



Newsletter

Issue 2

March 2014

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Progress so far

This quarter we have completed the bulk of the conservation work. Linda Boden finishes in post as Conservation Assistant in April.

We have recruited volunteers for cataloguing and work has started entering the memorial forms on the CALM archive database.

The website design is in production and work has been ongoing on the Town Council's burial database to prepare it for online use.

The grave mapping exercise has been completed by Barry Lowe Surveys Ltd and the new digital maps should replace the old paper maps later this year.

The photographic survey of the gravestones has been a bit of a damp squib, but then so has the weather. Hopefully both will improve in the coming months. More volunteers have now signed up for the survey.

Sudden demise on the steam ship Angelo

During my work preparing the burials database for the website I came across a death on the steam ship Angelo in 1885. After a bit of digging on the internet I found that the Angelo was primarily used to transfer Scandinavian emigrants from Norway to Hull. They would then cross England and carry on their journey to the USA.



The Angelo leaving Christiania, Norway (now Oslo).

But what was a person buried in Oswestry Cemetery doing travelling from Norway to Hull?

The person in question was David Christopher Davies aged 58 years. A search for David on Ancestry brought up astonishing results. The search results included a Dictionary of National Biography entry. David was a self-educated geologist and mining engineer born and bred in Oswestry.

Continued overleaf.



He started out in life as an ironmonger, but eventually used his knowledge of local stone to write articles for geological society transactions and magazines. He was also a lay preacher who wrote religious tracts.

So why did he die on route from Norway to Hull? David had developed quarries in the south of France, Germany and conducted mining business in Norway. He died suddenly of heart disease en route from one of his business trips to Norway. What is really impressive about this story is it only took seven days from the date of death at sea for David to be buried in Oswestry. Obviously there was less red tape in 1885!

Cold War memorial

The cataloguing work on the memorial forms has highlighted the burial of a crew member of one of the planes involved with the Berlin Airlift. Kenneth Seaborn aged 24 years died in November 1948—one of only 39 British and Commonwealth casualties of the operation giving aid to blockaded Berlin.

Seaborn's plane crashed over England on a refuelling exercise following a trip to Germany. Kenneth was trained at RAF Halton and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Medal during his time in 640 Squadron (part of Bomber Command) in 1944.



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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