

WREXHAM HERITAGE SERVICE

Information & Events 2010

museums / family activities / historic sites / schools / archives / archaeology

www.wrexham.gov.uk/heritage





WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH MUSEUM & ARCHIVE



BERSHAM HERITAGE CENTRE

Wrexham Community Heritage Project

In April 2009 the Heritage Lottery Fund announced its support for the Wrexham Community Heritage Project. The project will deliver major improvements at Wrexham County Borough Museum.

Building work at the museum site started in March, meanwhile museum staff are working with the collections, designers, partner organisations, and the local community to develop the new displays.

For the latest news, visit www.wrexham.gov.uk/heritage



The plans include :

- a family friendly gallery focused on the history of Wrexham County Borough
- a new gallery to display objects from Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales and the National Library of Wales
- a new glazed extension at the front of the building creating a welcoming space for the museum shop, reception and a new coffee shop
- a programme of events and activities to encourage more people to engage with their heritage

Large print version available, contact: **Bersham Heritage Centre**



Gateway to the beautiful Clywedog Valley and to the history of Bersham during the Industrial Revolution. With two exhibition galleries, activities for younger visitors, ample parking, children's playground and its central location for walking the Clywedog trail, Bersham Heritage Centre is a great place for young and old alike.



New for 2010: You can trace your family tree or research local history in the Archives & Local Studies search room, which is temporarily based in the heritage centre. Admission free. Donations welcome.

Visitor Information

Bersham Heritage Centre, Bersham Wrexham, LL14 4HT.
Tel: 01978 318 970 / Fax: 01978 318 971

Open

March 27th – August 31st 2010
Monday – Friday: 10.0am - 5.0pm
Saturday: 10.30am - 5.0pm
Sunday: 12noon - 5.0pm
Bank Holidays: 12noon - 5.0pm
Last entry: 30 minutes before closing.

For opening times after September 1st 2010, please see the website for details.

Directions

Follow brown signs marked Bersham and Clywedog from either the A525 onto the B5098 or the A483 onto the B5605 and B5098, and the Heritage Centre is just off the B5099 west of Wrexham.



KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Souvenir Shop
- Ice Cream
- Wheelchair Access
- Car Park
- Toilets
- Car Park for Blue Badge holders



PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

The Iron Man of Industry : John Wilkinson Wales & the Wider World

John Wilkinson was a pioneer of the Industrial Revolution and Bersham was the site of his greatest achievements. In this exhibition you can find out about his inventions, why it all happened here and enjoy the many stories, both fact and fiction, involving Wilkinson and his workforce. Activity trail and cartoon guide available for families.

Sharp as Steel, Tough as Iron: The story of Brymbo

Brymbo Steelworks was the heart and soul of a community for nearly two hundred years. Created in partnership with the Brymbo Heritage Group, this exhibition brings old Brymbo back to life, explains how the steelworks operated and remembers the lives of the steelworkers and the community they created.



TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS

Wrexham Lager Collection

April 9th – October 31st 2010

Wrexham Lager put Wrexham on the map. This small display features artefacts connected to the historic Wrexham Lager brewery that closed in 2000.



Wrexham Community Heritage Project

April 9th – October 31st 2010

Keep up to date with the development work that is happening at your local museum. This display offers you the opportunity to contribute your ideas on what should go on show at Wrexham County Borough Museum & Archive.

Events

May 29th – June 6th &
July 17th – September 5th

Money Makers

John Wilkinson made his own money. Try creating your own tokens based on his designs. Suitable for children aged 5 and older. FREE.



WREXHAM ARCHIVES & LOCAL STUDIES SERVICE

If you are tracing the history of your family or interested in the history of your local community, the first place to visit is the Archives & Local Studies search room based at Bersham Heritage Centre. Expert advice is available to assist you in your research.



Visitor Information

Opening Times

Monday – Friday: 10.0am - 5.0pm
Saturday: 10.30am - 3.0pm
Closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays

Wrexham Archives and
Local Studies Service,
Bersham Heritage Centre,
Bersham,
Wrexham, LL14 4HT.
Tel: 01978 318 978
Email: localstudies@wrexham.gov.uk
Email: archives@wrexham.gov.uk



The Collections Centre

The Collections Centre is closed while the redevelopment work takes place at Wrexham County Borough Museum.

