

Philanthropy



Dyngarwch

Helping the less fortunate was the duty of the wealthy in Victorian times. The greatest symbol of this locally was the Wrexham Infirmary on Regent Street.

"Accumulated wealth did not forget that the poor had a claim upon it and a dispensary was established."
Annual Report of the Dispensary, c.1834.

The local gentry supported Dr Thomas Griffith in opening Wrexham's first dispensary in 1833. Realising the demand for medical care was so great, money was raised to build a proper infirmary in 1838. The hospital cost over £1,800 to build and a bazaar in the Town Hall during the Wrexham Races raised £1,050.

The management of the infirmary reflected the values of the time. The infirmary would only treat those who could not afford to pay. Patrons who regularly gave money could nominate poor people for medical treatment.

Over time the infirmary offered new services such as ophthalmic (eye) and dental treatment, and expanded to include a children's ward and an operating theatre. In 1898 there were 355 in-patients and the doctors treated 2,285 out-patients. As there was no government funding for the hospital, all the money had to be raised by the community. Annual events such as the Wrexham Cyclists' Club Carnival, Hospital Saturday and the Wrexham Infirmary Annual Ball, and church collections and workers' subscriptions all helped raise the money required.



Neatest and Best Dressed Cyclist, Wrexham Cyclists' Club Carnival, 1899
Y Seiclwr Taclusaf 4r Wraig Orau, Carnifal Clwb Seiclo Wrecsam, 1899

"Patients to consist of such persons as are too poor to defray the expenses of medical attendance."

Rules of the Wrexham Infirmary
Rheolau Clafdy Wrecsam

Yn Oes Victoria, dyletswydd aelodau cefnog cymdeithas oedd helpu'r tlodion. Y symbol amlycaf o hyn yn yr ardal oedd Clafdy Wrecsam ar Stryt y Rhaglaw.

"Accumulated wealth did not forget that the poor had a claim upon it and a dispensary was established."
Adroddiad Blynnyddol y Fferyllfa, c.1834.

Cafodd Dr Thomas Griffith gefnogaeth y boneddigion lleol er mwyn iddo fedru agor fferyllfa gyntaf Wrecsam yn 1833. Pan sylweddolwyd beth oedd maint y galw am ofal meddygol, codwyd arian i adeiladu clafdy iawn yn 1838. Costiodd yr ysbyty fwy na £1,800 i'w adeiladu, ond codwyd £1,050 tuag at yr achos mewn basâr, a drefnwyd yn Neuadd y Dref yn ystod cyfnod Rasys Wrecsam.

Roedd rheolaeth y clafdy yn adlewyrchu gwerthoedd y cyfnod. Dim ond pobl a allai fforddio i dalu oedd yn derbyn triniaeth yno. Gallai noddwyr oedd yn cyfrannu'n rheolaidd enwebu pobl dlawd i dderbyn triniaeth feddygol.

Ymhen amser, daeth y clafdy i gynnig gwasanaethau newydd megis triniaeth ophthalmig (*llygaid*) a thriniaeth ddeintyddol. Ychwanegwyd theatr llawdriniaeth. Yn 1898 roedd 355 o gleifion yn cael eu trin yn yr ysbyty, a'r meddygon yn trin 2,285 o all-gleifion. Gan nad oedd unrhyw gyfraniad ariannol gan y llywodraeth, roedd yr holl arian yn cael ei godi'n lleol. Roedd digwyddiadau blynnyddol fel Carnifal Clwb Seiclo Wrecsam, Sadwrn yr Ysbyty a Dawns Flynyddol Clafdy Wrecsam, ynghyd â chasgliadau mewn eglwysi a thanysgrifiadau gweithwyr, yn helpu i godi'r arian angenrheidiol.



Wrexham Infirmary, Regent Street,
Clafdy Wrecsam, Stryt y Rhaglaw.

*"Two pairs of bone forceps,
one butcher's improved saw with extra blades,
half a dozen skeins of ligature silk and one dozen medium sized needles."*

Equipment order for Wrexham Infirmary, 1858.
Archeb am gyfarpar i Glafdy Wrecsam, 1858.

"Luckily, Sir Watkin recommended my husband for treatment at the Infirmary or we should have surely lost him after his accident at the pit."

"With luck, cafodd fy ngŵr driniaeth yn y Clafdy ar ôl i Syr Watkin argymhell hynny. Fel arall, ar ôl iddo fo gael damwain yn y puell, mae'n siŵr y bydden ni wedi ei gollti."



Wrexham Prince of Wales Volunteer Fire Brigade Set up in 1883, the town relied on volunteer firemen for over forty years. Yn 1883, roedd y ddwy ardal yn dibynnu ar wasanaethau cwmpany fire brigadau tua'r wythfed a'r nwythfed. Dim ond am eiddo eu cwsmeriaid yr ceidder i'w hysbytyddi.

