

# Leeswood & District News

May 2021

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

Issue 402



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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?

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**Mobile:**

### **DEADLINE DATES - June, July, & August 2021**

June Edition - Tuesday 18th May 2021

July Edition - Friday 18th June 2021

August Edition - Sunday 18th July 2021



# NOT BEING THE GREAT PRETENDER

Many of us are familiar with the 1956 song by the Platters 'The Great Pretender' with the lyrics, "Oh yes, I'm the great pretender, pretending that I'm doing well; My need is such, I pretend too much; I'm lonely but no one can tell." This song may bring back fond memories for some, but as we read of the story of Jesus' betrayal by Judas in Matthew 26, we discover that the greatest betrayal in history had its root in a great pretence.

In a sense, Judas was The Great Pretender, pretending to be someone that he wasn't, but someone he probably really wanted to be. How often do those words seem to describe our very own lives? Pretending to be someone we're not, but someone we would really like to be?

A 34 year old man was arrested for pretending to be a policeman. One evening, he pulled over a car by using his emergency lights only

to find out that the driver of the car really was a policeman!

No wonder Jesus loved children so much. Children never hide behind a veil, they reveal who they are and don't care what you may know about them. Whether it's an ice cream cone or spinach, or whether it's time to play or time to take a nap, children's faces reveal what's in their hearts.

Without an anchor for the soul that is found in Jesus, our lives can become a sham of their true selves as God intended. When we open up to God with a childlike honesty we discover that we no longer need to put on a show. He knows us and takes us as we are, and the amazing thing is that He still loves us. It is at that moment we truly stop pretending.

John Mainwaring 27.04.21

based on an article by David MCGowin



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 May/June 2021**

May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Clive Davies	June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Davies
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Davies	June 13 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Davies
May 16 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Davies	June 20 <sup>th</sup>	Adrian Patterson
May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Byrne	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Davies
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Clive Davies		

### **Message from Cedron's Minister - Clive Davies writes:**

As we move on through the Eastertime period to the Ascension, Jesus tells us He is the way the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except by Him. We shout with joy and say to God how wonderful are His ways! We SEE Jesus revealing Himself to His disciples! Oh they of little faith! How could they have doubted Him! Jesus Resurrection was a shock to His followers! They didn't believe He would actually do it! Cheat death and find victory for each and every one of us. He tells us that in His Father's House are many Mansions! If it were not true, He would have told us! At Jesus Ascension. He tells us that all authority in Heaven and on earth have been given to Him. We must go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit teaching all that He has commanded us. He tells us that He is with us always, to the close of time! So, during these wonderful months of Spring, may we sing to the Most High God with shouts of joy! God has ascended with a shout of triumph, for He is the King of the earth. He tells us that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, and we will be His witnesses to the ends of the earth! Thanks be to God Amen.

Thanks be to God Amen. Clive Davies (Minister of Cedron Chapel)

For anyone wishing to contact Clive, please call: Tel: 01244 536988 (Mob: 07811 807446)

### **One day or three?**

Viewing the celebration of our Lord's resurrection at Eastertime, one might query how 3 days can be squeezed in between Good Friday and the Saturday night/Sunday morn. After all, Matthew 12:40 makes it clear that "...the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth". We know from Mark 15:42, Luke 23:52-54, & John 19:31 that the day following the crucifixion was a sabbath, but the accounts of Luke 23:55,56 and Mark 16:1 seem in conflict as to whether the spices for treating the body were bought/prepared before or after the sabbath. To resolve this conflict, we should recall that in addition to the weekly (Saturday) sabbaths, there were seven 'high' sabbaths each year, one being first day of the feast of the unleavened bread which follows the day of Passover. Based on studies of Passover dates, it has been asserted that Jesus was crucified on Wednesday April 11th in 31 AD. Thursday being a high sabbath, the spices were bought & prepared on Friday to be taken to anoint the body first thing on the Sunday morning following the (Saturday) Sabbath. I raise this point not that we should fuss about changing the way we celebrate the resurrection, after all surely the most important point is to declare and celebrate that Christ is risen! but only that in accordance with 1 Peter 3:15 we should "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you..."

