

Leeswood & District News

February 2021

www.leeswood-district.news

Issue 400



Lucille Ingman
MBE

1931 – 2020



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LEESWOOD & DISTRICT NEWS

Please welcome: Mrs Moya Hughes (details below)

Thank you Moya for offering to take on the, volunteer, role of Editor of the Leeswood & District News. I wish you well and know that you will do a fantastic job. June x

Do you have an idea for a great article?

Maybe you have a story to share?

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

PLEASE EMAIL TO: Moya Hughes

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Mobile:

DEADLINE DATES - March & April 2021

March Edition - Thursday 18th February 2021

April Edition - Thursday 18th March 2021



Lucille Ingman

MBE

1931 – 2020

It was with sadness that we said Goodbye to a stalwart of Leeswood on New Year's Eve. Sadly Lucille passed away at home on 16th December, 2020 aged 89 years young suddenly but peacefully with friends present.

Lucille was a long standing citizen of Leeswood, born and bred and only left the village to study at Bangor University, Gwynedd.

More about Lucille can be seen in her eulogy below written by Mr. Doug Jones, former headmaster of Ysgol Derwenfa and a close personal friend of Lucille.

In her last 18 months Lucille's physical health had deteriorated so, that she became confined to her home. To enable to fulfil her wishes and keep Lucille at home a sincere and heartfelt thanks must be given to Julie and Victoria and all the girls of Bluebell Care Team, who's exemplary care kept Lucille at home. Lucille looked forward to the girls visiting each day and enjoyed chatting with the girls and handing out advice whether asked or not!!

The Eulogy:

I shall try to write this tribute to Lucille, not by telling you where she was born, despite the fact that we all know that Leeswood was in her bones, or which schools and teacher training colleges she attended, where and when she started teaching; where and when she met Glan and when and where they married, in other words a factual account. Lucille deserves more and better than that. I have tried to write this tribute in the way that anyone who knew her or taught with her, or any former pupils, now grown up would remember her and write about her.

I first came across Lucille when I was appointed as head teacher in Nercwys V.P. School where she taught and immediately I was impressed by her industry and integrity. Nercwys was, and still is a very small village, too small for the local authority to set up a Youth Club or to provide facilities for the children to engage themselves in the evening. Lucille was one of those who was not only dedicated to her profession but also believed in giving a

service to the community that the school served, and as a result of this she established a “Rambling Club” for the youngsters of the village. Initially she took the children for walks to places of historical or environmental interest within the village’s “square mile”.

Through her efforts in raising money to purchase equipment this Rambling Club developed into a weekly “Club” for the village children where they met at the school to play board games, table tennis, snooker, listening to music, speakers etc. As more money became available, the activities progressed to educational visits, even as far as London, and week-end visits to Outdoor Centres.

My association with Lucille continued after her retirement from the teaching profession because I was later appointed Head teacher at Ysgol Derwenfa, Leeswood where Lucille and Glan lived.

Upon taking up my post I realised quickly how deeply involved Lucille was in the local community. Mind you, she was lucky in Glan, because he kept house and home ship shaped.

The 70’s and 80’s were the years when local communities and areas in Wales started publishing their own Welsh local monthly newspapers to which there was a grant. On the other hand there was no grant available at the time to set up a monthly newspaper through the medium of English. Lucille was one of the founder members of the Leeswood News, which is still flourishing. Indeed she was the first secretary and was an avid reader and supporter until she passed away. Under the auspices of the Leeswood News and Lucille’s personal determination in raising funds we have now a permanent Cenotaph and memorial to the fallen on Bell’s Corner which was dedicated to coincide with the village’s millennium activities.

I could carry on by mentioning the Ladies Guild and their fund raising activities, or the Nightingale House Hospice committee in Leeswood, or the Community Centre Management Committee, or the National Eisteddfod of Wales 2007 fund raising committee, editor of the publication “Leeswood past and present”, her beloved Capel Cedron, and many other initiatives that she was involved with.

Coupled with the fact that Lucille’s priceless contribution and that she was a pillar of the community life over the years, which was recognised in her being awarded with the M.B.E., Lucille also possessed a remarkable personality and at times a wicked sense of humour. She had a natural ability to establish a rapport from the youngest to the oldest. She possessed a character and personality of universal appeal, one of those people that made our life’s experience richer from knowing her. The words of George Elliot are certainly true about Lucille:- “Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words but pour them all right out just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and then with a breath of kindness blow the rest away”.

On the other hand my fondest memories of Lucille are those of Lucille the teacher. She was of the old school who believed in going down to the nitty gritty with the children. She was a student of the Chinese proverb – “If you are planning for a year sow rice. If you are planning for a decade, plant a tree. If you are planning for a lifetime, educate the young”.

William Arthur Ward the writer made this observation about teachers:-

The mediocre teacher tells.

The good teacher explains.

The superior teacher demonstrates.

The great teacher inspires.

Lucille inspired generations of children both in Treuddyn and Nercwys, even in her late years when she visited Ysgol Derwenfa to talk to the pupils about Leeswood in the past, she held the children in the palm of her hand and you could see the whites of their eyes. And what a knowledge she had at her fingertips of Leeswood and its peoples. Dafydd Iwan the Welsh folk singer, in his song Esgair Llyn uses these words, translated now, “When I go back, I can see the pictures of yesterday all over the place bringing back my memories of early years”. And “Standing here now I can feel the pull of my roots under my feet and I can hear the song of my forefathers in my blood”. That was Lucille and her beloved Leeswood, woe and betide anyone who said anything derogatory about Leeswood in her presence.

Lucille bach annwyl, over the years you have touched the hearts of so many of us and we thank God that we have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing you.

Hedd perffaith hedd. “Pax eternal”.

All my love Doug.

Mr. Doug Jones also read out a poem during Lucille’s funeral service and this is it:

I have a poem here by Marilyn Barker-Smith from her book “A treasure of special moments, love and encouragement”. I thought that it would be most appropriate to read it because I can almost hear Lucille talking and encouraging her pupils. To Lucille children were to be nurtured and cherished or in the words of Rita Pierson:-

“Every child deserves a champion

An adult who will never give up on them;

Who understands the power of children

And insists that they become the best they can possibly be

Or as Carl Jung the Swiss psychiatrist said:-

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child”.

Here is the poem:

Just for you.

Do you have a special song in your heart
That is still unsung?
Please sing it.

Do you have a story
That you would love to write about
And share with others?
Please write it.

Do you have a special dream in your heart
That you so want to follow but someone said
“It’s just a pipedream”
Please follow it.

Do you think that success is
Only for the chosen few?
Please know it’s for everyone who wants it.

Do you live with people
Who discourage you?
Please let me encourage you.

Is there something you really want to do
But doubt yourself too much?
Please believe me – you can do it.

Don’t let yourself or anyone you know
Die with a song still unsung
As so many people sadly do.
Please believe that I believe in you.

Why – you may ask yourself?
Why do you care about me?
Why – when you don’t even know me?
The answer is simple really,
You’re someone just like me.
You think just like I used to.
Please follow your dream.
Enjoy the magical journey.

Lucille's funeral was held in her beloved Capel Cedron where Lucille had worshipped since the age of 3. A lovely service was conducted by the Minister Clive Davies. Lucille was later laid to rest with her beloved husband Glan in Pontblyddyn Cemetry.

Donations raised in Lucille's memory were to Cedron Chapel £110 and Nightingale House Hospice £120.

