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Guide to Oswestry & District



A TOURIST AND RESIDENTIAL CENTRE ON THE BORDERS OF ENGLAND AND WALES Compiled by H. H. JONES

* * *

Published by the Oswestry Chamber of Trade in conjunction with the Municipal Authority of Oswestry



Printed by Woodalls (Printers) Ltd. Cambrian Press, Wrexham

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A Message from the President

Once again the Oswestry Chamber of Trade present a new edition of the comprehensive pictorial guide to the Town and District. It is hoped that the current volume not only follows in the best traditions of its predecessors but shows an improvement in the arrangement of contents for easy reference. There are also a number of additional pictures.

It should appeal to the visitor and prove useful to the resident. On behalf of the Chamber of Trade I would like to thank all the advertisers who have made this venture possible, the Corporation for their continued support, Mr. H. H. Jones, Borough Librarian, Editor of the Guide, Messrs. Joan English who have brought the pictorial section up to date.

I trust the reader will find great pleasure in reading the volume and in visiting Oswestry and District.

C. ARTHUR.

President.

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PREFACE

This book has been designed to serve as an illustrated guide to Oswestry and the surrounding area.

The country around the town is just as economically dependant on the town, as the town is on the country. The business of the market town has attracted many shops that would not normally have considered it a profit making venture to establish themselves in a small town. The attraction of both the town and neighbourhood have persuaded many people to come and live in or near Oswestry, and become themselves Salopians, with perhaps a dash of the Welsh in their personalities.

This guide has been arranged in separate sections, alphabetically arranged as far as possible, so that they complement and supplement each other. Services mentioned in the descriptive part, such as schools or churches, without fully listing existing facilities, will be found in the Classified Directory. Locations will be found on the town plan.

An attempt has been made not to duplicate information. The classified directory should always be consulted.

H.H.J.

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CONTENTS

OSWESTRY HISTORY

OSWESTRY DESCRIPTION AND PLACES OF INTEREST

OSWESTRY INFORMATION

PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

A SELECT LIST OF BOOKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

OSWESTRY IN PICTURES

TRADE AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

TOWN PLAN

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OSWESTRY HISTORY

Oswestry, an ancient Borough, is essentially a market town, situated close to the Welsh Border, in Shropshire. Close proximity to Wales has ensured that the town has had a long and eventful history.

The first settlement was probably "Old Oswestry," or "Hen Ddinas," dating from about 550BC. Subsequent alterations to this earthwork continued until the advent of the Romans in the 1st Century AD, although there is no evidence to suggest that they ever came nearer, in an organised manner, than the lead mines of Llanymynech Hill.

The first Saxon date of importance is that of the Battle of Oswestry, or Maserfield, in 642, when Penda, pagan king of the Mercians met Oswald, Christian king of Northumbria on Cae'r Nef, the field on which the Roman Catholic Church now stands, defeated and slew him. Legend has it that an eagle flew off with one of the arms of Oswald's dismembered body, but dropped it, whereupon a spring of water issued forth, which is still in existence today, and is known as King Oswald's Well. The name of the town and also the dedication of the Parish Church is derived from this King Oswald.

Towards the end of the 8th Century, raiding by the Welsh caused the Mercians to strengthen their defences, by the construction of Wat's Dyke. This ran from near Maesbury, to the Dee valley, and virtually marked the boundary between the lowlands of the English Midlands, and the commencement of the Welsh Hill country. Offa's Dyke, which is perhaps better known than that of Wat, dates about the end of the 8th Century. Remains of both these great Dykes are to be seen in many places in or near Oswestry, they formed what we would now call a political boundary as well as some form of defence.

As a result of the Norman Conquest, Roger of Montgomery was established as overlord of the area, one of the conditions of his appointment was that he kept the marauding Welsh in check. These raids from over the Border continued until the 15th Century. The Domesday description of the Mersete Hundred, in which the town as we known it now, lay,

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gives us little description other than the impression there was a small scattered population constantly harrassed by raids.

Whittington Castle was orginally a motte and bailey type of fortification, but was later rebuilt. The gatehouse and part of the moat still remain to be seen, a most photogenic scene. Oswestry Castle probably existed well before the Norman Conquest. The Normans, as could be expected, altered the castle to become a motte and bailey type. This must have been considerably added to by the time of the Civil Wars in England, when in 1644, Prince Rupert defeated an attack on the town by a Parliamentary army under General Mytton. Three months later however, the castle fell to another attack and its walls were demolished. Little remains of the original, and very important castle except the mound which is now a very attractive public park.

Up to 1742 there were six major fires in the town. The first, in 1215 was ordered by King John as a measure against the Barons.

Oswestry was, from 1277, a walled town with four gates. There was the Wallia or Willow Gate in Willow Street, the Black Gate in Salop Road, the New Gate in Church Street, and the Beatrice Gate in Beatrice Street. All remains of the gates and walls have disappeared during successive expansions of the streets and buildings of the town.

Oswestry probably owes its existence to a long history of habitation from "Old Oswestry" times to the present day, a good water supply, and its geographical position between plain and highlands. A great tradition of trading grew up and continued in wool. General trading with an 85% reliance on agriculture and supplementary industries, is now the mainstay of the town's economy.

The town has developed under grants from various Charters, the first Royal Charter was granted by Richard the Second in 1398, the second by King James in 1617, the third by Charles the Second in 1674. These and other Oswestry Manuscripts can be seen in the Borough Library.



WYNNSTAY HOTEL

This delightful 18th century Hotel in the centre of Oswestry is the leading hotel in the town. It maintains the high standard of hospitality which characterizes more than 200 other Trust Houses and visitors are assured of complete satisfaction. Twenty-eight pleasant, well equipped bedrooms, restful public rooms and a room for Parties. Spacious garden, bowling green, garage.

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OSWESTRY DESCRIPTION AND PLACES OF INTEREST

Today, Oswestry exists prosperously due mainly to its position as the market town of a considerable area. The surrounding country is beautiful and picturesque, and attracts many visitors on account of the convenience and accessibility of Wales and the Border Country. There is little left standing in Oswestry to suggest a lengthy history, most of the old buildings have been destroyed by fire, raids, and similar calamities.

The town is pleasant, healthy, about 450 feet above sea level, and is considered an excellent shopping centre. The inhabitants of the town are well known for their friendliness, which is possibly a reason why so many people come to live or visit this part of Shropshire.

The Shropshire County Council, whose head offices are in Shrewsbury, is responsible for education, police, classified roads, administration of justice (Quarter and Petty Sessions), fire, welfare, personal health and probation, etc.

For communications, Oswestry is well served by omnibus services and British Railways. Oswestry is a fine centre for the canal and railway historian. The nearby Shropshire Union Canal furnishes many outstanding examples of canal architecture. Thomas Telford was responsible for the stone Chirk aqueduct, and also the great cast iron trough aqueduct on hollow stone pillars at Vroncysyllte. There are two exceptionally long canal tunnels worth investigation, just outside Chirk. The old Cambrian railway, which was merged with the Great Western Railway before nationalisation, was an interesting railway. The headquarters of the Cambrian Railway were at Oswestry, where the large and imposing station and extensive works, testifies to the importance of Oswestry as a railway town.

The Welsh element in the town, and dependance on Wales, becomes very apparent on market days, when it is often said that more Welsh than English is spoken.

The situation of the town has made it ideal for those who like walking or cycling, something of beauty or interest is

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EVERYTHING FOR THE HOUSE, THE GARDEN AND THE FARM never more than a few minutes walk from the centre of the town. A study of the Ordnance Survey 1 in. sheets 117 and 118 is well worth while to ascertain places of historical interest within easy reach.

