

## **Re-housing the Poles**

29<sup>th</sup> January 1957: Council has done a Wonderful Job

Wrexham and Rural District Council re-housing of the Polish refugees, previously housed at the Camp in Wynnstay Park, Ruabon, has been described as a wonderful achievement.

The clerk, Mr Trevor Williams reported that in July 1958 the Council began re-housing families into the Camp and absorbing them into the community by allocating two houses in each parish. The Camp was cleared of occupants in November 1956 and, during the Council's period of administration, it was estimated that 60 Polish families had been housed at the camp from time to time.

The council decided to place on record their appreciation of the excellent manner in which the administration of the camp had been carried out by the council's officers during the period of its occupation.

## **2000 see schools PT display at Wrexham**

19<sup>th</sup> May 1957

More than 2000 people came to the Racecourse to see the Mayor, Councillor J A Davies, open this, the first of the Centenary celebrations.

The Mayor said that the schools of Wrexham were very proud of their town as, of course, they should be.

First item in the agenda was a mass display of gymnastic and ball activities by 200 pupils from Primary schools.

The Alexandra Secondary Modern School showed their skill with exercise on benches.

Rugby and Association Football skills were displayed by boys from Grove Park Boys' Grammar School and Victoria Secondary Modern School respectively.

The display of vaulting and agilities given by the Denbighshire Secondary Technical School showed the boys' great skill on the box and horse.

Girls of Cartrefle Training College must have had a hard time giving their display of the theme of curling and stretching as the ground was very slippery and hampered their complicated and interesting display.

Last item on the programme was a colourful display of dancing by the Primary schools.

## **Court Told of the Man Who Stops Cars**

4<sup>th</sup> June 1957

Forty-five year old Caradoc Williams said to have been stopping motorists in Trevor and inviting them to see "the finest view in the whole world", told Llangollen magistrates yesterday.

Williams was accused of three offences, of unlawfully by misbehaviour did hinder the free passage of a motor car on the Ruabon-Llangollen road on April 18, 19 and 21. The charges are brought under the Highways Act of 1895.

Chief Inspector Stanley Jones said Williams had been the subject of numerous complaints from motorists on the Ruabon to Llangollen road. Williams invariably stood on the pavement at a point near the level crossing near the Silice Works at Trevor. He would step off the pavement into the road waving his arms, causing drivers of cars to brake violently and to swerve in an effort to avoid him.

Inspector H M Williams and PC T H Hughes had spoken to Williams on many occasions, but the only reply they got was "You can't do anything about it".

Williams pleaded 'technically guilty' and was advised to plead not guilty. He was fined a total of £3.

## **Library Committee rejects sex book**

4<sup>th</sup> June 1957

Wrexham Public Library Committee, on the recommendation of Mr Clifford Harris, the librarian, has rejected a request by a reader to purchase a book on sex by a woman writer.

The book was "The Sexual Responsibility of Women" by Maxine Davies. The book, which was one of twelve public proposals, was said by Mr Harris at Monday's Public Library Committee meeting to be in his opinion, unnecessary and undesirable in the library.

## **Starting a New Century with a face lift**

16<sup>th</sup> July 1957: Wrexham Makes Amends for the Slovenly Years

For a town with such a long history, Wrexham has little evidence of it's ancient graciousness. Apart from the glorious Parish Church and the quaint thatched-roof hostelry, the Horse & Jockey, there is little left to break the Victorian ordinariness of the town. The reason for this being that the town grew quickly and with little planning.

Today's civic leaders are bravely trying to repair the aesthetic damage caused by their forbears. By 2057 Wrexham should at least be a more beautiful town than it is today.

Already High Street, still one of the town's most important streets, has had new touches of beauty applied to it. In other streets too, new shops and offices have come so that the face of Wrexham is gradually changing for the better. Private enterprise is playing its part in this intensive Operation Clean-up. New blocks of shops and offices are being built to replace the seedy and the shabby building sites. At Bodhyfryd, the new Memorial Hall lifts its roof above the trees, to join other gracious public buildings like St David's School and the new Technical College.

