

Leeswood & District News

December 2021/ January 2022



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LEESWOOD & DISTRICT NEWS

Double issue this time !

Merry Christmas and to you all and all the best for the New year from us all here at Leeswood and Distict news

DEADLINE DATES - Jaunaury 2022

If you have any articles you would like to see in this news please contact me at
leeswoodanddistrictnews@gmail.com

THE UNINVITED GUEST

He comes to visit every year

His name is Santa Claus

He has so many calls to make

There is no time to pause

With Rudolf the red nosed reindeer

Doner and Blitzen too

His sleigh will rest upon the roof

Whilst he slips down the flue

He fills the children's stockings

With many games and toys

He knows that they've been very good

All those little girls and boys

He never makes a noise

He's as quiet as a mouse

And when he's had a bite to eat

He slips out of the house

I don't know if I believe in him

I'm not too sure at all

But perhaps I really should believe

In case he doesn't call

Arthur Williams



DON'T DRUNKEN WELL DRIVE

The 'Cops' are on the 'Warpath

At this time every year

On the lookout for the driver

Who is full of Christmas Cheer

You'll have to blow into a bag

To see if you are drunk

If the little crystals turn to green

You're drunker than you think

Don't think of driving on the road

While you're still full of booze

It's possible you'll lose your life

And you've only one to lose

After you've had one or two

Just have a little think

If any 'Copper' catches you

You could end up in the clink

Under influence of alcohol

One tends to be too rash

And we can't afford to bail you out

We haven't got the cash

You can still have fun at Christmas

And if you have to roam

Why not take a bus or taxi

And leave your car at home.

Arthur Williams



Age-Friendly/Dementia-Friendly Community

Litter Pick & Dementia Friends Awareness a resounding success!

Thanks to the support of volunteers and participation of the local community the litter pick and dementia awareness session on Saturday 20th November turned out to be a successful event.

A particular thank you to pupils and staff at Ysgol Derwenfa. With their support the event was well advertised through an extremely eye-catching and informative leaflet/poster. The winning designs were created by the talents of Mia Roberts and Chloe Griffiths, both in year 6, and judged independently by Sunshine Café volunteers.

Around 25 to 30 people helped fill bags of litter strewn around our streets...we filled a lot of bags! Perhaps we can encourage everyone to be more appreciative of the environment and take their litter home? Thank you to Cllr Ray

Hughes for organizing the litter picking equipment.

Sunshine café provided free refreshments for all those who took part, and many stayed for a very informative dementia friends awareness session delivered by Dementia Champion Jane Meakin. Sadly, Teresa Davies was unable to deliver the session due to sickness... ***Get Well soon Teresa***

20 individuals became Dementia Friends and received Dementia Friends badges.

One very knowledgeable participant in the Dementia Friends session was Alana (apologies Alana if your name is spelled incorrectly). A former pupil of Ysgol Derwenfa, Alana remembered everything she had learned through the school dementia project two years ago and was able to answer all the questions in the quiz correctly....a future dementia champion??

If you would be interested in attending a Dementia Friends session or would like a session for your group, please email gjsher@live.com

Mia Roberts and Chloe Griffiths with their prizes for being judged top two best litter posters and the winning poster below.



Leeswood Community Centre Updates



LADIES GUILD

It is intended, with everyone's co-operation, to have a meeting of Guild Members in the New Year, to decide on which format we require to safely meet in the future and continue the Pontybodkin Ladies Guild

Gill Burton

The Craft Group

This is a a group of about 16 ladies who meet in the Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month between 1.30 and 4.30.

We charge £3 a month which includes tea or coffee. We do lots of different crafts including knitting, crochet, embroidery, bead-ing and card making.

But best of all we enjoy a good chat, if any other ladies would like to join us they will be very welcome.

Maureen Calder.



