



Newsletter

Issue 5

December 2014

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Progress so far

The Oswestry Cemetery Project blog has now been launched. It can be found at: www.oswestrycemeteryproject.org.uk/blog

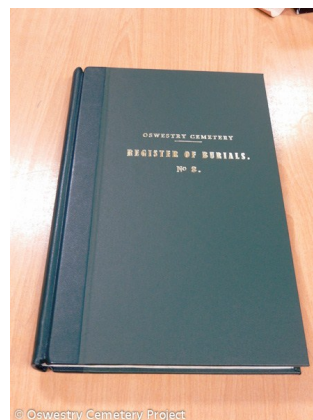
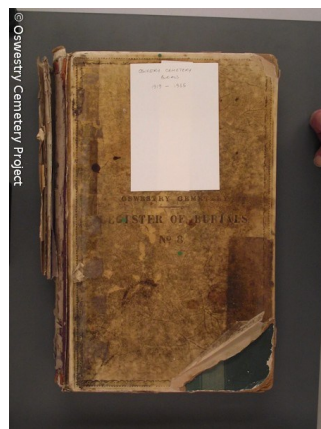
The blog will include further detailed information about subjects in the newsletters. It will also include additional snippets of information and articles by guest bloggers.

Volunteers are still busily working on the genealogical research and the cataloguing.

Nine sections of the Cemetery have been photographed. Funding has been reallocated to help complete the photographic survey before the end of the Project in March 2015.

Photographs of one section of the Cemetery have been uploaded onto the virtual volunteer website Shropshire's Heritage Heroes. If you would like to transcribe some of the memorial inscriptions from the survey photographs visit: <http://www.heritageheroes.org.uk/>

Digitisation work is continuing on the burial registers. The work should be completed by the end of December. Four burial registers have been refurbished by Ludlow Bookbinders. The results are very impressive. The information in the registers is now preserved for the years to come.



Pictures of one of the burial registers before and after the repairs.



The first gravestone has been restored and was returned to the Cemetery in early October. Welcome home Sarah! A pictorial timeline of the stages of restoration can be found on the Project blog.

Phil Kenning of Ruyton XI Towns has been commissioned to design the new information board for the Cemetery. The new board will be in place at the end of the Project in March 2015.

The majority of the Cemetery records have been catalogued and have now been returned to Oswestry Town Council from Shropshire Archives.

A call for interesting snippets

This quarter's interesting snippet was provided by Helen Parry Jones. Helen is checking the transcription of the registers on the Cemetery database. During her volunteer work she found a man buried in the Cemetery having been found dead in a field (burial 4152 on 22 August 1892). The man was unknown, perhaps a stranger to the town, as no name was recorded for him. He was buried in a common grave with people from Morda Workhouse.

The next newsletter will be the last, so don't hold back with your finds.

The Fulchers of Morda Workhouse

The following information was given to the genealogical volunteers based at Oswestry Library by Paul Brent. Further information about the Fulcher family (branches of which emigrated to Australia and Canada), can be found on the website Asletts.com.

George Fulcher and Mary Fulcher who are buried in grave D50 at the Cemetery were Master and Schoolmistress of Morda Workhouse. George held the position for 39 years. Mary in various roles, resided and worked at the Workhouse for 56 years.

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Oswestry Incorporation on 20 September 1858 the Master and Schoolmistress were dismissed from their positions due to misconduct. The Board advertised the position of Master at £60 per annum, with the additions of board and lodging with furnished accommodation and washing, and for a Schoolmistress at



£30 per annum. A married couple was preferred. There were 12 applicants for the positions, but George and Mary, the Principal and Schoolteacher of Bishop's Castle National School, were appointed on 11 October 1858.

When George died it was recorded in the Workhouse minutes of a meeting held on 24 January 1898 that the Chairman referred to:

'the loss the incorporation has sustained by the death on last Saturday of Mr. George Fulcher, Master of this Workhouse, an appointment he has held for upwards of 39 years, during the whole of which long service he had faithfully and conscientiously discharged the duties to the entire satisfaction of the various Boards of Directors, who had met there from time to time.'



Fulcher Home in England

Mary took on the duties of Master until a replacement, in the person of her younger son, George, was appointed to the post. Mary then became the Matron of the Workhouse. George's wife, Elizabeth, became Laundress and later Assistant Matron.

A picture of Mary, George Fulcher Junior and Elizabeth. It is believed to have been taken at Morda Workhouse.

Image courtesy of Paul Brent. Please respect copyright.

The image portrays a comfortable existence at the Workhouse. When George Fulcher died in 1898 he left his wife £1476-4s-7d (approximately £84,200 in modern money).

It has all been about workhouses over the last few weeks. Check out the Oswestry Cemetery blog for an article about the not so successful Master of Llanfyllin Workhouse by guest blogger, Heather Hidden, at www.oswestrycemeteryproject/blog

About the Project

The Project funded by Oswestry Town Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund aims to:

- Conserve and catalogue the Cemetery records.
- Repair the first headstone.
- Conduct a text and photographic survey of the headstones in the Cemetery.
- Undertake a mapping survey.
- Research the history of the Cemetery and create new information boards and leaflets.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Project Manager (details below).

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