For all collection enquiries or to make a donation to the museum collections, please telephone the Collections Manager on 01978 318 974.





OUT & ABOUT : BERSHAM IRONWORKS



John 'Iron Mad' Wilkinson was a leading figure in the Industrial Revolution. Explore this historic site set in the attractive Clywedog Valley. Discover how Wilkinson's cannon foundry helped make steam engines that powered a new world. Guided tours available.

Admission free. Donations welcome.

Sunday 1st August 2010
12 noon – 4.0pm

History Alive!!

Wrexham's annual living history festival at Bersham Ironworks will feature local Roman re-enactment group, Roman Tours; veteran, vintage and classic cars and motorbikes; family entertainers and more. Cost: Adults £2, Concessions £1.50 & Children 50p.



Open

Term time opening times:
April 17th – July 11th 2010

Open: Saturdays and Sundays only
12 noon - 5.0pm

Half term opening times:

May 27th – June 7th 2010

Open: Thursdays – Mondays
12 noon - 5.0pm

Closed: Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Summer opening times:

July 15th – August 30th 2010

Open: Thursdays – Mondays
12 noon - 5.0pm

Closed: Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Directions

Follow brown signs marked Bersham and Clywedog from either A525 onto B5098, A483 onto B5605 and B5098, or B5099 west of Wrexham. Look out for signs marked Gwaith Haearn Ironworks. Continue past the Ironworks for 150m, then turn right opposite Bersham Church for the car park.

Wheelchair user dropping off point is next to the Ironworks' ground floor entrance.



OUT & ABOUT : MINERA LEAD MINES



Discover the story of the lead miners of Minera, the village named after the ore beneath. Great heritage set in a country park below Minera Mountain and an ideal starting point for walking the Clywedog Trail. Guided tours available. Children's activity trail. Admission free. Donations welcome.

May 28th – June 7th
& July 16th – August 29th 2010

Young Prospector's Explorer Trail

Get ready to explore Minera Lead Mines with our children's activity trail. Start the trail at the Visitor Centre. FREE.



Open

Term time opening times:

April 17th – July 11th 2010

Open: Saturdays and Sundays only
12 noon - 5.0pm

Half term opening times:

May 27th – June 7th 2010

Open: Thursdays – Mondays 12 noon - 5.0pm

Closed: Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Summer opening times:

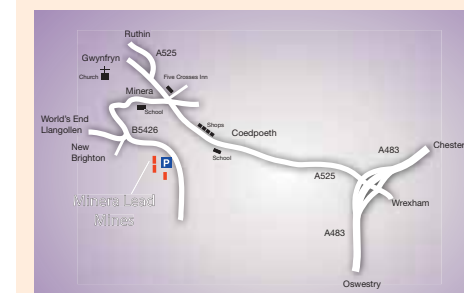
July 15th – August 30th 2010

Open: Thursdays – Mondays 12 noon - 5.0pm

Closed: Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Directions

Leave A483 taking A525 signposted Ruthin. At Coedpoeth opposite the Five Crosses Inn take B5426 (Minera Hall Road) signposted Minera. Follow the road for just over one mile until you reach the site entrance and car park on your right. Look out for brown signs marked Pyllau Plwm Lead Mines.





OUT & ABOUT : HOLT CASTLE



Built by John de Warenne, earl of Surrey, in the late thirteenth century to control his new lands in Wales and a nearby strategic ford across the River Dee. The castle, with nearby medieval bridge and parish church, is well worth a visit.



Please note: Conservation work has started on the castle so builders may be on site when you visit.

Open

The site is open at all times. Sensible footwear is required.

Directions

Park in the centre of Holt village, follow Church Street in the direction of Farndon, about 100m from the village centre take the footpath to the right signposted to the castle.



Holt castle in the fourteenth century, artist's impression.



OUT & ABOUT : PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT



One of the greatest engineering feats of the Industrial Revolution, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct took ten years to build opening finally in 1805. Standing 126 feet above the river Dee between the villages of Trevor and Froncysyllte, the aqueduct is now a World Heritage Site – recognition of the importance of Thomas Telford's masterpiece and its surrounding historic landscape.



Open

The site is open at all times. Sensible footwear is required. Not suitable for children under 5 or anyone afraid of heights. The aqueduct is accessible to wheelchair users.

Directions

Follow brown signs marked Pontcysyllte Aqueduct from the A5 London-Holyhead road or the A539 Whitchurch – Llangollen Road. Grid reference: SJ271421. Post code: LL20 7TX. For more information, tel: 01978 860 828.



Thomas Telford





OUT & ABOUT : PENRHOS ENGINE HOUSE AND CLYWEDOG TRAIL

John Wilkinson, the pioneering industrialist, built Penrhos Engine House in the late 18th century. It is thought to be the oldest surviving colliery engine house in Wales.

Open

The site is open at all times.

Directions

Take the A525 Ruthin Road out of Wrexham, after you have gone over the A483, take the second right signposted Southsea and Brymbo. Continue on this road for 2½ miles as it climbs until you see the Engine House on the right. There is a handy lay-by for parking. The grid reference for Penrhos Engine House is SJ 287532.



The Clywedog Trail

The Clywedog Trail is a great way to enjoy the open air, whilst discovering the industrial heritage of Wrexham and you don't have to walk the full length of nine miles in one go – do it in easy stages! For more information: tel 01978 318 970.



WREXHAM HERITAGE ROADSHOW & WEBSITE

MUSEUM ON WHEELS

Wrexham Heritage Service has developed a new road show where the museum comes to you. The road show gives just a taste of what your local museum has to offer and has activities for both adults and children.

Look out for the road show at events in your local community. Contact the Access team on 01978 318 970 for more information. Supported by CyMAL Museums Archives & Libraries Wales.



The road show will be at the following events:

- 14/05/10 Wrexham Learners' Day, Queen's Square, Wrexham
- 02/06/10 Alyn Waters community fun day
- 05/06/10 AVOW Big Wrexham day out
- 26/06/10 Chirk village fête
- 03/07/10 Scientriffic (Wrexham Science Festival)
- 22/07/10 Ty Mawr community fun day
- 25/07/10 Bellevue Park centenary celebrations
- 20/08/10 Bangor on Dee - Dee Festival
- 22/08/10 Rowlands Bicentenary day, Brymbo
- 11/09/10 Ponciau Banks community fun day



ACCESS ALL HOURS

www.wrexham.gov.uk/heritage

You are never more than a mouse click from Wrexham's museums. Our website is packed with information on Wrexham's past. The site has information for visitors, background history on all our sites, virtual galleries, the collections catalogue, tours of the town and regular updates on what is happening in your museums.

New online content for 2010: Tomb Builders: Neolithic Wales 4000 – 3000 BC, Brymbo Fossil Forest, and Coal Mining in North Wales. To stay up to date with the museum makeover, click on Heritage News and the museum diary.



LEARNING & GETTING INVOLVED

Schools

Don't miss out on the educational experience Wrexham's museums could offer your school. Our workshops are cross curricular and relate strongly to the history, art and literacy syllabus. Current workshops include Victorian Wrexham, Toys from the Past, and The Homefront – WW2. While the museum is closed for refurbishment, these workshops would be delivered in your school. Programmes also available at Minera Lead Mines and John Wilkinson's Ironworks.

Loan boxes for national curriculum topics are available to borrow to aid classroom teaching. For more details contact the Learning & Access Officer on 01978 318 970 or email: museumeducation@wrexham.gov.uk



Getting Involved

There are many ways in which you can get involved in your local heritage.

- Join the Friends of Wrexham Museums
- Join or help establish a local history group in your community. We can put you in touch with the Wrexham Heritage Forum.
- Contact the museum about volunteering opportunities.
- Add your name to the heritage service's mailing list and keep in touch with the latest news and events.

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