Agricultural Show

An agricultural show is held annually, and is considered to be one of the biggest one day shows in the country. The first recorded mention of an Oswestry Agricultural Society is in 1817, which, with some breaks has continued to exist and promote Oswestry Shows ever since.

Baths

Oswestry swimming baths and gymnasium have recently been modernised, and are a very valuable asset to the amenities of the town. The swimming baths close during winter, but a varied programme of other activities is organised.

Building, Housing, Industries

A great deal of private building is being carried out both within the Borough boundary and also outside. The Oswestry Town Council, and the Rural District Council, have extensive building programmes under way. It is important to note that the Borough has available sites, for private building and for light industrial purposes. Some industries, such as, metal spinning, plastics, tile making, clothing manufacture, agricultural engineering, printing, all types of building construction, pump manufacturing and railway engineering, have already been accommodated. The Town Council are making every effort to encourage other light industries to consider the merits of Oswestry as a suitable area for further development.

Croeswylan Stone

(Cross of Weeping)

In 1559, Oswestry was visited by the plague. This stone was placed on Morda road, where the markets were held during the affliction. One opinion suggests that the stone was the base of a cross, whilst others claim that money was washed in the hollow to avoid contamination.

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Education

The education of the town is well catered for with Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools, a College of Further Education, and many Junior Schools. The College of Further Education and Boys' Modern School, both new buildings, are noteworthy examples of contemporary architecture.

There are private schools in the town where boarders are taken, Queens Park, Bellan House and Oswestry School. Oswestry School is one of the oldest in the country, having been founded in 1407. The present school is not on the original site, but the first school buildings can still be seen at the far end of the Parish Church churchyard.

The Girls' High School also arranges for boarders.

Moreton Hall, the well known Girls' Private School is but three miles from Oswestry.

Famous Men

Three of the most famous men who have been born in or near Oswestry are:—

Edward Lhwyd the great antiquarian and natural historian was born at Llanforda in 1660. He became Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, and was the author of many scholarly books.

Sir Walford Davies was born in Willow Street, became a chorister at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. After numerous appointments as organist, he became Musical Director of the R.A.F. He was knighted in 1922, and was appointed Master of the King's Music, 1933. A plaque was placed on his birth-place to commemorate his death, in 1949.

Wilfred Owen, the poet, was born at Plas Wilmot, Weston Lane in 1893. He left Oswestry at the age of six, his father was station master, moving to Birkenhead, then to Shrewsbury. At the outbreak of the First World War, he joined up and was commissioned in the Manchester Regiment, but was killed only a few days before the Armistice. A plaque has also been placed on his birthplace.

Guildhall

Quite an outstanding stone building, completed in 1892.

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Hospitals

Oswestry has its own "Oswestry and District Hospital," which was erected in 1939. Also the world famous Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital is situated one and a half miles from the town. Near the Orthopaedic is the Derwen Cripples training college.

King Oswald's Well

Already referred to, is still in existence, and was once purported to possess great medicinal properties. Another well of historic interest is that of St. Winifred's at Woolston, near Maesbury.

Llwyd Mansion

One of the best half timbered buildings in the town, now converted into shops. It originally belonged to the Lloyds of Llanforda. The crest of the double headed eagle can be seen on the side of the building. This was granted to a member of the family for distinguished service during the Crusades.

Markets

Oswestry has a very important Smithfield, which attracts dealers from all over the country. The Town Council are constantly improving this most important asset to the town, and there is no doubt that in addition to the present attested cattle sections, the Markets Committee will shortly commence a programme of great expansion to the Smithfield.

There are two covered markets, and an open market which attract local produce, cheese, butter, poultry, vegetables and the like; and also traders in textiles, pottery, clothing, footwear, and many other lines in household goods, including the Women's Institute Stall.

It is historically interesting to note that Oswestry has always had a great reliance for part of its wealth on its markets. At

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one time it was the centre of the Welsh Wool trade, of greater importance even than Shrewsbury.

Old Oswestry

"Hen Ddinas." Now in the hands of the Ministry of Works. This is a very fine example of an Iron Age Fort, and is no doubt the best work of the Early Iron Age in the Welsh Marches. Originally the fort had two banks and ditches, later a third bank was added, then after some other works, a final double rampart enclosed the whole. Some idea of the magnitude of the fort will be gained from the size, which is nearly 40 acres.

Oswestry Castle

This has already been mentioned in its historic setting, and is now worth a visit on account of the view that can be obtained from the top. This feature of the town is now administered by the Council as a Public Park.

Parish Church

This is possibly the only ecclesiastical building of architectural interest to the visitor. The setting and exterior of this large parish church are most pleasing. The history of the Church goes back to before the Battle of Maserfield. Subsequent alterations have left little of the original fabric, but the whole remains a beautiful church with many interesting features.

Park Hall Camp

This military camp is about one mile from the town, and now holds the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion. The camp is modern and well equipped, having the Command swimming baths and athletic stadium.

Parks

In addition to the Castle grounds, a municipal park, Cae Glas, is administered, which provides good bowling facilities on crown greens, tennis on both hard and grass courts, and occasional Brass Band concerts. The park has gained a wide reputation for the beauty of its flower beds and the pleasantness of its layout. The main entrance gates, Church Street, are fine memorials to the dead of the two world wars.

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Public Library

Oswestry can probably boast of having one of the best Public Libraries of its size in the country. The Library has recently been replanned and modernised, and provides Lending, Reference and Junior Library facilities. A feature of the Library is the Local History Collection which aims to hold all types of material relating to the locality. The Library also sponsors many types of extension activities. Visitors are welcomed in the Library, and may use tickets from their own Library if they are staying only a short while in Oswestry. The Library is open as follows:-

Mondays and Fridays ... 10 a.m.—8 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays ... 10 a.m.—6 p.m. Thursdays 10 a.m.—5 p.m.
Saturdays (half-day) 10 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

The area outside the borough is served by Shropshire County Library, details from the County Librarian, County Library, Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury.

Recreation

Details of Clubs and Societies may be found in the Classified Directory in this guide. Most activities are represented in some form in the area. Llanymynech Golf Club is about six miles away, Oswestry Golf Club, Aston, is about four miles. There are numerous Bowling Clubs in the town, also tennis. Badminton is played in the Corporation Baths during the winter months. Bowling Greens are maintained at the Railway Institute, Conservative Club, Church Club, Willow Tree Hotel and the Wynnstay Hotel. Billards and snooker at Railway Institute, Police Club, British Legion Club and Crosville Club.

OSWESTRY INFORMATION

Population (1961 Estimate)		11 230
Rateable Value (1961-62)		f163 189
Product of a Penny Rate (1961-62)		£665
Rate in the Pound Oswestry Borough	•••	2005
(1961-62)		23/8d
Rate in the Pound Oswestry Rural		25/04.
District (1961-62)		27/64
		21/04.



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Number of Houses in the Borough 1961 3,471 Number of Shops in the Borough 1961 647 450 feet Height above sea level Average Annual Rainfall (10 years) 34.70 ins. Maximum Temperature (10 years) ... 86°F Minimum Temperature (10 years) 11°F Average Annual Temperature (10 years) ... 48.5°F

Half Day—Thursday.

Market Days—Wednesdays, all markets and Smithfield. Saturdays—Covered market only. (Cross Market).

Member of Parliament for the Oswestry Constituency-The Rt. Hon. David Ormsby Gore, Woodhill, Oswestry.

Registered Electors in the Constituency-50,772.