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

## Christ Church, Pontblyddyn

### SERVICES DURING MAY & JUNE 2021

#### **SUNDAY MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> – EASTER 5**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MR ROGER SMITH

#### **SUNDAY MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> – EASTER 6**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MRS MEL MORGAN

#### **SUNDAY MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> – EASTER 7**

11.15 A.M. EUCHARIST  
CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

#### **SUNDAY MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> – PENTECOST**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MR GARETH WILLIAMS

#### **SUNDAY MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> – TRINITY SUNDAY**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER  
OFFICIANT: MR ROGER SMITH

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> – TRINITY 1**

11.15 A.M. EUCHARIST  
CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> TRINITY 2**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> TRINITY 3**

11.15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

#### **SUNDAY JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> – TRINITY 4**

11.15 A.M. EUCHARIST  
CELEBRANT: REV CAROLE POOLMAN

EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN OUR SERVICES  
MASKS MUST BE WORN, SANITISER IS AVAILABLE  
AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IS IN PLACE.

*PLEASE NOTE THESE SERVICES  
ARRANGEMENTS  
MAY CHANGE*

## OPENING CHRIST CHURCH,



### PONTBLYDDYN

Unfortunately, we are still unable to have the church open daily, as we used to do. However, it is open every Friday from 10.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and can be opened at other times by request.



Our next **Messy Church** will be on  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 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](mailto:kathy12oct@sky.com)  
By Sunday 9th May

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

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Rev'd Carole Poolman, The Rectory, Llanfynydd, Wrexham. LL11 5HH.  
**Phone:** 01978 762304  
**Email:** [carolepoolman@cinw.org.uk](mailto:carolepoolman@cinw.org.uk)

*Although the church building is closed for much of the time, 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*



# The Methodist Church

## Wesley Church, Leeswood

**Having reviewed our Covid 19 Risk Assessment we are ready to return to Wesley for twice monthly worship services beginning on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021.**



**23<sup>rd</sup> May Morning Worship 10.45 am**  
led by Rev Pat Christopher

### Why Pentecost?

The disciples had been told by Peter and John that the tomb was empty; by Mary that Jesus had risen; by Cleopas and his companion that Jesus had talked and eaten with them but most of the disciples were yet to move from being told about the resurrection to experiencing it. They were men of this world but Jesus invited them as he does us, to be people of heaven as well. The sign that this was not the end for Jesus was evident in the tomb; when a master leaves the table he shows by his napkin whether or not he wishes to return. If he is finished the napkin will be crumpled but if he wishes to return, he will fold it. In the tomb the face cloth was folded signalling to all who saw it that he was not finished. Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room greeting them with words of peace to reassure them. He invited them to touch his wounds and then ate with them.

Jesus proved by appearing to them that he was not just a figment of their imaginations or a desperate hope in the midst of despair but that the resurrection was true and real. This man was real; no ghost; no illusion but the risen Christ and so their journey as men of heaven began with this encounter and with Jesus' explanation to them. Like them, our faith should not be something lost in fantasy or fiction. It should be grounded in the real and tangible experience of Christ among us. For Christians faith is not some theoretical idea; it is something we can touch. Jesus longed for them and longs for us to understand what is written and spoken about him. Studying these passages does not mean we will have all the answers but rather that we are willing to witness to what we know by the way we live and treat others for it is by knowing Jesus that we begin to know ourselves.

My husband likes to watch Judge Judy, who deals with small claims in New York. She has a no nonsense approach and expects people to be ready for their appearance in court and witness to their side of the case. Jesus expects us to do the same, not to have all the answers but to be willing to explain clearly how knowing Jesus affects our everyday living.

Jesus invites us to open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to this new life that he is offering to us. "You are witnesses of these things," he says to us. The resurrected life is ours. We probably did not ask to be witnesses but with the help of one another and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit we will be people of both earth and heaven as we wait for the master to return.

We celebrate and remember the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost which is celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> May this year and you are invited to join us at Wesley to learn more about and experience the power of the Holy Spirit.

Rev Pat

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# Leeswood Allotments

Writing this report in mid April, the weather has been dry, sunny but cold. According to the weather forecasters, the temperature has been below the average for this time of year.

On the allotments the plots have been prepared and some manure has been delivered and we are itching to get planting and sowing. However we know it would be foolhardy to do so until the chance of frost has passed.

The ground is gradually warming up and there are ways to test the temperature of the soil. The temperature measured in the first four inches below ground level is called the top soil temperature and an optimum soil temperature is a vital part of a successful germination process.



However I cannot see anyone on the Leeswood Allotment site resorting to an old method of assessing soil temperature, described recently by both Alan Titchmarsh and Monty Don. It involves placing one's bare bottom on the ground!! Apparently gardeners who did this in years gone by could judge whether to start planting or to wait a little longer.



I read somewhere that before planting anything, you should plant a thermometer. Soil thermometers can be purchased from garden centres and on the internet for around six pounds. This is definitely my preferred method.



