

# OSWESTRY & BEYOND HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

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# Welcome to England's largest festival of history and culture!

Every September some 46,000 volunteers across England organise 5,500 events to celebrate our fantastic history and culture. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all of which are FREE to explore.

Established in 1994, Heritage Open Days is England's contribution to the European Heritage Days and has since grown into the country's largest heritage festival. In 1991 the Council of Europe and the European Commission set up European Heritage Days to raise appreciation for Europe's rich and diverse cultural assets and their need for care and protection. The central principle was as simple as it was compelling: to throw open the doors to historic monuments and buildings, in particular those normally closed to the public. Today, they are held annually in September in 50 signatory states to the European Cultural Convention. Each country running it in their own way, the festival not only highlights the dazzling diversity of Europe's heritage, but also its intercultural links.

Expanding and diversifying from 701 events at its launch to over 5,500 today, Heritage Open Days continues to flourish with more events every year, reflecting the rich and diverse cultural heritage of England and its communities. Spanning the public, private and voluntary sectors, the festival is a unique and powerful partnership. Working with organisations and individuals across England, Heritage Open Days is our national local festival. There are always new stories to tell and new places to open. It's a chance for communities nationwide to come together to learn, explore and have fun by sharing the treasures on their doorstep.



# Welcome to Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days

Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Open Days are a team of local organisers from the heritage and creative sector that plan, fundraise and host the local free events for the community and visitors to enjoy.

This booklet is a celebration of the years we have been running and is titled 'Legacies' as we have included how the heritage open days have created long lasting achievements for our area.

We hope you enjoy looking at the past and find inspiration in taking part in future Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Open Days.



# 2010

In 2010 a group of likeminded individuals gathered to produce Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days.

The event ran from Wednesday 8th September to Sunday 12th September with talks and places of interest being opened free of charge to visitors.

## 2010 Programme was the following:

### Talks

Christopher Symons: *“The Story of Oswestry School”* at Oswestry School Chapel

Jessie Hanson: *“Brogyntyn Hall”* at Oswestry Library

Lawrence Garner: *“Oswestry Author Barbara Pym”* at Booka

Shaun Burkey: An Archaeology Lecture *“Dowsing the Hidden Layers”* at The Memorial Hall

### Events

Wilfred Owen and St Oswald Exhibitions at Visitor Centre

Family and Local History at Oswestry Library

Story-telling with Sally Tonge at Oswestry Library

Cambrian Railway Museum OPEN

### Displays by local heritage groups:

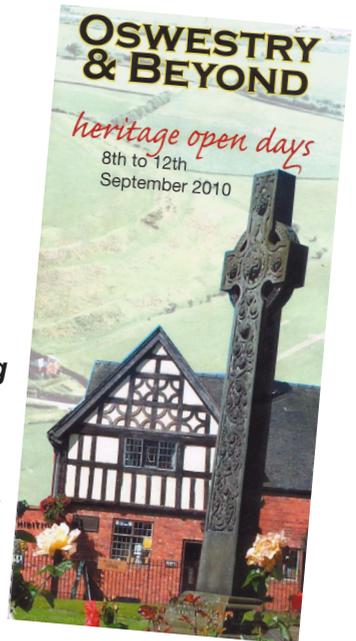
- Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group,
- Llanymynech Heritage Area,
- Orthopaedic Hospital – historic medical equipment and appliances,
- Welsh Guards Museum,
- Civic Society: Barbara Pym and David Lloyd,
- Joint Railways: Tanat Valley/Cambrian Heritage Railways inc., Llyncllys,
- Oswestry Library – Local History
- Oswestry Museum Interest Cabinet

**all held at the Shropshire Council Chamber, Castle View**

Display of *“Centenary of Cae Glas Park”* at the Guildhall

**Llanymynech Heritage Area** – Lime burning demonstrations

**Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre** – Canal Artefacts Exhibition, local crafts and canal boat trips



**Oswestry Station** – train running all day

**Llynclys Station** – train running all day

**Tanat Valley Railway OPEN**

Archive Film of local area on at **The Attfield Theatre**

## Walks

Woodland walks and nature trail at **Tanat Valley Visitor Centre**

Guided walks of **Old Oswestry Hillfort**

Guided walks of **Oswestry Town**

Guided walks of **Oswestry Town Walls**

**Oswestry Railway Walk**

## Tours

Tour of the castle at **Whittington Castle**

Tour of the **Bell Tower at St Oswald's Church**

Tour of the **Guildhall**

Tour of **Llanymynech Heritage Area: Kilns, Tramways, Tally House and Wharfage**

**FREE Minibus Tours** “Around the Town” and “Railway & Industrial Heritage”



**1 Oswestry School Chapel**  
Founded 600 years ago, in 1407, the school has taught generations of pupils in an unbroken sequence. Wednesday evening only.

**2 Oswestry Visitor Centre & TIC**  
Special displays featuring Wilfred Owen and St. Oswald  
Free guided walk on Saturday

**3 Attfield Theatre**  
A celebration of the past in film, John Powell's wonderful collection "Oswestry at War" and the rare short films, "Britain at Bay", from the BFI National archives, plus short local news clips from the 1970's  
[www.kinokulture.org.uk](http://www.kinokulture.org.uk)

**4 Books**  
Bookshop & coffee bar  
Refreshments, books & a talk on local author Barbara Pym  
Friday evening

**5 Memorial Hall**  
"Dowsing the Hidden Layers" an exploration of Archaeology by Shaun Burkey  
Friday evening

**6 St. Oswald's Church**  
Special trips up the bell tower guided by the Bell Captain  
Saturday only

**7 The Guildhall**  
Guided Tours & Displays including "Centenary of Cae Glas Park"  
Saturday only

**8 Cambrian Railway Centre**  
Visit Oswestry Station and go on a short train ride (Sat & Sun). The Museum is in the former grain store and has many original artifacts related to Oswestry

**9 Shropshire Council Chamber & Library, Castle View**  
Main exhibition & information point. Displays from many local groups, this is the centre of activities for the Open Days. FREE minibus tours start & finish here.

**10 Old Oswestry Hillfort**  
One of Britain's largest & best preserved Iron Age fortifications  
Guided tours meet at the Council Chamber

**11 Whittington Castle**  
Medieval Marcher Castle  
Visit parts which are usually closed, an Open Days special

**12 Orthopaedic Hospital**  
Display of historic medical artifacts

**13 Tanat Valley Light Railway**  
Footplate rides, Museum, & Woodland Walk  
FREE refreshments

**14 Llanymynech Heritage Area**  
Industrial Archaeology including magnificent Hoffman Lime Kiln, tally house, tramway, inclined plane and nature walks

**15 Llanymynech Wharf**  
Canal artifacts, local crafts & boat trips on the "Monty"

**16 Llynclys Station**  
Historic rail centre. Train trips, refreshments and nature walks

**The Welsh Guards**  
Display of historic regiments artifacts

**Oswestry Castle**  
Visit as part of the guided walk of the town

# 2011

Due to the success of the previous year, the same likeminded individuals continued to produce Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days.

The event ran from Thursday 8th September to Sunday 11th September with talks and places of interest being opened free of charge to visitors.

**2011 Programme was the following:**

## Talks

Lynn Yates: *“John Thomas of Ardmillan House: A Victorian Gentleman”* at **Oswestry Library**

**OBHAG** talk by Janine Young: *“Defence, Decadence & Decline: the archaeology of Erddig”* at **The Memorial Hall**

Sylvia Ray: *History of Whittington Castle*

## Events

Wilfred Owen and St Oswald Exhibitions at **Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre**

Family and Local History at **Oswestry Library**

Story-telling with Helen East at **Oswestry Library**

**Cambrian Railway Museum OPEN**

*Saints & Sinners Display*: Crime throughout the ages, history of the County Court at **Guildhall, Bailey Head**

*Displays by local heritage groups:*

- Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group – Old History Hillfort,
- Llanymynech Heritage Area,
- The Orthopaedic Experience – a display of orthopaedic artefacts,
- Welsh Guards Museum,
- Civic Society: Building Awards, Early Charters and Publications,
- Joint Railways: Tanat Valley/Cambrian Heritage Railways inc., Llyncllys,
- Oswestry Library – Local History
- Oswestry Museum Interest Cabinet

**all held at the Guildhall, Bailey Head**

**Park Hall** – visit the Victorian School and the Welsh Guards Collection

**Herman Chapel**: timeline display capturing early memories of its life and events

**Llanymynech Heritage Area** – Lime burning demonstrations

**Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre** – Canal Artefacts Exhibition, local crafts and canal boat trips



**Oswestry Station & Llynclys Station** – train running all day

**Tanat Valley Railway & NantMawr Visitor Centre** OPEN

A programme of Archive Films both local and national: Featuring “ Love Letters and Live Wires from the National Archive at **The Attfield Theatre**