I personally would like to thank everyone who have supported and expressed condolences. Lucille was a very special lady and myself and family will miss her dearly.

Jane xx



LADIES GUILD

It was with great sorrow that we heard that our President, Lucille had passed away. The Guild was always foremost on her mind and we will all miss her. I, personally, knew Lucille for many years through Chapel, Guild and the times we spent putting the Leeswood News together years ago and I know that every project she took on she put her heart and soul into it.

We all hope that when coronavirus is beaten we can all get together again at our regular meetings.

Gill Barton



Leeswood sits in the shadow of Hope mountain and if Jesus lived here today, he may have spent time up there. It is recorded that Jesus often climbed his own local mountains in order to pray. We read about one occasion in Mark 6:45-52. After dismissing the crowds that were following him, Jesus gave instructions to his disciples to board a boat and sail ahead of him to a town called, Bethsaida, and after they had left, Jesus went 'up a mountain' alone to pray.

As evening came the disciples were part-way through their journey and 'straining at the oars' (v48) because the wind was against them. They were in a turmoil and showing signs of tension and stress. At their point of distress Jesus walked on the water to their boat and seemed to pass by them when they screamed with terror thinking he was a ghost.

Immediately Jesus spoke to them saying 'Take courage!' (v50). If the disciples had been more aware of the scriptures they may have remembered Job 9:8, speaking about

God 'He alone stretches out the heavens and treads on the waves of the sea' and perhaps would have not been so frightened. Then in these life-threatening circumstances Jesus spoke to them saying 'It is I. Don't be afraid'.

The global threat of Covid-19 is an unnerving experience for all for us. We can be gripped by fear. We may feel like we are 'straining at the oars' in fear of losing the battle but when we allow God to draw along side us in our fear and distress, there is no safer place to be.

Reflect on the beautiful Hymn written by Horatio G Spafford following his unimaginable grief at the loss of his four children at sea. May God give us strength and grace for today:

*'When peace like a river attends my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot You have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul!"*

Elfed Godding 12.01.21



County Road, Leeswood, Flintshire CH7 4RF
connect@bethanialeeswood.org • www.bethanialeeswood.org • 07561 679317

Cedron Congregational Church is located in Pontybodkin on Corwen road at the junction opposite the main road up into Leeswood. We are a friendly, welcoming group of Christians who normally meet every Sunday morning at **10:30am**. Our service normally lasts an hour. If you find yourself in the locality, we would love for you join in with us as we meet to worship God, sing, pray and study the Bible in a friendly and informal atmosphere.



SPEAKERS for February/March 2021

January 31 st	Clive Davies	March 7 th	Clive Davies
February 7 th	Clive Davies	March 14 th	Clive Davies
February 14 th	Clive Davies	March 21 st	Chris Byrne
February 21 st	Clive Davies	March 28 th	Clive Davies
February 28 th	Clive Davies	April 4 th	Clive Davies

Message from Cedron's Minister - Clive Davies writes:

Blessings from all at Cedron Chapel. May 2021 be a year of peace. May it be a more healthful year for all of us. We pray that God will place His healing hand upon our world. We need His love and guidance in our lives. When we have joy and when we have concerns. When the world seems a good place to be, and when it seems it is full of strife! I ask you, today and every day to look above all the issues of our world, whatever they may be, and see our Saviour. Ask Him to come into your life and give you peace and rest. A warm welcome is extended to you from all at Cedron Chapel. We continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 10.30, with all government directives in place.

May the Grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen. Clive Davies (Minister of Cedron Chapel)

For anyone wishing to speak with Clive, he can be contacted at: [Tel:01244536988](tel:01244536988) or [Mob:07811807446](tel:07811807446)

Looking back

2020 was occasioned with much in the way of ill tidings, and it is with sadness we announce the loss of Lucille Ingman from our congregation. Lucille passed away on 16th December and in accordance with her wishes, she was conveyed to Cedron on the last day of 2020 for a moving service of remembrance and celebration of her life. She was afterwards laid to rest at Christ Church cemetery in Pontblyddyn.

Among the memories that Lucille shared with me, she recalled sitting as a 4-year-old girl on a stool next to a roaring fire in the house where I now live, being doted on with mugs of hot chocolate by two slightly eccentric elderly ladies, while the shadow of war loomed on the horizon. I considered the notion of memories as I idly flicked through a copy of the Chronicle of the Early Britons the other day. It's difficult to overestimate the importance of memories, some precious, some incidental, in affording us a point of reference from which we can see ourselves on the clock of history and affirm our place in this world. Also known as the Tysilio chronicle, it is a remarkable document in that it sheds light on areas of British history that would otherwise remain utterly unknown. Here we find accounts of the first roads being laid, centuries before the foundation of Rome. The origins of Cornwall and cities such as London, Carlisle and Leicester are described as is the lineage of our monarchs beginning with Brutus setting foot at Totnes in Devon. From this and other ancient documents we learn that Brutus' great-grandfather Aenius fled Troy, a city founded by his ancestor Dardanus. some decades before the exodus from Egypt. From The Biblical Table of Nations found Genesis 10 we find Dardanas (Dodanim) is related through Javan and Japheth to Noah. Doubtless scholars may ruminate over the veracity of such documents, that is after all their role. The fact remains that our ancient forebears considered them an honest account to be treasured. Similarly, even if my home or indeed, the village of Pontybodkin should cease to exist in years to come, people may still know and believe that a little girl once drank cocoa there in front of a fire, while her parents worshipped in the Church next door.

Anyone can message us at Cedron.congregational@gmail.com or via Clive's facebook: **#Cedron Chapel**

**CHRIST
CHURCH,
PONTBLYDDYN**



UNFORTUNATELY, SUNDAY SERVICES IN ALL OUR CHURCHES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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**A ZOOM SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
WILL TAKE PLACE EVERY SUNDAY
AT 11.00 A.M.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO THAT SERVICE.

The service can be accessed by phone or via computer/video. Please get in touch if you would like further details in order to join us.

On behalf of Christ Church, Pontblyddyn, I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to Mrs June Lincoln for her work as Editor of this magazine over the course of the last few years. We will miss you June and wish you and Billy all the best in your new home and Community. *Carole.*

LENT GROUPS

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 17th February.

Discussion Groups during Lent will take place every Tuesday (via Zoom) beginning on 23rd February.

The sessions will be led by members of the Shared Ministry Team. There will be two opportunities to join one at 3.30 p.m. and the other at 7.30 p.m. The sessions will be interchangeable.

More information will be available on our Facebook page soon, if you are interested please let me know and I will send the link.



Our next **Messy Church** will be on **Sunday 21st February 2021** at 4 pm on zoom.

We will be telling a story and have lots of activities for you to do at home.

If you would like us to deliver a free bag of goodies and the zoom code so that you can join in with the fun please contact

Rev'd Kathy Stewart on kathy12oct@sky.com

By Sunday 14th February

(If anyone has any special dietary requirements please let us know as bags contain homemade biscuits and sweets)

SHARED MINISTRY TEAM.

You may have noticed that many of our online activities are led by "Members of the Shared Ministry Team". This does not mean that I am not involved, it simply means that I work alongside my colleagues in this area.

The team consists of:

The Rev'd Carole Poolman.
Vicar of Pontblyddyn & Treuddyn.
Mission Area Leader

The Rev'd Kevin Horswell
Vicar of Mold and New Brighton

The Rev'd Daniel Stroud
Rector of the Bro Famau Group of Churches

The Rev'd Kathy Stewart
Vicar of Nercwys

Mr Ken Massey
Licensed Pastor based at Northop

Dr Wendy Shillito
Licensed Reader based in the Bro Famau Group.