## Lager Label has upset Wrexham

15<sup>th</sup> August 1957

Decision to scrap the world famous Wrexham Lager Beer label has led to a storm of protests and criticism in the town.

The feeling can be summed up in the explosive comment of one of the town's licencees, who said forcefully "It is a real insult to our town".

Wrexham Lager Beer Company advised their customers last week that their parent company Ind. Coope, who own two of the best known British Lager Breweries – Wrexham and Graham's – had decided to replace the Wrexham Pilsner label with the Graham's Pilsner label as from yesterday. This said the company, will in no way affect the quality of the beer which will continue to be brewed in Wrexham under exactly the same conditions as before.

Wrexham's first citizen, the mayor Councillor W H Evans says of the change "I do not think it is a good idea. It is definitely a loss of prestige for Wrexham."

Comments from the ordinary man on the street, the man who enjoys his well-earned glass of beer:

"I think it is really silly to change the name. Everyone who knows anything about beer has heard of Wrexham Lager. It's famous all over the world."

"I think it is an insult to an old established Wrexham Industry that the name should be changed for one which is almost unknown in this part of the world."

"I think the brewery has done a disastrous thing in relinquishing the name of Wrexham lager. I have travelled two thirds of the world's surface and have drunk Wrexham Lager in practically every country I have visited."

"I feel that the name of Wrexham, where Lager was first instituted in Great Britain, is at stake because of big business interests. Why

change the name to Graham's which, in my opinion, is only known in the London area."

A meeting of the Association will be held tonight when the changes will be considered.

## **New School Opened for 550 children**

10<sup>th</sup> September 1957

Workmen added the finishing touches to St David's Secondary School, Rhosnesni, as pupils rolled up in their smart new maroon uniforms. The school cost about £180,000 and took two years to build.

It has a practical instruction block of eight rooms, including a science laboratory, plus 16 classrooms, library, gymnasium, dining room and assembly hall, which has one of the finest stages in North Wales. The school has been provided with the most modern equipment.

There are 17 forms with a total of 550 pupils.

The Chairman of the school of governors said she was proud to see such a lovely building in Wrexham.

## **General Stockwell opens the Victory Memorial Hall**

1<sup>st</sup> October 1957

Wrexham's Victory Memorial Hall, built on the Bodhyfryd site in memory of the 205 townsmen who fell in the Second World War, was opened by General Sir Hugh Stockwell, military secretary to the Secretary of State for War and Colonel of the Royal Welch Fusiliers.

Declaring the Memorial Hall open, General Sir Hugh Stockwell spoke of his very close and personal associations with Wrexham.

The Memorial Hall, he said, was going to be a lovely social centre for the borough and would be a tremendous addition to the town's amenities. The hall would stand in proud glory of the men of Wrexham who died in the cause of freedom during the Second World War.

"Let this hall be an emblem to all who will use it. Let it be a mark that we have done our duty. Let it point a moral to the story it tells."

Over £20,000 had been subscribed and in addition they had received a very generous contribution from the Town Council who had also given them the site for the hall.

Alderman Bird said that as funds become available, additions and improvements would be made. The building of the hall was a fine achievement and it was the earnest wish of the Management Committee that the people of Wrexham would avail themselves to the full of the facilities it provided.

## **Citizens of Wrexham – this is your town**

8<sup>th</sup> October 1957

Quite the most fascinating place in Wrexham since last Tuesday has been the exhibition room at the Public Library, where the winning entries in the Schools' "Our Town" competition are now on view.

Here you can, through the medium of essays and poems, see Wrexham from a different aspect – from the unsophisticated yet penetrating viewpoint of children.

### **Margaret Hamer – 17 years**

Wrexham needs a museum. "It does possess a public library of no mean standing but it is unfortunately sited within convenient earshot of the Glynn Cinema, so that one's reading is frequently interrupted by the strains of plaintive trumpets, melancholy crooners and the exploits of the wild west."

**On black spots:**

"The approach from Tuttle Street to the brewery is one that any community should blush. Children play in dirty roads amongst the litter of the gutters."

**On Wrexham's cafeterias:**

"A uniformly low standard in food service and interior decoration."