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 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 November 2021

Nov 7 th	10:30am	Clive Davies
Nov 14 th	10:30am	Clive Davies (Remembrance Day service)
Nov 21 st	10:30am	TBA
Nov 28 th	9:00am	Clive Davies
Dec 5 th	10:30am	Clive Davies

Message from Cedron's Minister - Clive Davies writes:

That we reap what we sow is a truism of life! Each day we are sowing seed of one kind or another. God provides for us, and we are required to sow good seed, so our Harvest will be of the best kind. We are the ~~sowers~~ sowers to our families our friends, our neighbours. It is our work to ensure that we sow good seed daily in our lives.

Seeds of love. Seeds of friendship. Seeds of service to others. Our harvest depends on the seeds we sow. If we sow love in our lives, we will receive love. If we sow seeds of helpfulness, understanding and patience. our harvest will be of the best kind. The way we live, daily, the way we treat others will result in a harvest reflecting all that we do in our daily lives. At this time of harvest, remember that we receive as we give. We reap as we sow. Make sure that we sow the fruits of the spirit, the fruits of life itself. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ~~gentleness~~ gentleness and self-control. Then, enjoy Harvest! God bless.

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

Ephesians 6:10-18 *The whole Armour of God*

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

¹² **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.**

¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Cedron Congregational Church the SPEAKERS for December 2021

Dec 5th Clive Davies Dec 26th Clive Davies
Dec 12th Clive Davies Jan 2nd Clive Davies
Dec 19th Clive Davies

Message from Cedron's Minister - Clive Davies writes:

Following our service of remembrance at Cedron Chapel on the 14th November, we attended Treuddyn Cenotaph for the laying of wreaths to honour those whose lives were cut short. We accompanied Barry and Margaret Richards from our congregation who placed a wreath in memory of their son Paul who served with the Royal Welch fusiliers and sadly lost his life at the age of 43 whilst serving in Ireland.

God is our refuge and our strength. This we call to mind at this time of remembrance; therefore we can have hope. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. It is new every morning. Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run, and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. At this time, we commit ourselves to work in faith for reconciliation between the nations. That all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace. We remember with thanksgiving those whose lives, in world wars and conflict past and present have been given in selfless service for the freedom we have today

We think of the brave and faithful. We remember the devotion and courage of those who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness

May we follow their example in faithfulness and endurance that we may be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life through Jesus Christ. We pray, Dear Lord we come in gratitude for all those who have died, that we might live, for all who endured pain, that we might have joy, for all who suffered imprisonment, that we may know freedom. It is always a special time on Armistice day, and as we joined together at Cedron Chapel and at the Cenotaph in Remembrance, we thought of Jesus Words "No greater thing than this, can a man do than lay down his life....." We will remember them.

We turn our deep feelings now into determination, and turn our determination into deeds, so that as men and women died for peace we may live for peace for the sake of the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ Our Lord Amen.

Advent message

At advent, Christian people prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The most historic and wonderful event! The greatest man ever to walk the earth The King of Kings Lord of Lords. Born of a virgin, in a stable. When we see the amount of money spent at this time of year we can look at the King of the world, who doesn't see material possessions at all. All His possessions were spiritual and He had all He needed. And you know really, *so do we have all that we need. We have Him, Jesus Christ our Saviour. We are in a time of waiting, a time of excitement and expectancy. We anticipate the greatest event in history The birth of our Saviour, and so, as we approach the beginning of the new Church year, we celebrate the Word made Flesh. So let us see this season for what it is, the coming of our Lord Jesus, and follow Him and love Him with all our hearts our soul our strength and our mind. He is power, wisdom light and beauty. Jesus says to us....They who follow me walk not in darkness, but are enlightened and delivered. Let therefore our main endeavour this Christmas and always be to meditate upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Every blessing to you from all at Cedron Chapel!*

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

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

A message from Clive Davies for January 2022:

Happy New Year!

We pray for a year of peace, a year of healing, a year of love. May we find these God given blessings in our lives, in our homes and in our hearts.