Students on Placement with us:

Mr Gareth Williams – studying for the Diaconate
Mrs Emma Dale – studying for the Priesthood

CONTACT DETAILS: Rev'd Carole Poolman, The Rectory, Llanfynydd, Wrexham. LL11 5HH.
Phone: 01978 762304 **Email:** cc.sm@btinternet.com

Although the church building is closed at present, please feel free to contact me at any time to talk – or to ask for prayer. If you would like to join us on Zoom any Sunday at 11 a.m., or if you would like to receive the weekly readings and reflection let me know. Carole



Sponsor



ebost/email posttellig@hwbcymru.net rhif ffôn/telephone 01352 770235

GOFAL DYDD / DAY CARE £32

Mae CYlch Gofal Dydd
yn agored
o 7.45-5.45
Dydd Llun i Dydd Gwener
drwy'r flwyddyn
Derbynir plant 2 oed hyd at 5 oed

Day Care
open
from 7.45 until 5.45
Monday to Friday
All year
Children are accepted from 2 years up to 5

RhestrPrisiau / Price List

Clwb brecwast/Breakfast Club 7.45 – 9 = £4
Bore / Morning session 7.45 -11.30 = £11
Bore estynedig/Extended Morning 7.45 - 1 = £16
Bore / Morning 9 – 11.30 = £7 **SÊL Ionawr £5 I blant newydd/January Sale £5 for new starters**
Bore estynedig / Extended Morning 9 - 1 = £12
Diwrnod ysgol/School Day 9 – 3 = £17
Pecyn Diwrnod Llawn / Full Day Package cynnwys Brecwast, cinio a Thê
Includes Breakfast, Lunch and Tea £32

30 AWR GOFAL PLANT AM DDIM 30 HOURS FREE CHILD CARE

Mae'r CYlch Meithrin wedi cofrestru gyda'r Cynnig Gofal Plant i Gymru.
Am wybodaeth cysylltwch â'r CYlch.
The CYlch is registered with the Child Care offer for Wales

Cyfle Cynnar/Early Entitlement

For further information contact the CYlch.
Derbynir Taliadau Taleb
Voucher Payments accepted

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Dilynwch ni Facebook a Twitter

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A Mental Maelstrom?

"Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour..." (Psalm 42:5).

As we know full well, the world we live in is far from perfect! Everyone will experience some unjust, unfair, painful, uncomfortable times. These are when living might seem a bit too much to take. This can take many forms, be it physical, spiritual, mental, relational or emotional in nature. When it happens to us we need to recognise and accept this extra fact of life if we are going to be able to deal with it. It surely will affect us to a greater or lesser extent at some time or other. So, maybe we have to try and avoid the stoical cry of, "*Woe is me!*" This can sometimes drain away the necessary strength for us to acknowledge how we are really feeling deep down inside and organise yourself or others to try and do something about it. Neither should we be resigned to it and believe that "*resistance is futile*"

What about your temperament - your innate attitudes and responses to life? If it has a mix of melancholy, then there is the tendency to worry, stress-out, despair, criticize and condemn. If not re-directed, this approach may be a warning sign for problems to come. For others "*it's just plain chemical*" where the body gets out of whack due to imbalances in the brains chemistry. This can trigger depression.

The thing is, no-one decides to become stressed, anxious or depressed! A certain amount of stress/anxiety is needed for us to function normally, but when it gets out of hand, something has to be done. And sometimes we have to be told that that something has to be done.

Us blokes are notoriously bad at dealing with feelings. We often try to hide them or refuse to even recognise them within ourselves—denial. Many of us default to thinking we are not "*manly-men*" if we let them show and so we must maintain the British stiff upper lip. The feelings associated with (peer) pressure for us to maintain the happy façade loom large too. As for our wives, girlfriends, sisters and daughters, well ... they don't seem to have our problem with expressing themselves! They have 'talking therapy' down to a fine art. Seriously, talking is a good thing and we could learn from them!

When Covid lockdown no. 1 began in the UK as a whole, it brought home the severity of the situation. This was to the extent that in our region it was reported that a number of people had to be 'sectioned' (taken into care for mental health treatment) due to the inability to cope with the prospect of a pandemic. The rise in the number of sufferers was noted too in the national media. Since then there have been articles and reports about the mental and psychological effects of being restricted in general but especially during extended periods of lockdown like this. How will this show in the UK population's mental health? Perhaps we ought to be more aware and 'listen to ourselves'. What can we expect? Have you noticed any changes in yourself? Have any of your friends or family brought something to your attention and you have brushed it aside?

So what signs do we need to look out for in ourselves and our loved ones during lockdown? They can include -

- Changes in a person's appetite, frequently a lack of appetite, but occasionally increased hunger. Disruption of sleeping patterns. A person may tend to over sleep, but also have 'cat-naps'.
- There are two opposites in energy levels. Becoming fidgety and easily agitated, while others become sluggish and inactive. A person may experience difficulty in thinking with poor concentration and problems with memory.
- Feelings of worthlessness, guilt, and helplessness. A distorted view of reality; they see an ugly person when they look in the mirror and a compliment can be taken as a criticism. Life becomes too difficult to live out.
- Delusions (obviously false or impossible beliefs), hallucinations and hearing voices (false sensory perceptions) are also sometimes prevalent among seriously depressed people who may need to be hospitalized.
- Surprisingly, there are a whole host of physical indicators too that may suggest stress, anxiety and/or mental health problems.

Don't try to overcome feeling down on your own. We all need help sometimes. Consider asking God to help you in changing your attitude towards mental health and the refocusing of your life with the purpose He has for you.

"So then, my soul, why would you be depressed? Why would you sink into despair? Just keep hoping and waiting on God, your Saviour. For no matter what, I will still sing with praise, for living before his face is my saving grace!" (Psalm 42.5 TPT).

Simon

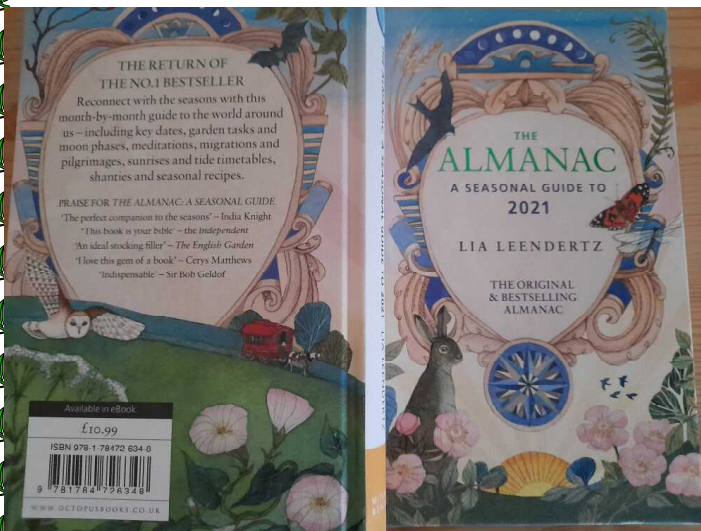
TheLDNBibleBlog@gmail.com

PS. I hope to 'see' you all next month but at the time writing, a decision about the future of the LDN has yet to be made.