The Leeswood bees have been busy for some weeks now as the picture shows and the sheep in the field next to the allotments now have their lambs with them, all signs that the days are getting warmer and longer. Hopefully, by the time The Leeswood and District News goes out at the beginning of May, we will have determined (one way or another??) that the soil has warmed up sufficiently to allow the magical process of germination to begin and we will be sowing and planting something for the new season.

## WALKING THE FOOTPATHS IN LEESWOOD & DISTRICT

### **No: 23 - LLANFYNYDD 'BY TRAIN'**

*This is a trouble-free path along the old railway line from the Railway Inn Car park in Coed Talon to Llanfynydd. No trains now, but the railway line means a level walk now. Return along the slopes of Hope Mountain and back down to your starting point. This return section has some problems, which can be avoided.*

*Distance about 4 miles. Allow 3 hours. It's possible to walk to the starting point from Leeswood Community Centre and I give a possible route.*

1. Leave Leeswood Community Centre Car Park at the rear and go into Phoenix Park. Keep close to the fencing on your left and make for the path leading to the yellow gate. Go through and out at the other end via a similar yellow gate and turn right.
2. Continue along the broad path with playing fields on the right, through a gateway onto a narrower track to reach the brow of the hill. You need to look out for an unmarked path off to the left which will take you down first through a field and then in woodland, descending to the old pipe works. The path enters habitation through a wide gate, so go through and use the entrance way to reach Pontybodkin. Turn right into Ffordd-y-Bont and follow the road for a short distance, before using a shortcut on the left to reach the main road, the A 5104. Turn right and make your way to the Railway Inn. The Car Park is on the other side of the road.

#### ***New readers start here:***

3. Follow the route of the old railway line, starting with a gate into the Pwll Coed Nature Reserve. From here the walk is plain sailing, or plain walking rather. From time to time tempting paths go off right and left, but steer a straightforward course for a mile or so to reach the main road between Llanfynydd and Treuddyn, via a field gate and a walkers' gate. Turn left and walk along the road to the village. Over to the right you will see the level crossing keeper's house. There is no pavement here, and there is a surprising amount of traffic on the road, so keep a look out, particularly on the hill rise.

4. As you come into the village notice the main entrance of the Riding Stables†, on the left. Here routes diverge.

#### **5. ROUTE A, by minor road. The preferred route.**

Go to the crossroads in the village and turn sharp left, noticing the waymark sign on the electricity pole and continue uphill. Almost immediately, on the left, you may see traces of a PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, gained by scrambling up the bank\* towards fields. Ignore this, however, and continue all the way up the minor road, following it round as it takes a sharp left-hand bend and continue towards Mynydd Buchan.

#### **6. The reason why you have to avoid the scramble up the hedgerow\* is as follows**

Although there is a PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY across fields here it is only possible to get so far. On the last occasion I tried this walk [April 2021] it was possible to get to the top of the bank and climb over the fence, following a route then between the old hedge on your right and a new fence on the left to reach a stile, difficult to climb, but possible. If you continue along, as before, between old hedge and new fence, tiptoeing through the daffodils you will reach another stile, in the corner, as it were, to find yourself in a field devoted to horses. Unfortunately **\*there is no way out of this field\*** Although the footpath on the map claims a route to the far left-hand corner, there is no stile there, only a formidable fence. We had some discussion with the owner of the property, who recommended using the main entrance to the Riding Stables† **So, onto ROUTE B.**