What can we do differently this year that could improve our lives and the lives of those around us? God is with us and if we want to change something, in an honest and good way He will help us and guide us. When we make resolutions for the year let's make sure that they are carried through and become part of our lives for good, and that they last! New ideas for ourselves and our families. New health regimes can be started, especially in these times we are living in now. We need to take more care of ourselves and encourage others to do the same. Good spiritual and mental health, as well as physical, can be enjoyed if we decide to live the way God intended us to. Don't over-eat, have a good sleep plan and exercise. Speak well of people. Our words have a stronger effect on ourselves than others! Love God, our families and our friends. Try to be happy! God wants us to enjoy life to the full. Trust Jesus Words - "*I am the way and the life*"

We at Cedron are excited at new opportunities we will have when the work on our building is completed! It is God's House and we want it to look it's best!

So every blessing to you and your families for 2022. May God bless us in so many new and different ways, as well as He always does.

Let us show Him our love, by living by His teaching. God bless.





THE LDN BIBLE BLOG : Dec-Jan 21/22

Mission Impossible for Humanity. Mission Accomplished by Jesus!

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" ... She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
(Luke 2:8 & Matthew 1:21)

In some years, it's a relief to get to Christmas! Sometimes it's not! For others still, it's a relief to get past it!

Last year, we lost our usual Christmas experience. At the time of writing, it's hard to say what this year will look or feel like. Yet, the Christmas story itself remains the same. What's remarkable is just how relevant it is considering our current circumstances. We never choose to lose our comforts and security and to become vulnerable. But the main character of Christmas did!

The Bible tells us that Jesus is on heaven's throne, surrounded by glory and praise. Yet He gave up his divine privileges, and took on the role of a servant and was born as a human being. He did this to do something we (human beings) couldn't do for ourselves. The Old Testament tells us all about this. The New Testament tells how Jesus did it on our behalf i.e. lived without thinking or doing anything that keeps us separated from God.

Why would Jesus willingly subject himself to such vulnerability, suffering and uncertainty? He did it because He loves people—every single one of us. God loves what He created just as we love our children (and grandchildren), but more!

God knows all about the cracks in our world and in peoples lives—even in the deeper bits, our body, soul and spirit. This is why God sent Jesus, His Son, to show us where absolute security is found. This is the extent of how much God loved the world! He provided and gave up His only Son. This was so that everyone who would believe in who He is and what He has done can have eternal spiritual life in God's presence. To be sure, lasting security is not found in this world. Its foundation is too shaky. Anything physical can be lost, stolen, spoilt or destroyed. But God's kingdom is unshakable. **Everyone who places their trust in Jesus can start a lasting and secure relationship with God. That's the hope of Christmas.** This hope gives us a new foundation to live on. It's one that isn't just the ground we stand on. Neither is it based on all the good things we do, say and/or give to charities, the Church or the less fortunate. It is one based on God's promises to us in the Bible.

No matter what happens, we are completely secure in His hands. For today—and all eternity—our lives and our destiny will be kept safe with Jesus. He will be our strength and our hope. But only if we let Him.

So, in the style of Star Trek's First Officer Spock—I hope you experience a most pleasant celebration of your planet's winter solstice and a most logical new year! He's missed the point of Christmas, and so do we when we forget or don't realise that :

" JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON "

See you in February.

Simon F. TheLDNBibleBlog@gmail.com

December BIBLE READING PLAN

Discovering the true meaning of Christmas through Scripture.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jeremiah 33:14 | 17. Luke 2:8-9 |
| 2. Micah 5:2 | 18. Luke 2:10-12 |
| 3. Isaiah 11:1-2 | 19. Luke 2:13-14 |
| 4. Malachi 3:1 | 20. Luke 2:15-16 |
| 5. Mark 1:1-5 | 21. Luke 2:17-20 |
| 6. John 1:1-5 | 22. Matthew 2:1-2 |
| 7. Isaiah 7:14 | 23. Matthew 2:3-8 |
| 8. Luke 1:26-28 | 24. Matthew 2:9-12 |
| 9. Luke 1:29-33 | 25. Isaiah 9:6 |
| 10. Luke 1:34-38 | 26. Galatians 4:4-5 |
| 11. Luke 1:46-55 | 27. James 1:17 |
| 12. Matthew 1:18-19 | 28. 2 Corinthians 9:15 |
| 13. Matthew 1:20-21 | 29. Luke 2:30-32 |
| 14. Matthew 1:22-25 | 30. Romans 15:4 |
| 15. Luke 2:1-3 | 31. 1 Peter 1:13 |
| 16. Luke 2:4-7 | |



