

# A Victorian Policeman Heddwys Fictoraidd

The Denbighshire Constabulary only existed on paper in early 1840. One of Chief Constable John Denman's first tasks was recruitment. The Chief Constable needed male superintendants and constables who were:

- under forty years old
- over 5 foot 7 inches tall
- able to read, write and keep accounts
- fit and healthy
- intelligent

The other challenge for any prospective candidate was to prove that he was reliable and honest. Good references were the key; preferably from respectable people such as businessmen, clergymen and the gentry. The application form included a section where the referees certified that the applicant 'is sober, honest and of good temper, and that his connexions and associates are respectable'. They also had to declare 'We know nothing reproachable in his character and we recommend him accordingly for employment.' Denman's police force would be role models in their communities and they would never be off duty. In return superintendants would earn £100 a year and constables between 15 shillings and 21 shillings a week.

Each superintendant and constable was issued with the following in his first year:

- One great coat, with cape and badge
- One dress coat, with badge
- Two pairs of trousers
- One pair of boots
- One pair of shoes
- One hat

Each man was also issued with a staff (truncheon), a pair of handcuffs, a lantern, a rattle and a small cutlass. The cutlasses were only issued in times of crisis, when the Justices of the Peace felt law and order was about to break down. New kit was issued each year. The original specification for the uniform refers to 'blue cloth, dyed in the wool'. A Wrexham newspaper report from 1856, however, describes the local police uniform as 'rifle green body coats and trousers, high hats, oiled cloth capes and blucher boots'. In 1857 the force finally settled on blue.

Dim ond ar bapur yr oedd Heddlu Sir Ddinbych yn bodoli yn gynnar yn 1840. Un o orchwyllion cyntaf y Prif Gwnstabl, John Denman, oedd recriwtio. Roedd ar y Prif Gwnstabl angen uwcharolygwyr a chwnstablaiad gwryw oedd:

- dan ddeugain oed
- dros 5 troedfedd 7 modfeddi o daldra
- yn gallu darllen, ysgrifennu a chadw cyfrifon
- heini ac iach
- deallus

Yr her arall i unrhyw ddarpar ymgeisydd oedd profi ei fod yn ddibynadwy a didwyll. Geirda oedd yr allwedd; o ddewis gan bobl barchus fel dynion busnes, clerigwyr a'r bonedd. Roedd y ffurflen gais yn cynnwys adran lle'r oedd y canolwyr yn ardstyio bod yr ymgeisydd 'yn sobr, yn ddidwyll ac o dymer dda, a bod ei gysylltiadau a'i gydnabod yn barchus'. Roeddent hefyd yn gorfod datgan 'Ni wyddom am ddim byd cywilyddus yn ei gymeriad ac argymhellwn ef o ganlyniad i'w gyflogi'. Byddai heddlu Denman yn batrymau ymddwyn yn eu cymunedau ac ni fyddent fyth oddi ar ddyletswydd. Yn gyfnewid byddai uwcharolygwyr yn ennill £100 y flwyddyn a chwnstablaiad rhwng 15 swllt a 21 swllt yr wythnos.

Yn ei flwyddyn gyntaf cafodd pob uwcharolygydd a chwnstabl y canlynol:

- Un gôt fawr, gyda chlogyn a bathodyn
- Un gôt fain, gyda bathodyn
- Dau bâr o drowsus
- Un pâr o esgidiau cryfion
- Un pâr o esgidiau
- Un het

Roedd pob dyn hefyd yn cael ffon (pastwn), pâr o efnynau dwylo, llusern, ratl a chleddyf cwta bach. Dim ond ar adeg argyfwng y rhoddwyd y cleddyfau cwta, pan deimlai'r Ynadon Heddwch bod cyfraith a threfn yn ar fin chwalu. Rhoddwyd taclau newydd bob blwyddyn. Mae manyleb wreiddiol y lifrai'n cyfeirio at 'frethyn glas, o wllan wedi'i lifo'. Fodd bynnag, mae adroddiad un o bapurau newydd Wrecsam yn 1856, yn disgrifio lifrai'r heddlu lleol fel 'cotiau main a throwsus gwyrdd tywyll, hetiau uchel, clogyn oelcloth ac esgidiau mawr Blucher'. O'r diwedd, yn 1857 penderfynodd yr heddlu ar liw glas.



County of Denbigh Constabulary Force.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONSTABLES.

To be under Forty Years of Age.

To stand Five Feet Seven Inches without Shoes.

To read and write, and keep Accounts.

To be free from any bodily Complaint, of a strong Constitution, and generally intelligent.



No Person shall be appointed a Constable, who shall be a Gamekeeper, Wood Ranger, Bailiff, Sheriff's Bailiff, or Parish Clerk, or who shall be a hired Servant in the employment of any Person, or who shall keep or have any Interest in any House for the Sale of Wine, or Spirituous Liquors by Retail; and if any Person who shall be appointed Constable shall, at any Time after such his Appointment, become a Gamekeeper, Ranger, Bailiff, Sheriff's Bailiff, or Parish Clerk, or shall act in any of the said Retail, such Person shall thereupon become and be incapable of acting as such Constable, and shall forfeit his appointment of Constable, and also all Salary payable to him.

The annexed Certificate of Character is to be signed by One or more Persons who have had personal knowledge of the Candidate during the last year, singly or collectively.

PC 66 Davies was stationed at Rhostyllen for 22 years. According to his obituary, he was one of the best known landmarks in North Wales among motorists because he was 6 foot 4 inches tall and well-built. © Denbighshire Archives, DPD/3/5

Bu PC 66 Davies yn gweithio yn Rhostyllen am 22 o flynyddoedd. Yn ôl ei ysgrif goffa, roedd yn un o'r tirmodau mwyaf adnabyddus yng Ngogledd Cymru ymysg modurwyr oherwydd ei fod yn 6 troedfedd 4 modfedd o daldra a chyhyrog. © Archifdy Sir Ddinbych, DPD/3/5