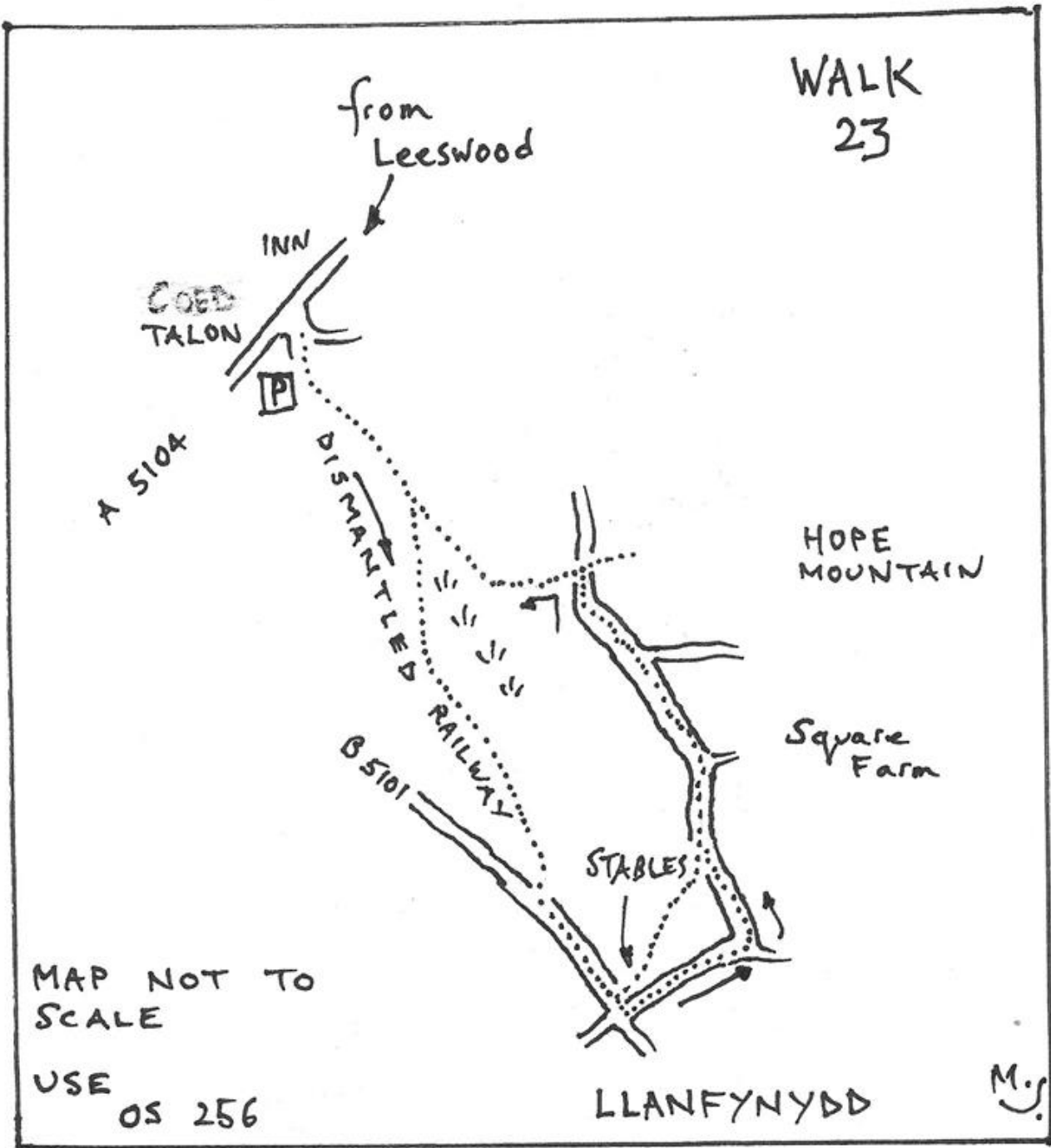
**7. ROUTE B cross field.** Start at the Riding Stables entrance† on the main road into Llanfynydd.

Go through the Riding Stables forecourt and continue up the track in a North-Easterly direction.

**\*This will bring you alongside the field\*** you should have crossed. Go ahead to a field gate across the track.

WALKING THE FOOTPATHS IN LEESWOOD & DISTRICT

No: 23 - LLANFYNYDD 'BY TRAIN'



## .No: 23 - LANFYNYDD 'BY TRAIN'

Once through the gate continue along the track to reach a T-junction {of tracks}. Here you turn left and follow the track. You are now back along the route of the public right of way, but if you thought your troubles were over, think again.

8. Follow this track down to a point where it crosses a stream and divides. Here the way forward is along a footpath through the field gate opposite [no waymark] into a field [with horses in!] Aim for the top right-hand corner of the field where there is a walkers' gate [no waymark, and very difficult to open, suggesting it is not used very often]. You are now in another field with horses in. Once in this field go uphill, keeping the field edge to your right to a field corner. Here you will find yet another obstacle. The new fence system has been constructed in front of the old fence system. This means that you can see the stile you need to cross, but cannot reach it.

9. To resolve this problem, continue along the field edge to the left-hand corner. Here you can crawl under the fence and retreat back between new and old fences to the stile you long to reach. The stile is well constructed and you can use this to climb over onto another substantial track. Pity you can't reach it the first time. Cross the track and on the other side you will find a stile, two stiles in fact, to provide access into a field.

10. Continue uphill in this field, keeping the field edge to your right, to reach a field corner where, surprise surprise, you will discover another new fence to negotiate to reach another track.

11. On the other side of this track you will find a stile, with a waymark on a post, confirming that this is in fact a public right of way and that you have been in the right all along! Cross this stile onto a road where you turn left. You now join Route A as you make for the settlement of Mynydd Buchan.

