

Faith & Morality



Ffydd a Moesoldeb

The Commissioners in their 1847 report on the State of Education in Wales¹, described the communities of Rhosymedre and Rhosllannerchrugog as the most immoral and ignorant in north Wales. Yet that same year 1,595 children from the parish of Ruabon attended a Sunday school attached to a local church or chapel.

Nonconformists saw the report as a challenge to build more chapels and to be more active in the community. By 1900 there were over twenty chapels and churches belonging to at least five different denominations around Rhosllannerchrugog.

The chapels were strong supporters of the Temperance Movement. The movement condemned alcohol and used social events to convince people to take 'the pledge'². They opened cocoa rooms in Wrexham and Overton as alternatives to the pub. Local teachers often complained that children were tempted to miss school to attend the many processions and tea parties organised by temperance societies such as the Band of Hope and the Rechabites.

However, the temperance societies were more active than effective. Beer quenched the thirst of the working man, whether the steelworker enduring the heat or the miner on the way home. Wrexham had over 70 public houses, numerous spirit stores and a large number of brewers and brewery workers keen to protect their trade.

¹ The report by the Commission of Inquiry into the State of Education in Wales is known as the Treason of the Blue Books. The findings and tone of the report were seen as a libel against the people of Wales.

² The promise to stop drinking alcohol was seen as good for the convert's moral well-being. It was not a health campaign.

Yn eu hadroddiad ar Gyflwr Addysg yng Nghymru¹ yn 1847, disgrifiwyd cymunedau Rhosymedre a Rhosllannerchrugog gan y Comisiynwyr fel y rhai mwyaf anfoesol ac anlythrennog yng ngogledd Cymru. Serch hynny, roedd 1,595 o blant plwyf lleol Rhiwabon yn mynychu ysgol Sul oedd yn gysylltiedig â chapel neu eglwys yn yr ardal.

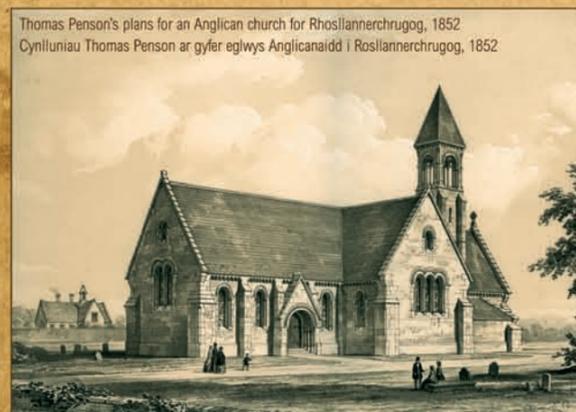
Gwelodd yr Anghydfurfwr yr adroddiad fel her ac aethpwyd ati i godi mwy o gapeli ac i fod yn fwy gweithgar yn y gymuned. Erbyn 1900 roedd mwy nag ugain o gapeli ac eglwysi yn perthyn i o leiaf bump o wahanol enwadau yng nghyffiniau Rhosllannerchrugog.

Roedd cefnogaeth gref i'r Mudiad Dirwestol yn y capeli. Roedd y mudiad yn condemnio alcohol ac yn defnyddio digwyddiadau cymdeithasol i argyhoeddi pobl y dylent gymryd 'y llw'². Fe agorwyd ystafelloedd coco yn Wrecsam ac Owrtyn er mwyn cynnig manau cyfarfod amgenach na'r tafarnau i bobl. Yn aml, byddai athrawon y cylch yn cwyno am fod plant yn cael eu temptio i gollu'r ysgol er mwyn iddynt fedru mynychu'r gorymdeithiau a'r partion te oedd yn cael eu trefnu gan y Gobeithlu a'r Rechabitiaid.

Fodd bynnag, er bod y mudiadau dirwestol yn weithgar, roedd terfynau ar eu heffeithiolrwydd. Cwrw oedd yn torri syched gweithwyr y fro, sef y gweithwyr dur oedd yn dioddef gwres llethol y ffwrneisi a'r glowyr ar eu ffordd adref o'r pyllau. Roedd gan Wrecsam fwy na 70 o dafarnau, amryw o siopau gwirodydd a nifer fawr o fragdai a gweithwyr bragdy oedd yn awyddus i ddiogelu eu bywoliaeth.

¹ Adroddiad y Comisiwn Ymchwil i Gyflwr Addysg yng Nghymru a adnabyddir fel Brad y Llyfrau Gleision. Roedd casgliadau a chywair yr adroddiad yn cael eu hystyried yn sen ar bobl Cymru.

² Gwelwyd yr addewid i ymrwthod ag yfed alcohol fel rhywbeth oedd yn cyfrannu ar les moesol y sawl a argyhoeddwyd. Nid ymgyrch i wella iechyd pobl oedd hi.



Thomas Penson's plans for an Anglican church for Rhosllannerchrugog, 1852
Cynlluniau Thomas Penson ar gyfer eglwys Anglicanaidd i Rosllannerchrugog, 1852

"Mr Darby invited about 200 people to tea in the school room to hear an address from Mr Bowley on the Question of Total Abstinence."

School Log Book, Brymbo & Broughton School, January 21st 1863
Llyfr Log yr Ysgol, Ysgol Brymbo a Brychtyn, Ionawr 21 1863

"...the prevalence of drunkenness, foul language, fighting and bestialities of a worse description."

Rev.J.D.Edwards on the people of Rhosymedre, 1847
Y Parchedig J.D.Edwards am bobl Rhosymedre, 1847



"The occasion of a grand demonstration of the Band of Hope and Temperance Societies, affecting both scholars and junior teachers. School closed for the afternoon."

Bersham Board School, log book, entry for September 26th 1893
Cofnod yn Llyfr Lög, Ysgol y Bwrdd Addysg yn Y Bers ar gyfer Medi 26, 1893

"I went to Sunday School when I was younger. I can remember our annual procession through Wrexham and the tea parties."

"Roeddwn i'n mynd i'r Ysgol Sul pan oeddwn i'n iau. Mi allai'i gofio ein gorymdaith flynyddol trwy Wrecsam a'r partion te."