**Whittington Castle** – House of the Blackstar Mediaeval re-enactors.

**Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre** – Light show in the Hoffman Kiln by Freya Evans

## Walks

Guided walks of **Old Oswestry Hillfort / Oswestry Town Walls**

**Oswestry Railway Walk**

**Guided walk of Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site**

**Sycharth** – walk through history with local storyteller at Wynnstay Inn, Llansilin

## Tours

Guided Tour **“Past, Present and Future”** with a costumed guide at **Whittington Castle**

Tour of the **Bell Tower at St Oswald’s Church**

Tour of the **Guildhall**

**Tour of Llanymynech Heritage Area: Kilns, Tramways, Tally House and Wharfage**

**FREE Minibus Tours** “Around the Town” and “Railway & Industrial Heritage”



## A Legacy Begins.....

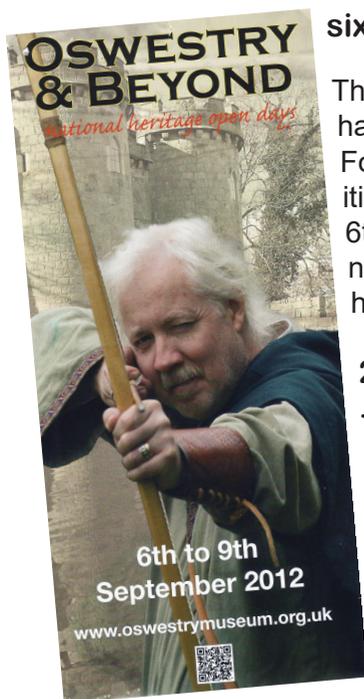
The Oswestry Museum Project was considered through the work of the Heritage Open Days committee which after holding successful events in 2010 and 2011 looked towards the idea of an Oswestry Museum to tell the story of Oswestry whilst providing a hub for information to several other amazing local heritage sites.

Oswestry Town Museum open in March 2012, as a registered charity non-profit museum. This was possible through the support of the Heritage Open Days committee, Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council Museums Service. As well as numerous individuals and the local population of Oswestry and surrounding areas.

Oswestry Town Museum is housed on the third floor of the Guildhall and continues to grow its collection and is looking forward to celebrating its 10th Birthday in 2022.

# 2012

The success of the last two Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days, can be seen in the range of new events and places taking part in the open days. From promoting the Heritage Open Days (HODs) through double-sided tri-fold leaflets too growing into a double-sided six-fold leaflet.



The 'likeminded individuals' of the previous years had grown with new members. Oswestry Heritage Forum, to manage the organising of the growing itinerary of events. The event ran from Thursday 6th September to Sunday 9th September with the new Oswestry Town Museum acting as the central hub for Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days

## 2012 Programme was the following:

### Talks

Justin Sopher: ***"Oswestry 1644, The Storming of Oswestry Castle"*** – A Soldiers Eye View with illustrative artefacts at **Oswestry Library**

Oswestry Civic Society talk: ***"The Past & Future of Towns"*** at **Hermon Chapel**

Ian Hughes: Illustrated talk ***"The Logistics of Agincourt"*** at **Whittington Castle**

Harriet Devlin: ***"The Uses of Lime"*** at **Llanymynech Heritage Area**

### Events

**Oswestry Town Museum OPEN** (Meet a 17th Century Civil War Soldier)  
**Wilfred Owen and St Oswald Exhibitions** at **Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre**

50 years at Oak Street Exhibition at **Oak Street Meeting House**

Family and Local History Group volunteers at **Oswestry Library**

Story Lab Young Writers Club present their stories about Oswestry Town Museum objects at **Oswestry Library**

Story-telling with Helen East: Granny's Bag – stories, songs and rhymes passed on through the generations at **Oswestry Library**

**Cambrian Railway Museum OPEN**

**Bailey Head – Victorian Market Special** & Demonstrations of Ancient Crafts throughout the day.

**Guildhall, Bailey Head** – History of the Guildhall & **“Advertisers Through the Decades”**

**Park Hall** – visit the Victorian School and the Welsh Guards Collection

**Herman Chapel:** view the restoration in progress of this significant Thomas Thomas designed building

**Llanymynech Heritage Area** – Lime burning demonstrations; **Hoffman Kiln** – **Screening of DECASIA: The State of Decay**

**Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre** – Canal Artefacts Exhibition, local crafts and canal boat trips

**Oswestry Station & Llyncllys Station** – train running all day

**Tanat Valley Railway & NantMawr Visitor Centre** OPEN

**The Attfield Theatre** – “Turksib” (Dir. Viktor Turin, 1929)

**Cambrian Heritage Centre** – An extract from **“Making Tracks”** a Musical Journey from Oswestry to Aberystwyth, from LADS

**Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre** – Opening of new sculpture by Jason Hicklin **“Canal Etchings No5”**

## Walks

**Walking Festival:** 4 miles Old Oswestry & Wat’s Dyke / 12 miles Oswald’s Ring, a complete circuit of Oswestry / 6 miles Weston Mill & surrounding area / 8 miles Offa’s Dyke & Moelydd Hill / 4 miles Hoffman Kiln & The Monty



Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group Guided **Sunset Walks at Old Oswestry Hillfort**

Guided walk - 17th Century Civil War Soldier **“The Siege of Oswestry 1644”**

Guided walks of **Oswestry Town** **Llyncllys Railway Walk**

Guided walk of **Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site**

## Tours

**Colliers Way – Mining History at St. Martins**

Guided Tour and living history with **Whittington Mediaeval Guild** at Whittington Castle

Guided Tour at **Ruyton IX Towns**

Tour of the **Bell Tower at St Oswald’s Church**

Tour of the **Guildhall**

Tour of **Llanymynech Heritage Area: Kilns, Tramways, Tally House and Wharfage**

**FREE Minibus Tours** “Around the Town” and “Railway & Industrial Heritage”

**Special Buses** to Pontcysyllte, Ruyton and St. Martins

**2013** This year's Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days took place from Thursday 12th September to Sunday 15th September. Still staying with the new look six-fold leaflet the Heritage Days went from strength to strength.

2013 Programme was the following:

### Talks

Gordon Dickins: an illustrated talk *"The Literary Heritage of the Oswestry Borderland"* on Wilfred Owen, Barbara Pym, John Dovaston, Edward Lhuyd, William Archibald Spooner, Thomas N Parker and Mary Hignett at **Oswestry Library**

Justin and Sherie Sopher: a costumed talk with artefacts *"Life in Oswestry during the English Civil War"* the 'Kynges Souldiers' at **Oswestry Library**

Mike and Teri Greene: *"Walcot Mill 1600-1730"* at **Memorial Hall**

Harriet Devlin: *"The Uses of Lime"* at **Llanymynech Heritage Area**

### Events

**Oswestry Town Museum OPEN** (Meet a 17th Century Civil War Soldier)

**Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre** - Wilfred Owen and St Oswald Exhibitions, Annual Oswestry and *Shropshire Art Competition paintings by Brenda Sandilands and enamel work by Jill Leventon.*

**Oswestry Library** – *"A Trip Down Memory Lane"* photographs of days gone by in Oswestry and surrounding villages plus maps and documents about the town and its history.

**Oswestry Library** - Family and Local History Group meeting

**Cambrian Railway Museum OPEN**

**Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group** – St Winifred's Well a visit to St Winifred's Well and the open Landmark Trust Cottage

**Tanat Valley Railway & Nantmawr Visitor Centre OPEN**

**Bailey Head** – Victorian Market Special & Demonstrations of Ancient Crafts throughout the day: *Bronze Founding, Wattle & Daub, Wood craft skills,*



## ***Basket Making***

### **Guildhall, Bailey Head – “150th Anniversary of Oswestry Cemetery”**

plans and minutes from the set-up of the Cemetery plus stories of some of those buried there

**The Attfield Theatre** – The history of the company and displays of programmes, photographs from 1928 to present day, costumes, posters and visits to the lighting box

**Park Hall** – visit the Iron Age Roundhouse, the Victorian School and the Welsh Guards Collection

**Christ Church:** Displays of Church Records and of Walford Davies Master of the Kings Music 1934 to 1941

**Cambrian Heritage Railways: Oswestry Station** – train running all day

**Cambrian Heritage Railways: Llyncllys Sth Station** – train running all day

**Whittington Church:** display of local craft

**The Centre:** free screening of “The Spirit of 45” by Ken Loach

**Llanyblodwell Church:** display of the history and architecture of the Church

**Llanymynech Heritage Area** – Lime burning demonstrations; Hoffman Kiln – free screening of “The Chaplin Revue”

**Llanymynech Wharf Visitor Centre** – Canal Artefacts Exhibition, local crafts and canal boat trips

## **Walks**

**Oswald’s Parish Church: “The Literary Heritage of the Oswestry Borderland”** a guided walk by Sandy Best

Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group Guided **Sunset Walks at Old Oswestry Hillfort**

**“Town Walls & Gates”** a guided walk with a 17th Century Civil War ‘Kynges Souldier’

**Llyncllys Railway Walk**

**Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Historic Walk**

Guided walk of **World Heritage Site at Chirk Bank**

## **Tours**

**Whittington Castle:** costumed tours of the castle

**Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre: Town Tour**

**Tour of Llanymynech Heritage Area: Kilns, Tramways, Tally House and Wharfage**



**2014** 2014 saw us celebrating 20 years of National Heritage Open Days, with Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days taking place over Thursday 11th September to Sunday 14th September.