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6



December already? What, really? Are you *sure*? Crumbs, another year almost done, and I really don't feel as though I've got anything done...

So it's Christmas next. Frightening thought, isn't it? We'll all be rushing round like headless chickens, trying to get everything sorted – the tree, and the food, and the decorations, and the food, and the cards, and the food, and the presents, and the food... I'm worn out just thinking about it!

And it's the same every year. Are you like me? I promise myself every year that next time I'll be a bit more organised, start a bit sooner – and what happens?

So this'll be Advent then, won't it? What's Advent for? Try thinking of it like this: Lent is a time that's intended to help us prepare for Easter. The idea is, not just that I give up something for Lent, not just that I think a bit less about myself for a change, but that I actually use the time or money or whatever I've gained so as to concentrate a bit more on God, so I'll be a bit more ready to celebrate Easter.

OK then, in the same sort of way, Advent is intended to help us prepare for Christmas – to remind us that there's more to it than running round in ever-decreasing circles trying to get everything sorted.

I've known a few churches – we did it at Bethania for several years, and the Churches Together in Leeswood & District group did it for a few years as well – run what might be called a Quiet Evening. It's a quiet, peaceful, reflective sort of service: it's about sitting down for a moment or two – preferably before the real mad rush begins, before it's too late and you've no time even to think – and concentrating on what the whole thing is **really** about.

It's all about Jesus, and the message the angels brought to the shepherds all those years ago: "Peace on earth..." Sounds a tall order, doesn't it? But you have to start somewhere, so let's start with you and me. For once, let's stop rushing round and circles and take a little bit of time out to think about Jesus, the real reason for the whole thing. A bit of peace and quiet, while we have the chance...

And I trust you *will* get everything done in time, and that you'll have a blessed – and peaceful – Christmas.

Ian Dyson



County Road, Leeswood, Flintshire CH7 4RF

connect@bethanialeeswood.org www.bethanialeeswood.org 07561 679317

The Methodist Church

Wesley Methodist Church, Leeswood



5th Dec Advent 2

Morning Worship 10.45 am

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

led by Rev Pat Christopher

12th Dec no service today

19th Dec Carol Service 10.45 am

Led Mr David Blainey

26th Dec Boxing day

no service today

You are all invited to a Christmas Afternoon Tea with Carol Singing



To be held at Wesley Methodist Church, Leeswood on Tuesday 14th

December 2.30 to 4pm.

All welcome !

Dear Friends,

As November draws to a close we enter the wonderful season of Advent, a time of preparation not just for presents, cards and food but for the coming of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we declare that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and echo the words of Zechariah, 'Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and redeemed his people.' We sing, O Come, O Come Emmanuel - God with us.

But God waits for our, 'Yes' just as he waited for Mary to believe and respond. She chose to become part of God's plan for her life and all humanity. Through her God's plan became a reality. God came to be with us, to die for us, and to live that we might live. 'Praise the Lord'.

That first Christmas was a mixture of events; some very ordinary while others were extra ordinary. It was the moment when B.C. turned to A.D., when peace caressed the earth, when a baby who would change the world forever was born, when angels spoke to farm workers, when members of an obscure Persian sect followed a star and found the King of Kings asleep in a cattle feeding trough.

For many December can be a very busy time of year as plans are made to visit and entertain family and friends but Christians try to focus on the real meaning of Christmas. I hope that our services in December will offer all the opportunity to prepare ourselves and encourage others to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

I pray that each of you will know the joy of Mary, have the obedience of Joseph, the compassion of the innkeeper, the delight of the shepherds and the perseverance of the wise men.