Leeswood Allotments

It's all very quiet on the allotment site in January and February but indoors allotment holders are planning, ordering seeds and if they have a greenhouse or similar space they may already be sowing seeds to get an early start when the weather and soil eventually start to warm up.

An event we usually look forward to at this time of year is the annual Potato Day held in Mold. Unfortunately this year's event, due to be held on Sat.13th February is unable to take place due to the lockdown. The annual Potato Day could equally be called an Allotment Day because along with around 100 varieties of potato on sale there is also all manner of fruit and vegetables, plants and seeds available to purchase. One great advantage of the Mold Potato Day was that there were always people around to give help and advice. However I have learned, via our allotment WhatsApp group, that if you go to www.growvegandfruit.co.uk you can, this year, place an online order.



Reading about our hobby can also fill some of the time when it is either too cold or too wet to get out and work on the plots. I was fortunate to be given two very useful books for Christmas which I have enjoyed dipping into, The Almanac by Lia Leendertz and The Allotment Pocket Bible by Emma Cooper. There are also numerous gardening magazines available on supermarket shelves and thankfully we have still been able to purchase them

throughout lockdown, Like cookery books, they can be kept and referred to years later; as many gardening techniques never change.

Now just a short anecdote here. Back in January, when we had snow, I went down to the allotments and took some photographs on my phone with the intention of sending them to the lovely June, editor of The Leeswood News. They were perfect to show how, under a blanket of snow everyone's plot looked pretty much the same. That night I went upstairs to bed with a cup of tea in one hand and a hot water bottle in the other and put my phone, which is my alarm, in the back pocket of my jeans. After depositing the cup on the bedside table and hot water bottle in the bed, I went to the bathroom. ..

Having heard me yell, husband Mike came running upstairs to see if he could help. Unfortunately, nothing he could do...my phone had fallen out of my back pocket and in to the loo!!!! 🐞 My snowy pictures, along with many others were gone!! Note to self...don't put your phone in your back pocket and go to the bathroom. 😂😂

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of June, our Leeswood News editor. Many times I have just squeezed in my notes from the allotments right on the deadline which must be a headache for someone so organised. Thanks June for your understanding and for keeping the L and D News going.

WALKING THE FOOTPATHS IN LEESWOOD & DISTRICT

No: 18 - BLACK GATES TO LEESWOOD

Calling at Stryt Cae Rhedyn, Leeswood Green, Celyn, then back via Leeswood Hall & White Gates

Long walk. Steep in places.

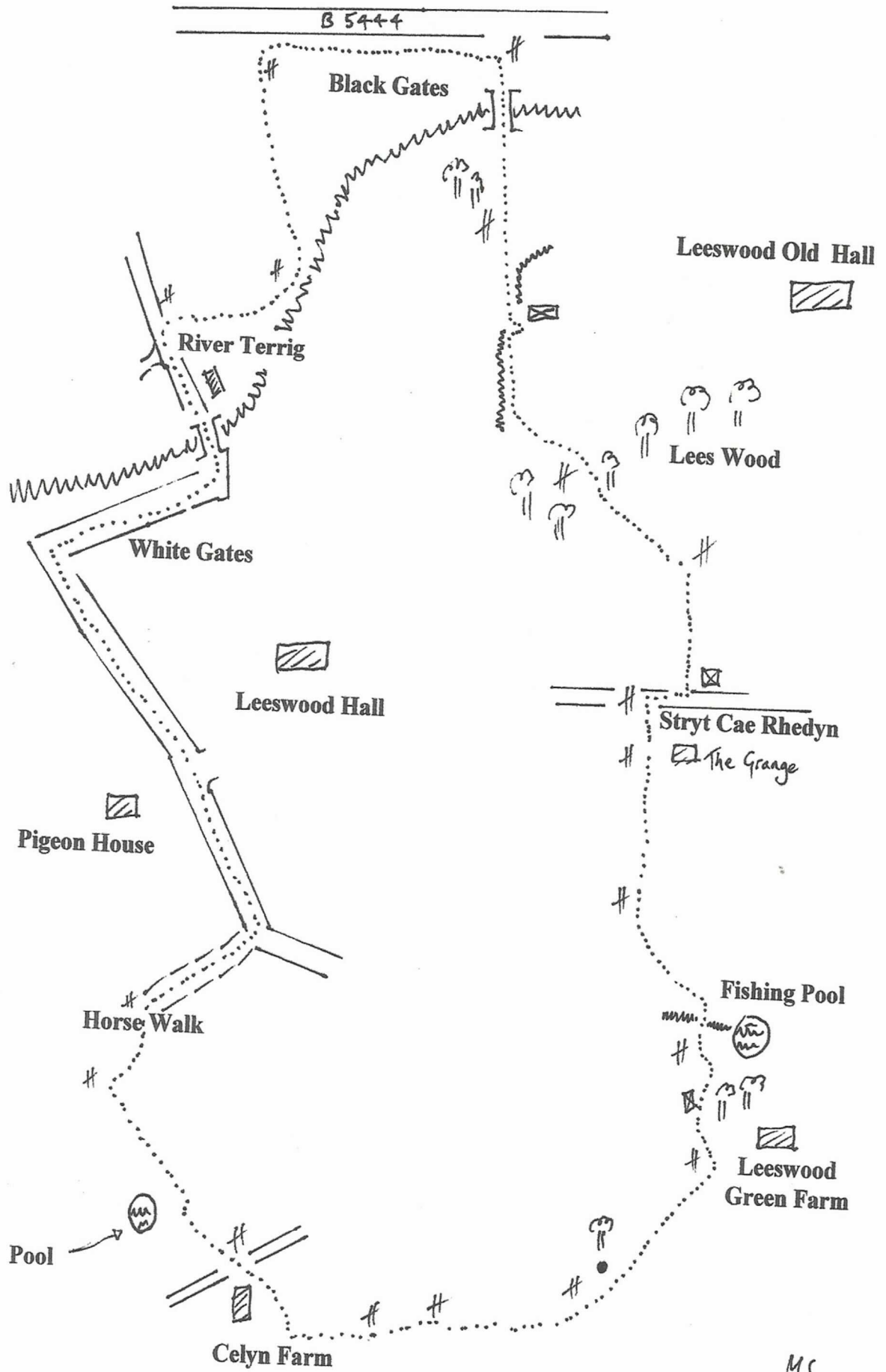
Circular walk. Allow 2 hours

As this is a circular walk, start at any point. This guide starts at the Black Gates lay-by