**FREE Minibus Tours**

**2014 Programme was the following:**

### Talks

Dr Roger White: **“Researching Roman Shropshire: a new agenda”** at Memorial Hall

Archaeologist Roger Cooper: **“Oswestry Castle Dig” at Oswestry Town Museum**

Local Historian Sandy Best MA: **“One Town – One Street – One Decade”** a glimpse behind the doors of Oswestry’s Willow Street over one decade in the past at Oswestry Library

### Events

**Oswestry Town Museum OPEN**

**Oswestry Town Museum:** Activate History – ‘Meet a Medieval Soldier from Oswestry Castle’s Past’

**Tanat Valley Light Railway & Nantmawr Visitor Centre OPEN**

**Oswestry Library:** “A Trip Down Memory Lane” a new display of local photographs from Oswestry’s past; “Pack Up Your Troubles In Your Old Kit Bag!” Listen to WWI stories for children and meet a member of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment 1914-1918 Living History Group

**Cambrian Heritage Railways:** Oswestry Station – train running all day WWI exhibition that looks at the vast number of railway employees from Oswestry and the Cambrian system that supported their country and were acknowledged on the Cambrian Railways Roll of Honour; Visit the former HQ building of Cambrian Railways and see the visiting Steam Engine

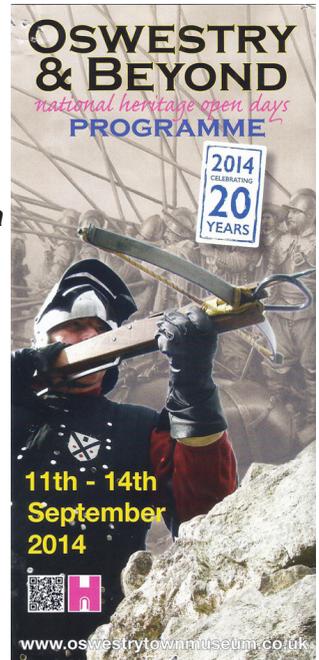
**Vintage Bus Circular Tour:** connecting Cambrian Heritage Railway venues at Oswestry and Llyncllys, together with the Llanymynech Heritage Area

**Oswestry Castle Archaeological Dig**

**Whittington Church:** “Whittington Remembers 1914-1918” display of artefacts, photographs and documents recalling local memories of the conflict. Stalls of period produce, accompanied by a mixture of live and recorded music

**Llanyblodwell Church:** “Bizarre” wall paintings and architecture

**Melverley Church:** ‘Half-Way House Male Voice Choir - concert



**Park Hall** – visit the Victorian School, the Iron Age Roundhouse and the Welsh Guards Collection

**Cambrian Heritage Railways:** Llyncllys South Station – train running all day

**Historic Family Bike Ride:** a guided 'history ride', starting and finishing in Morda. Tour will include Morda and Trefonen mining heritage areas

**Underhill Farm:** Traditional country harvest products, have a go activity and produce to take home; "The Indiana Jones and Laura Croft Explorers' Challenge" - a range of activities to encourage heritage exploration

**The Willow Community Garden:** Vintage Garden Party; Stagecoach Theatre Company performance "Lest We Forget" – an improvised promenade performance devised by students and staff at Stagecoach Oswestry to commemorate 100 years since WWI

**Kinokulture:** Film screening "A Night at the Cinema in 1914"

**St Martins Church:** unique font, barrel roof plus refreshments

**Guildhall:** Archive display of the 150th anniversary of Oswestry Cemetery, exploring its history, features and people. Guided tour at Cemetery available.

Bailey Head: Market Special: Bronze Founding, Wattle & Daub, Wood craft skills, Basket Making and Music

**Llanymynech Wharf:** Exhibition of Canal Memorabilia and Canal Narrow Boat Experience Trips on the Duchess Countess

**Llanymynech Heritage Area** – Lime burning demonstrations, lime slaking and a dramatic reconstruction of what might have happened when the Limeworks closed in 1914

**Whittington Castle:** Historia Normannis – Shropshire Division Living History and Battle Re-enactment

## Walks

**Oswestry Castle:** a guided walk with a Mediaeval Soldier

**Melverley Church:** guided walk & talk / Selattyn Church: guided walk & talk

**Llyncllys Railway Walk:** Pen-y-Garreg Halt to Llanymynech Heritage Area

**Old Oswestry Hillfort:** guided Sunset walk with Heather Hidden (OBAG)

**Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital Historic Walk**

Guided walk of **World Heritage Site at Chirk Bank**

## Tours

**Whittington Castle:** costumed tours of the castle

**St Oswald's Church:** guided tours of the church and Bell Tower tours

Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre: Town Tour

Brogynntyn Estate: guided tour around the estate



**FREE Minibus Tours**

# 2015

2015 saw us entering our 5th year of successful events on a high after being voted Highly

Commended (third) for Community Spirit by a panel of judges (who included Patron Lloyd Grossman, Simon Jenkins Chairman of the National Trust and Griff Rhys Jones President of Civic Voice) for 2014 programme of events. With a new look programme moving from a leaflet to a booklet and seed funding from Shropshire Council Members via Local Joint Committees and match funding from Awards for All, Oswestry Town Council and the National Lottery.

The Oswestry Heritage Forum was determined to grow the programme of events for 2015 and onwards. Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days took place on the 10th-13th September in 2015.

## A Legacy Begins.....

2015 saw a new interactive experience brought to the programme with 'The Trenches Experience' at Park Hall. Situated at Park Hall Countryside Farm, the Trench Experience is a 'Shropshire Remembers' project to commemorate the centenary of the Great War. Oswestry Town Museum (the first legacy of our Heritage Open Days) in conjunction with Park Hall Countryside Farm created a Trench experience showing the development of army trenches over the past 100 years. The Trenches have become a legacy as they have continuously taken part in our Heritage Open Days, they have also been available year long for school and group visits. They have now been taken over by a group of volunteers that first experienced then as visitors on a Heritage Open Day, this group has now increased the interaction with the Trenches and guarantee its longevity.



## 2015 Programme was the following:

**Oswestry Town Museum:** This year especially for HODs, museum visitors can help with washing, bagging and tagging the finds from the archaeological excavation on Oswestry Castle



**Activate History:** Come and explore mediaeval castles, build a model castle, see displays of weapons, armour and model siege engines, try on a helmet and hold a sword

**Montgomery Canal Maesbury Marsh Community Dig Display:** Discover what was revealed by the 6 day dig in April 2015, in a place known to be the site of a canal wharf, several warehouse buildings, a 18th Century smelting site with 6 furnaces and a 19th Century bone manure works

**Oswestry Special Market:** Street Entertainers, Music, Demonstrations from: *The Bronze Age Foundry, Ted Bruce Baskets, Tom Adams Green Woodworking, The Victorian Butter Company, Stokes of England, Paul Hand Wattle & Daub* and *Ruth Moore Storyteller*

**Oswestry Castle Dig:** second year of archaeological excavations will take place at Oswestry Castle / Oswestry Castle Workshop: try out excavation techniques / Castle Dig daily briefing: progress report of dig

**Oswestry Town Archive:** display on *“Oswestry Archive Treasures”* including documents from WWI, Oswestry Cemetery and Advertisers from the past

**Unsung Heroes from WW1:** guided walk to see where people lived before, they went off to war and find out about their experience of it

**Attfield Theatre:** Theatre will be open with archive materials on display  
Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre: Wilfred Owen Exhibition and a rolling programme of art exhibitions. Guided Town Tour

**Memorial Hall:** Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group Lecture, Carole James: An illustrated talk *“Oswestry Shopping Through the Ages”*

**Whittington Castle:** Mediaeval Living History Day with Whittington Castle Guild, static displays of cooking, sewing, spinning and more

**Oswestry Library:** Historian Pam Willing: *“The Pen is Mightier than the Sword”* – lifts the lid on a true story of bitter matrimonial dysfunction between two warring writers with a local connection; Get creative and make feathered Native American headbands, see a show all about Buffalo Bill and his travelling show including his visit to Oswestry

**KinoKulture:** free film screening of *“Pony Express”* made in 1953 starring Charlton Heston

**The Willow Community Garden:** Vintage Tea Party with a Wild West Theme, children's stories, activities, totem pole and stalls

**Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group:** Guided Walks - *Old Oswestry Hillfort* with Heather Hidden, *Wat's Dyke* with archaeologist Margaret Worthington Hill, *Brogyntyn Hall* with Jessie Hanson

**Cambrian Railway Museum OPEN**

**Cambrian Heritage Railways: Oswestry Station** – train running all day

**Vintage Bus Circular Tour:** connecting Cambrian Heritage Railway venues at Oswestry and Llynclys

**Cambrian Heritage Railways: Llynclys South Station**

**Tanat Valley Railway & NantMawr Visitor Centre:** railway rides, museum, lime kilns, woodland walks and nature trail plus refreshments