### ROUTES A and B

Continue along the road, discovering a footpath off right to Squares Farm which you ignore. Just before you come to "Fairhaven" [which I take to be the new name for Mynydd Buchan], there is a footpath going off to the left via a stile. A waymark on a post is tempting, and this will in fact take you down to the old Railway Line, but I did it once and nearly got sucked into the marsh down below. All I needed was the Hound of the Baskervilles to make my journey complete. So I would advise not going down there.

Instead, continue along the road, which is joined from the right by another road coming down from Hope Mountain. Carry on along the road, on the level, and see a driveway going off to Cae Glas, left, which you ignore. After a short distance you come to a footpath crossing the road. Over to the right the footpath goes up to Hope Mountain, and down to the left back to Coed Talon, which is the one you want. Cross over the stile, complete with waymark and post, and another stile almost immediately which leads into a field, the start of your descent.

The field slopes down to a sturdy oak tree, where there is a stile in the hedge to your left. Once over follow the field down, field edge to your left to a stile in the corner. Cross this stile and you are on a slim bridleway, where you turn right. After a very short distance you reach another stile, complete with waymark. In this next field you go, surprisingly, somewhat uphill to reach a corner and a stile under trees. Complete with purpose-built dog-stile, no less. You are now in a much larger field with perhaps some uncertainty as to which way to go, particularly in mist.

Follow a diagonal, if that makes sense. There are some buildings ahead in the distance, which you could aim for. There were traces of a path in the grass, too, when we walked it. Another direction-finder is a mass of blackthorn in flower, but then all this is seasonal and may not be there when you come. Just before you reach the blackthorn there is a waymark on a post close to the ground. Plunge more steeply downhill now into scrubland, dotted with more mature trees.

Not far down you reach another well-made two-step stile with waymarks plus a dog stile. Continue down to the bottom where you reach the marshy area I mentioned earlier, and you will appreciate why walking is difficult on this side of the railway line. At the bottom there is a stile, right, with steps leading you up into safety. Follow this next, carefully designed section, with more steps, down this time, to reach the railway line where you turn right and head back to Coed Talon.

*Mike Stevens*

## Technical Corner

Joseph Caruana

It has become common knowledge to everyone, that the economy is now a global economy, and things have changed from what they were twenty or thirty years ago. The economy is controlled by those who have the financial strength to dictate where industry is practiced and how it is practiced. This is likely to create a scenario that could pitch one country against another and make them compete to attract industrial investment. For a government to emerge successful in attracting industrial investment, it needs to interact with the people and understand the disposable talent within their population.

Globalisation has also effected the protection of intellectual property, and inventors are finding it difficult to protect their inventions from being copied by manufacturers in the Far East, notably in China. However, the blame does not only rest with far eastern countries, because these practices may at times be indirectly encouraged by western financial establishments, or industrial giants.

We may be in a situation where we need to protect our talent, before it is too late. If people start to think that their inventions are being stolen and copied in the Far East, they might stop inventing altogether. Inventive communities are needed, and should be encouraged. Inventors should also feel protected by those in power, because individual inventors do not have the financial strength to protect their inventions from being exploited by industrial giants in the Far East.

A question that might be asked, is how has China became such a strong economy in such a short time. There is also the question of who initially invested in China, and started

the ball rolling. The Chinese economy started like a small snow-ball rolling down a mountain, gathering speed and increasing in size, developing itself into an unstoppable avalanche. What is a fact is that the monstrosity of the Chinese economy is destroying all that it finds in its way, like an avalanche coming down a mountain. As one might have noticed, the Far East has expanded and developed rather rapidly. Also, allot of western investment has been flowing into the region. However, the west does not seem to have much influence over the commercial activities of China, and it might look as if the Chinese economy is the results of a western commercial experiment that might have not gone as it was expected to go.

If we look at industrial history, one might see that products manufactured in the west, have always dominated the market. However, as industrial manufacturing keeps shifted towards the Far East, one might start to wonder at what the overall effect would be if the manufacturing trend keeps heading in that direction. There is a mountain of questions that one might ask, but is of great concern is how are we going to recover the wealth that is flowing towards the Far East.

Western society has grown accustomed to a flood of cheap goods manufactured in the Far East. However it is imperative that people in the west need to understand that we have to start thinking of how to stop the commercial avalanche from the Far East which is wrecking our industry. It might not be an easy task, but we have to start manufacturing again, and we have to start exporting again. We need to motivate ourselves forward and create a manufacturing base that would provide a platform from where one could be inspired to develop intellectual talent with commercial success.



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## Nightingale Hospice - Our Lottery

Lottery lifeline helps keep hospice delivering patient care.

With the closure of all our retail outlets and cafés and the cancellation of face-to-face fundraising events during lockdown the lottery has become a beacon of hope for Nightingale House.