1. Walk along the B5444 from here towards the **Black Gates**. It may be only a B road, but as a cut through from the dual carriageway it carries a fair amount of fast-moving traffic, and there is no pavement. You reach the **Black Gates**, framed by the two lodge houses known as "Heaven and Hell". You can probably tell from the frescoes which is which. Continue along the road for some 100 metres, looking for the stile which will take you back into the countryside.
2. This is a well-maintained stile, with waymarks and a conspicuous waymark on a pole roadside. Cross from here into the field and aim half-left for the sturdy field bridge over the **River Terrig**, which is close by.
3. Your next objective is a right-hand field corner ahead, where hedge meets woodland. Pass trees on raised mounds to the right. You reach a well-maintained one step stile, with waymarks pointing up the field ahead. This is the start of a long climb, by the way, not steep but relentless! Glimpses of **Leeswood Old Hall** over to the left.
4. The direction of the path in this field is not obvious. Basically continue uphill, leftish, towards a hedge which skirts a projecting field corner. You won't be able to tell that when you set out. You come to the hedge, by the side of a brook, and follow the hedge round on your left as it turns and climbs upwards. You will reach an open gateway in the hedge on the left.
5. The footpath goes through this gateway [there is no gate at present]. There are waymarks on each of the gateposts. One waymark points down hill, the way you have come, the other indicates a route through the gateway. Also on the same gatepost, another waymark indicates the direction to follow next. Once through the gateway the footpath continues uphill, keeping the field edge and brook to the right.
6. Following the field edge round you will eventually reach a stile in the hedge to the right and here you can cross into the wood. The route through the wood is short and not always clear. Keep left of the gully but follow its direction. You come out of the wood into a field corner.
7. You have to cross this field facing you, but which way? The right of way is across the field, diagonally, to the opposite field corner. The last time I walked this path the field had been recently ploughed, making progress difficult. Even if you stick to the left-hand side of the field part of the way, you will still have to cross the field to the other side. Over to your left, by the way is **Coed Llai, Lees Wood**.
8. When you reach that opposite exit point you will find a good, well-maintained stile. From here the footpath continues uphill, keeping the hedge close by on the left to reach a new galvanised kissing gate and a waymark on a post, pointing downhill. You have reached **Stryt Cae Rhedyn**.
9. To continue this circular walk, cross the road to **The Grange** and turn right along the road for a very short distance. In the hedge to your left you will find the stile you need for your onward journey. The path crosses here into a small field, and follows the left-hand edge, and well-kept hedge, to reach another stile in the corner.

MAP to accompany Footpath 18

Black Gates to Leeswood Circular



Map not to scale

WALKING THE FOOTPATHS IN LEESWOOD & DISTRICT

No: 18 - BLACK GATES TO LEESWOOD - Continued

10. Crossing over into a larger field, sloping away from you, the footpath follows the left-hand field edge to a corner, where there is a two-step stile under the oak tree. A waymark here points in a half left direction, leading to the **Fishing Pool**. By clipping the field in this fashion, the footpath reaches the hedge surrounding the pool. Bear right here, keeping the pool on the left and a feeder brook to the right. The path now follows the edge of the hedged pool round to a two-step stile next to a gate.

11. Bear half-right here and follow the hedge round to a new galvanised kissing gate. In the next field keep the hedge on your left, ignoring the field gate on the left and find, further on, a new galvanised kissing gate, left in the hedge. This leads into a copse on the edge of **Leeswood Green Farm**. By keeping to the right hand side of the copse, the footpath reaches a one-step stile in the corner next to a field gate. There is a sign here indicating a **Leeswood Heritage Trail**. Cross over the stile into a field sloping down towards you.

12. Keep the field edge close by on the right as you climb to the top of the slope and the prominent sentinel tree. Good views here. In the field corner there is a stile in the holly hedge, with waymarks, leading into another field which slopes away left.

Keep the field edge close by on the right, maintaining height. . After a short distance the path comes to a kind of recess in the field edge to the right. Here there is a new galvanised stile, in the hedge on the right.

13. Once over this stile the footpath crosses the field directly, aiming for a gate and a good two-step stile with a waymark, which gives access to the field ahead. From here the footpath keeps close to the field edge on the right to reach a field corner. There is a field gate here which cannot be used, but fortunately there is another field gate lower down, in working order. Go through the gate into the farmyard area. You have reached **Celyn Farm**.

14. From here the route is down to a field gate and then right along a track between farm buildings, passing an elegant, but somewhat redundant stone stile on the right-hand side. The path then continues past dwellings on both sides to reach the road. On the far side of the road is a waymark on a post, close to a stile which you now need to use to reach a field, often with horses in.

15. Clip the field, aiming for a stile in the far left-hand corner, cross into the next field and keep the wild life pool to your left to reach a gate. Once through the gate you find yourself on the edge of a much larger field, often with crops. You need to go directly across the field, crops or no, to find a stile in the field edge directly opposite.

16. After the stile, cross a short bridge over a stream, to reach another field. Turn right here and keep the stream and hedge close by on your right to a field corner and a stile. Once over the stile you are now in the "**Horse Walk**". Turn right and follow the drive down to the main road.

17. Here you need to turn left, down the main road, with the derelict **Pigeon House** on the field to the left", pass the entrance to **Leeswood Hall**, right, and follow the road all the way down to the **White Gates**. Look out for speeding traffic.

18. Once you have admired the stunning **White Gates**, continue along the road, over the narrow bridge spanning the **River Terrig**. Just past the house on the right look out for a stile in the hedgerow to your right. There is a [at present concealed] waymark on a pole. Leave the road here and cross into the field. Keep the field edge to your right to reach a stile. Cross here to find the **River Terrig** once again just by on your right. Bear left, however, and keep to the left-hand side field edge to reach a formidable stone stile, leading out on to some waste ground on the **B5444**.

Mike Stevens 2020

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IN THE OPEN

I've walked the footpaths in Leeswood and District over the years, and many of these have been written up for local residents to scour the countryside. I remember once someone in Leeswood said to me, "I read your latest walk in the Leeswood and District News". "Oh," I replied, "Did you walk it?" "Oh no," came the reply, "We don't walk any of your walks. We just like to know where you've been!" The latest one is in this edition of the News, but you can make up your own journeys through the fields and along the paths.

Recently I decided to re-walk all the listed footpaths [there are 40] in the Parish [I use the word "Parish" even though strictly speaking I should be tuned in to "Community"] and I'm glad to be able to report that there have been significant improvements since I first did it, in 1995. Kissing gates have replaced stiles, which is a great help. Waymarks on poles show where footpaths leave the main road and are now almost 100% in place. I'd like to see more improvements. Waymarking is still a haphazard process. Walkers may discover how to get into a field but then find themselves stranded unless they can see where to get out. Some stiles have lost their steps and turned themselves into barriers rather than aids. And if we are to keep our paths we must maintain the upkeep. We have until 2026 to register all paths. Those not properly registered after that date will be lost to the public for ever. Many of the paths have a long tradition – marking the way a collier would walk to work, or a parishioner to church and chapel. Now they have become recreational, and have a different purpose, but are still important to retain. I have noticed during the pandemic that more and more people are out walking, and that's really good to see. And I have received several requests for copies of the walks I have devised. If you are interested, let me know, on mike38stevens@gmail.com and I'll keep you posted. The latest walk is included in this edition of the LDN.

Readers of my articles over the years will know that I have had some hobby horses, and at risk of repeating myself, I'll end with a record of some of them.

TREES

We must grow more trees, if we are to be serious about dealing with Climate Change. Trees help capture carbon and revitalise the environment. In addition we have lost all our Elm Trees to disease, and now Ash Trees are threatened with ash dieback. Large numbers of larch trees must be felled on Moel Fammau because of disease. So in addition to replacing existing stock we need to plant many more. Here are three ways to help

- 1) Think of **planting** a tree in your garden, if you are lucky enough to have space. A fruit tree perhaps.
- 2) Plant **or adopt** a tree in memory of someone. And it's not enough simply to plant one. You need to look after it. Numbers of trees have perished through neglect.
- 3) **Allow a tree to develop** in an existing hedge. It's all very regular and neat and tidy to scalp the hedges, but so much more useful to allow an ash tree to grow the way it wants to grow, or a holly, or a hawthorn. After all, what is a hedge except the remains of ancient woodland.

