

15 August 2019

HSBC UK PRESTATYN BRANCH CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HSBC UK's branch in Prestatyn, one of the oldest branches in the bank's network, is celebrating its 125th anniversary since the bank first opened its doors for business in the town.

The branch has a fascinating history that includes employees playing a full part in both World Wars, with members of staff joining the war effort.

The branch originally opened as part of the North and South Wales Bank and formally opened its doors in August 1894. Located on the High Street, the branch opened with a small team led by branch manager Hugh Hughes, who had worked at the bank's head office and in other branches since 1873, and continued in his role at the Prestatyn branch until 1922

Hugh Hughes's time as manager included Midland Bank's acquisition of the North and South Wales Bank in 1908, fourteen years after the Prestatyn branch was opened, which was part of the bank's expansion up and down the country.

The Prestatyn branch was part of an expansion outside of the Midlands in the 1890s which saw the branch network grow from 45 in number to more than 300 at the turn of the century.

During the First World War over 4,000 men from Midland Bank left their posts to join Her Majesty's forces. John Jones and Ivor Morgan joined the war effort from the Prestatyn branch to serve their country. Ivor Morgan returned to the branch safely, however, sadly this was not the case for John Jones who was killed in action in France

The Second World War saw seven branch employees enlist with the armed forces. Happily, bank records suggest all men who left the branch and survived, with most of them returning to their jobs in 1946.

Nicola Sheehan, branch manager at the HSBC UK Prestatyn, who has been in position for 18 months, said: "I am proud to be leading the branch team at such a momentous time. Celebrating 125 years of the branch being open in this fantastic town has given us the opportunity to appreciate how our branch has adapted to rapidly changing consumer habits and technology over the years."

"During the early 1890's in-branch services and the customer experience in Prestatyn would have been significantly different to what it is like today. Opening hours coincided with local market days and the services available would be limited to business advice and small loans, receiving deposits, withdrawals authorisations and cashing cheques in, with all records paper-based and recorded in large ledgers.

"While today, the majority of our banking is done with a click of a button, where customers can keep a very close eye on their finances wherever they are in the world, they are still able to discuss our mortgage and savings options here in the branch. We are very proud to be part of a branch which has been at the centre of change in banking

in the 21st century, but even more proud to continue to be providing a first class service for those in Prestatyn who use the branch.”



Prestatyn branch 1980 (source: HSBC Archives)



Prestatyn branch 2019 (source: HSBC UK)

SURNAME	Jones		
CHRISTIAN NAMES...	John. Spar		
NUMBER AND RATING OR RANK	Private		
DECORATIONS ...			
REGIMENT OR OTHER UNIT ...	1st R. W. F.		
BRANCH.	DATE OF BIRTH.	DATE OF ENTERING BANK'S SERVICE.	DATE OF JOINING H.M. FORCES.
PRESTATYN	19 May 1897	14 Sept 1914	11 May 1916 [P.T.O.]

The War Card of John Jones, who sadly died in action in France in the First World War. (Source: HSBC Archives)

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