Love and Peace,



The Twelve Days of Christmas

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is an English Christmas carol published in England in 1780 without music as a chant or rhyme, probably originating in the area around Newcastle upon Tyne.

A partridge often feigns injury in the wild to draw attention away from her young onto herself, to protect them from danger. For Christians, this speaks of the self-sacrifice of Christ. **The pear tree** was once thought to be the celestial counterpart to the lowly apple tree and so represents Christ's coming from heaven.

The two turtle doves are the Old and New Testaments. Turtle doves are associated with enduring friendship and marriage because they mate for life and a similar bond is believed to join the two Testaments

Three French hens are thought to signify either the gifts from the Three Wise Men - gold, frankincense and myrrh or the Holy Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Four calling birds represent the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and their four gospels.

Five gold rings are representative of the lasting quality of the first five books of the Old Testament.

Six geese a-laying are associated with the six days of the creation because eggs represent new life.

Seven swans a-swimming are linked with the traditional seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, service, teaching, encouragement, giving, leadership and mercy.

Eight maids a-milking stands for the eight Beatitudes which Jesus gave in his Sermon on the Mount to spell out the blessings for the poor, meek and lowly - the best known being, 'Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth'.

Nine ladies dancing are associated with the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, self-control, peace, joy, patience, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness and kindness.

Ten lords a-leaping represents law and leadership, symbolised by the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping are believed to signify the eleven disciples who stayed faithful to Jesus Christ.

Twelve drummers drumming are symbolic of the twelve teachings of the Christian Creed, which summarise the main teachings of Christianity.

Courtesy of Wesley Methodist Church



Ark Fellowship

**All are very welcome to come and simply have a look
..... or come and join us for a while.**

Hi - we at the Ark Fellowship have longed find a friendly local Christian fellowship that celebrates the Biblical Feasts and holds a service on a Saturday Sabbath. When I, Marc, received Ordination into the Christian Ministry a few years ago, my wife Mandy and our friends Justin and his wife Emma took the plunge. We started holding weekly worship and Christian teaching services here in Leeswood Community Centre. They start at 1.30 pm Saturday afternoons. Other Christian friends, with strong and mature faiths, have also wandered in and joined us.

Food afterwards? Well of course..... snacks, pizza, sandwiches, mugs of coffee and hot tea what more do you need after a time of spiritual cleansing and prayer. There's some excellent teaching from Justin along with sharing each others' views of what the Biblical text means to them. Some acoustic guitar and fabulous happy songs of praise to the Lord Jesus! We pray to God himself (called Intercession) and pray for the Villagers around us and then do the same for one another asking God to help us and change things, as we all do struggle with life, work and family. And does he answer our prayers? Come and find out - we are often astonished at how faithful Jesus is in answering personally to our calls for help.

Justin and myself are both High School teachers and so are very capable of supporting the youth. Our wives too are in Healthcare and so together, can offer counsel and help, if you find you need it. Our prayers too are powerful as our Lord and Saviour is powerful with his answers come and see and find that the Lord is very good!

Jolly Jumpers

Wear your Christmas jumper in support of your local hospice!



Nightingale House Hospice
Hospis Tŷ'r Eos



NIGHTINGALE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Our team of volunteers will collect and recycle your **real Christmas tree** in return for a donation towards patient care at the hospice

SATURDAY 15TH JANUARY 2022

Visit charityxmastreecollection.com
to book in your collection



Nightingale House Hospice. Registered Charity Number: 1035600 (Registered in England and Wales)

Hello my name is Elliot and I'm a local wildlife photographer.

I enjoy photographing the birds

This month I wanted to feature the Jay, a new visitor this autumn to our garden. The jay is any of several species of medium-sized, usually colorful and noisy, passerine birds in the crow family. They are very picky eaters as they go for high calorie nuts.

