

NEWSLETTER



Merry Christmas to Everyone

December 2015 Issue 12

Events.

Library Volunteers Lunch – Friday 4th December 2015 12:00 – 13:00, Meeting Room.

OF&LHG Christmas Meal – Monday 14th December 2015 at 13:00, Sweeney Hall

Shropshire Archives – Christmas Drinks Tuesday 15th December from 12:00

Current Projects.

- **Cemetery Project** – 3rd Volume of the Cemetery Registers is now complete. We have now researched just over 3,600 people interred in Oswestry Cemetery.
- **Rolling Stack Card Index** – Work has now started on updating the Card Index to help identify the Non Welsh Collection books etc. in the Rolling Stack. A reorganisation of the Rolling Stack has been completed by Sandy.
- **Merging the B.C.A. Card Indexes** – We have 2 sets of Index Cards for our Local Newspapers, containing Marriage & Death extracts, these will be merged to help customers find articles in our newspapers held on Micro Film. Nearly complete, the next task is to resort the drawers.
- **Digitizing the BCA from 1980-2012** – These copies of the Border County Advertiser are only held as Hard Copy and they are slowly disintegrating. To save these newspapers we are photographing every edition and storing it on CD, so that it can be accessed on the Library Computers. We have decided to have a small group of 4 people working on this project. Mike, David, Anne & Helen. We have completed 1980, that is now on disc and 1981&1982 & part of 1983 have been photographed. _
- **Parish Records** – We need to bring our Parish Records up to date. A project will start to contact churches in our area, to see if we can digitise any missing records. Mary & Kate have taken this project on.

- **New Articles** – We have a list of articles that need producing, Ammunition Dumps around Oswestry in WW2 (John Dixon has been doing some research) & Hugh Soloman Williams born Llanddeiniolen, Caernarvonshire (Headmaster Nation School Llansillin).
- **Out Of Area Maps**- There are some Ordnance Survey maps, that need sorting, which are taking up vital room in the Rolling Stack. Gillian & Tony to sort.
- **BMD Online database** - still has a year's worth of data to add.
- **Roll Of Honour Online database** - still has a year's worth of data to add.
- **Some New Displays** – We hope to have some new displays next year: - Parker Leighton Paintings & Oakhurst (Venables Family). Pam to deal.
- **Funeral Directors & Crematoriums** – We are looking to see if we can get hold of their records to digitize. Pam to deal.
- **Article** - David Davies born Oswestry (Geologist). Charles has started the article.
- **School Liason Project** – Pam & Sandy are starting a new project, Trefonen School have asked us for some Local History help, we are going to see if we can help other schools in the area as well.

Training Sessions

We have now completed the training sessions for our new members.

Research

Hello

It has not proved possible to be 100% certain that anyone from Oswestry died during the 1st Day of the Somme, however it does not look likely that any did.

We need to take into consideration that some soldiers may have been born / lived in Oswestry, but fought for other battalions due to the amalgamation of various units.

We have spent some time looking at the War Diaries for the regiments mainly associated with the men from Oswestry - KSLI and Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

On the 1st July 1916 these are the reported positions for the following Battalions:

1st Battalion KSLI - Herzelle, Belgium

5th Battalion KSLI - Sant Sauver (nr Normandy)

7th Battalion KSLI - Boisdingham, France

4th Battalion Royal Welsh - Bois De Bouvigny

13th Battalion Royal Welsh - Herissart

15th Battalion Royal Welsh - Puchevillers

17th Battalion Royal Welsh - Toutencourt

19th Battalion Royal Welsh - Marles Les Mines

The 13th, 15th and 17th Battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers fought during the Battle of Mametz Wood which was part of the Somme, but the dates recorded for this are 7th to 12th July. Over 4000 men died during this period.

The 5th Battalion KSLI has a battle honour for the Somme, but this is recorded for August 1916.

I hope that this helps with your research. It would be very interesting to know why you are seeking this information or what you intend to use it for.

Please contact us again if we can be of help

Sara Cox

Dear Mr Owen,

Oswestry Family & Local History Group: Query No. 648

In response to your letter regarding any available information about the Reverend Thomas John Williams and his time of Ministry in Oswestry, please see my research findings enclosed, which include a reply from the Doctor Williams Library in London to my email. Also here is the transcription page of the 1911 census for the Rev T. J. Williams and his family, along with a poor copy of the Parchment showing the list of Ministers from 1651 – 1951. I plan to take a further photocopy of the book mentioning T. J. W. whilst I am in the Library for our Friday afternoon session.

1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census Transcription

73 Park Avenue Oswestry, Oswestry Urban, Shropshire, England

Household Members

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Occupation	Age	Birth year	Birth place
Thomas John	Williams	Head	Married	Male	Congregational Minister	33	1878	Carnarvonshire Bethesda
Mary	Williams	Wife	Married	Female	-	35	1876	Glamorgan Gelligaer
David Ifrancon	Williams	Son	-	Male	-	1	1910	Denbighshire Pweeglas Epueshtyd
Margaret Eirene	Williams	Daughter	-	Female	-	0	1911	Shropshire Oswestry

Statistics.

Our Website Statistics – Nov 2015 **Users Logging On** 928 with 6,379 **Pageviews***.

Total for the Year 2015 **Users Logging On** 10,744 with 73,912 **Pageviews.**

Total for the Year 2014 **Users Logging On** 9,871 with 72,494 **Pageviews.**

* pageviews = Total numbers of web pages visited.

<u>Weekly Session Statistics</u> -	Oct/Nov 2015	Hrs	Ext Hrs	Cust	Queries
	Fri 30th	12.5	8.0	3	2
	Mon 2nd	24.0	9.0	3	3
	Fri 6th	12.5	12.0	7	2
	Mon 9th	22.0	15.0	2	2
	Fri 13th	15.0	13.0	3	3
	Mon 16th	20.0	9.0	3	6
	Fri 20th	10.0	11.0	6	0
	Mon 23rd	14.0	10.0	2	1
Total Hours		130.0	87.0	29	19

Year 2015	Total Hours Monday & Friday	1448.5hrs
	Total External Hours	1038hrs
	Total No of Library Customers	243
	Total No of Queries (emails)	174

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