Mayor of Oswestry (1961-62)—Councillor Wynne Nicholls, The Guildhall, Oswestry.

Town Clerk-R. S. Cubitt, Esq., Guildhall, Oswestry. Tel. 3585.

Medical Officer of Health-Dr. P. C. Moore, Health Dept., Oswald Road, Tel. 2588

Borough Surveyor-D. H. Dickinson, Esq., Guildhall. Tel. 2014.

Borough Treasurer-A. Firth, Esq., Guildhall. Tel. 3024. Health Inspector-R. J. Lewis, Esq., Health Dept., Oswald Road. Tel. 2588.

Borough Librarian-H. H. Jones, Esq., Public Library, Arthur Street.—Tel. 3211.

Markets Superintendent-M. H. Hughes, Esq., Cross Market. Tel. 2776.

Banks

See Classified Directory.

Bus Services

Areas: Gobowen, Chirk, Ruabon, Wrexham, Llangollen, St. Martins, Ifton Heath, Ellesmere, Pant, Llanymynech, Welshpool, Trefonen, Morda, Llanyblodwell, Llansantffraid, Llandhaiadr, Meifod and Llanfair Caereinion.

Crosville: Bus Depot, Station Road.

Areas: Knockin, Kinnerley, West Felton, Nesscliffe and Shrewsbury.

GREAT FIRES OF OSWESTRY

- King John with his nobles and a great army entered Oswestry (then known as Blanc Monaster) which towne he burnt to the grounde."
- 1233 Llewellyn, Prince of Wales, burnt the town to the ground.
- 1542 "Twoe long streets with great riches" burnt.
- 1544 "Likewise or worse."
- Two hundred houses, seven score within the walls, three score without in the suburbs beside cloth, cattle, etc., were consumed by fire "w'ch began att twoe of the clock in the morning and ended at four to the great marvelling of many, that so great a spoile in so short a time should happen." This fire started in what is now known as Upper Church Street and the district then became known as Pentrepoeth, or the burnt end of the town. The name Upper Church Street was not used until 1866.
- There was another destructive fire and in the Murringers account there appears an item:— "Beer ordered to four persons for watching at the late terrible fire," £0 9s. 0d.
- 1948 The great fire at the Orthopaedic Hospital where damage estimated at £100,000 occurred in four hours.
- 1949 Destructive fire in King Street at Mineral Water Works.

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Hampson's: King Street.

Areas: Llynclys, Porthywaen, Llanyblodwell, Llansantffraid and Llanfechain.

Wednesdays and Saturdays only.

Parish's: Park Gates.

Areas: Shrewsbury, via Orthopaedic, Wednesdays and Sundays only.

Midland Red: Salop Road.

A town bus service is administered by Hampson's and runs at half hourly intervals from Coppice Drive, through the town, to College Road.

Various other omnibus proprietors are also in operation

to and from surrounding villages.

Car Parks

There are adequate public and private car parks in the town.

Churches

See Classified Directory.

Conveniences

Public conveniences are situated at:-Horsemarket. Beatrice Street, Crossmarket and The Smithfield.

Fishing

Tickets for the Severn River Board for Severn, Vyrnwy and tributaries, Shropshire Union Canal, the Dee for coarse and trout fishing, Oswestry Angling Society Waters and also for salmon, when in season, are available from Mr. T. Ellis, Regal Sport Stores, Leg Street.

River Tanat—Good trout and grayling. All the river is preserved. Tickets are issued at the New Inn, Llanygnog,

which includes a lake nearby.

Rivers Vyrnwy and Severn—Trout grayling and all coarse fish. Tickets as above, and also Llanymynech Angling

Lake Vyrnwy—Trout. Tickets available at the Hotel.

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River Ceiriog—Trout. Tickets as above, also from Mr. E. Jones, Minafon, Glynceiriog.

River Dee—Trout and grayling. Tickets as above.

Ellesmere Meres—All coarse fishing. Tickets at the Boathouse.

Shropshire Union Canal-Roach, bream, dace, perch, pike

gudgeon and eels.

Oswestry is a great centre for fishermen, many travelling a great number of miles at week ends for the great variety of fishing available.

Hotels

See Classified Directory.

Licensing Hours

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays—10.30 a.m. —2.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. 10 p.m.

Wednesdays and Saturdays--10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. and 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Sundays—12 noon—2 p.m. and 7 p.m.—10 p.m.

Weekday evenings extended until 10.30 p.m. during the months June, July, August.

Police

The Police Station, Horsemarket, Oswestry. Tel. 3222.

Postal Services

Main Post Office, Church Street, Oswestry.

Hours open—8.30 a.m.—6 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Deliveries—Town: 7 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. Country: 6 a.m. and 2 p.m. (approximately).

Last Posts—4.45 p.m. to London and Newcastle-on-Tyne;

8.30 p.m. other parts.

For Sub-Offices see Classified Directory.

Railway Services

Oswestry is in the Western Region of the British Railways, and is on the main line from Crewe to Aberystwyth. Good connections are available, through Gobowen, for Paddington 4½ hours, Birmingham 2 hours, Liverpool 1¾ hours, Aberystwyth 3¼ hours.

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Water

Oswestry has an abundant supply of excellent soft water.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The proximity of the Welsh hills make Oswestry a good stepping off place for trips to the Berwyns and the more craggy ranges beyond. In the near locality we have pretty and interesting villages, and what is important, hotels which have outstanding cuisines. It is impossible to be comprehensive in any particular section of a guidebook, many features that exist are of interest but have been unavoidably left out.

Bala

The largest natural lake in Wales, and a very attractive little town. There is fishing and sailing in the Lake which is famous for the purity of its water and the rare fish the "gwyniad." Bala has a theological college, and has been called the home of Welsh Methodism.

Berwyns

A lovely range of hills, conveniently accessible for the hill-walker or view seeker from Llangollen or Llanrhaiadr Cadair Berwyn 2,712 ft., Moel Sych 2,713 ft.

Breidden Hills

A delightful excursion from Oswestry. Well known landmark topped with Rodney's Pillar, a monument to Admiral Rodney. 8 miles.

Chester

Steeped in ancient history. Prehistoric, Roman, the Walls, the Cathedral, Roman remains generally, the River Dee, all have meaning in Chester. The "Rows" make the city unique, and one of the most beautiful in the country. 28 miles.

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Chirk

An interesting village six miles from Oswestry with a fine Parish Church. At the bottom of the bank, before entering Chirk from the Oswestry side is the bridge over the river Ceiriog which marks the Shropshire Denbighshire boundary, and from where a magnificent view can be obtained of the Chirk aqueduct (Shropshire Union Canal) and Viaduct (London—Chester railway).

Chirk Castle

About 1 mile from Chirk. This is a very fine inhabited Castle, completed in 1310 by Roger Mortimer. Features of the castle are the gate, the State Rooms which have some fine paintings and furniture, also a set of Mortlake tapestries, and a servants hall preserved as it was orginally. The castle was bought by Sir Thomas Myddelton, Lord Mayor of London in 1613, and is still the residence of the Myddelton family. The castle is in a particularly fine setting with beautiful all round views. A well illustrated descriptive guide is available, giving times of openings for visitors, etc.

Ellesmere

A market town 8 miles from Oswestry. Famous for its Meres: Ellesmere, Blakemere, Whitemere, Newtonmere, Colemere, Crosemere and Sweatmere. The Shropshire Sailing Club sail Whitemere, and the Colemere Sailing Club, Colemere. Ellesmere has attractive gardens near the Mere, and also a pleasure boat. The town has offices and repair shops for the Shropshire Union Canal.