**Llanymynech Heritage Area & Wharf:** free boat trip on the 'George Watson Buck', guided walks around the Limeworks site, demonstrations of lime burning and line slaking, vintage films with locally composed music in the Hoffman Kiln, canal inspired interactive art with artist Mair Hughes

**Park Hall Countryside Experience** – visit the Victorian School, the Iron Age Roundhouse and the Welsh Guards Collection

**British Iron Works:** Silent Safari Picnic and Quiz

**The Trenches Experience:** walk through a representative front firing trench, visit a listening post, look over no-mans land, explore the communication trenches and the underground rooms

**St. Oswald's Church:** enjoy Ride and Stride day with childrens trail sheets, a Concert of madrigals and Elizabethan songs, a special HODs songs of praise, guided tours of the bell tower

**St. John the Baptist, Whittington Church:** *"What's Behind the Door?"* a display of the role of the church in the life of the local community

**Halston Chapel:** mediaeval timber framed church

**St. Martin's Parish Church:** see the 'Ceeva Stone', the 3-decker pulpit, stained glass windows and barrel roof

**St. Mary, Kinnerley Church:** early Saxon foundation, refreshments available

**St. Peters, Molverley Church:** set on the banks of the river Vyrnwy a rare example of an early English church, guided tour & talk available

**St. Michael's, Llanyblodwel:** guided tours, Sunday service, Autumn Fete

**Free Minibuses** to take venues outside Oswestry Town Centre

“ Over the past 6 years we have seen the Oswestry Heritage Open Days programme expanding each year to include new venues, fresh events and more volunteers giving up their time to promote the history and heritage of Oswestry.

This ‘Teamwork’ led to the formation of the Oswestry Heritage Forum which will enable our members to cross promote and jointly support each other throughout the year and it is this teamwork that is the envy of many other, in some cases larger, places across the UK.

Over the past 3 years I have had the honour of representing Oswestry, (and by extension both Shropshire and the West Midlands) on the National HOD advisory board in London, my initial 2 year appointment extended by another 2 years in 2015.

During this time Oswestry came joint third in a national competition judged by Lloyd Grossman and Griff Rees Jones on its community spirit and we have been asked to present what they are calling ‘The Oswestry HOD Model’ to a number of other authorities, many of whom are much larger than us but are struggling to encompass their heritage in a joined up way.

This years programme is again much larger, new places to visit, fresh ideas of things to do and above all something for all making it a family friendly event.

Massive thanks must go to all of the organisations, and their volunteers for the hundreds of hours spent in making the Oswestry HOD event the massive success it has been, to Oswestry Town Council for their unfailing support and Shropshire Council for assisting with officer time to make the whole thing run like clockwork!!!

A big pat on the back to all of you, too many to name individually but you all know who you are.

Keep up the good work, Oswestry deserves it.

Mark Hignett, Chair Oswestry Heritage Forum 2016. ”

**Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Open Days 2016** took place from Thursday 8th September till Sunday 11th September.

**2016 Programme was the following:**

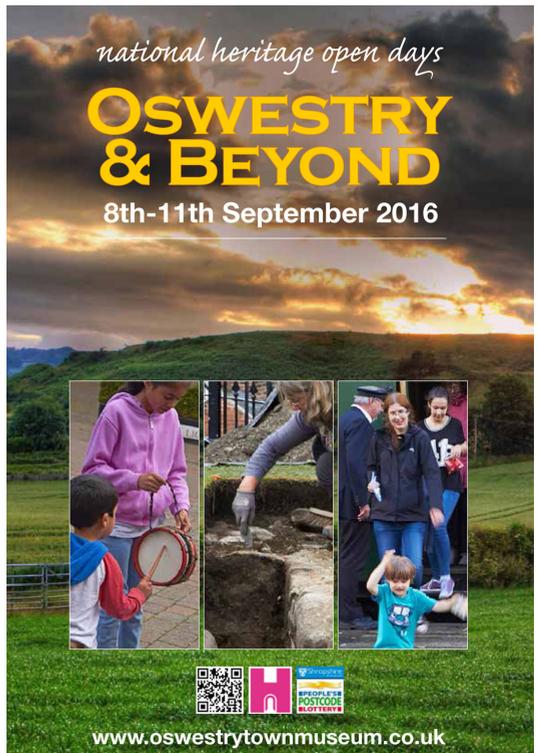
**Oswestry Town Archive:** display on “Oswestry Archive Treasures” plus - dig into the past with historical copies of the Advertiser

**Oswestry Town Museum:** This year especially for HODs, museum visitors can help with washing, bagging and tagging the finds from the archaeological excavation on Oswestry Castle. As part of the “Europe and Us” National Heritage Open Days theme, we will have an amateur radio station operating from the museum all 4 days trying to contact other radio operators across Europe (and beyond) visitors will be able to participate in the contact attempts

**Oswestry Special Heritage Market:** Street Entertainers & Music. Demonstrations from: **Ted Bruce Baskets**, **Tom Adams Green Woodworking**, **The Victorian Butter Company**, **Paul Hand Wattle & Daub** and local artist **Dorothy Harrison**. **Lady Chiffon** - who has temporarily stepped out of 1889 via her magical time-travel teacup for traditional Victorian fairy-tale storytelling, dance, song & magic. **Squezyjig** - a virtuoso melodeon player performing folk music and song.

**Oswestry Castle Dig:** 3rd exploratory dig at Oswestry Castle - excavating two large trenches that partially overlap and greatly extend last year’s trench

**Oswestry Library:** Bilingual Librarian Gwenan Griffiths: **‘Welsh Time to Listen’** – celebrate our border heritage, sit back and listen to local stories in Welsh; view the **‘Cambrian Heritage Railway Collection’** a specialist collection of railway literature; Dr Andy Wigley: **“The View From Above”** - a talk on an aerial survey over Shropshire, exploring our monuments and landscapes; view the display **‘A Day at the Races’** on the history of Oswestry Racecourse; Sara Cox: **“Life in Church Street at the Start of the 20th Century”** - a fascinating look at residents, businesses, and the impact of



class in Oswestry's Church Street 1900-1905; **Wild Reading!** Come and connect with readings from great fiction and poetry, exploring who we are and where we're from.

**KinoKulture:** archive film screening **'Britain On Film: Rural'** - a collection of archive films from the BFI National Archives and local archive films & home movies sourced & collected by the Bigger Picture Project; also screening **'Around China With A Movie Camera'** - rare & beautiful travelogues, newsreels and home movies from the British Film Institute National archive.



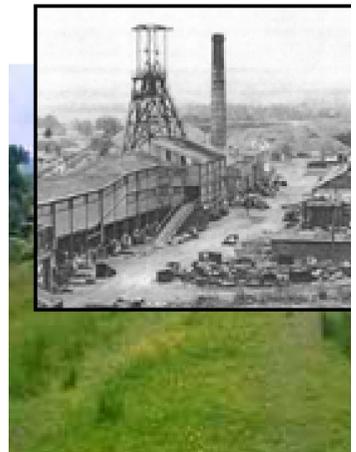
**The Willow Community Garden:** Vintage Garden Party with a Chinese Theme, stalls, tea & cake, children's entertainment & children's story time

**Old Oswestry Hillfort @ Oswestry Town Museum:** **"The Mystery of the Horse Stone"** - join Dr George Nash to look at this engraved stone which was discovered close to Old Oswestry Hillfort.

**Memorial Hall:** Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group Talk: **"Killed The Boar, Shaved His Head"** by Robert Woosnam-Savage, Royal Armouries Museum, who was part of the team which investigated the skeleton of Richard III discovered in Leicester.

**Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre:** Wilfred Owen Exhibition and a rolling programme of art exhibitions. Guided Town Tour

**Ifton Colliery - Ifton Meadows Nature Reserve:** **'Party in the Meadows'** - The party is to mark the return of an area of land called the 'Horse Meadow' which is in the process of being included in the local nature reserve status. Display of photographs of the site both as a nature reserve and Colliery, an exhibition of the History of St. Martins. Also enjoy a barbeque, Maypole dancing and a nature trail.



**Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group Guided Walks:** **'Sleeping Beauty's Tower Selattyn'** - 2hr guided walk with break for picnic lunch and talk. The route includes an impressive length of Offa's Dyke, a Victorian Tower, a Bronze Age Cairn and fabulous views across Shropshire and the Border. **'Secret Garden: Llanforda Hall'** - With Derek Williams, author of Edward Lhuyd, 1660-1709: A Shropshire Welshman

**Stone Heads and Demons: Bronygarth:** The Pentre a medieval house protected from Demons and Witches by ancient stone heads, and ritual objects hidden in the structure hundreds of years ago

**Sunset Walk Old Oswestry Hillfort:** an evening guided heritage walk by the HOOOH (Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort) community group

**The Quinta Chapel & Sunday School:** to coincide with Weston Rhyn Festival, Peter Bevington is conducting a gentle Heritage Stroll to a remarkable Victorian Sunday School. Starting and finishing at the Sunday School itself, the walk will also take in some of the Quinta estate grounds. Digby James, minister of The Quinta Chapel, will be on hand to introduce the buildings, designed by Raffles Davison and built in 1882.