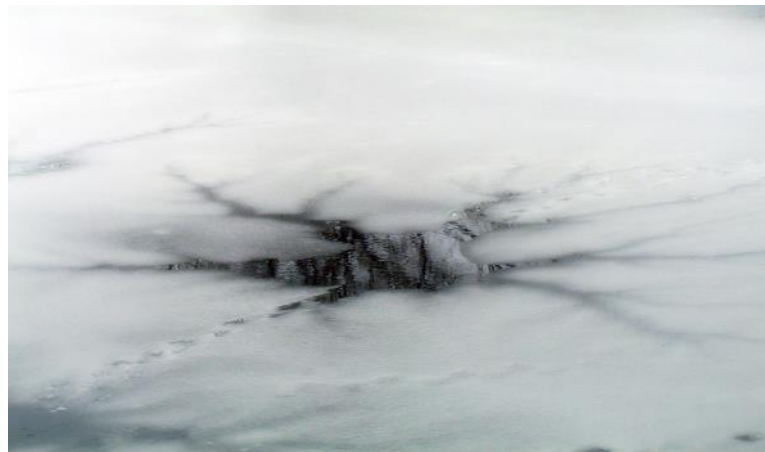


Next time I will feature robins and what you can do to attract more birds ready for the RSPB Garden Bird Watch.

Caring for Creatures in our gardens in Winter

Melt a hole in the ice on ponds to allow the wildlife to drink, and enter and exit the water. Fill a sauce pan with hot water and sit it on the ice until a hole has been melted. Do not hit or crack ice as this can send shockwaves through the water that harms wildlife

Be careful when you turn compost heaps. As these are often warm, they can be the winter resort of frogs, toads and other animals



Make an insect or bug hotel and put up in a sheltered position. Overwintering ladybirds and lacewings will find this useful.

In late winter, clean out bird boxes so they are ready for new nests in spring.

Leave healthy herbaceous and hollow-stemmed plants unpruned until early spring. These can provide homes for overwintering insects.



THE PANDEMIC

The covid pandemic has shown us how fragile we are
It affected everybody near and far
It travelled unrestrained and unchecked across all borders
It locked us down by government orders

It brought down the big and mighty
It brought down the rich and the hoity toity
When we think we got it under control
It comes out in a new variant that we do not know at all

It is still on the attack
With all these variants coming out back-to-back
When we think that it is safe to go and mix
The pandemic has always come out with new tricks

Joseph Caruana

We speak about single mindedness, we speak about clear thinking, we speak about lateral thinking, nevertheless, how many times do we apply radial thinking. Radial thinking is not an easy way of thinking, and it involves a lot of vision and counter vision. A simple way to understand radial thinking is by looking at a bicycle wheel. The brain doing the thinking is the hub at the center of the wheel, while the radial thinking is represented by the spokes which are radially projecting from the hub, to support the outer rim. In this case, in order for the wheel to function, the forces exerted on any particular spoke in the wheel, must be equal to the forces exerted on the opposite spoke within the wheel.

This model of radial thinking has a distinctive reflection to how the environment works. If the environment is treated with respect and left to its own resources, it will counterbalance itself and adjust accordingly. On the other hand, if the environment is abused, it will malfunction with disastrous consequences. From recent revelations, it has been brought to light, that over the years, the environment has been abused repeatedly. Irresponsible industrial developments and financial greed has contributed to the ill health of the environment. Quick fixes, and reactional activities may not be the answer to the environmental problems that we are facing today. Over the years, humans have adopted a mentality that to make things better, they had to be bigger. This may have been done without due respect to the environment, or lack of understanding of how the environment works. Due to this, we might have now reached a point where the environment might not be able to balance itself, and things might not be as we know them to

have been in the past. At least, some of us have started to find ways of filtering poisonous emissions from getting into the atmosphere. It is understandable that at up to now, we cannot just get rid of all these poisonous emissions, but we can capture these poisonous carbons and store them safely underground. In the meantime, society at large will have to start thinking on how to bring the environment back into balance.