KILL THE WEEDKILLER

Weedkillers are herbicides. They destroy living, growing plants. We need stinging nettles, the host plant for butterflies. Learn to love the dandelion. Deep-rooted docks and cow parsley are a menace to gardeners but can be dug up rather than sprayed. Remember that a weed is a wild flower growing in the wrong place. Insects which thrive on so-called weeds are absolutely crucial to pollination, which in turn leads to reproduction and fruiting.

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

We live in an area rich in treasures from the past. I wrote a series of articles in the Leeswood and District News on the "Lost Industries of Leeswood". The village itself grew up on the coal seam beneath and everywhere you look there are traces of mining. Phoenix Park has been created out of a colliery. The Mold Riots of 1869 could easily be sub-titled the Leeswood Riots, since it was the forcing down of miners' wages which led to the disturbances in Leeswood led to protests and riots and shooting on the streets of Mold. I think it's important to be in touch with our industrial past. Not only coal. In Blast Wood can still be seen remains of one of the earliest Blast Furnaces. In *Lost Industries of Leeswood & District No 4*, I wrote, as follows:

WHEN THE FIRES WENT OUT

In the heart of Leeswood there are still traces of the old blast furnaces designed to make iron. "Blast Wood" and "Blast Row", (houses, now demolished, which were once found opposite Albert Street), are reminders of our iron-making past, but perhaps more surprisingly there exists in the wood today the last traces of an industry which came to life in 1819.

The furnace in Blast Wood (two furnaces in fact, side by side) were most likely built by Thomas Jones of Ruabon, although there was another Thomas Jones, nephew of the great Ironmaster John Wilkinson whose name also comes into the frame. Ownership seems to have changed hands several times over the next 50 years or so, before the final "blow out" in 1867 or 1887. Hartsheath in Pontblyddyn was bought by early owners, the Welsh Iron and Coal Mining Company, to house the new local director of the company, Mr Grey. In the 1830s he was followed in the big house by Mr Thomas Oakley, when he was manager of the company.

As you know, I guess, to make iron you need the raw materials of iron ore, water, limestone and wood (for charcoal) or coal (for coke), preferably close together. It seems likely that by the early nineteenth century any blast furnace in Leeswood or Coed Talon would be coke-fired, rather than charcoal-fired, and there was coal a-plenty in the area. There must have been a good supply of iron ore, too, and Jim Dymond tells me that above a 3 feet coal seam there could often lie an eight-foot seam rich in iron ore. As water was needed to provide the steam power, Welsh furnaces were often constructed on hillsides where streams could provide a constant supply of water. In Blast Wood there is a stream (does it have a name?) which comes down from higher ground up by the old Sun Inn and now dives under the main road at Haydock Close to resurface beyond today's houses in Ffordd Derw and reappear in the wood. From here it cascades down to Pontblyddyn, as many residents have often had reason to notice. So there was a plentiful supply of water, and to conserve supplies Thomas Jones constructed a dam across the stream. It is this stone dam which remains in the wood to this day, and a fine relic of the Industrial Revolution it is. Eventually the iron ore became depleted, its mining uneconomic and the Leeswood Iron Company folded, firing up for the last time in 1867. Or possibly 1887. In Wales steel was to become king.

Railways are another vanished industry, and so to

THE END OF THE LINE

Traces of old railway lines in our community remind us of a once flourishing industry, which eased the transportation of goods and raw materials and was the basis of a flourishing public transport system. You could once travel by train from Coed Talon to Mold, and then join the national network into Chester and beyond. This line, 4½ miles long was authorised by a London and North Western Railway Act of 1866 to run from Tryddyn junction in Mold to the junction at Coed Talon and opened for the movement of goods in 1870 and for passengers in 1892, providing a local train service for some 70 years.

This single track branch line proceeded south from the Tryddyn Junction in Mold, crossing the main road by a bridge which many will remember close to the former North Wales Newspapers. The line went through what is now the Waste Disposal site near Ty-Newydd and continued south over the River Terrig by means of a one-arch brick-built bridge. The line then swung eastwards, under the existing bridge just below Celyn Cottages and through the wood, past Black Meadows, to the industrial sites of Coed Talon. There were four sidings en route, one at Nercwys, one at Plas ym Mhowys, one at Celyn Wood and one at Cae Blyddyn.

At Coed Talon the branch line met another coming up from Padeswood Junction at a short single platform, with station buildings, the stationmaster's house (still standing) and a booking office. It was busy complex, with sidings, goods yards, a weigh machine, signal cabin and a hand-operated level crossing and continued to thrive, being extended to Brymbo (on the Wrexham and Minera Joint Railway line) in 1898.

The passenger service from Mold to Coed Talon was never more than a basic one, though, and by 1922 had reached a peak of four trains daily in each direction, with an extra train on Saturdays

Other industries in the area included brick and tiles, quarries, and more recently the Laura Ashley factory. Leeswood produced oil, too. So if you keep your ear to the ground you may still hear the bright sounds of activity underground, the striking of picks mingling with the songs and voices of the past.

I hope this is not the last edition of Leeswood and District News. I have enjoyed writing about the environment and the history of the area and hope to be able to continue to do so through these pages.

Mike Stevens

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“Flooding in Pontblyddyn 2020

Photographs of the flooding in Pontblyddyn when people living in the Yew Tree Cottage Development next to the Garage had to be taken home along the main road in rubber dinghies supplied by the Fire Brigade.

The houses built on the Marsh opposite the Garage had four feet of water. The late Water Bailiff, Albert formerly Landlord of The Bridge Inn, Pontblyddyn had told the Council Planners that it was dangerous to build on the Marsh and that a local Lady had nearly drowned there, but the local Ward Council Member had voted in favour so the Planning Application was approved. During the building of the houses an 8 foot deep, 20 foot wide and 30 foot long depression was filled with building waste by the builders even though they were clearly told that this filled with water when the weather was wet.

There were terrible floods in Pontblyddyn in 1976 when Elsie, Barmaid at The Bridge Inn who had lived in Alyn Terrace for about 50 years had her packed earth Cottage floor swept out of the house and her furniture floated along the main road towards Wrexham.

It was only in about 1985 that the central “Red Row” cottages in Alyn Terrace had concrete floors laid to replace the earth floors although one of the Cottages still has a part earth floor and no effective damp proof course as the water eventually just glugs away through the floor when the floods come.

In the 1987 floods a new Bed-Settee in one of the Cottages in Alyn Terrace was swirling around on the 8 inches of water in the Sitting room, but the coal fire never went out and the Cottage eventually dried out.

There have been many floods through the years . The latest being in the early hours of Sunday 16th. February 2020 when tenants in 6 of the Alyn Terrace Cottages were forcibly evacuated by their Landlord to an Hotel on the A55. In spite of having stayed during far deeper floods, the property owners had the Electricity cut off at the Telegraph Pole outside so that the tenants could not carry on living in their own homes.

The fire in one of the Cottages did not go out for several days

The flooding was caused by a blocked culvert under the main road near Pontblyddyn Cricket Club. Several of the residents of Alyn Terrace had complained to the Authorities that water was coming up from a metal cover in the Lay-by on the opposite side of the main road The chap who came out told a resident “well it’s not bubbling out now” went away and did nothing. A costly mistake and sad reflection on the stringent cuts in Local Authority spending. Despite many letters there has still been no assurance from Flintshire County Council that they will adequately maintain the Culvert in the future.