Glynceiriog

In the lovely Ceiriog Valley, the "vale of the three poets." The valley should be explored on account of its scenic beauty. See the publication "Border Wonderland" for a full description of this valley and the Tanat Valley. The village of Glyn Ceiriog is a delightful haven of rest, seemingly far from the rushing crowds and streams of traffic—yet it is within a few miles of Llangollen, Chirk and Oswestry and it makes an ideal centre for both touring and walking. There is also plentiful fishing available nearby.

G I y n



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The Glyn Valley is an Olde World Hotel but fitted out in the modern manner, offering comfort, good food and a friendly atmosphere to guests all the year round

y

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GLYNCEIRIOG, Denbs.

Tel. Glyn 254

Gobowen and St. Martins

Two and six miles respectively. Gobowen notable as a road junction and connecting railway station from Oswestry to the main Paddington—Liverpool railway line. St. Martins, a well-known mining village.

Halston Hall

Built 1690. Has a very interesting timber framed chapel. The Hall was once the home of "Mad Jack Mytton."

Hereford and the Wye Valley

Ludlow, Leominster, Hereford, Ross on Wye and their surrounding countrysides provide some of the most beautiful scenery in Britain.

Llanfyllin and Lake Vyrnwy

Llanfyllin, 15 miles from Oswestry via Llansantffraid, is the only borough in North Montgomeryshire. It is a small town of 1,500 population, though larger than Montgomery with fewer than one thousand. It is watered by the River Cain, a tributary of the Vyrnwy and lies amid steep wooded heights. Its history goes back several centuries and it was at one time noted for its social life. Indeed there is an old saying that "Old Llanfyllin ale made young widows."

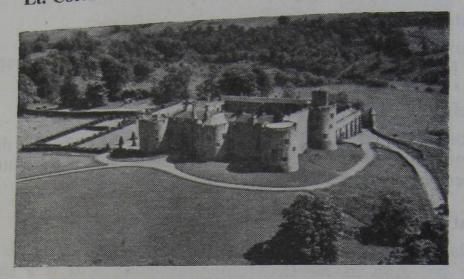
Ten miles beyond Llanfyllin is Lake Vyrnwy, an artificial reservoir which provides a good portion of Liverpool's water supply. To make the reservoir the village of Llanwddyn was submerged and its inhabitants with their parish church were moved to a nearby site. The formal turning on of the water took place in 1892, eleven years after the laying of the first stone of the reservoir. There is a good road, eleven miles in length, round the lake, which provides good fishing. In the vicinity of Llanwddyn was born Ann Griffiths, who wrote many well-known Welsh hymns.

Llanarmon

Widely known as a pretty motor car run, and for the excellent fare at the two hotels there, the "West Arms" and the "Hand."

CHIRK CASTLE

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Lt. Colonel Ririd and Lady Margaret Myddelton



Built in 1310, Chirk Castle is a unique example of a Marcher fortress which has stood throughout the ages in its original exterior form without alteration. Since the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660, various internal changes have been made, so that State rooms provide examples of 17th, 18th and early 19th century decoration. The Castle commands a magnificent view across the Cheshire and Shropshire plain.

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Llangollen

A small town 12 miles from Oswestry, known throughout the world for the International Eisteddfod which the town holds each year in July. Anyone interested in folk arts, singing, dancing and music, cannot have completed their education until they have visited Llangollen during Eisteddfod week, to capture the wonderful spirit present in the town and neighbourhood. The peoples of many nations compete in friendliness in their particular art, nearly all of whom will

be wearing a highly colourful national costume.

The Vale of Llangollen is as charming a picture as one could wish to find. The 14th century bridge, the river and walks beside, and the Church are worth going a long way to see. The canal tow-path provides a most beautiful walk to the renowned Horseshoe falls. Plas Newydd the home of Lady Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, the "Ladies of Llangollen," is a fine half timbered house of great interest. The "Ladies" came to live in Llangollen to lead a secluded existence, but they entertained many famous people, including Sir Walter Scott, and the Duke of Wellington. Each visitor to the house, on their second visit, was encouraged to bring a present for the house, hence, it now has a fascinating collection of museum items. Dinas Bran, or Crow Castle, is perched high on one of the hills above the town, where a wonderful view of the valley can be obtained. Panorama walk, as the road over the hills from Llangollen to Trevor is known, is magnificent. The opposite way to Panorama walk, is the road to "World's End" a delightful place, the road passes a fine example of an Elizabethan Manor House, unfortunately not open to the public.

Llangollen also has a distinguished modern pottery, where

hand made pieces of great originality are produced.

Llangynog

A small village probably owing its existence to the local slate quarries. The road over the hills to Bala is one of the most impressive in Wales.

Llanrhaiadr

If we continue the journey from Oswestry, through Llanyblodwell and Llangedwyn, we come eventually to LlanTelephone: Gobowen 444



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rhaiadr, which has an interesting church, but is best known on account of the waterfall (Pistyll Rhaiadr), about four miles out of the village. The falls are one of the seven wonders of Wales, falling some 240 feet and rushing down the very impressive valley.

Llanyblodwell

A tiny village with a very attractive church, a beautiful bridge over the river Tanat, and a half timbered inn, "The Horseshoe," as picturesque a view as one could wish to find. About five miles.

Llanymynech

A village six miles from Oswestry. The Welsh border runs through the lower part of the village, right through the bar of a public house. The hill at Llanymynech gives magnificent views all round, it is the site of the Roman lead mines, and has many other archaeological associations. The golf course is also on the top of the hill.

Melverley

Off the main roads, about ten miles away with a most outstanding black and white church that has won many first prizes for photographers, and is of great interest to the antiquarian.

Morda

A village 1½ miles from the town. Undistinguished, but having an interesting industrial history. See the publication "Morda Valley Industries."

Nesscliffe

On the main road to Shrewsbury. In the nearby hill is Humphrey Kynaston's cave.

Pennant Melangell

Lies $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Llangynog, Melangell is derived from St. Monacella, who, as legend has it, protected a hare under her robe from huntsman Brochwell, Prince of Powis. She became patron Saint of hares. The Church is of varying date, mainly Norman, some of the original building being no doubt altered during the 1870 alterations. Recent

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lock Edge.

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We cannot list all Salop places of interest, but hope to have

included sufficient to whet the reader's appetite.

Shropshire Hills

Not the highest nor the ruggedest, but surely some of the prettiest. The Wrekin dominates the county and is possibly the best known of the Shropshire Hills. May we recommend the Longmynd, Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Pontesford, Clee Hills, and of course the Carding Mill valley and Ashes valley at Church Stretton.

Snowdonia

Has no place in this guide, but we wish to remind people that this area of North Wales is easily accessible from the Oswestry district.

Stokesay Castle

One of the finest fortified manor houses in the country. 35 miles.

Sweeney Mountain

Beyond Morda, a favourite beauty spot with grand views of the Shropshire plain. Many fine houses have been built here and in the Trefonen area.

Tours

The omnibus proprietors of the town run extensive programmes of tours. British Railways also have an attractive list of excursions available. The Public Library will be pleased to suggest places of interest for you to visit.

Valle Crucis Abbey

The Abbey is four miles from Llangollen and is probably one of the best known Cistercian Abbeys in the country. Built by Madog in 1200, this is a fine example of Gothic Architecture. An interesting comparison with Valle Crucis can be made with Buildwas Abbey, which was merged with the Cistercian order in 1147, and is mainly Norman in style. Beyond the Abbey on the main road, is the famous Horseshoe Pass.