**Bake Off:** winner revealed! Display & Judging of finalists' culinary creations in the Oswestry Heritage Bake-Off, a film project by HOOOH Community Group and Joey Edwards of Filmage in association with North Shropshire College. Including winner's presentation by Oswestry Town Mayor. Afterwards, the finalists will take their cakes to The Willow Community Garden Vintage Garden Party



**Meet The Gin Maker:** A special opportunity to meet Matt Rowland, the maker of this traditional, artisan gin. Learn how he gathers wild botanicals unique flavour.

**Underhill Farm - Comic & Cartoon workshops:** Underhill Farm's own professional engagement expert, Steve Evison will be working with professional heritage expert and cartoon artist, John Swogger. Free exhibition of Oswestry Heritage Comics

**Whittington Castle:** Guided tours and Living History Encampment

**British Ironworks Centre: *Blacksmithing 'Have a Go'*** this is your chance to have a go at Blacksmithing and to learn about this craft. You will have an opportunity to make a coat hook out of a nail.

**Cambrian Heritage Railways:** 'World War 1 Exhibition' - commemorating the workers of the Cambrian Railways that fought in the Great War; talk & exhibition on the History of the 150 year old Cambrian Headquarters Station Building; 'British Transport Films Show' - 1960s based show of Railway themed footage using a real Reel to Reel projector.

**Cambrian Community Orchard:** visit Oswestry's Community Railway Orchard in the fruiting season; a pesticide and herbicide free site where regular volunteers will be undertaking their weekly session managing locally suited and rare traditional Marches varieties of apple.



**Park Hall Countryside Experience:** visit the Victorian School, the Iron Age Roundhouse and the Welsh Guards Collection

**The Trenches Experience:** over the HOD weekend our trenches will be manned by members of the Royal Warwicks 1914-18 living history group who following the success of their last visit at Easter will be once again living in the trenches

**The Tanat Valley Light Railway and Visitor Centre:** catch the train from our brand-new platform built since last year and open for the first time for Heritage Open Days 2016, ride along a section of the former NantMawr branch line which has waited 150 years for a station

**Rednal Canal Warehouse (Montgomery Canal & River Trust):** The restored fly-boat 'Saturn' will be coming to Rednal and the 'Countess' will offer horse-drawn boat trips.

**Llanymynech Wharf to Vyrnwy Aqueduct:** guided walk with a local walk leader who will bring to life, with photos and local testimonies, the history of this stretch of the Montgomery canal - this circular walk will take you back through fields to find out more about a legendary well

**Llanymynech Heritage Area & Wharf:** free boat trip on the 'George Watson Buck', guided walks around the Limeworks site and Hoffman Kiln, demonstrations of lime burning and line slaking

**St. Oswald's Church:** Special Heritage Songs of Praise, Bell Ringing demonstration and tour, guided tours of the Bell Tower

**St. Michael's, Llanyblodwel:** guided tours, Sunday service, Autumn Fete

**St. Agatha's, Llanymynych:** early Victorian Church straddles the border of England and Wales, built in Romanesque style in 1843-44 by architect Thomas Penson

**St. Peters, Molverley Church:** set on the banks of the river Vyrnwy a rare example of an early English church, guided tour and "History of the Church" talks will take place during the Heritage Weekend

**Free Minibuses** to take venues outside Oswestry Town Centre



# 2017

2017 was a special year for National Heritage Open Days, generous extra funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery had been secured to pair artists and local organisers. The **Unsung Stories** project was conceived to create impactful work that would shine a different light on familiar places and stories, engage new audiences and offer powerful experiences. The funding allowed for 4 projects to be commission across England and Wales, they were to reflect and commemorate the anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in England and Wales, focussing on LGBTQ stories.



As always Oswestry and Beyond rise to the challenge, it just so happened that Oswestry Town Museum had its own LGBTQ project on the go. In 2012, 3 letters were loaned to the museum, they had been sent to a Gilbert Bradley undergoing his basic training in Park Hall Camp, Oswestry in WWII, one from his mother, one from his father and a third signed from **'your ever loving 'G'**. These 3 letters grew to number approx. 1000 letters all loaned to the museum. Very quickly the museum could see that the letters contained a fantastic description of what life was like during the period of WWII. Letters from family members contained news about the war, bombing raids, shortages and difficulties of all sorts whilst those from 'G' told us what it was like to be in love and separated by the war, so the museum started to transcribe the letters to make the story available to our visitors. Which was when in 2014 they uncovered what that **'your ever loving 'G'** was in fact Gordon Bowsher, another soldier and the story was really just beginning.

In late 1940 Gordon writes to Gilbert and says **'do one thing for me in all seriousness, burn all my letters'** which of course Gilbert didn't do because they still exist today but about a month later he wrote again, and this time he said **'I have been reading over a lot of your letters, and I feel that they should all be published one day, when the world becomes wiser and more broadminded'**.



It was these letters that inspired the ***Gilbert & Gordon: Then All The World Could See How In Love We Are*** project - one of the four projects to be commissioned by the national group. This project, created by Olivia Winteringham, with KILN Ensemble, became a public participation project and took its title and inspiration from love letters exchanged between two WWII soldiers, Oswestry-based Gunner Gilbert Bradley and infantryman Gordon Bowsher. The project sought to recognise and celebrate the diversity of love within our communities in 2017 by creating a commemorative diamond ring from the ashes of burned love letters written by members of the public, which were burnt on the final day of the HODs weekend.

Over the summer of 2017, letter-writing workshops were held across Shropshire, with hundreds of people around the world contributing letters to the project. Over the festival weekend these letters were burnt in a special memorial post box, with ceremonies to light and extinguish the flame attended by Caroline Page, Oswestry's Mayor, The Superintendent of Liverpool police and family and friends of Gilbert and Gordon. The first 200 people who posted their letters into the fire were given a special commemorative badge from a competition-winning design by PC Lee Hearne. The resulting ash has been used to create a commemorative diamond ring.

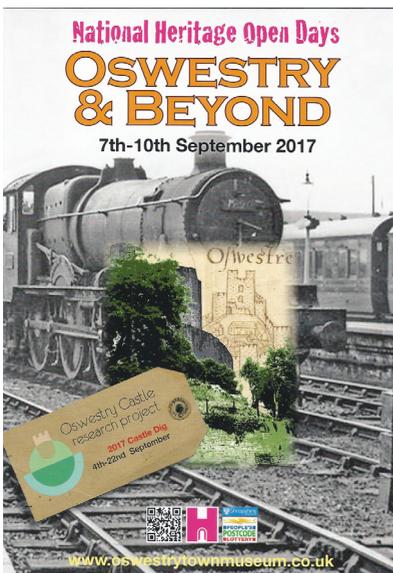


**Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days 2017** took place on the Thursday 7th September to Sunday 10th September.

**2017 Programme was the following:**

Oswestry Special Heritage Market: Dorothy Harrison – clay pottery demonstration & activity, Lady Chiffon – dance, song & storytelling, Paul Hand Country Crafts, Shrewsbury Morris Dancing - Shrewsbury Bull & Pump Morris Men and Shrewsbury Lasses

**Oswestry Town Museum:** Amateur Radio Station - Radio Ham will be contacting other radio operators across Europe, Gilbert & Gordon display of letters



**Oswestry Castle Dig:** the fifth exploratory dig at Oswestry Castle

**Oswestry Library: 'Read All About It'** – display on the history of Oswestry Newspapers; demonstration from the Microfiche Collection; introduction to the National Newspaper Archive on the Web; Colin Channon: a talk on life as a newspaper editor



**The Willow Community Garden:** Vintage Garden Party with a Railway Theme, stalls, tea & cake, children's entertainment & children's story time

**KinoKulture:** A Free archive film screening '**Britain On Film: Railways**' - a collection of archive films from; also screening '**Rolling Pins at Dawn**' – Oswestry Heritage Bake-Off Film 2016

**Hermon Chapel:** Dr George Nash a talk on Old Oswestry & Park Hall Camp

**Old Oswestry Sunset Walk:** guided walk and talk by Dr George Nash

**Oswestry Heritage Roadshow:** Bring an object or share your stories to John Swogger to feature in Oswestry Heritage Comics project

**Oswestry Heritage Comics workshop:** create a heritage comic of your own workshop led by John Swogger

**Qube: 'Men on the Gates'** website preview and exhibition – tells the stories of the men listed on the Oswestry War Memorial Gates in Cae Glas Park

**Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group** a talk by Sandy Best, Journalist and Historian on '**Tourism and Cultural Identity in 19th Century Llangollen**' at the Methodist Church Hall

## MEN ON THE GATES

### Website Preview & Exhibition

Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th September 2017, 10am - 3pm

Launching in Armistice week 2017, the Men on the Gates website will tell the stories of the Men listed on the Oswestry War Memorial Gates in Cae Glas Park.

Join us for an exclusive preview of the website, where project researcher, John Davies will be on hand to discuss the research so far.



**Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre:** Wilfred Owen Exhibition and a rolling programme of art exhibitions. Guided Town Tour

**Cambrian Heritage Railways: 'World War 1 Exhibition'** - commemorating the workers of the Cambrian Railways that fought in the Great War

**Stone Heads and Demons: Bronygarth:** tour of The Pentre: a medieval house protected from Demons and Witches by ancient stone heads, and ritual objects hidden in the structure hundreds of years ago; new for 2017 display of sculpture by local artist Judy Greaves

**Qube, Oswestry**  
[www.qube-oca.org.uk](http://www.qube-oca.org.uk)

01691 656882 | [info@qube-oca.org.uk](mailto:info@qube-oca.org.uk)  
Qube, Oswald Road, Oswestry, SY11 1RB

Supported by  
The National Lottery  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



**National Heritage Open Days Unsung Stories:** Gilbert & Gordon – public art project a creation, cremation and transformation of love letters ‘from ink to ash to diamond’; Flame-lighting ceremony, see the letters up close with talk from curator Mark Hignett Oswestry Town Museum, Flame-Extinguishing Ceremony; over the 4 days you are invited to compose letters and feed them to a memorial flame of remembrance, which the ashes of will be turned into a diamond



**The Trenches Experience:** over the HOD weekend our trenches will be manned by members of the Royal Warwicks 1914-18 Living History Group who following the success of their last visit, will once again living in the trenches

**The Tanat Valley Light Railway and Visitor Centre:** new for 2017 monorail rides and the Richard Morris Collection – one of the biggest monorail collections in preservation

**Park Hall Countryside Experience:** visit the Victorian School, the Iron Age Roundhouse and the Welsh Guards Collection

**Rednal Canal Warehouse:** tells the story of the Montgomery Canal, The warehouse was a delivery and collection point for Shropshire Union Fly-boats. Here passengers from the Shrewsbury-Chester Railway could board a boat to travel to Newtown, not yet accessible by rail. Next to the warehouse is the canal's only turnover bridge where a horse towing a boat could cross the canal without unhitching. Rednal Canal Warehouse is being opened by kind permission of The Canal & River Trust.

**Llanymynech Wharf to Vyrnwy Aqueduct:** guided walk with a local walk leader who will bring to life, with photos and local testimonies, the history of this stretch of the Montgomery canal - this circular walk will take you back through fields to find out more about a legendary well

**Llanymynech Heritage Area & Wharf:** free boat trip on the 'George Watson Buck', guided walks around the Limeworks site and Hoffman Kiln, demonstrations of lime burning and line slaking



**St. Oswald's Church:** Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the bells there will be a Bell Ringing demonstration and tour; Mini Bells for visitors to have a go; guided tours of the Bell Tower

**St. Michael's, Llanyblodwel:** guided tours, Sunday service, Autumn Fete

**St. Peters, Molverley Church:** set on the banks of the river Vyrnwy a rare example of an early English church, guided tour and "History of the Church" talks will take place during the Heritage Weekend kindly organised by Sue Gittins & Lynne Lloyd

**Lanfyllin Workhouse: Y Dolydd Llanfyllin:** built in 1839 to house up to 250 paupers, the workhouse blends classical grandeur with the durability of local stone and slate, visit to explore the workhouse and its displays

## A Legacy grows.....

In February 2018 a special tea dance was held, alongside a public ceremony to present the ring to Oswestry Town Museum. Designed by Ami Pepper, the diamond ring will be displayed in the museum's exhibition for 'all the world to see'. This event brought together community groups from across the region, as well as friends and family of Gilbert and Gordon and the organisers of Shrewsbury LGBT History festival. The response was overwhelming, and we're delighted that so many letters were contributed, there was enough ash to also create special pencils.

Gilbert and Gordon's story is now being used to front equality and diversity projects across the country and beyond. Presentations are made to University Campuses, Secondary Schools in Shropshire, talks to groups, display loans to other heritage organisations and of course a firm favourite for talks during Heritage Open Days.

The story keeps growing, last year an online news item about Gilbert and Gordon saw in excess of 500k views. Whilst a Hollywood film producer has written a 10-part series which is currently under evaluation and has plans to script a film. And this spring a composer from the USA is flying over to discuss turning the story into a musical.

The sheer number and diversity of people and organisations brought together by this project form its greatest and most enduring legacy.

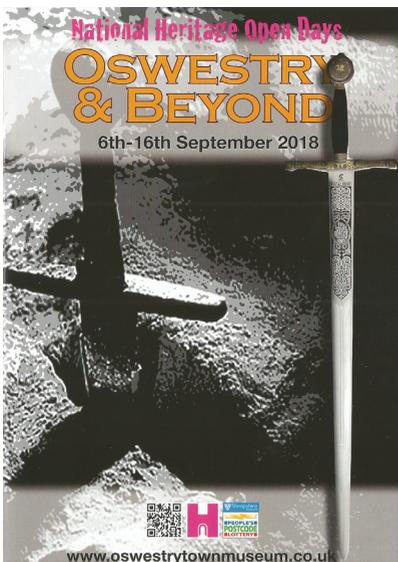
HODs this year was to take part over two weekends the 6th – 9th September and then the 13th – 16th September. But once again Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days went big with the Heritage Open Days turning into Heritage Open Days Festival running from the 6th September till the 16th September. This was due to Oswestry Town Museums contribution to the National Heritage Open Day theme of Extraordinary Women.

# 2018

2018 was the year to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act and 90 years since the Equal Franchise Women's Suffrage Act. Heritage Open Days celebrated 'Extraordinary Women' and Oswestry and Beyond Heritage Open Days celebrated the Women of Oswestry and surrounding areas.

To mark this occasion Oswestry Town Museum created a 'Wall of Women' with 101 nominated women each having their own A1 poster. The museum chose 101 to commemorate the centenary (100 women, one for each year) and added an extra 1 to demonstrate that the fight for parity still goes on today. The women who were nominated came from all walks of life and comprise both historical and current figures.

Due to the size and numbers of posters the museum held its exhibition in the Memorial Hall, Oswestry. As it would take 2 days to put up and take down the exhibition the decision was made to hire the venue for the week between the 2 weekends. This in turn inspired other organisers to hold events during the week too.



## 2018 Programme was the following:

**Oswestry Special Heritage Market:** Qube Charity Market; Les Miles Des Marches - local re-enactment group; Hectors Greyhound Rescue - Fun Dog Show; Astro Radio Broadcasting live; Close Encounters - professional owl display; Shrewsbury Morris Dancing - Shrewsbury Bull & Pump Morris Men, The Shrewsbury Lasses and Shrewsbury Clog; Dorothy Harrison - clay pottery demonstration & activity, Lady Chiffon - dance, song & storytelling, Chloe Elizabeth Dance Company - 'Dancing through Time' a performance of dance and fashion; Solar Observation Workshop

**Oswestry Town Museum:** Amateur Radio Station - Radio Ham will be contacting other radio operators across Europe; the Ladies of Llangollen – national touring exhibition on display; the sword in the stone challenge and real ale sampling of HODs special brew Guinevere

**Oswestry Castle Dig:** exploratory dig at Oswestry Castle, welcome to view work and talk to the archaeologists on site

**Oswestry Library:** *Susan Owen, Wilfred*

*Owen's Mother* a talk from Colin Channon; *'Release your Extraordinary Woman'* a workshop with Lisa McNamara; *Excavating Oswestry Castle* a talk from Roger Copper; *'A Woman's Voice'* a talk from P J Roscoe; Local Astronomy a talk by Pete Williamson; Poetry Booth and Poetry Writing Workshop with Dave Andrews

**The Willow Community Garden:** with Shropshire Wildlife Trust – working to develop the garden as a wildlife haven. Seed swap, plant sale, Shropshire Wildlife Trust volunteers and tea & cake on sale

**KinoKulture:** film screening 'The Sword in the Stone'; 'First Knight'; 'Grease'; 'Pirates! In An Adventure with Scientists! 'Creation' - biography of Darwin

**ART / POETRY Competition:** The Willow Gallery in conjunction with Oswestry Town Museum are holding an art competition on the theme Oswestry's History and Heritage – work can be in any medium; Oswestry Library in conjunction with Oswestry Town Museum are holding a poetry competition the theme is Extraordinary Women of Oswestry, it is inspired by the 15th Century Poem by Guto'r Glyn where he describes Oswestry Women as second in beauty to those in Rome!

**Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre:** Wilfred Owen, King Oswald and Barbara Pym Exhibitions; guided Town Tour; a talk by Dave Andrews on the life of Wilfred Owen



**The Siege of Oswestry:** a walking talk by a 17th Century Musketeer

**Demon Heads and Witch Marks: Bronygarth:** tour of The Pentre: a medieval house protected from Demons and Witches by ancient stone heads, and ritual objects hidden in the structure hundreds of years ago



**Llanfyllin & Social Deprivation Through the Ages:** a talk by John Hainsworth at OTM

**Gobowen Central:** The Gilbert & Gordon Project – an update: a talk by Mark Hignett

**All about the Wilfred Owen Festival, October & November 2018:** a talk by Chris Woods at OTM

**The Importance of the Battle of Crogen: the Welsh D-Day:** a talk by Mark Williams at OTM

**Girl Power in the Iron Age:** a talk by Heather Hidden at OTM

**Memorial Hall:** Suffragists and Suffragettes a talk by Barbara Andrews; Suffragettes in Song - a singing workshop led by Barbara Andrews; My Grandma was a Suffragette - a talk on Thirza Cove by Barbara Andrews

**Oswestry Racecourse:** the workings and origin of the sun and how you yourself can start to do Solar Astronomy - a workshop led by Pete Williamson

**Orangery Restaurant Derwen College:** Dame Agnes Hunt, the Visionary Nurse - a talk by Helen Edwards

**Freemasons Hall:** New for 2018 - the Hall was built in 1901 and is where the Freemasons of Oswestry meet, you are invited to come in and see the interior and discover what goes on inside.

**Stonehouse Brewery:** discover the brewing process on a guided tour

**Cambrian Heritage Railways:** visit the Newly Restore Signal Box - first built in the 19th century for the Oswestry and Newtown Railway, Oswestry South signal box was operational for over 100 years. Cambrian Heritage Railways volunteers have refurbished the structure, sourcing and installing appropriate equipment; also open is the Railway Museum with exhibits of memorabilia associated with the railway

**The Tanat Valley Light Railway and Visitor Centre:** new for 2018 come and see 309 coaches rescued from the now closed Coventry Electric Museum, enjoy the hospitality of the 'Clacton Café' coach and pay a visit to the museum coach to see the history of the electric railway as well as the Tanat Valley Light Railway exhibits; also new for 2018 is the 'Crabtree' a diesel shunter available for cab rides



**Wall of Women Exhibition:** To commemorate the centenary of 40% of British Women getting the vote, Oswestry is celebrating their 'Women of Influence, Women of Power' by creating a 'Wall of Women featuring 101 women with a connection to Oswestry. Symbolically the 101 Women represent one for each year since that victory, with an additional one to show that the fight for parity still goes on. Each Woman will be celebrated on an individual A1 Poster giving an insight into their lives. The 101 are made up of an eclectic mix of women from past and present with one thing in common: they were all nominated to be included on the Oswestry Wall of Women. The Wall of Women will be officially opened by Barbara Andrews the granddaughter of Thirza Cove who was a Suffragette.

**Hermon Chapel:** Performances by Living History Cymru - Jane Hoy & Helen Sandler, Interviewer Norena Shopland in a conversation in costume with Miss Frances Power Cobbe & Miss Mary Charlotte Lloyd, who were campaigners paving the way for women's rights in the mid-Victorian period. Performances by Living History Cymru - Jane Hoy & Helen Sandler *"The Ladies of Llangollen"*



**Oswestry Gateway Project @ Gatacre Pavilion:** Old Oswestry Sunset Walk guided heritage walk and talk by Dr George Nash & Dr Rachel Pope.

**Oswestry Heritage Comics Trail:** follow the trail around the town, get your free trail map from the Qube or Oswestry Town Museum

**Qube: 'Homefront Heroines'** looks at the lives and stories of the women of Oswestry during the First World War to ensure the extraordinary stories of local women are not lost forever, and the impact the war had on women's lives – which is still felt today, is recognised.

**St. Oswald's Church:** *"That Their Names Be Not Forgotten"* – album of names and photos of the Oswestry men who lost their lives in the Great War; "Hidden History of St. Oswald's"; guided tours of the Bell Tower

**St. Michael's, Llanyblodwel:** tours, climb the spire, Service, Autumn Fete

**St. Peters, Meverley Church:** set on the banks of the river Vyrnwy, guided tour and "History of the Church" talks by Sue Gittins

**St. Philip and St. James, Morton Church:** traditional Flower & Produce Show, Fete and TNS Girls Football Team running a tournament

**British Ironworks Centre:** Special demonstrations run by in-house artisans – Silversmith Sam and Ceramicist Georgina

**Underhill Farm:** demonstrations and have a go mediaeval tapestry wall hangings

**Llanymynech Heritage Area & Wharf:** free boat trip on the 'George Watson Buck', guided walks around the Limeworks site, demonstrations of lime burning and line slaking, screening of the Oswestry Heritage Comics in the Hoffman Kiln

**The Battlesite of Crogen:** Guided tour and talk

**Brynkinalt Gardens:** the beautiful Formal West Garden and the Ornamental Woodland Shrubbery of this historic estate will be open for visitors to enjoy and explore, but please note the house will NOT be open. Tea/coffee & homemade cake for sale.



**Lights Out Trefonen:** a walking trail around the homes of the men from Trefonen who fought in the Great Wat.

**Plas Newydd:** the home of the Ladies of Llangollen - morning talk and tour of the house and a guided walk with the gardener



**Lanfyllin Workhouse:** Y Dolydd Llanfyllin: Food Fair – with cookery demonstrations, open studios, live performances

## A Legacy of two parts .....

The Wall of Women proved a great success with the local community and visitors alike, so in early 2019 the museum gave it a permanent home, reproducing the posters on a smaller scale and creating a new wall within the museum for them to go on display. Since the HODs and being on display in the museum – talks have been requested on the women. The second part to the legacy is that for 2019, Heritage Open Days decided to celebrate its 25th anniversary with ten days of FREE events! A year after we set the precedent!



# 2019

In 2019 we celebrated 25 years of HODs. Cakes were cut and glasses raised to toast the festival, particularly its incredible volunteers. The national team decided to use the 25th anniversary of Heritage Open Days to inspire this years theme 'People Power'. Their reasoning was that over the years, they had seen 'us' (the HOD organisers and volunteers) do extraordinary things for our communities: opening museums, creating networks, saving sites from unsuitable developments. All of these have made - and continue to make - a real difference. So they decided to celebrate our achievements, which represent two and a half decades of 'people power' in its purest form, which highlight the different forms of People Power.



To commemorate the occasion the national team produced a book highlighting the 25 years of HODs, Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Open Days became part of this legacy with a double page spread in the book.



### Oswestry & Beyond

Shropshire, West Midlands  
Joined Heritage Open Days in 2011

In 2014 Shropshire Council's Local Community Action Officer, Corrie Davies, was highly commended in the Community Champions category for establishing and supporting the Oswestry & Beyond programme. The spark recognised then has burnt ever brighter and led to the town opening a museum and creating a Heritage Forum whose members support each other year round.

As well as these achievements locally few people better exemplify the community spirit of Heritage Open Days, than Chair of the Oswestry Heritage Forum, Mark Hignett. He tirelessly volunteers his time to talk with other organisers across the county, both individually and through the wider platform of speaking at multiple regional organiser workshops and the national coordinators conference. In 2017, Oswestry was the location for one of our 4r LGTBQ events; If All the World Could See How in Love We Are – an intensely moving story of a love affair between two WWII soldiers.

“ Taking part in HODs has made a massive difference to myself, the events and venues that I work with, the way I interact with visitors and the way I think about researching heritage in our local area. ”

Mark Hignett, Oswestry Town Museum

Images: (top) The Royal Warwick's living history group brought the horrors of The Great War to life in an incredible detailed reconstruction of a WW1 trench system at Bark Hill Country Park. Experience (bottom) Riding the Taseo Valley mammoth through the Shropshire countryside.



Oswestry

2019 Programme was the following:

**Oswestry Market:**

**Lady Chiffon:** who has stepped out of 1889 from her magical time-travel teacup, for an enchanting occasion of traditional Victorian fairy-tale storytelling, dance, song & magic, bringing the past to the present like never before.

**Fieldings Auctioneers Ltd:** a Valuation Day at Oswestry Town Museum. Held by Rachel Houston-Holland and Bill Lacey from Fieldings Auctioneers Ltd Stourbridge

**Oswestry Town Council Archives:**

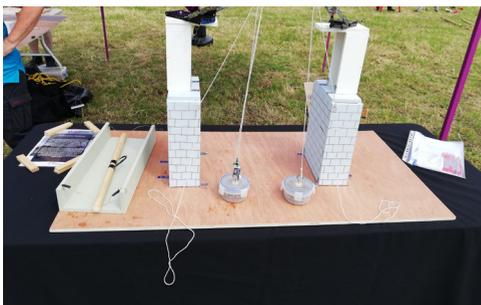
using extracts from the Town Council Archives, a display has been created on the HODs theme 'People Power.', the display titled '**Petitions, Protests and Proclamations**', will be available to see in the foyer of the Guildhall

**Yr Ysgub Fayre:** is organised by Papur Bro a voluntary led Welsh Language Newspaper, there will be stalls, tea & cake, raffle, crafts, stalls representing local villages, children's entertainment and activities; special appearance by Peppa Pig; although it is a Welsh Medium Event, everyone is welcome.



**Techniquest Glyndŵr:** join

Techniquest Glyndŵr to discover the amazing engineering behind the 11 miles of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site. Meet real engineers and take part in exciting demonstrations and hands-on challenges to test your own engineering skills.