As a result, we have been encouraging more people to come forward and join the lottery, to inject much needed cash into providing vital services for those people with life-limiting illnesses. Each week you could be in with a chance of winning the jackpot prize of £2,500.

Thanks to the generosity of almost 16,000 people who have already signed up, the hospice lottery it raised over £500k in 2020. It costs over £3.64m per year to run the hospice and all our services are free of charge. The lottery raises enough money to cover the hospice running costs for almost two months each year - 58 days to be precise!



Lottery winner Wendy Williams was delighted to receive her winning cheque and used the money to buy a puppy. Wendy said: "This came in very handy as it helped me buy my beautiful little companion Annie, who has brought such pleasure to me and kept me sane during lockdown. I'm hoping that we'll be able to take part in some fundraising walks when this strange time is over."

David Hughes has been a regular fundraiser for the hospice for many years and signed up for the lottery in May last year. "I realised that a lot of other revenue raising events would not take place, therefore the least I could do was to join the lottery, so the hospice would get a regular income.

"In 2006 my Mum was diagnosed with cancer and spent her last weeks in Nightingale House. The cruel irony of this was that my Mum, a former Staff nurse at the old Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, used to come out with coffee and cake at the end of our sponsored bike rides, little knowing then that she would soon be needing it's services."



We would like to thank family and friends, including the Ladies Guild for all the cards, flowers and gifts sent to celebrate our Diamond Wedding anniversary.

*Ron and Gill Burton*

## Litter! Don't you just hate it?!

Cans of fizzy drink and cheap lager; bottles of plain water and 'paper' cups, fast-food packaging; sweet wrappers and crisp packets: what have they all got in common? They are all being thrown out of cars and vans along our roadsides each and every day. Maybe not all of us notice it as much as others; maybe some of it will be hidden as the grass starts to grow and general traffic grinds some of it into little pieces. Yet our own local lanes are full of the stuff.



The good news is that it doesn't take much effort, or many people, to clear it up. Already people are coming forward in Leeswood to say 'Enough is enough! Don't treat where I live as your litter bin!' There is now a new anti-litter group you can join called 'Flintshire Litter Pickers'. How does it work? Just find them on Facebook and ask to join. Thanks to links with FCC there are supplies of brightly coloured plastic bags available (plain black may be seen as fly-tipping) and litter-pickers, either from the group or via your local Councillor. All you need then is a pair of gloves. Go out yourself, or maybe with a friend and clear up the litter. Got a full bag? Easy: you just put it by any local litter bin & email [streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk) & they will come and take it away asap. Job done! Its good exercise and you can see an immediate difference in where you live. What's not to like?!

Leeswood litter pickers group is on Facebook anyone who is interested please join in or contact me on email if not on Facebook at [hughesmoya@gmail.com](mailto:hughesmoya@gmail.com)

Poem by: Joseph Caruana

### **Birds Will Sing**

Whatever the day may bring  
The birds will always sing  
In the morning and in the evening  
You can always hear them singing

The days are getting longer  
Spring time wild life is getting stronger  
Flowers here and flowers there  
Lovely colours everywhere

Life goes on and on  
Dark nights have almost gone  
We now look forward to the summer  
For one's happiness is all that matter



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9th March 2021

**PRESENT**

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman (in the Chair), Councillors J. Caruana, D.K. Crowther, D. Foster, Terry Hughes, Timothy Hughes, L.C. Richardson, J.E. Saul and G. Sherwood.

Also in attendance Marie Reynolds – Clerk to the Council.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Councillors J. Atkinson, L.T. Coleman and R. Williams.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the annual meeting held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 had been circulated to all members. It was proposed by Councillor D.K. Crowther and seconded by Councillor L.C. Richardson that these be accepted as a true record of proceedings. All Councillors in agreement.

**POLICE LIAISON**

Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, advised that PCSO 3684 Peter Jones was now a Police Constable. There was a new PCSO in place and he would look into the Clerk receiving reports.

**CEMETERY**

Residents had praised the condition of the Cemetery, stating that it was looking very well. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, pointed out that Mr Aled Davies and his team were doing a very good job there. All Councillors were pleased that the Cemetery was receiving these favourable comments.

The Chairman, Councillor R. Hughes reported that he had met with Mrs Danielle Chapman who had requested permission to instal a seat in memory of her late husband. This seat would be installed alongside the other seats on the top section of plot 5.

Councillor G. Sherwood advised that some of the new hedge laurels were looking yellow in parts. It was agreed by all Councillors that these would be inspected regularly and replaced if necessary.