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Wales-North

The principality of mountains, streams, valleys, industries, mines, magnificent, scenery, tradition, antiquities and language, is closely intertwined with Shropshire and Oswestry history. The exploration of Wales would take, and is worth, several lifetimes.

May we suggest visits to, Powis Castle, Welshpool, Conway and its bridges, Bettws-y-Coed and its waterfalls, Caernarvon Castle, Rhuddlan and Denbigh Castles, Harlech, Aberystwyth with the Welsh National Library and Devil's Bridge railway, and thousands of other places fairly near.

The narrow gauge railways of North Wales, Blaenau

Festiniog, Talyllyn, Devil's Bridge, are world famous.

Welshpool

A delightful little town. Well worth a visit, particularly as Powis Castle, one of the residences of the Earl of Powis is open to the public. About 15 miles.

Whittington

A pretty little village two miles from Oswestry. Mention has already been made of the castle. There is little to prove that Dick Whittington, as the name might suggest, actually is connected with the village. The church is worth seeing.

Wrexham

Is 15 miles from Oswestry, centre of a mining area. The steeple of Wrexham Church is another of the seven wonders of Wales. There is a connection between Oswestry Parish Church and Wrexham Church in that they both have monuments to the Yale family, from whom the American University took its name.

A SELECT LIST OF BOOKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

The following is a select list of books which can all be seen in Oswestry Public Library.

Acton, Mrs.—The Garrisons of Shropshire in the Civil War. 1867

Bowcock-Shropshire Place Names. 1923.

Bowen, E. G.—Wales. Methuen Advanced Geographies. 1957.

Cathrall, William—History of Oswestry 1855.

Cranage, D. H. S.—Churches of Shropshire. 1894—1912. Eyton—Antiquities of Shropshire. 1854—1860.

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When you want information, or have a query, think of your Public Library.

Come and see us to find out what talks or lectures are being held in our Lecture Room.

May we remind our borrowers that if a book is not in stock, it can generally be obtained from some other source

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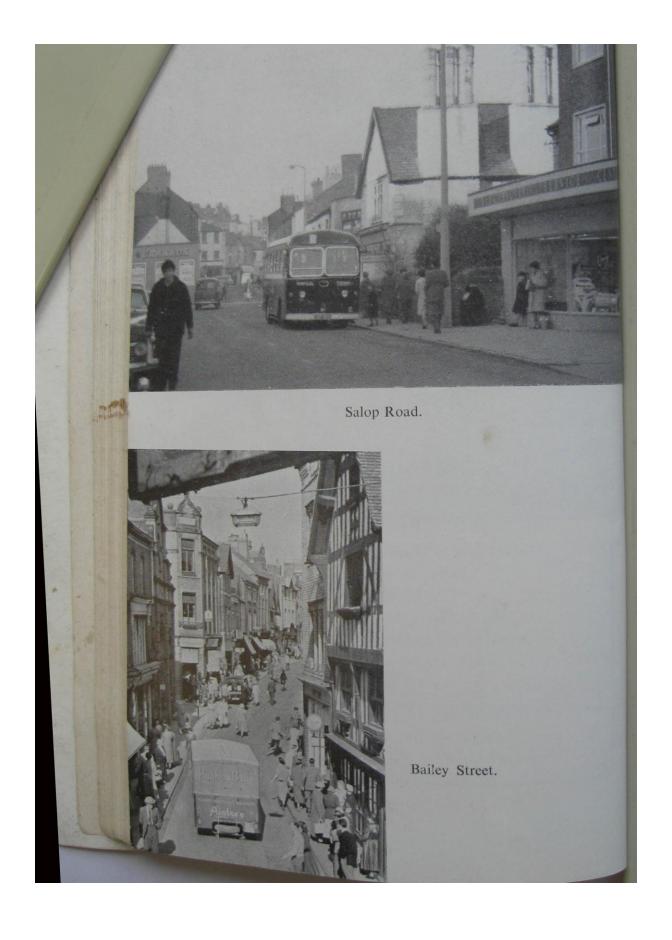
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Oswestry Smithfield cattle market.



Interior of the Cross Market.



The town's shopping centre.

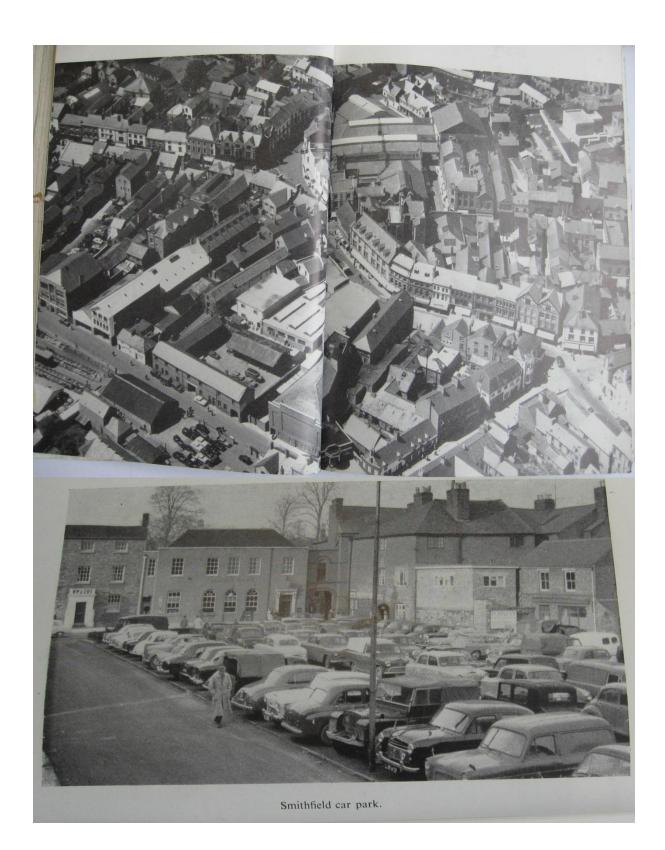


A section of the Bailey Head Market.





Another busy street.