On occasions, we hear people complaining about how the environment is being mistreated, however, it might be better to analyze the situation and propose better solutions. there is a difference between adopting a negative critical attitude, and adopting a positive attitude of constructive recommendations. In order to encourage the public to adopt a positive attitude, all members of society need to feel appreciated and valued. Those with scientific knowledge could process and fine tune a recommendation even if the origin of the idea is from a source which is considered nonintellectual. Information on the impact caused on the environment to produce a particular product must be made available to the buying public. Cars these days seem to have gadgets which are not really necessary, neither for the safety or the comfort of the occupants, but are only there just for looks. It is therefore smart to ask how much pollution was produced to manufacture any product we purchase. Let us remember that the environment is our friend, the environment depends on our behavior for its' wellbeing, let us not betray the environment, because without a functioning environment our quality of life might not be as good as we would like it to be.

Windy Night for the Bees Gulp!

Arrived at the Allotments Saturday morning, having been awake for most of the night, as the wind howled and blew! Bee suit on and gloves ready to go. Over the gate and there they were 7 Boxes of Bees sporting their strong straps and 3 weighted bricks per hive. The peaceful silence was tangible. Astonished at the 100% hive survival I had to ask myself how did they stand the wind-force? A quick walk with the dogs around the village showed roof tiles and chimneys almost falling onto the cars below in their driveways. A quick jolt as to why Adrian had insisted on strapping up each hive, from the lid down to the hive base - solid as a rock. The reinforcement of a few bricks or breeze blocks on the roof brought me such a relief. No sign of the bees themselves though, but even I didn't quite want to be out in the freezing gusts. At least they were snuggles up out of the winds. It really was such a relief to see the hive management routines were in place for very good reasons. Leeswood winters are windy at times, but national storms is a very different 'box of bees'.

Ed one of our church friends came round earlier in the week to check over his ideas on setting up his own beehive next Spring. Adrian had volunteered us to breed him some bees when the new swarm season begins. A small starter colony of Queen plus workers, on about 5 frames of brood plus nurse bees can literally cost from £160 - 200. So a little bit of help is a valuable boost for a new beekeeper.



Ed tried on my bee suit and we went over its strengths and weaknesses - the elastic loops fit over your thumbs to ensure that the sleeves tuck into the gauntlet gloves. Similar loops stretch over the feet to secure the suit-legs in your wellies. Zips too, become a life saver, as you pull the netted hood over your head. Thick heavy-duty zip runners ensure the bees can't burrow their way into the front and get you on the face. If they can find a way they will. Up to 4 front pockets ensure you have somewhere to put your hive tools and apiary keys, but once you've got the important features sorted a bee suit can be easy to find. Wynne-Jones the family business up in Ruthin or E H Thornes over in England, along with a bit of careful searching on-line, ensure your new equipment is ready to go. Two local beeclubs that do give you quite a bit of coaching and hands-on experience are i) Flint and District Beekeepers who meet in Northop ii) South Clwyd Beekeepers up at Llysfasi College.

I can well remember building my first ever Brood Frame and carefully slotting the rich scented wax foundation into place. Certainly one of those 'life moments' as you enter into a quite special hobby of Practical Beekeeping! Then with 11 frames per Brood box you quickly get the hang of it - and it has to be said it is a deeply satisfying task 'to have to do'. Thorne's Bees do fabulous YouTube Brood and Super box assembly videos, which I've used time and time again, when I can't find the drawings and instructions I did on the last hive build. A few tools and you're off as the flatpack hive parts come with all you need other than some wood glue, pencil and a ruler.

So finally after a look over some flat-packed beehive boxes stored away in the Cabin for next season, Ed and I sat down and chatted bees over a hot cup of tea. And you couldn't send him home without a jar of Honey, as a bonus for the new start-up. Oops forgot to tell him he'll need 3 house bricks and a very strong hive strap that wind is still blowing even now - those hive management routines again!

Marc Browne