**MINISTERIAL ADVISING FORUM ON AGEING (MAFA)**

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Emma Harney, Partnership and Co-Operation Division, Welsh Government, advising that the Deputy Health Minister for Health and Social Services has launched the public consultation for the Strategy for an Ageing Society. The consultation document had also been circulated. This closes on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk complete this on behalf of the Council.

**ONE VOICE WALES AND SAVE A LIFE CYMRU**

E-mail correspondence from Gwenda Lloyd Davies

informing that One Voice Wales and Save a Life Cymru are working together to encourage Communities in Wales to understand the importance of learning CPR and using a defibrillator had been circulated to all Members. Following a discussion, it was decided that suggestions for a place in Leeswood village to site a further defibrillator be brought to the next monthly meeting. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, was to make enquiries with Flintshire County Council as to whether they would be able to help with the required electrical feed.

**NHS, SOCIAL CARE & FRONTLINE WORKERS DAY – 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR, Pageantmaster, advising of the intention to hold a special day to celebrate and commemorate those that work twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week without any thought of their own safety. The Clerk informed that Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, had previously expressed a wish to organise a Community Council funded event at the Community Centre for the key worker residents of the Community who had worked during the Coronavirus pandemic. It was agreed by all Councillors that this be added to the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

**HM LAND REGISTRY – SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCILS IN WALES**

A copy of e-mail correspondence from Mr Lyn Cadwallader, CEO, One Voice Wales, advising that that HM Land Registry is tasked with registering all public sector body land by 2025 had been circulated to all Members. This survey had been developed by HM Land Registry in conjunction with One Voice Wales, closing date for the survey was 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The Clerk advised that she had completed this survey on behalf of this Community Council.

**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - SUMMER PLAY-SCHEME 2021**

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Janet A Roberts, Play Development Officer, Flintshire County Council, informing that the cost of the three-week Playscheme for 2021 will be £1,428.90. Additional weeks can be purchased at a charge of £476.30 per week. The Clerk reported that she had requested a six-week Playscheme as the financing for this had been agreed at the Precept meeting.

**LEESWOOD AND PONTBLYDDYN AGE FRIENDLY STEERING GROUP**

A copy of e-mail correspondence from Councillor G. Sherwood who wrote in his capacity as Chairman of the Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Age

9th March 2021

Friendly Steering Group had been circulated to all Councillors. Councillor Sherwood advised that the Steering Group has small surplus funds and have been looking to locate a bench in the Community as this is encouraged by the Older People's Commissioner to assist those who are less mobile and need to rest frequently. The location suggested is the grass verge in front of Ysgol Derwenfa which is on route to the Co-Op from the OAP bungalows. It is requested by the Steering Group that this Council considers assisting in getting a bench installed by contributing towards the cost and obtaining the necessary permission from Flintshire County Council. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, was to make enquiries with the Headteacher of Ysgol Derwenfa and Flintshire County Council to see if the installation of a bench on the verge by the School was acceptable. All Councillors agreed that funding support would be given if permission was obtained.

### **CENSUS 2021**

For their information, members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Fiona Mocko, Strategic Policy Advisor, Flintshire County Council. Also circulated was the Councillors handbook for the Census 2021. The Census 2021 will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Every 10 years the census gives a complete picture of the nation and comparing different groups of people. Census population estimates are vital in helping to shape the communities in which we live and work, so it is important that we all complete the Census. Flintshire County Council will be following the Census Twitter pages and be posting tweets to encourage everyone to complete the Census 2021. There is also have a link to Census jobs on the jobs page on the

### **STREETSCENE AREA CO-ORDINATOR ATTENDANCE AT TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Barry Wilkinson, Highway Network Manager, Flintshire County Council, advising that in recognition of the on-going burden that the pandemic is having on frontline services, he is writing to ask that when requiring our local Area Coordinator to attend meetings, could we provide details of the issues to be discussed in advance and a time for the Area Coordinator to log-in and attend the remote meeting.

In his correspondence, Mr Wilkinson explained that the team of Area Coordinators are key in providing frontline and out-of-hours cover for the service, and this role has been flexible in supporting a number of functions throughout Streetscene since the initial impact of the pandemic, whilst also covering absence within the

team and the additional demand of adverse weather in recent weeks, and they are therefore seeking to reduce the out of hours commitment on these key members of staff.

If the issues in hand require attendance for greater than 30 minutes, then details of the issues should be provided to the relevant Operational Area Manager for them to discuss with their team and provide a response in advance of the meeting, or that they attend in place of the Area Coordinator, subject to the extent of the issues. All Councillors agreed that this be added to the agenda for the next monthly meeting where a discussion would take place on questions to put to the Area Coordinator who would be invited to the May monthly meeting.