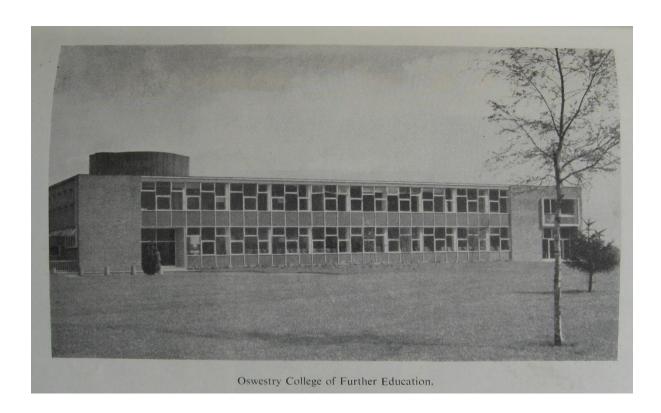


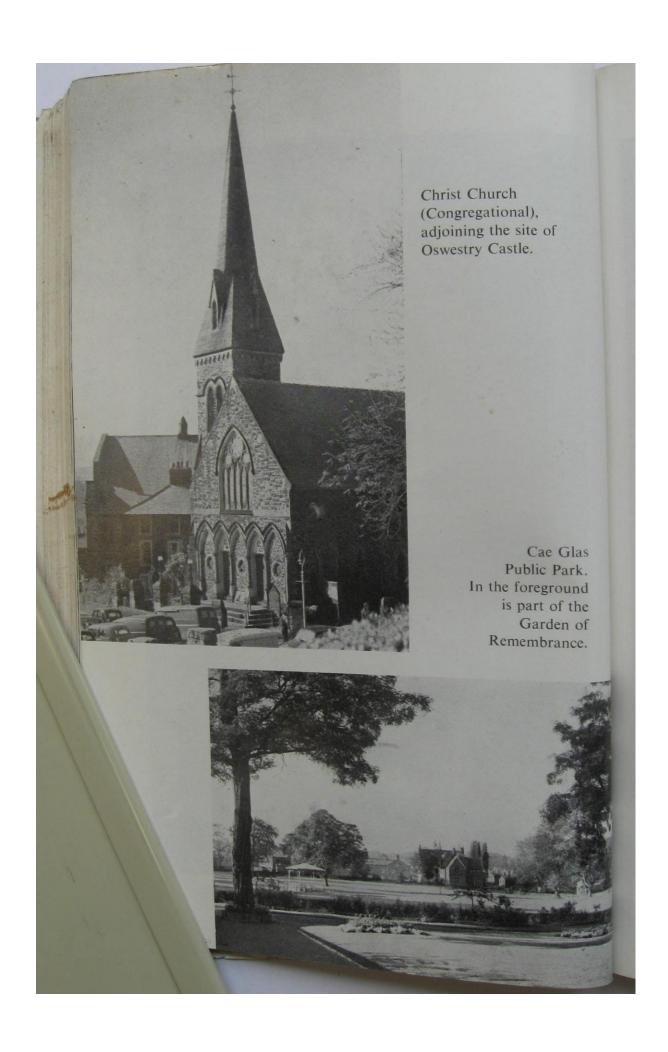


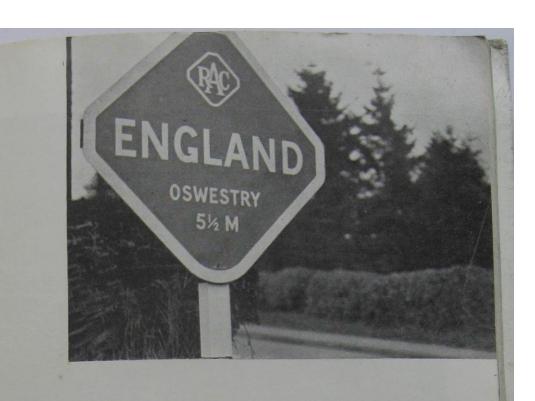
Another view of Church Street.



One of the town's modern schools. Note the site of the old "Cross of Weeping" (Croeswylan).

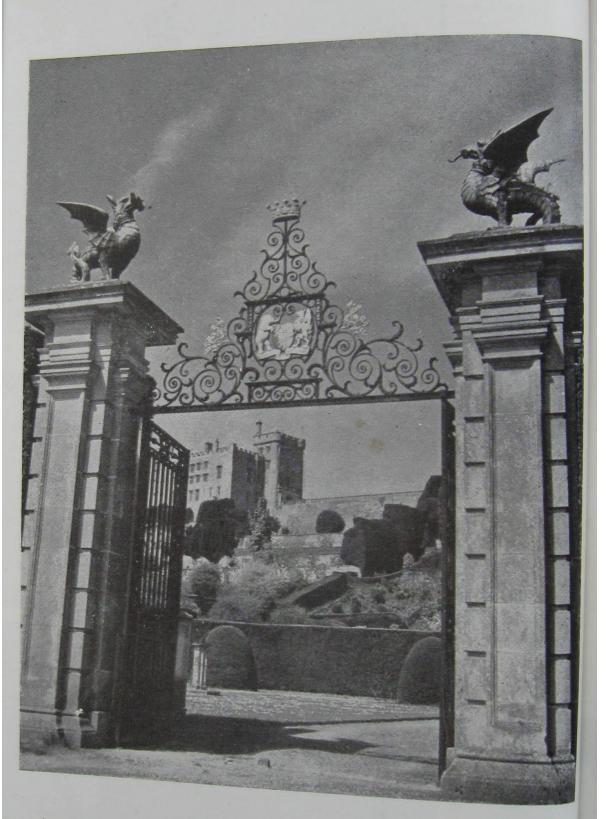




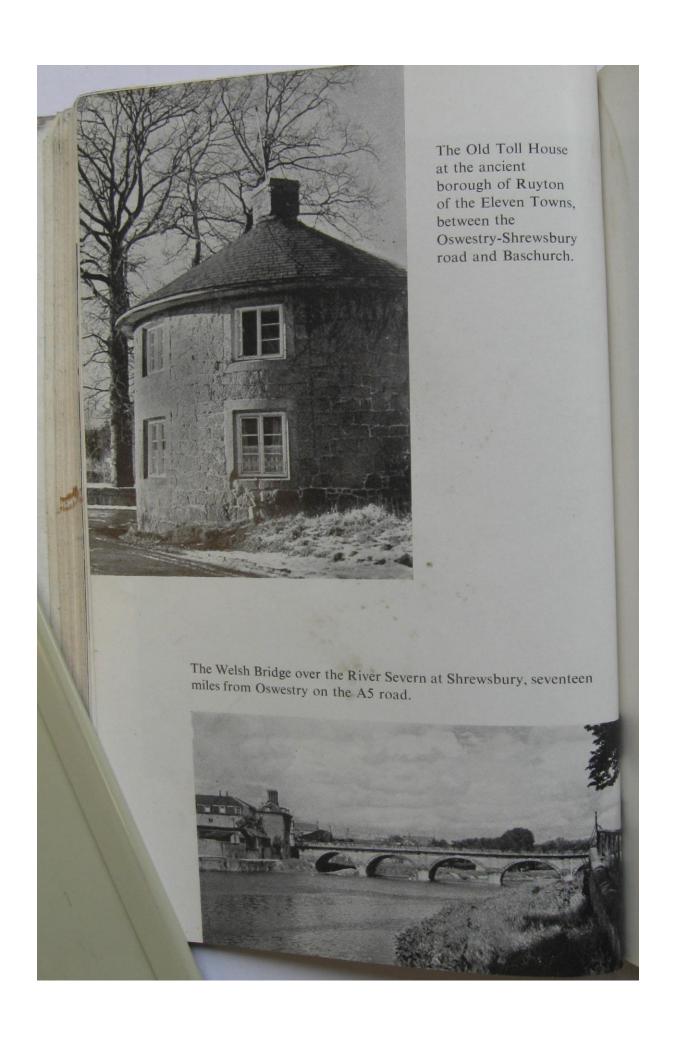


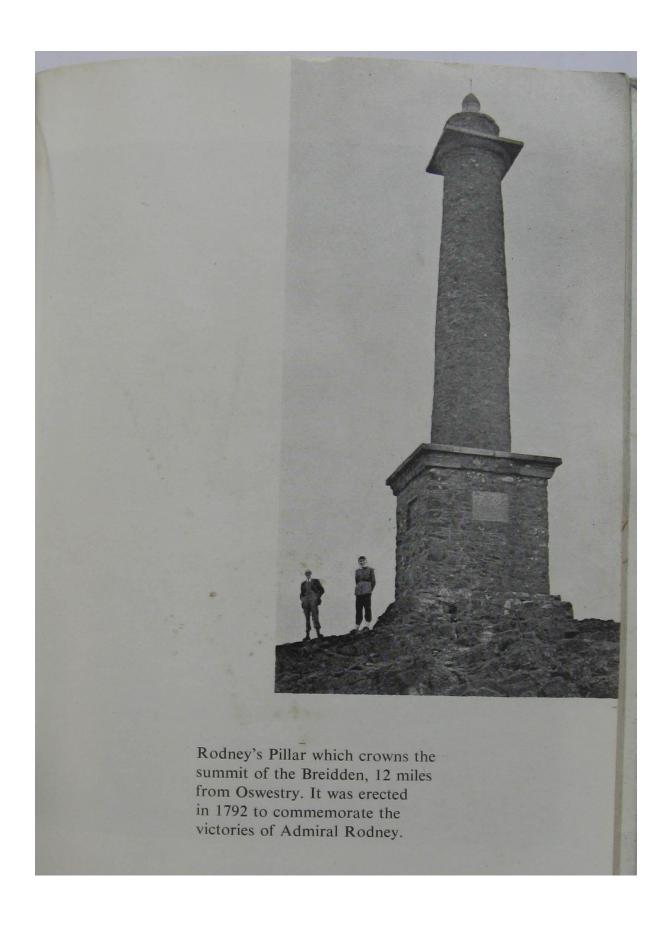
Where England and Wales meet at Llanymynech.