From the web-footed residents of Pontblyddyn”



By: Joseph Caruana

THE PANDEMIC

How ill prepared we have been
For the worst pandemic we have seen
With all the potential destructions
We did follow some instruction

The instructions might have been vague
Possibly at time not clear what to intake
For there is a lot that we can learn
Because this has been a great concern

Let us hope the year ahead is better
Let us value the things that matter
We need to pull in one direction
Without any class distinction

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Technical Corner

Joseph Caruana

We are now in the New Year, a year that we hope will be better than the one that has just ended. The Covid-19 virus has knocked the world's economies to a pulp, and it did cost millions of pounds to each individual country around the world to minimise the spread of this dreaded virus. A lot of money has also been invested to develop a vaccine that will combat the virus head-on and bring it under control. Here we have two systems working side by side, and the containment system could be termed as a passive action, because it is merely containing the virus from spreading, while the development of the vaccine can be termed as progressive action, because it will be producing a means to destroy the virus. It is immensely valuable that this country does have the scientists and the capabilities to progressively develop a vaccine. The people from all levels within all the organisations who worked so hard to develop a vaccine deserve some form of recognition for their contribution to save humanity.

There are other sectors in our daily life, who strive to achieve progress to make our lives better, and give us an improved way of living. Here I am referring to those involved in trade and industry, especially manufacturing. First of all we need to understand and differentiate between the two. Trade can be anything that moves goods or services from one place to another irrespective of where the goods are manufactured. Therefore, trade can have either a positive or negative effect on the country's economy. If a trading company imports goods from overseas and sells them in this country, that company is creating a negative balance of trade because the money to purchase the goods in question is leaving the country. On the other hand, if a trading company is involved in exporting goods which are manufactured in this country, it will be creating a positive balance of trade, because by selling products abroad it will bring money into this country. In order to achieve a strong

positive balance of trade, we need to have a strong manufacturing industry.

A strong manufacturing industry does not happen overnight, and it takes a lot of thinking and planning. It also requires a lot of market research to develop products that the consuming public requires. With all this said and done, we might need to start manufacturing products to counter those which we are importing at the moment. I am not referring to those products that we import from certain countries in Asia, but I am referring to products that we are importing from industrialised countries like ourselves. When I was in my early days in industry, I remember a leading industrial intellectual saying that one in every three diesel engines that were manufactured worldwide, were manufactured in this country. Where we went wrong is not of much importance. What is important is that we forge ahead with a clear and strong vision of what we are going to manufacture, in order to continue creating world class employment.

Employment may not be just a job, it may not be just a means of earning money, but employment could be made to be an integral part of life and therefore should be made to be as pleasant as possible. Working in pleasant surroundings helps us to be mentally healthy and therefore be more productive. The lockdown of Covid-19 has brought to the surface how mentally fragile human beings can be when the atmosphere that they are in is not a pleasant one. We have always strived to be the best in what we do, and we have come up with original solutions to identified problems. There is a lot to analyse, and a lot to learn from what has happened over the last twelve months or so. We could turn the catastrophic ordeal of Covid-19 into a positive aftermath and look for ways of how to monitor viral developments in order to take preventative action. We still have one of the best national health services in the world, but we cannot sit back, and we cannot let our guard down. I hope that we all agree that we need to carry on incrementally improving our illustrious health service. It is contributed for by all, and it provides a service for all.

Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Nightingale House Hospice Friendship & Support Group

We wish you all a healthy, simpler and happier New Year in 2021. Last year was a very challenging and difficult one for everyone and we missed seeing you all at our fundraising events. Sadly there is no way that we can arrange future fundraisers while there is still so much risk of Covid 19 infection. We hope that the Vaccination Programme will improve matters.

Sadly since our last report we have lost our Honorary President Mrs Lucille Ingman MBE who died peacefully and painlessly in her own home, as she wished, on 16th. December 2020. Lucille was a Founder Member of the group, later Secretary later still Chairman and in recent years, when her health did not allow her to take an active role, our President.

Lucille was 89 when she died and had enjoyed a happy socially distanced and masked birthday Tea in her garden on 31st. August 2020.

Lucille will be sorely missed by us and by people in: Leeswood, Pontblyddyn, Nercwys, Treuddyn, Pontybodkyn and surrounding areas.

She was involved with the Leeswood News from its founding, and for many years and edited the Millenium book about Leeswood. She was Secretary of the Cedron Chapel, Founder and President for Life of the Pontybodkyn Ladies Guild, actively involved with the Leeswood Carnival. Lucille taught in both Treuddyn and Nercwys.

The Nightingale House Hospice are very grateful for continued support for their Lottery from members of our Community. Anyone wishing to join can telephone them on 01978 316800

This a good way to support the vital work of our local Hospice while we are unable to leave the safety of our homes.

We wish to give our grateful thanks to June Lincoln, the long-serving Editor of the Leeswood News for her support of our Group and for the Community generally. Our events are nothing unless you all know about them and can attend. We wish June and her family all the very best for the future.

We look forward to seeing you all when it is safe to do so.

With love and very best wishes

Anne, Bryn [Treasurer], Bryan, Jane, John And Jennifer

CYNGOR CYMUNED COEDLLAI A PONTBLYDDYN

LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The minutes in this edition are from the meeting held on 3rd March 2020. The reason for the delay in publishing these is that the minutes cannot be released for general viewing until they have been confirmed 'as a true record of proceedings' by the Councillors. This cannot be done until the following meeting, which in this case was held in December 2020. This was due to Covid-19 and the Councillors being unable to meet.

NOTE FROM THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2021 has brought a start to the New Year that most people would not have wanted. Regretfully, we once again find ourselves in lockdown measures to protect our Communities. The Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council hope that all our residents are able to stay safe during these most difficult times.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman (in the Chair),
Councillors L.T. Coleman, D. Foster, Terry Hughes,
Timothy Hughes, L.C. Richardson, G. Sherwood and
R. Williams.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the
Council.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from Councillors J. Atkin-
son, J. Caruana, D.K. Crowther, D. Rule and J.E.
Saul.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST – MEMBERS**CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on
Tuesday 4th February 2020 had been circulated
to all members. It was proposed by Councillor
G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor D.
Foster that these be accepted as a true record
of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

**LOCAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS – FLINT-
SHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Sarah Blake of Flintshire County Council was
present at the meeting. Ms Blake has been in
post since October 2019 and is responsible for
local travel arrangements in Communities
where there are no commercial services.
Commercial services are not within the control
of Flintshire County Council, local travel
arrangements are paid for by the County Coun-
cil. The commercial bus service between
Wrexham and Mold that serves Leeswood is
very well used. Unfortunately, the bus service
that served the local areas including Leeswood
to Broughton/Chester was not well used and
because of this has been withdrawn. It would
have been unfair to have kept the Broughton/
Chester service running when some Flintshire
villages are crying out for bus services.
Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman and Ms Blake
have been in discussion about Demand
Responsive Transport. The aim of this is to pick
passengers up at their home address and

transfer them to the nearest bus stop, giving
them a link to the commercial services. It is not
to take them directly to Mold or Wrexham as
there can be no competition with the current
commercial services available. The bus would
wait at the bus stop with the passengers until
the commercial service bus arrived. A booking
system has been organised and passengers
have a contact number to book their place. At
present this service is available on Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Saturdays. Passengers would be
required to pay a £10 one-off fee to show a
commitment to the service. Councillors wel-
comed this initiative as there was concern that
the elderly residents of the Community, in par-
ticular those who lived in the Pensioners bun-
galows, were in danger of becoming isolated.
Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman and Councillor
Terry Hughes were to deliver leaflets advertis-
ing this new service to the residents of the Pen-
sioners bungalows. Ms Blake was to make ar-
rangements to attend a meeting of the Senior
Citizens group. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman,
thanked Ms Blake for attending the meeting.

