

Wiltshire OPC Project

June 2011 Newsletter

Hello to all OPCs

Having suggested a little while ago that this might be an ideal way to keep everyone informed of what is currently happening with the project and what is hoped will happen in the future - I have taken on the role of producing it, so here goes.

This isn't just any OPC project, it's *your* OPC project so it would be fantastic to receive *your* comments, criticisms, suggestions, problems, tips, news and views - in fact, anything to do with the project and the website. Your starter for 10 - can anyone design or suggest a logo for future Newsletters?

Going back a little, January 2011 started a lot better than December 2010 ended (when the site crashed). We were immensely fortunate to be able to call on the expertise of Anthony Kirby in Canada. After many hours of intensive work, he had the site up and running in less than 2 weeks. Thank you again Anthony.

The Technical stuff

1. Having been unable for various reasons to restore images directly on the pages, links to photo galleries are being created (working through the parishes alphabetically). In one way, this is better than displaying the images directly on the pages because they don't take up so much space. All parish pages may not have been linked by the time you receive this newsletter as this process will take time to complete.

2. The second major task is the conversion of all transcriptions (up until now displayed as spreadsheets) to pdf format - these will be accessed by a link and also take up less space on the page. This is a huge undertaking so please, could you all check your pages to make sure the records that should be there, are there - let us know if any of your precious transcripts are missing. Again, this process will take time to complete.

Regardless of the above, all census and bmd's *must* still be submitted using templates; they will then be converted to pdf and placed on your page. Your templates will be archived (to allow for updates if needed) and are essential for, well, read on

3. The third major task underway is the creation of a searchable database (using the column headings on the templates) so it is **vital** that we all use the **same** templates for bmd's and census and that column headings are not changed in any way. Up until now, some OPCs have been "doing their own thing" - so please, do not put borders on templates, use capital letters for SURNAMES only and around about 750/800 entries per template for bmd's is ideal.

The Very Important Bit

New templates for bmd's and census are ready for you to download and use from 1st June. Log in 'front end' using your password. Click on Useful Documents in the Main Menu, then Templates.

4. In order to create a more professional and polished look to the site, it is essential that we all use the same size font and colour of text on our pages - here are 5 golden rules along with a very big PLEASE!

All text to be in Arial 10pt, regular black (as per this line)

Paragraph headings in Arial 10pt, bold, olive green (as per this line)

Do not use all capitals for paragraph headings.

Do not centre text on the page, always start from the left hand margin.

Do not cut and paste data to your page from the internet, word processor or spreadsheet; all text must be typed directly onto your parish page.

5. Finally, last month all parishes were visited to correct spelling errors and grammar (there weren't many, honest!), adjust the layout and text etc. At the same time, a new paragraph heading was added - Registration District/Parish Registers

Please, could everyone spend a few minutes to fill in their parish details (example below). This paragraph must remain as the **very last** paragraph on your page.

Registration District/Parish Registers

1837-1921 Nomansland registration district, then Noddyland

Registers held at WSHC:

Baptisms 1545-1921

Marriages 1546-1894

Burials 1545-1900

(Bmd's and census transcriptions will be placed immediately under this paragraph)



A bit about YOU

At present we have 42 OPCs covering 95 parishes; a few are gluttons for punishment and have several parishes! But no matter whether you have one small parish, one big one or several, everyone should take a pat on the back for the effort they put in.

We are truly global with OPCs in Canada, Holland, France, England, Guernsey, Australia, India, USA, Tasmania, New Zealand and Scotland.



A bit about US

The "Housekeeping Team" for the website is Teresa Lewis (without her, we would have hit the rocks and sunk long ago), assisted by John Pope and me, Jan Oliver. If anyone would like to join the Housekeeping Team, even if only to step into the breach on the odd occasion, please do get in touch. As my Mum used to say, it is never a good idea to put all your eggs in one basket, or in our case, 3 baskets. (I did get that the right way round, didn't I?)

It might seem a bit outdated to be sending a Newsletter with so many communication mediums available these days - but by good old-fashioned email, everyone should be reached.

I look forward to receiving your comments, news and views for inclusion in the September Newsletter. If you would prefer to remain anonymous, that's fine, your name will not be displayed nor divulged. Email me anytime.

Jan

Editor

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TEASERS - answers in Sept issue

1. Your grandfather's sister's daughter is your (a) great aunt (b) half sister (c) second cousin (d) first cousin once removed.
2. You do not know your grandmother's maiden name. She married 3 times. The surname you should use on your family tree is (a) the surname of her first husband (b) the surname of your grandfather (c) the surname she had when she died (d) none of these.
3. 'Half-baptised' is the term used when illegitimate babies were baptised without the father being present. True or false?

Genealogists never die, they just lose their census!