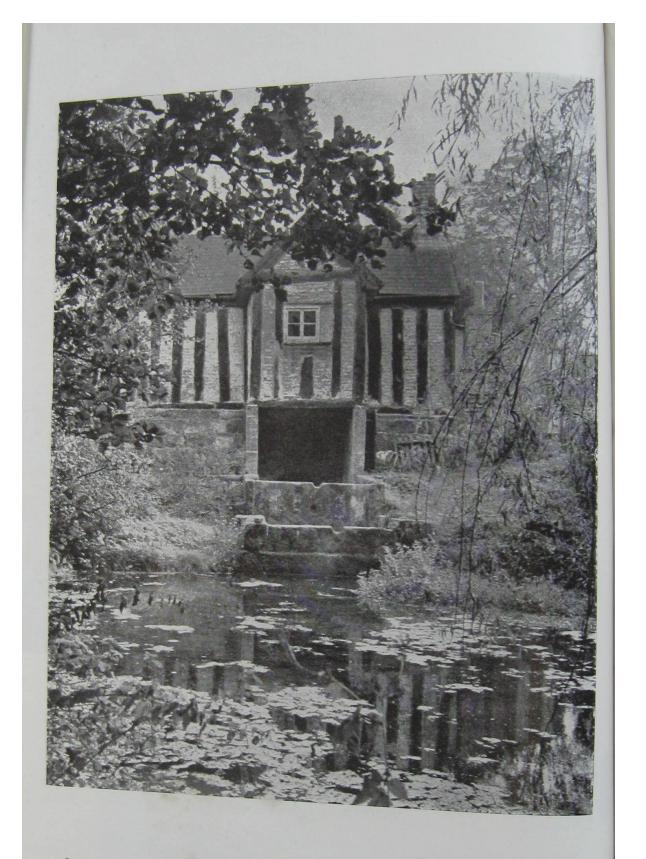




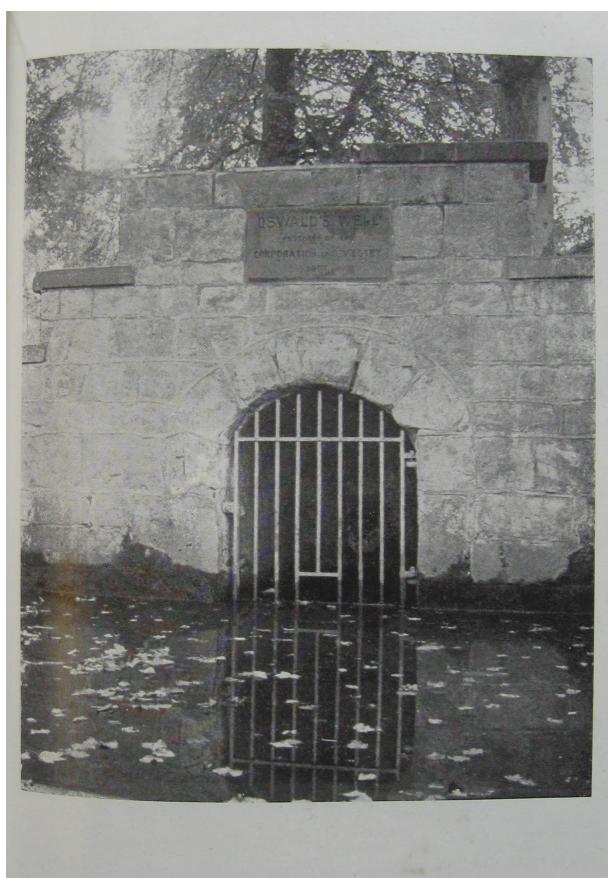
A striking view of Powis Castle, Welshpool. It is now in the care of the National Trust and is open to visitors.



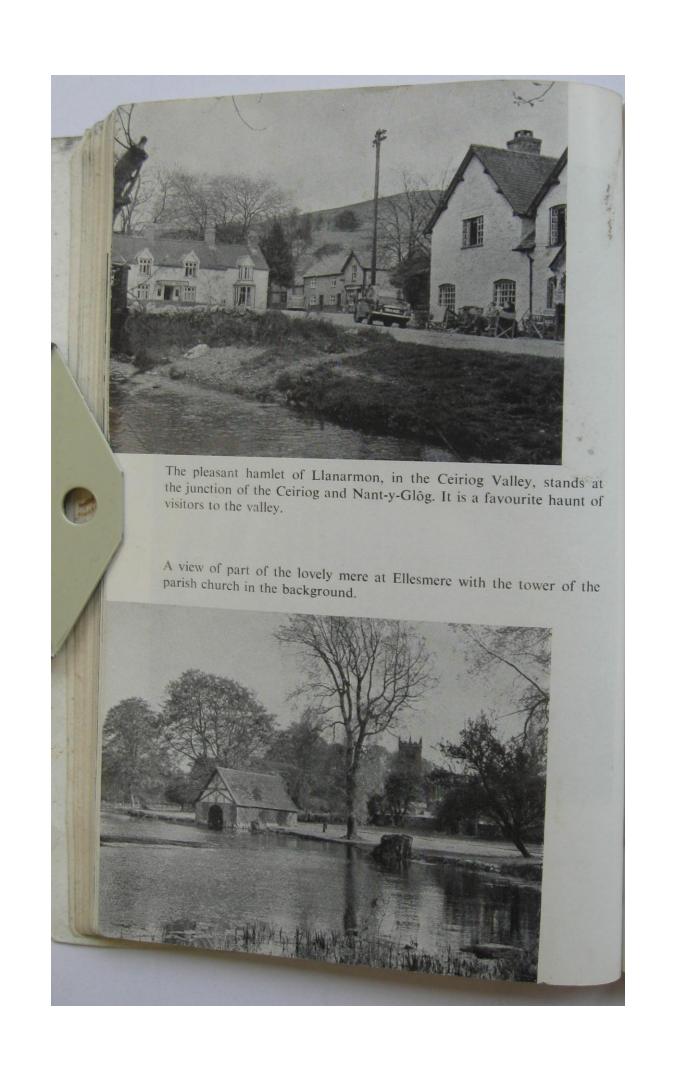




St. Winifred's Well almost half a mile from Maesbury and approximately four miles from Oswestry.



St. Oswald's Well on the outskirts of Oswestry.

