



# OSWESTRY CEMETERY PROJECT

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 1.

December 2013

### Contents

Progress so far.

And now for something completely different...

A call for interesting snippets.

Did you know?

About the Project.

### Progress so far

The Project is now up and running. Here are some highlights of the first three months.

#### September

September saw the creation of a temporary display using copies of the Cemetery archives which was displayed at the Guildhall during the Oswestry Heritage Weekend. A permanent display will eventually replace the existing display and should be going on tour to local venues during the Project.

The Cemetery documents were sent to Shropshire Archives to be conserved and catalogued.

Some of the Oswestry Family and Local History Group were amongst the first volunteers to join the Project. They are an enthusiastic group who have already prepared a summary genealogy for 100 people in the Cemetery.

#### October

October saw the formal launch of the Project. Local historian, John Pryce-Jones, put the foundation of the Cemetery in context. With the increase of the population and the amount of non-conformist religions there was a real need for a new cemetery.

Conservation work began. In the first two weeks, Linda Boden, Conservation Assistant, sorted the

'grotty box' containing documents in very poor condition. The documents that are repairable will be conserved and prepared for cataloguing. This will enable them to be made accessible to the public.



'grotty box'

#### November

November saw training and a site visit for the photographic volunteers. The volunteers have been getting to grips with wonky gravestones and uploading images to SkyDrive. Some trial images have been submitted and the results are looking very promising. The images will eventually be put on a Virtual Volunteer website so volunteers can transcribe the memorial inscriptions. There will be further news about this in the next newsletter.

A start was made on cataloguing the Cemetery documents by Karen Young, the Cataloguing Assistant.

We commissioned a new website which will host Oswestry Town Council's archive catalogue and the grave survey.



# OSWESTRY CEMETERY PROJECT

## And now for something completely different...

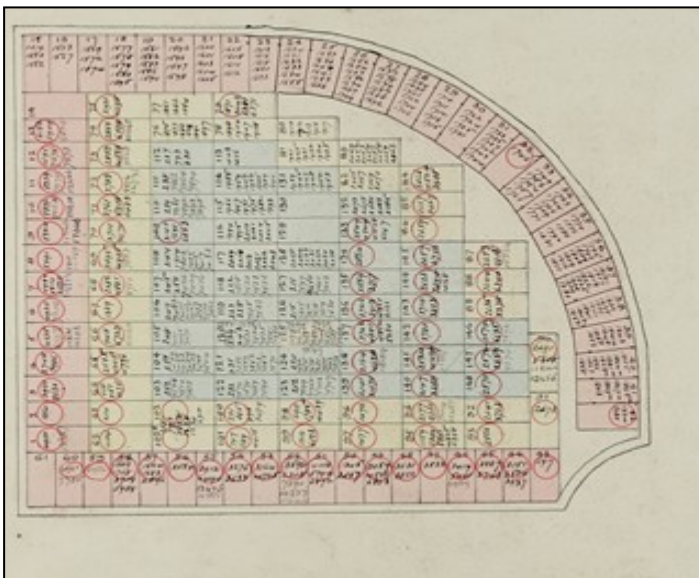
Karen, the Cataloguing Assistant, has found a document about swimming lessons for Oswestry School children in the Cemetery archives. Why, or how it got there we can't even start to explain!



## A call for interesting snippets

One of the aims of the newsletter is to keep people up to date with what has been going on. However, it also lets volunteers from different areas of the Project know what interesting discoveries are being made in other areas. If you find any interesting gems of information that you want to share, please send them to:

[sara.downs@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.downs@shropshire.gov.uk)



## Did you know?

Oswestry Cemetery was designed to incorporate first, second and third class graves. On the early grave plans the different class graves were denoted by different colours. The first class graves were located near to paths, so surviving family members wouldn't get their feet wet!

Oswestry Cemetery Section C

## 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, contact the Project Manager (details below).

Contact: Sara Downs  
Project Manager, Oswestry Cemetery Project  
[sara.downs@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sara.downs@shropshire.gov.uk)  
01743 355354 or 01691 680222