

Pump & Ceremony Pwmp a Seremoni

Fire destroyed St Giles' Parish Church in 1463 and devastated the town centre in 1643. With fire a constant threat, insurance companies in the 18th century started to offer fire cover and set up fire brigades.

In 1852 the Provincial Insurance Company of Wrexham established the first fire brigade in North Wales. The clerks in the company's office on High Street served as firemen in emergencies and they kept the 'engine' in a shed on Chester Street.

Wrexham was a fast growing town in the mid-19th century and its leading citizens wanted to run their own affairs. In 1863 the townsfolk set up their own Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Dinistriodd tân Eglwys Blwyf San Silyn yn 1463 a difrododd ganol y dref yn 1643. Gyda tân yn fygythiad cyson, dechreuodd cwmnïau gynnig yswiriant yn y 18fed ganrif a sefydlu brigadau tân.

Yn 1852 sefydlodd y Provincial Insurance Company, Wrecsam, y frigād dân gyntaf yng Ngogledd Cymru. Y clerdcod yn swyddfa'r cwmni ar y Stryt Fawr oedd y diffoddwyr tân mewn argyfyngau ac roeddent yn cadw'r 'peiriant' mewn cwt ar Stryt Caer.

Roedd tref Wrecsam yn tyfu'n gyflym ynghanol y 19eg ganrif ac roedd ei dinasyddion blaenllaw eisiau rhedeg eu busnes eu hunain. Yn 1863 sefydlodd y trefolion eu Brigād Dân Wirfoddol eu hunain.



Brass buttons from the uniform of Wrexham's Prince of Wales Volunteer Fire Brigade. © Denbighshire Archives, DD/G/3998

Botymau pres o lifral Brigād Dân Wirfoddol Tywysog Cymru yn Wrecsam, © Archifdy Sir Ddinbych, DD/G/3998

The Prince of Wales Volunteer Fire Brigade in their new uniforms, Eagles Meadow Bowling Green, 1880. The volunteers made their first public appearance at the celebrations to mark the wedding of the Prince of Wales in 1863. © Wrexham Archives, DWL 665/1

Brigād Dân Wirfoddol Tywysog Cymru yn eu lifreion newydd, Lawnt Fowlio Dŵl Egyrod, 1880. Gwnaeth y gwirfoddolwyr eu hymddangosiad cyhoeddus cyntaf yn y dathliadau i nodi priodas Tywysog Cymru yn 1863. © Archifau Wrecsam, DWL 665/1

The brigade encouraged donations by making anyone prepared to pay ten shillings a year an honorary member. Their annual ball was the society event of the year. The volunteers were an effective fire fighting force for nearly thirty years. However, over time expectations rose: the brigade was accused of being slow to respond to emergencies and not maintaining their equipment.

In 1895 the brigade resigned en masse after they were criticized in the council chamber. They were persuaded to return to duty and the town purchased a new fire engine, but eventually the volunteers fell out with the professional fireman employed by the council over their attendance at fires and drills.

The Borough Council established the Wrexham Fire Brigade, staffed by paid firemen, in 1904. It was the start of the modern fire service that we know today.

Roedd y frigād yn annog rhoddion trwy wneud pawb oedd yn barod i dalu deg swllt y flwyddyn yn aelodau er anrhydedd. Eu dawns flynyddol oedd achlysur ffasiynol y flwyddyn. Bu'r gwirfoddolwyr yn llu ymladd tân effeithiol am ddeng mlynedd ar hugain bron. Fodd bynnag, cynyddodd disgwyliadau gyda threigl amser: cyhuddwyd y frigād o fod yn araf i ymateb i argyfyngau ac nad oedd yn cynnal ei gyfarpar.

Yn 1895 ymddiswyddodd y frigād i gyd ar ôl lladd arnynt yn y siambr y cyngor. Perswadiwyd nhw i ddychwelyd i'w dyletswydd a phrynod y dref injan dân newydd. Fodd bynnag, aeth yn ddrwg maes o law rhwng y gwirfoddolwyr a'r diffoddwr tân proffesiynol a gyflogwyd gan y cyngor ynghylch mynychu tanau a driliau.

Sefydlodd Cyngor y Fwrdeistref Frigād Dân Wrecsam, gyda diffoddwyr tân cyflogedig, yn 1904. Dyma ddechrau'r gwasanaeth tân modern sy'n gyfarwydd inni heddiw.



The Professionals - The Wrexham Fire Brigade, outside the Fire Station, Chester Street, Wrexham, c.1905 © Denbighshire Archives, 101/266

Y Gweithwyr Proffesiynol - Brigād Dân Wrecsam, o flaen yr Orsaf Dân, Stryt Caer, Wrecsam, tua 1905 © Archifdy Sir Ddinbych, 101/266