

# The Not So Good Old Days

## Yr Hen Ddyddiau Nad Oedd Mor Dda

It is easy to be nostalgic about the good old days. The life of Wrexham people in the past was tough. In response they came together to create the community spirit that we often envy today.

However, we should not forget the downsides to the lives of the people we can only see in sepia:

In 1907, 15% of children born in Wrexham died before their first birthday, compared to 0.5% today. The figure for 1906 was even worse: nearly 20%.

In 1931, 36% of working class men in Wrexham did not have a job.

If you were unemployed, too sick or too old to work, unmarried and pregnant, or an orphan, you could be sent to the workhouse. You would be reliant on the charity of others and condemned by society for needing help. In 1857 the local newspaper complained that the poor in the workhouse cost too much to feed – 3s 6d each a week. At the time, a loaf of bread cost 2d, while the average wage was less than 10 shillings a week.

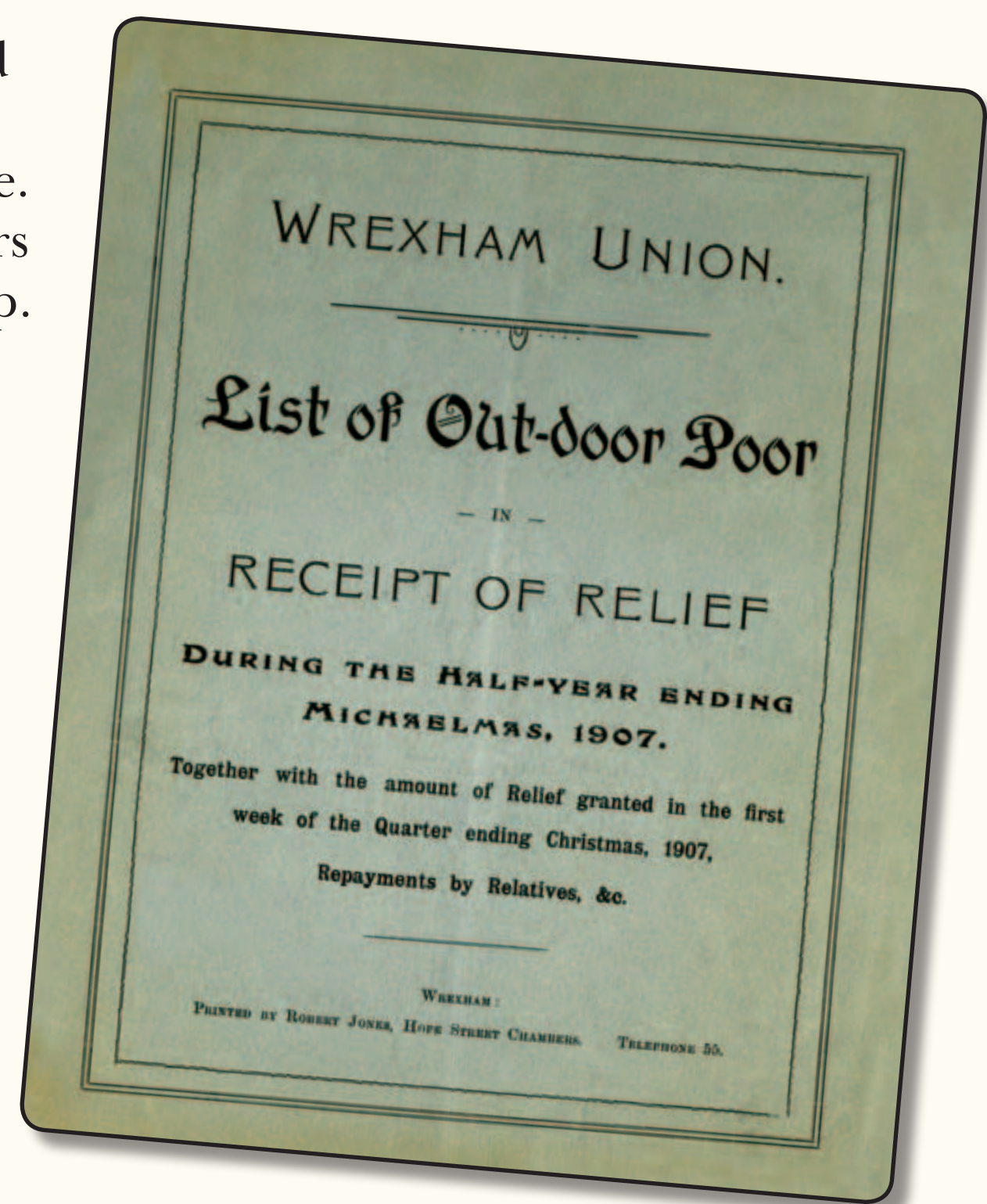
Mae'n hawdd hiraethu am yr hen ddyddiau dedwydd gynt. Roedd bywyd pobl Wrecsam yn y gorffennol yn un caled. Mewn ymateb daethant at ei gilydd i greu ysbryd y gymuned a edmygw'n gymaint heddiw.

Fodd bynnag, ni ddylem anghofio ochr wael bywydau'r bobl na allwn ond eu gweld mewn sepia:

Yn 1907, bu 15% o blant a aned yn Wrecsam farw cyn eu pen-blwydd cyntaf, o'i gymharu â 0.5% heddiw. Roedd y ffigur yn 1906 yn waeth fyth: bron i 20%.

Yn 1931, nid oedd gwaith gan 36% o ddynion o'r dosbarth gweithiol yn Wrecsam.

Os oeddech yn ddi-waith, yn rhy sâl neu'n rhy hen i weithio, yn ddi-briod a beichiog, neu'n blentyn amddifad, gallech gael eich anfon i'r tloty. Byddech yn dibynnu ar haelioni pobl eraill ac yn cael eich condemnio gan gymdeithas am fod angen cymorth. Yn 1857 cwynai'r papur newydd lleol bod y tloty'n costio gormod i'w bwydo – 3s 6d bob un yr wythnos. Ar y pryd, roedd torth o fara'n costio 2d, tra'r oedd cyflog yn llai na 10 swllt yr wythnos.



Leading Actresses, Walter Roberts Pantomime Company, 1933.  
Prif Actoresau, Cwmni Pantomeim Walter Roberts, 1933.

