

TRADING PLACES ~ MAN MASNACHU

Wrexham's markets and fairs made the town central to the economy of north Wales. Farmers' wives sold poultry, eggs, butter and vegetables on Hope Street, the butchers traded from Abbot Street, while High Street was for the craftsmen's stalls.

Traders came from Birmingham, Manchester and Yorkshire to sell their goods, especially during the important March fair. Purpose-built market halls were built in the late 18th century: Jones's Hall on Queen Street for linen and fancy goods and Yorkshire Square, below St Giles's Parish church, for the cloth dealers.

The Beast Market, at the end of Charles Street, attracted farmers from throughout the borders. Cattle drovers drank in pubs, such as The Horns Inn and the Jolly Drovers, on Bridge Street and Pen-y-Bryn.

The homes of the wealthy such as Bryn y Ffynnon (Priory Lane), Plas Gwern (Tuttle Street) and The Mount (Mount Street) meant there was money in the town. This potential business attracted tradesmen and craftsmen. In the early 18th century there were over 100 different trades in Wrexham including clockmakers, wig, hat and bodice makers, tobacco cutters and spectacle makers – all signs that the inhabitants could afford their luxuries.

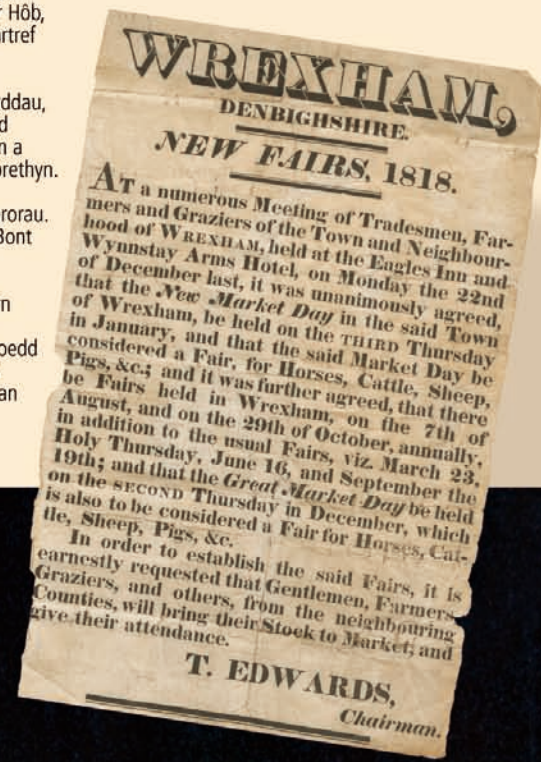
Elihu Yale (1649-1721), businessman and benefactor in Wrexham and the American colonies © Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
Elihu Yale (1649-1721), gwŵr busnes a chymwynaswr yn Wrecsam a'r gwladfeydd Americanaidd © Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.

Oherwydd marchnadoedd a ffeiriau Wrecsam, daeth y dref yn ganolog yn economi gogledd Cymru. Gwerthai gwragedd fferm ier, wyau, menyng a llyisiau ar Stryt yr Hôb, byddai'r cigyddion yn masnachu yn Stryt yr Abad, tra y byddai'r Stryt Fawr yn gartref i stondinau'r crefftwy.

Teithiai masnachwyr o Firmingham, Manceinion a Swydd Efrog i werthu eu nwyddau, yn arbennig yn ystod ffair bwysig mis Mawrth. Adeiladwyd neuaddau marchnad pwrpasol ar ddiwedd y 18fed ganrif: Neuadd Jones ar Stryt y Syfwr ar gyfer lliain a nwyddau ffansi a Sgwâr Efrog, o dan eglwys plwyf San Silyn, ar gyfer y delwyr brethyn.

Roedd y Beast Market ar waelod Stryt Siarl, yn denu ffermwyr o bob rhan o'r gororau. Yfai porthmyn mewn tafarndai megis The Horns Inn a'r Jolly Drovers, ar Stryt y Bont a Phen-y-Bryn.

Roedd cartrefi'r bobl gyfoethog megis Bryn y Ffynnon (Lôn y Priordy), Plas Gwern (Stryt y Twtil) a The Mount (Stryt y Bryn) yn golygu bod arian yn y dref. Denai'r potensial hwn am fusnes fasnachwyr a chrefftwy. Ar ddechrau'r 18fed ganrif roedd dros 100 o wahanol fathau o fasnach yn Wrecsam gan gynnwys gwneuthurwyr clociau, wigiau, hetiau, bodisau, torrwyr baco a gwneuthurwyr sbectolau - y cyfan yn arwydd o'r ffaith y gallai'r trigolion fforddio moethusrwydd.



High Street, Wrexham, by J.M.W. Turner, 1793 © V&A
Stryt Fawr, Wrecsam, gan J.M.W. Turner, 1793 © V&A



We present Thomas Baker for refusing to suffer the towne people or others to sell fish, lemons and other fruits for the comoditye of the towne and country, unless they pay extortion.

Session of the Denbighshire Grand Jury, 1663
Sesiwn o Uchel Reithgor Sir Ddinbych, 1663

*Born in America, in Europe bred,
In Africa travell'd and Asia wed,
Where long he liv'd and thriv'd, in London dead.*

Epitaph, Elihu Yale's tomb, Wrexham
Beddagraff, beddrodd Elihu Yale, Wrecsam

*I, John Jones, doe assign over forty boards,
17 butcher's trestles and 12 shoemakers standings.*

Memorandum on the sale of No.30 High Street, Wrexham
Memorandwm am werthiant Rhif 30 Y Stryt Fawr, Wrecsam

The High Street, Wrexham, looking towards the Town Hall, 1813,
pencil drawing by George Cutt © National Library of Wales
Y Stryt Fawr, Wrecsam, yn edrych tua at Neuadd y Dref, 1813,
a dynmwyd a phrenel gan George Cutt © Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru

