

MAE HANES GWAITH IEUENCTID YNG NGHMYRYU THE HISTORY OF YOUTH WORK IN WALES

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUTH WORK

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

* This brought about a great movement of people from the land to industrial areas.

* In agrarian societies the family unit had been responsible for the socialisation of young people

* The industrial revolution created a busy society in which young people had little leisure, as they were fully occupied by work.

These changes in society brought about very poor living conditions for people. Merthyr Tydfil was the largest town in Wales and had its own slum area known as China. Crime, prostitution and drunkenness were rife and it was a no go area for the Police, magistrates etc..

At the same time Britain was developing its Empire (Including a colonisation of Wales) and needed a fit and able army to maintain its provinces from invasion by external or internal forces.

Wales was under threat from increasing Anglicisation due to people moving from other parts of Britain and the world to work in coal mines and iron works.

FEAR OF THE WORKING CLASSES

In Wales we have had a colourful history of Uprisings and campaigns against the social conditions of the times and for social justice. For example:

The Merthyr Risings 1831- Die Penderyn was hung following his conviction for stabbing a soldier in the leg with his own bayonet.

The Chartist Uprising 1839 - Thousands of Chartists marched on Newport from the valley areas to demand a set of new rights for working class people. They were fired upon by soldiers garrisoned in the Castle Hotel, Newport and the leaders were sent to colonial penitentiaries in Australia. Many of the chartists requests are now taken as read by all of us.

The Rebecca Riots 1840's - Tollgates and houses were burned to the ground by farmers and stockholders protesting about the levy of tolls on roads leading to market towns as they could not afford to loose any of the money that they may make on their produce. Men dressed in womens clothing depicting biblical characters. (The daughters of Rebecca): The scotch cattle were another group of cross dressers who wreaked revenge on people they considered has contravened community solidarity. This was more of a valleys phenomena.

Racial Conflicts in Barry 1900 - Barry has always been a multi-cultural area due to the influence of the docks.

The Miners Strike, Tonypandy 1910 - Miners were fired upon and one was killed by soldiers at Tonypandy railway station.

EMERGENT THEMES FOR EARLY YOUTH WORKERS

PATRIOTISM - The need to have reserve of fit young men willing and able to fight on behalf of the queen and country. This may have been* as much part of Baden Powells flunking as was the personal development of young men.

CHRISTLAMTY - The need to instil moral and religious values as a way of controlling the fervour of the working class. Sunday schools, Church based youth groups, the Band of Hope and religious revivals were prominent features of young peoples lives in the 19the and early 20th centuries.

CULTURE - youth organisations were seen as a way of preserving and promoting the language and cultures of Wales.

DATES:	YMCA	1830's
	BOYS CLUBS	1870's
	YWCA	1877
	BOYS BRIGADE	1883

is important to note that early youth work evolved as a voluntary movement

CHARACTERISTICS OF EARLY YOUTH WORK

1. THE INCULCATION OF MIDDLE CLASS VALUES

Pioneer youth workers made genuine efforts to develop young people, but this often meant importing their values and attitudes into their work as working class people were considered to be distasteful and vulgar. This was allied to the idea that urban life spawned undesirable attitudes and thus early youth movements used the countryside as a way of instilling more desirable attitudes in young people.

Scouting is the obvious example.

This led to a belief in activities as the cause of change and development in young people rather than as a setting or vehicle with which to develop personal qualities. A legacy we still live with today, e.g. Climbing mountains is character building.

2. THE DEVELOPMENT OF "GOOD FORM".

Standards of behaviour were adopted as well. Team spirit, playing the game etc.. were concepts imported from the English public school system and were hallmarks of early youth work. Youth workers presented such role models to young people.

These early youth workers were often from such backgrounds themselves so did not have the benefit of being able to learn from other cultures, which they saw as uncivilised anyway, e.g. The Blue Books(1847) was a report on Education in Wales which described Wales and the Welsh language as uncivilised.

3. KEEPING THEM OFF THE STREETS

Youth organisations were seen as an alternative to the music hall, street corner or pubs. In 1929 Baden Powell compared cinema stars and cup finals with crimes like murder and claimed that they created an interest in false values. Whilst in 1930 NABC recorded its vigorous opposition to commercialised sport and classed the cinema in the same category as the street corner.

THE BIRTH OF MODERN YOUTH WORK

The inter war years saw a growing interest in young peoples issues and was a growth time for many of todays organisations.

The second world war also focused political thinking and the 1944 education act placed a responsibility on local authorities to provide services for young people, taking the service away from its purely voluntary basis.

"v

The post war period provided an increase in employment and leisure for young people and again there was a concern about young people following the growth in youth cultures.

This was restated by the Alblemarle report (1958) which set the scene for an expansion in youth work - a building programme and training for youth workers. This report also heralded the start of the person centred approach towards youth work which was reconfirmed by.....

The youth and community work in the 70's report followed the growth of a more liberal society in the 1960's and called for the development of a youth and community service. This is reflected in much of the youth service in Wales today.

In 1981 a report on the youth service in England (The Thompson Report) called for the greater participation of young people in the youth service and social affairs and also heralded the growth in managerialism. This was supported by the 1984 report on the youth service in Wales, which also called for a national body to co-ordinate and promote youth work in Wales.

During the early 1990's we saw the development of the youth work curriculum statement for Wales and a Coopers and Lybrand report on management issues for the youth service in Wales. This called for a decentralisation of services and greater participation by young people.

Cuts in local authority budgets have also had a great influence on the youth service with many services now delivering a part time service to young people as part of an overarching community education department.

Other influences on modern day youth work include:

The women's movement

Black issues

The gay and lesbian rights movement

The disabled rights movement