

# MORE THAN A WORKPLACE

Written by Gareth Williams



So here we all are stood amazed,  
at this exhibition forged by hand.  
That's been curated with heart and vigour.  
With memories, stories to share again,  
to pass on, reflect & consider.  
Where training schools' green overalled boys,  
were crafted into men.  
In a smithy full of coke fires & bletch,  
was our adult workplace den.

What sights and sounds, more ups than downs,  
building boilers with smoke filled clouds.  
Pinging hot rivets flew past our crowns,  
like ammunition firing rounds.  
Hundreds of bikes resting down West Street,  
after being peddled by youthful feet.  
Staggard starts for shift pattern charts,  
for Rolls-Royce replacing horse & carts.

*It means more than a workplace to many a man,  
the memories live on and remain to span.  
Passed on to sons & daughters alike,  
to pick old photos or discuss on a hike.*

Twelve months of learning what we could,  
would not prepare all to be good.  
With tales of handstands atop boilers,  
between the aisles of our employers.  
From 'Billy Bang Bang' and 'Arse & Pockets',  
to a wooden carriage with payday docket.  
This was a place that meant more than work,  
from shop floor to management and ten shop clerk.  
Wrestling matches on shop floors,  
from men who worked in drawing stores.  
The distinctive sounds of drop hammers and hooters,  
would wake the town like crowing roosters.  
Summer lemonade and corner shop visits,  
where pork pies were purchased in good spirit.  
The problem was cigarettes were requested,  
and smoking pork pies should not be rolled, lit and ingested.  
Christmas concerts with dressed up bands,  
banjos, funny hats with musical slams.  
*More than a workplace was Crewe Works,  
the people we worked with were our main perks.  
What I'd give for a day to hear that piercing loud horn,  
at least I can be grateful for those training school overalls  
that I was proud to have worn.*

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