### **ONE VOICE WALES – TRAINING SESSIONS MARCH 2021**

Members had been circulated with a copy of e-mail correspondence from Wendy Patience, Administrator, One Voice Wales, advising of the training sessions available during March 2021. This was accepted.

### **WELSH GOVERNMENT - LITTER AND FLY-TIPPING PREVENTION PLAN**

E-mail correspondence from Dr Catrin Jones, Policy Officer, One Voice Wales, advising that the Welsh Government is currently consulting on its new Litter and Fly-tipping Prevention Plan for Wales had been circulated to all Members. The consultation ends on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021. One Voice Wales will be submitting a response and would be grateful for the views of Town and Community Councils by the end of March 2021. Also circulated were the relevant parts of the consultation document and the questions to be answered. This was accepted.

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

- a) Repairing of potholes in the villages of Leeswood and Pontblyddyn – Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman advised that this remedial work had taken place, although he was aware that those on County Road, Leeswood had been left out.
- b) Ffordd Siarl play area, Leeswood – Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, reported that new play equipment had been installed and drainage work had taken place.
- c) Area by kissing gate accessing football field next to Skate Park – Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman had informed in the December 2020 monthly meeting that Flintshire County Council had been advised that this area had become very muddy. This remains outstanding due to the issues still being incurred because of the pandemic.

### **AGENDA ITEMS AWAITING COMPLETION/ FURTHER INFORMATION**

- a) Parking issues – Bell's Corner

9th March 2021

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. It is acknowledged that work here remains outstanding and the situation with the pandemic is not helping.

b) Pontblyddyn Crossroads

This item remains on the Agenda as per Minute 151 of the October 2017 meeting. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, advised that Flintshire County Council have not yet received any information following submission of their 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. The Clerk advised that she has not received any further information.

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 although monitoring is ongoing, the issue in that area has changed at the present because of the Coronavirus restrictions.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA**

a) Pontblyddyn Crossroads - Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, brought to the attention of the Council that there had been an episode of dangerous driving at the Pontblyddyn Crossroads. He had been travelling to Mold when a vehicle had come across on the wrong side of the road. This could have caused a serious accident. Councillor D.K. Crowther informed that he frequently used this stretch of road with his work and had seen the same thing happen. A suggestion was made that the installation of CCTV cameras on the Pontblyddyn Crossroads would be useful to monitor this. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman, was to contact the Highways Department at Flintshire County Council about this. All Councillors expressed their concern at this information and agreed that this item should be included on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

b) Ysgol Derwenfa funding for zoom licence upgrade – The Clerk explained that Ysgol Derwenfa required a zoom licence upgrade to facilitate the various meetings held. It was proposed by Councillor G. Sherwood and seconded by Councillor L.C. Richardson that a donation of £150.00 be given to Ysgol Derwenfa to cover the cost of this. All Councillors were in agreement. Councillor R. Hughes, Chairman and Councillor D.K. Crowther declared an interest as they are both in the board of Governors.

## Leeswood & Pontblyddyn Nightingale House Hospice Friendship & Support Group

Hello to all our loyal supporters, we hope that you are keeping well and shielding as much as possible.

Sorry that we are still unable to hold Fundraising Events in the Community, we have missed many Games of Bingo, the St. David's Day Coffee Morning and last year's Strawberry Tea and Carol Singing.

The Christmas Tree Collection run from Wrexham and including Leeswood raised a good sum towards the vital work of Nightingale House Hospice.

We are always delighted that this is such a charitably minded community and are very proud to say that 2 local Businesses were involved in the Christmas Tree Collection Fundraiser. They are Andrew Griffith and Gavin Kendrick of Hassle Free Heating also David Ellis and Joe Williams of Rivington Haulage. Thank you guys very much indeed.

The Leeswood and Pontblyddyn Community Council kindly gave our group £200 for the Hospice which our Treasurer has taken to them.

The Hospice are very grateful for the continuing support of this Community for The Nightingale House Hospice Lottery. You will see details of how to join elsewhere in this edition of the Leeswood News.

Take care and keep safe in these trying times.

Bryn [Treasurer], Ann, Bryan, Jane & Jennifer

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## Four Purposes Logo Competition

The results are in!! Following our whole school assemblies via Teams to discuss the 4 purposes of the new Welsh Curriculum which are: **Ambitious & capable learners, Enterprising, Creative Contributors, Ethical, Informed Citizens & Healthy, Confident**

**individuals.** Each class designed a bespoke logo for each of the four purposes to show their interpretation and understanding! So here are the winners from Reception to Year 6!