An indictment of Wrexham's litter louts is made in verse by

**Menna Roberts, 17 years old.**

"Dear lovely town of industry and trade,  
Seats my youth where lager beer is made.  
How often have I loitered in thy streets,  
Adorned with ice cream tubs and paper torn from sweets."

William Harry Bache, 12 years old, would change (with the permission of the owner) the Majestic back into a roller skating rink;

Ann Humphreys, 15 years old, says Wrexham needs a high class dance hall, a skating rink, a one house cinema show on Sunday nights after church, horse racing and greyhound racing tracks, and modern stores instead of old-fashioned privately owned shops.

A poem by Peter from Queens Park:

"Wrexham is a grand old town,  
Its football club has won re-nown.  
The thing that we would like to see,  
Is Wrexham top Division III."

Poem by Ann Meadows, Coedpoeth:

"If roads were widened one by one  
Our traffic problem would be gone,  
But sadly though there is no room.  
So we must live a life of doom."

## **Complaints? "I'm sick and tired of them"**

29<sup>th</sup> October 1957

Alderman E A Cross, a member of Wrexham Rural District Council for 45 years told members at Thursday's meeting that he was sick and tired of hearing complaints being voiced at council meetings.

He was proud of the council and the work it had done. A council which had built 6,000 houses all connected to the mains water and which had every village in its area sewered, was something to be proud of, the alderman declared.

Instead of praise, however, they had pettifogging complaints, every one of which could be answered upstairs by the responsible departments. He was absolutely ashamed of hearing the miserable things brought up at council meetings.

He went on to refer to the Bala Lake Flood Prevention Scheme which he said, was a big success. The position was most satisfactory yet they had people complaining about it and the Press taking it down.

Councillor Herbert Williams said he resented Alderman's comments on the Press. It was a free country and they had free speech and it was through the Press that they got a lot of work done.

## **Farewell parade to be held at Wrexham**

26<sup>th</sup> November 1957: It's goodbye to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion RWF

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers is going into "suspended animation" and on 6<sup>th</sup> December, a farewell parade will be held at Hightown Barracks.

The parade will consist of two guards of 32 other ranks and one officer each and an officer commanding the parade. The salute will be taken by Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, Colonel of the Regiment.

The battalion Colours presented to them by the Queen in 1954 will be marched on to the square and after an inspection by General Sir Hugh Stockwell, they will be handed over by the Colour Party to the officers mess for safe custody.

Music for the parade will be played by the Boys' Band School from the Welsh Brigade. Members of the public will be admitted to the barracks for the ceremony.

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, a party representing the battalion will be received at Buckingham Palace by the Queen, who is Colonel in Chief of the RWF. The Queen has expressed the wish that the Eagle captured by the RWF at Martinique in 1809, should accompany the party. It will be brought back to Wrexham and placed in the regimental museum at the barracks.

During their three years' tour in Malay, the battalion killed 27 terrorists and captured two. They were awarded one DCM, two Military Medals, one MBE, and received nine Mentions in Dispatches.

# A GREATER WREXHAM

30<sup>th</sup> December 1957

For years the local visionaries have dreamed of a Greater Wrexham, but the new Local Government Bill nips the dream in the bud.

Alderman Cyril Jones has argued the case for turning industrial East Denbighshire into one county borough. But the Bill rules there just aren't enough people here to make the dream come true.

## **Total population of Wrexham Borough and Wrexham Rural District – 94,000**

The new Bill says you need at least 100,000 people before you can start to plan a County Borough. The chances of finding enough extra work to bring 6,000 more people to Wrexham seem slim.

Planners believe a County Borough of East Denbighshire would be:

1. **More efficient:** It could treat all the industrial part of Denbighshire as one unit.
2. **More sensible:** It would centralise power in the thickly populated east.
3. **Cheaper:** There would be only one council and only one set of officials instead of three.

But at what cost to the ratepayers? Every hill top farmer could demand amenities as good as those given to his fellow ratepayers in Wrexham's High Street. Every country lane could claim lighting equal to that in Wrexham's busiest streets.

So perhaps it's not such a disaster that the dream of a Greater Wrexham stays a pipedream!

