

Industry

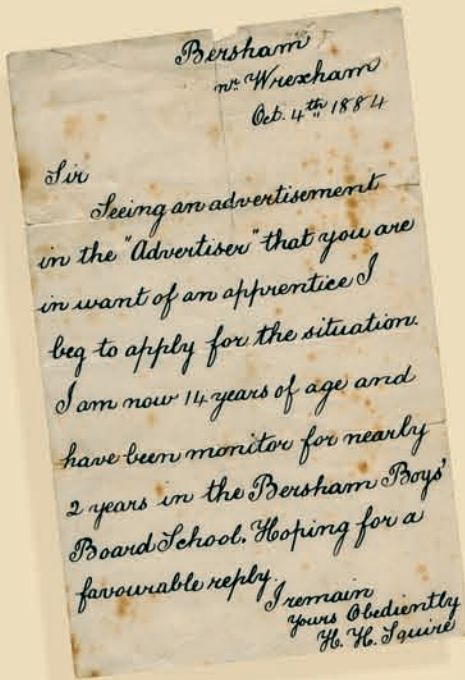


Diwydiant

Attitudes to industry and working conditions changed during the Victorian period. The 1842 Mines Act prohibited women, girls and boys under 10 from working underground in the mines. After a long campaign, the 1874 Factory Act limited the working day to ten hours. Some businessmen opposed these changes as government interference, while others saw the harm done to women and children and felt they should be protected. Local school log books reveal that the laws were flouted.

Victorian Wrexham was keen to encourage commerce. On 22 July 1876, the Duke and Duchess of Westminster opened the 'Art Treasures & Industrial Exhibition of North Wales', a four month long celebration of art and invention to rival the great exhibitions held in London and Glasgow. The entrance to the exhibition hall, the Westminster Buildings, still stands on Hope Street in Wrexham. Inside the hall were fifty-one business stands, over 900 works of art and more than 2,300 exhibits varying from metalwork, pottery and porcelain to antiquities, sculpture and textiles.

These commercial ambitions appeared again in 1888 with the opening of the Wrexham School of Science & Art: a centre for vocational training with courses in building and construction, mechanical engineering, technical drawing, chemistry and maths.



Letter applying for an apprenticeship.
Llythyr cais am brentisiasth.

Yn ystod y cyfnod Fictoraidd bu newid mewn agweddau tuag at ddiwydiant ac amodau gwaith. Bu Deddf Mwyngloddiau 1842 yn gyfrwng i wahardd gwragedd, genethod a bechgyn dan 10 oed, rhag gweithio dan ddaear yn y mwyngloddiau. Ar ôl ymgyrch hir, cyfyngodd Deddf Ffatrioedd 1874 hyd y diwrnod gwaith i ddeg awr. Gwrthododd rhai gwŷr busnes y newidiadau hyn gan ddweud eu bod nhw'n cynrychioli ymyrraeth ar ran y llywodraeth. Ymdrechodd eraill o blaid y ddeddf, gan geisio rhoi terfyn ar y niwed oedd yn cael ei wneud i wragedd a phlant. Mae llyfrau log ysgolion lleol yn dangos bod y deddfau newydd yn cael eu diystyru.

Roedd y Wrecsam Fictoraidd yn awyddus i hyrwyddo masnach. Ar 22 Gorffennaf 1876, daeth Dug a Duges Westminster i'r dref i agor 'Arddangosfa Trysorau Celf a Diwydiant Gogledd Cymru', sef arddangosfa dros gyfnod o bedwar mis, ar lun yr arddangosfeydd mawr a gynhaliwyd yn Llundain a Glasgow, i ddathlu celfyddyd a dyfeisgarwch. Mae'r fynedfa i'r neuadd arddangos, sef Adeiladau Westminster, yn sefyll hyd heddiw yn Stryt y Hôb yn Wrecsam. Roedd pum-deg-un o stondinau busnes, ynghyd â mwy na 900 o weithiau celf a 2,300 o arddangosion eraill, gan gynnwys gwaith metel, crochenwaith, porslen, hynafiaethau, cerflunwaith a thecstilau, yn cael eu harddangos.

Ymgorfforiad arall o'r deisiadau masnachol a ddaeth i'r amlwg yn 1888 oedd agoriad swyddogol Ysgol Gwyddoniaeth a Chelfyddyd Wrecsam. Roedd y ganolfan hon yn cynnig hyfforddiant galwedigaethol, gyda chysuriau mewn adeiladu ac adeiladwaith, peirianeg fecanyddol, lluniadu technol, cemeg a mathemateg.



Women dying the leather by hand, Cambrian Leather Works, Wrexham
Merched yn llifo lledr gyda'u dwyllo, Gwaith Lledr Cambrian, Wrecsam

"Nine children under 12 years employed by the coal mines were working underground. They can neither read nor write. The law is violated."

John Evans, Master, Brymbo & Broughton School log book, September 17th 1864
John Evans, Ysgolfeistr, Llyfr Log Ysgol Brymbo a Brychdyn, Medi 17, 1864

"The children are employed at a very early age to open the doors for ventilating pits, to drive horses which are employed below, and to drag small carts on their hands and knees. The average age at which the children are employed is 3"

Thomas Francis, shopkeeper, Wrexham, 1847
Thomas Francis, siopwr, Wrecsam, 1847



Commemorative medal from the 1876 exhibition
Medal gofiofaol o arddangosfa 1876

The Cambrian Leather Works on Salop Road, Wrexham, employed over 500 people. The company had warehouses in Manchester and Liverpool and depots in 18 countries worldwide.
Roedd Gwaith Lledr Cambrian yn Salop Road, Wrecsam, yn cyflogi 500 o bobl.
Roedd gan y cwmni wariysau yn Mancheinon a Lerpwl a depos mewn 18 o wladydd ar hyd a lled y byd.

"I am a worker at the Cambrian Leather Works. It's good regular work and you soon get used to the smell. My wife and eldest daughter work here too"

"Gweithiwr ydwi i yng Ngwaith Lledr Cambrian. Mae'n swydd reolaidd a da ac rydych chi'n dod i arfer gyda'r oglau mewn dim o dro. Mae fy ngwraig a'n merch hynaf yn gweithio yma hefyd."

