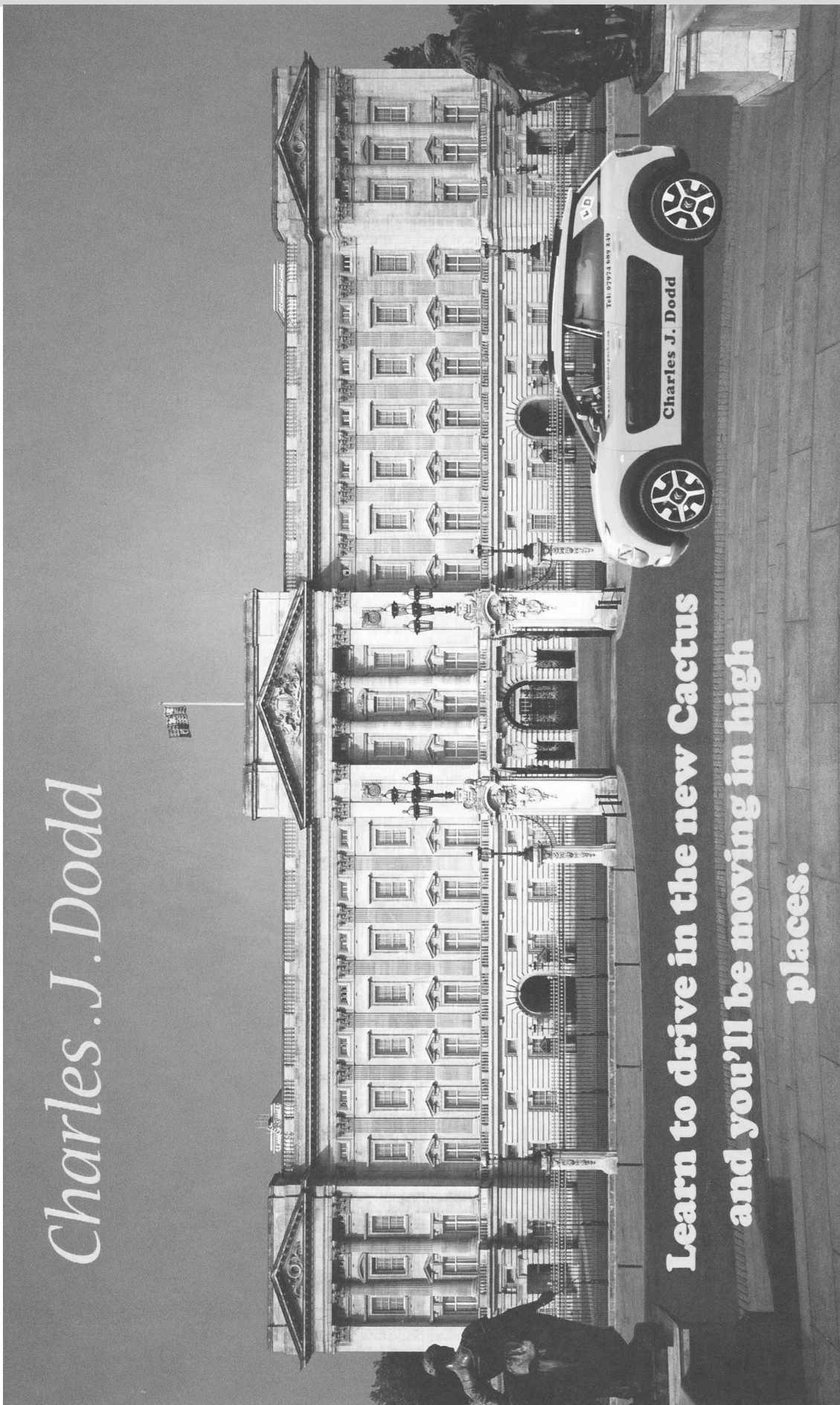
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May in the Garden

Jenny Pitts MHort (RHS)

We have had Easter and now the weather should be improving. This means more time in the garden, and lots of jobs to do. Little hint – try spending a short time (around 15 mins) everyday doing jobs and you will be surprised how much you keep on top of them all!

Jobs for May

- Once we get into May, the chance of frost is less, so get all those plants, vegetables and bedding out and planted
- Keep on top of the weeds in the garden, try to remove them before they flower to stop the seed spreading
- With all the plants making lots of growth, keep them tied in and supported to prevent damage
- Time to start replacing your winter/spring bedding and choose some colourful summer flowering plants
- Feed you plants regularly to keep healthy and producing lots of flowers
- Prune early spring flowering shrubs. Shrubs such as Forsythia and Ribes need a hard prune after flowering



Container Gardening

When trying to decide what to write about this month, I asked my friend. She suggested container gardening....not sure whether it has anything to with her garden being full of pots!



Container gardening is a great way to garden if you are short of space or limited bare ground to plant in. Pretty much any plant can be grown in a container, as long as the pot is large enough. It is really important to consider the pot size when planning.

- Most plants want their roots to spread further than the top growth, so try to get a nice large pot
- When choosing pots, consider the material it is made out of. Plastic come in many sizes and colours but are lightweight so can blow over easier. Terracotta is heavier but you need to be aware they are porous so will take water from the soil
- Lift pots on bricks, pot feet or stands to allow water to flow and reduce chance of frost damage
- Add in colour with bedding and bulbs plants in spring and summer. You can plant them around the base of other plants
- Containers are ideal to grow plants that re not suitable for your soil, such as Blueberries that prefer acidic soil. If you haven't got acid soil, plant them in pots in Ericaceous compost
- Top dress your containers with fresh compost every year to replace lost soil and provide fresh nutrients to the plants

Think outside the box when planning containers!

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I'm also looking to help as many charities and non-profits as possible.

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Leeswood & District News

Leeswood Allotments

Kathleen O'Marah



In the allotments, right now the plots are being prepared, the soil is warming up and some planting has begun.

The weeds have already got a head start on my plot so the hoe has been deployed to push underneath their roots and dislodge them.



The grass in between the plots is growing so the peace and quiet of this part of Leeswood is now frequently broken when the mowers and strimmer's come out.



Clumps of rhubarb are flourishing now on many of the plots and you will still find a few tulips bobbing their colourful heads in the spring breeze.



Two weeks will have passed by the time this report goes out and it is certain that, if you walk past the allotments at the beginning of May, you will notice a change. Back in the 1960's Harold Wilson is quoted as saying "A week is a long time in politics" and in spring and early summer a week is a long time on Leeswood



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:

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