

## Newtown – work

Newtown was created as a market town in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and in the 19<sup>th</sup> century became a centre of the woollen industry in Wales. Between the two World Wars the larger woollen factories that remained closed but in 1950/60s there was still employment to be had in manufacturing as well as elsewhere.

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Shukers were an agricultural engineering business selling the small grey Ferguson tractors. This was the first tractor to be equipped with rear hydraulics which made it a much more versatile machine. This versatility appealed to hill farmers and it did much to encourage mechanisation in Mid Wales.



Shukers first depot on the site of what was Ladywell House.



Launch of the Ferguson FE35 in 1956 with grey body work and gold bronze engine block. Massey Harris would soon take over and the tractor was then marketed at Massey Ferguson 35 and achieved excellent sales. The Hon Islwyn Davies launches the tractor to the Mid Wales public.



Although the woollen factories had gone Pryce Jones remained, as a retail shop and also as a centre for some manufacturing and business processes.



A large part of one of the upper floors was given over to what some called the pyjama factory and others the shirt factory. The employees were mostly women.





A large part of another upper floor was used for the mail-order section of the business. As can be seen below once again nearly all women operatives, probably over fifty.



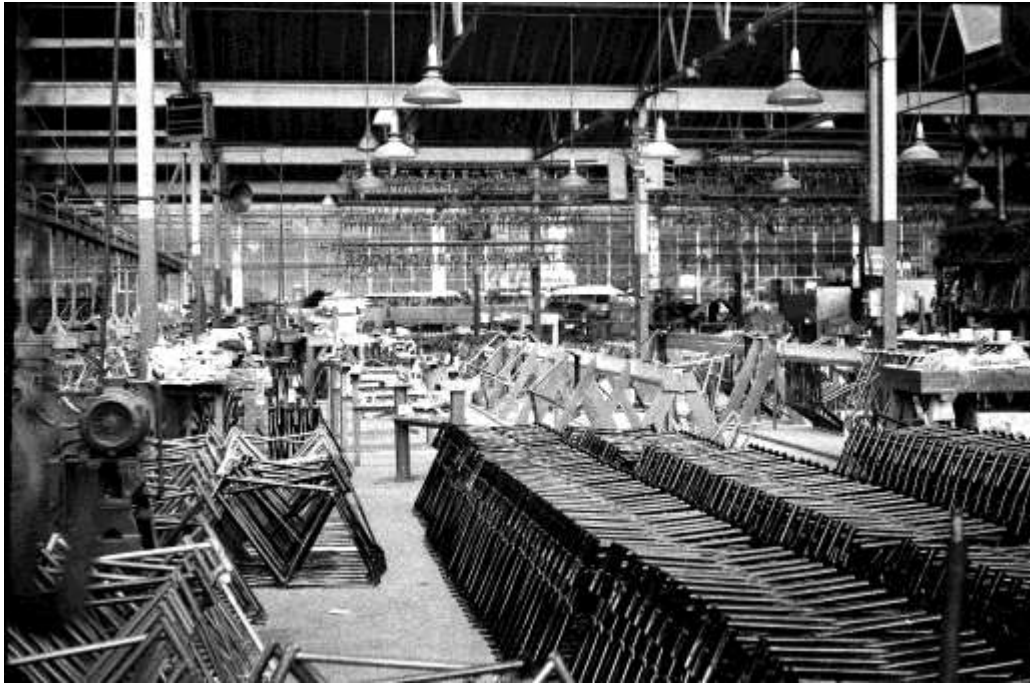


Finally the Pryce Jones switchboard, an example that was typical for the time, circa 1950/60.



At the start of the Second World War the factory premises on the Pool Road we now call the Lion works were built as part of the government's efforts to disperse key manufacturing processes into more rural locations, out of large industrial cities which were likely to be targets for bombers. After the end of the Second World War the site was occupied by Phillips who were bicycle manufacturers who were followed by BRD who make vehicle parts. Below the cycle factory manager and the factory.





Firemen tackling a chimney fire, no great concerns then about health and safety. Then as now most firemen in Montgomeryshire were part-time volunteers usually called retained firemen.





Finally a local policeman standing proudly by his car, the first that had been issued to the Newtown police station. The car, which is a Vauxhall, has an old "EP" Montgomeryshire registration "EEP 62" which was quite an early one. Possibly in the days when Montgomeryshire still had its own police force.



The local gas manager congratulates Isobel Stoner when the Newtown County Grammar School won 'Top of the Form' radio programme. Isobel returned later to be the Classics teacher and the High School.