POLICE LIAISON

PCSO 3684 Peter Jones was unable to attend
this evening. He had forwarded an e-mail to
the Clerk.

Incident update - (from 02/02/2020 to
29/02/2020)

**Crime Issues/Trends (updates from last
month)**

Bryn Clyd, Leeswood – theft of a motor vehicle
– a vehicle has been taken via unknown means
in the middle of the night. Vehicle was later lo-
cated in the Wrexham area. Forensics experts
have examined vehicle. All lines of enquiry
have now been investigated and no suspects
have been identified.

Birch Court, Leeswood – common assault –
Person reported being assaulted by the
neighbour. Enquiries are on-going. Bryn Clyd,
Leeswood – burglary – section of rear patio
door has been smashed and the door has then
been unlocked with the key that had

been left in the door. Watch and collectable 50p's stolen from within. All lines of enquiry have been completed no suspect has been identified.

ASB Issues

Community Centre, Leeswood - ASB – youths causing a nuisance at the rear of the location reportedly using drugs. The youths had left the area prior to Officer attendance.

Henffordd, rear of Bryn Clyd, Leeswood - ASB – persons using motorbikes in an anti-social manner. Officers had attended but bikes had vacated the area prior to arrival.

Other News/PCSO activities

Wrexham Road, Pontblyddyn – drugs warrant conducted. No drugs were found.

A541, Pontblyddyn – driver failed roadside drug test.

Bowling Club, Leeswood – the PCSO has been made aware of issues of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour on site. He is patrolling the area but would be grateful for any information on those causing the issues.

CEMETERY

Councillors noted that the Cemetery was looking very well. It was pointed out that Mr Aled Davies and his team were doing a very good job there. All Councillors were in agreement that they are very pleased with the Cemetery. The Chairman, Councillor R. Hughes reported that Mr Aled Davies and his team had now removed the Church car park wall. A new bin store had been erected in the corner of the Church car park adjacent to the Cemetery entrance. All Councillors agreed that an e-mail should be sent to Mr Aled Davies thanking him for his work.

Councillor Terry Hughes advised that the door to the Cemetery notice board has come off. Councillor G. Sherwood offered to look for a suitable replacement

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Application – 060952

Erection of new attached single garage

The Trees, Oak Park, Leeswood, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4UH.

Councillors had no objection to this application.

Planning Application – 060960

Erection of a detached dwelling

Land adjacent to Oakville Bungalow, Oak Villas, Oak Park, Leeswood, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4SQ.

Councillors expressed concern with water issues at this site and it was felt that the size of the plot was not big enough for the proposed size of the dwelling.

AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman advised that the lunch club was very well attended. The Community Café was also doing well with regular attendance, although there had been an increase of residents present during the recent School half-term. Plans were being considered to hold afternoon teas during the School summer holidays. There would be no lunch club when the School was closed for summer.

WALES AUDIT OFFICE – CONSULTATION ON FUTURE AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS IN WALES 2020/21

ONWARDS

The Auditor General is required to audit the annual accounts of all community and town councils in Wales. From 2020-21 onwards, a three-year audit programme is proposed which is designed to meet statutory responsibilities while providing a sufficient level of audit assurance at a reasonable cost. The Auditor General is seeking the views of interested parties on the proposed audit arrangements. Members had been circulated with a copy of the document 'Invitation to Comment: Future Audit Arrangements for Community Councils in Wales 2020/21 Onwards' for their reference. Consultation closes on 19th March 2020. All Councillors agreed that the Clerk should respond.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL WALES BOARD – 'TIME TO GO HOME?'

Members had been circulated with a copy of

the latest Press Release and accompanying document from the Community Health Council Wales Board relating to the impact of delays when people are well enough to leave hospital. This was accepted.

ONE VOICE WALES – RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP 2020/21

E-mail correspondence had been received from Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive, One Voice Wales. This was circulated to all Members with a copy of correspondence detailing what One Voice Wales have been doing on our behalf during the 2019/2020 financial year and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' Leaflet in relation to the work of One Voice Wales. Councillor G. Sherwood commented that membership of One Voice Wales was beneficial to this Council. The Clerk agreed stating that many informative e-mails were received from them and this was most appreciated. All Councillors agreed that membership should be renewed.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – REGIONAL HOMELESS STRATEGY

Members had been circulated with a copy of correspondence from Neal Cockerton, Chief Officer, Housing and Assets, Flintshire County Council advising on the introduction of the 'Streetlink App' which enables a more consistent method of reporting rough sleeping and allows better data collection to ensure that support is targeted in the areas most required. This was accepted.

WELSH GOVERNMENT – BEYOND RECYCLING

For their information Members had been circulated with a copy of the Welsh Government 'Beyond Recycling – Consultation Document Guide'. Also circulated was a schedule of dates where Consultation Events are being held across Wales. The Consultation Period closes on 3rd April 2020. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk should respond to this Consultation.

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Road through Leeswood from the Doctor's Surgery to the Wylfa Farm , – as Councillors

had been previously informed, the re-surfacing has failed. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman advised that the re-surfacing will be done by the contractor hired by Flintshire County Council for free, work commencing mid-March 2020, weather permitting.

b) Flooding at Pontblyddyn – Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, reported that the pipes had silted up, but this issue has now been resolved. The obstruction in the river by the Cricket Club had been removed and the water had dissipated.

c) Henffordd, Leeswood – Councillor R. Hughes informed that Officers of the County Council have inspected Henffordd, Leeswood. It had been noted that the sleeping policemen had been installed straight across which was not correct. A lot of remedial work would be required to correct the issues.

AGENDA ITEMS AWAITING COMPLETION/ FURTHER INFORMATION

a) Parking issues – Bell's Corner

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 274 of the April 2017 meeting. The yellow lines would be painted in once the road re-surfacing had been complete.

b) Pontblyddyn Crossroads

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 151 of the October 2017 meeting. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman advised that the County Council were now ready to submit a scheme.

c) Environmental act 2016 – Community & Town Councils duty under section 6

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 127 of the October 2019 meeting. No further progress has been made.

d) Visibility issues junction of Constitution Hill, Leeswood

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 130 of the October 2019 meeting. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman reported that monitoring in this area is ongoing.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.30pm.

Reflections Hair Salon

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We are hoping that you have managed to stay safe over this difficult period. We are looking at, hopefully, opening up the Salon in February (depending on Government guidelines).

Once we have an opening date, I (sarah) will be ringing those people that had appointments from the 19th December, when we went into lockdown. I will be calling you all in order starting with the 19th December appointments.

If you are looking for an appointment, then please ring us and we will be happy to help.

Sarah, Jordan and Naomi

All covid rules will be followed—masks must be worn before entering salon.

Please wash your hands when entering the salon.

Thank you for helping to keep us all safe

** ANNOUNCEMENT **

When we re-open Jordan will be bringing back Wednesday appointments.

For the first month, only - to those that book for a Wednesday appointment with **Jordan a 15% discount** is on offer. To qualify you need to either bring this printed page or/ a screen shot or/ picture of the page (NB: no discount applicable when booking a deposit or coming in with a gift voucher.

For your information:

June will still be available to mobile and Weddings when the rules allow



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