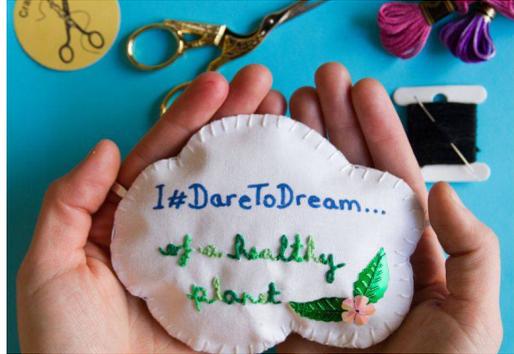


**Oswestry Town Museum:** Astro

Radio - local internet radio station broadcasting live from the museum; Jigsawathon - a devilishly difficult jigsaw that when completed will reveal one of the oldest items on display in the museum

**Wall of People Power:** this year we are celebrating **'People Power'**. Over the years, we've seen the ability of local communities, groups and individuals to evoke change and do extraordinary things for their communities. Organised by Oswestry Town Museum, the 'Wall of People Power' will showcase, celebrate local groups that have made and continue to make a real difference. So this year, we are celebrating their achievements, which represent 'people power' in its purest form.

**Craftivism I #daretodream:** Come and help create a cascade of dreams in Oswestry Town Museum. Inspired by Sarah Corbett, founder of the Craftivist Collective. Why not pop along to one of our craftivist workshops, share your dreams for the future, create an 'I #daretodream cloud' using the gentle protest workshop (Craftivism = craft + activism).



**Oswestry Castle Dig:** exploratory dig at Oswestry Castle, visitors are always welcome and there will be an information officer on site to explain what we are excavating and how this relates to previous excavations.

**Oswestry Library:** 'Stars and Planets' a talk from Pete Williamson FRAS; '50 years since the moon landings' a talk from Pete Williamson FRAS; Hillfort activity day! - a day of creative hillfort activities and find out more about Oswestry's very own Iron Age hillfort!; Exhibition of Competition Entries - see the entries for the Art, Photography and Poetry competitions on the theme of 'People Power in Oswestry'

**The Astronomical Society:** join The Astronomical Society by the Racecourse car park where they will be providing telescopes and expertise to observe the night sky. Identify celestial objects such as The Andromeda Galaxy, Double stars, Mars & Saturn

**KinoKulture: Britain On Film: Coast & Sea** - Let's go to the seaside! Travel round our gorgeous, varied coast, filmed from 1901 to 1978.

OSWESTRY'S COMMUNITY CINEMA

**KINOKULTURE**

**The Trenches Experience:** guided tour is of the trenches and access to the Welsh Guards Museum, immerse yourselves in the conditions in which the soldiers would have lived, and fought in as you explore the different trenches

**Miniature Art / Photography / Poetry Competition:** Oswestry Library are holding Miniature Art, Photography and Poetry competitions. The competition themes are 'People Power of Oswestry', and aim to celebrate the power, past and present, of what people have achieved in Oswestry by coming together.

**Oswestry Visitor & Exhibition Centre:** Wilfred Owen, King Oswald, Henry Walford Davies, Ivor Robert-Jones and Barbara Pym Exhibitions; Town Tour

**Demon Heads and Witch Marks: Bronygarth:** tour of The Pentre: a medieval house protected from Demons and Witches by ancient stone heads, and ritual objects hidden in the structure hundreds of years ago; the author Brian Hoggard of 'Magical House Protection: The Archaeology of Counter-Witchcraft' will be at the house with a talk, Q&A, and book signing

**The Gilbert & Gordon Project – an update:** there will be presentations on the Gilbert and Gordon story, hear the latest news about this fascinating story, the discovery of an additional file of letters and information, the national and international interest, Hollywood update. How the story is spreading the word of Diversity far and wide.

**Llanymynech Heritage Area & Wharf:** free boat trip on the 'George Watson Buck', guided walks and the reproduction lime kiln will be fired and there will be demonstrations of lime slaking throughout the afternoon; 'Film in the Kiln' a selection of short films in the Hoffman Kiln

**West Felton WI:** the WI will showcase several displays on their activities, they will also be offering a 'have a go' session on folk art painting or card making. Coffee, Tea and Cakes will be available all day.



**St. Peters, Molverley Church:** set on the banks of the river Vyrnwy a rare example of an early English church, guided tour and "History of the Church" talks

**St. Oswald's Church:** guided tours of the Bell Tower



**Cambrian Heritage Railways:** visit **Oswestry South Signal Box** - first built in the 19th century for the Oswestry and Newtown Railway, Oswestry South signal box was operational for over 100 years; **Railways Museum** - has exhibits of memorabilia associated with the railway system operated by the Cambrian Railways Company and its successors; **Heritage Bus Tour** - A vintage bus trip between Oswestry and Llyncllys South Stations, allows visitors to access carriage and wagon restoration site at Llyncllys; **Cambrian Visitor Centre - 1939 Evacuees Exhibition** of photos and artefacts commemorating the arrival by train, eighty years ago, of War time evacuees from Birkenhead to the Oswestry area; **1960s Railways Film Show** of an archive film from British Transport Films using traditional projection techniques. Refreshments available to purchase.



**The Tanat Valley Light Railway and NantMawr Visitor Centre:** come and see 309 coaches rescued from the now closed Coventry Electric Museum, enjoy the hospitality of the **'Clacton Café'** coach and pay a visit to the museum coach to see the history of the electric railway as well as the Tanat Valley Light Railway exhibits; the **'Crabtree'** a diesel shunter available for cab rides; monorail will be running for rides



**Brynkinalt Gardens:** the beautiful Formal West Garden and the Ornamental Woodland Shrubbery of this historic estate will be open for visitors to enjoy and explore, but please note the house will NOT be open. Tea/coffee & homemade cake for sale.

**Oswestry Heritage Comics Trail:** follow the trail around the town, get your free trail map from the Qube or Oswestry Town Museum

### **Llanfyllin Workhouse: Y Dolydd Llanfyllin:**

Llanfyllin Workhouse 3rd Food Fair with the Cadw Open Doors Events, showcasing the best in locally produced food and drink with a wide range of produce available to sample. Stalls confirmed so far: Little Fudge Box, Will Denne's - honey and bee products, Boozey Belles - cocktails, Berriew Cider- single apple ciders made traditionally, Cave Valley Kitchen - Caribbean BBQ, Food Station Wales - Mediterranean ingredients olives etc. Soap Nuts - eco natural soap, Woodlands Ice cream (if the weather is good), Robert Shelton - furniture (for the kitchen) Gardens by Drew - herbs and plants, Fijian Cuisine from Kana with Kassie, Vicarage Bakery - bread. Children will be able to make their own pizza and cook it in our wood fired Cob oven, (built by Llanfyllin Green Hub). Also live performances from Oswestry Jazz Orchestra and Torsk (live electronic music).



**Oswestry Gateway Project @ Gatacre Pavilion:** guided walks around Old Oswestry Hillfort, walks organised by the hillfort conservation group, Oswestry Heritage Gateway.

**Oswestry Community Games:** guest of honour Di Carrington - Atlantic Ladies, free community fun event including sport, dance and music for the whole family at Cae Glas Park

### **Designs in Mind Pop-Up & Mindfulness**

**Hill Fort Walk:** a workshop environment at the Gatacre Pavilion and learn how to print a hillfort inspired linocut card. Send it to a friend to spread the love of our hillfort! Whilst your print dries, enjoy a signposted mindfulness walk of our Iron Age Fort and experience time in nature and the well-being it brings.



**The People who made Derwen College:** Join us for a chat, refreshments and to look at some of the Derwen College archives, and find out more about the people who made Derwen College.

**Gobowen Central: All About Heritage Open Days:** a talk by Mark Hignett

**Guildhall: All About Heritage Open Days:** a talk by Mark Hignett

**Freemasons Hall:** the Hall was built in 1901 and is where the Freemasons of Oswestry meet, you are invited to come in and see the interior and discover what goes on inside.



# 2020

## HIDDEN NATURE

**Well this year's theme is Hidden Nature and when we were first told about this theme in late November 2019 and confirmed in January 2020. Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Open Days was jubilant as our locations, venues and people are perfect for this theme. Then Covid-19 struck, lockdown happened which meant we couldn't meet to plan events. We kept positive hoping like so many others in the early days that it would pass that it wouldn't cause to many changes and challenges.**

Unfortunately it did cause changes and challenges, due to safeguarding the public a lot of our venues and locations could not open. This caused lack of funding, which in turn caused concerns on whether places would continue. Oswestry Town Museum the central hub for our Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Days – closed – not forever but till next spring, due to the issues of safeguarding and lack of funding.

To keep our presence within the heritage open day community we have gone online with a small presence. So please visit the [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) to see what is available.

**Next year we will be back bigger and better.  
Stay safe and thank you for being part of our legacy.  
Oswestry & Beyond Heritage Open Days  
Oswestry Town Museum**

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**[www.oswestrytownmuseum.co.uk](http://www.oswestrytownmuseum.co.uk)**