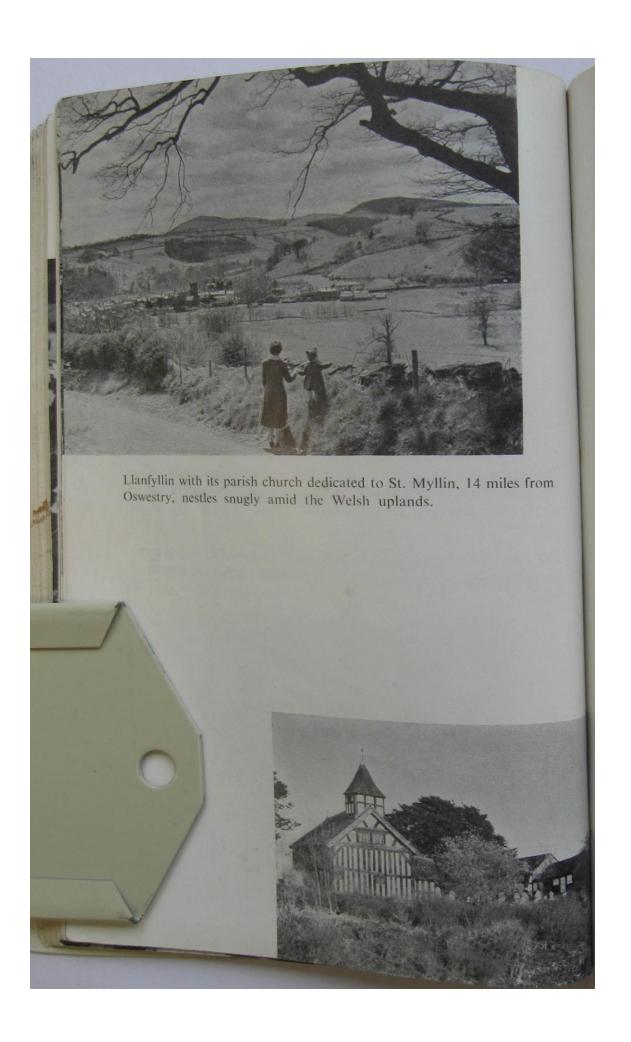




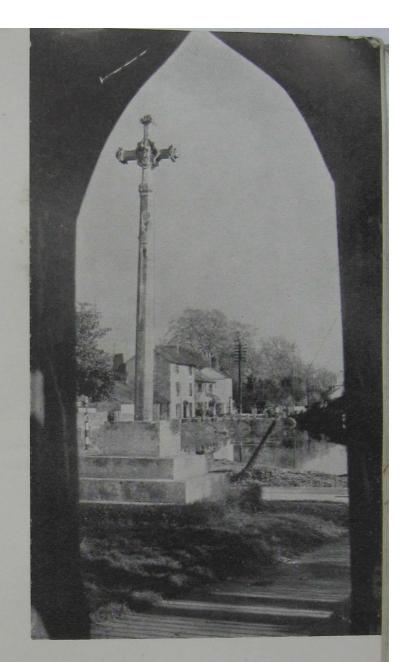
The Horse-shoe Falls on the River Dee: an attractive ramble along the canal bank from Llangollen, or the "voyage" may be made by the boats which ply for hire on the canal.

The Lion Hotel, Llanymynech; built over the boundary line between Shropshire and Montgomeryshire it is partly in England and partly in Wales.

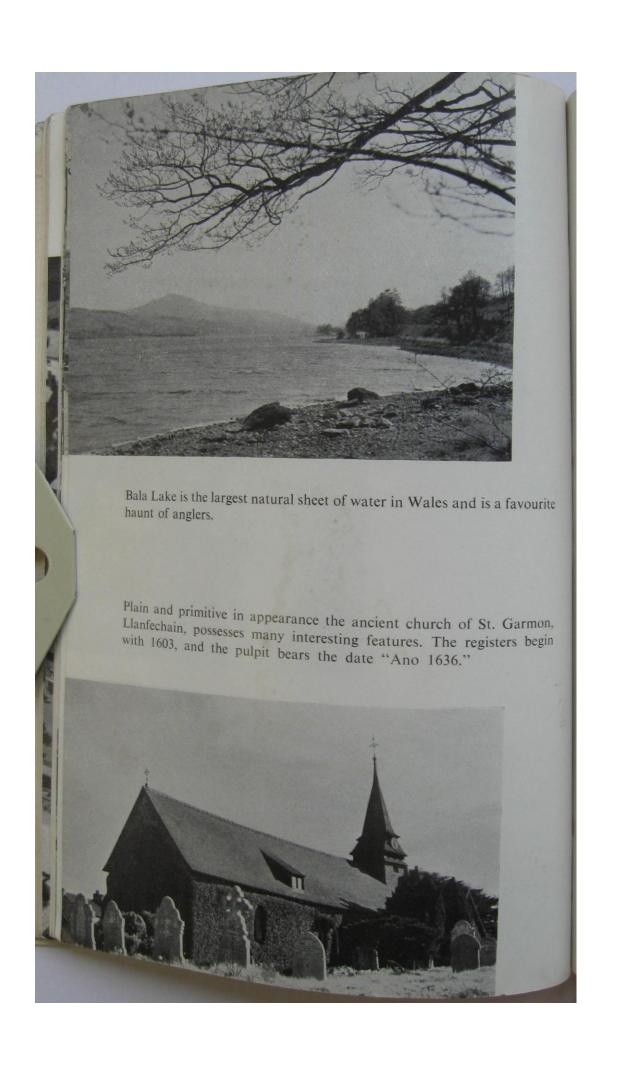




An unusual view
of Whittington
taken from the
castle. The tall
and slender cross
is a memorial to
Bishop Walsham How.



Melverley Church, ten miles from Oswestry, is a fine example of half-timbered "wattle and daub" building. It dates from the early 15th century.





Llansilin, six miles from Oswestry, is a pleasant afternoon's run through varied and interesting scenery.

The majestic Berwyn mountains towering over the village of Llangynog and the upper part of the Tanat Valley.





Gitt

A view of part of Cyrnybwch where Oswestry races used to be held.

PHOTOS MOSTLY TAKEN BY JOAN ENGLISH; AERIAL VIEW BY AERO FILMS.

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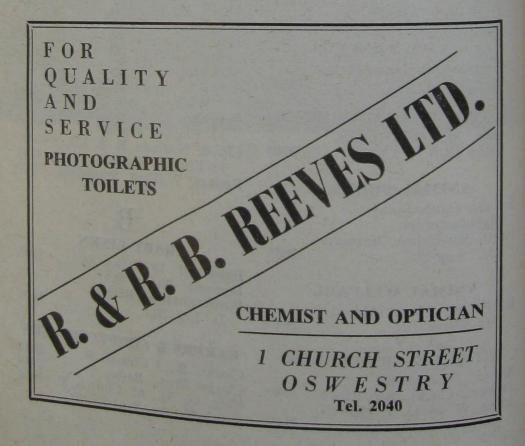
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reglish Methodist,	(Congregational), The
Changer (nabel of	Manse, Trefonen 2760
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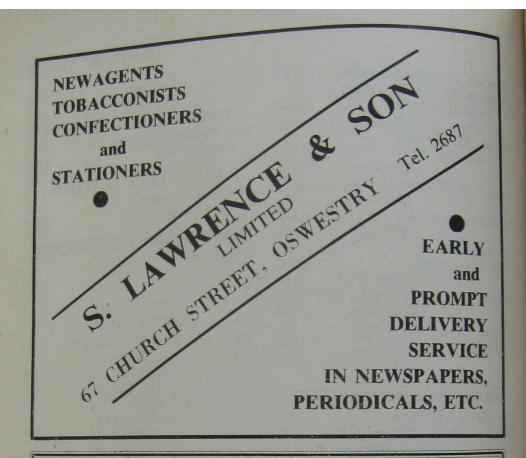
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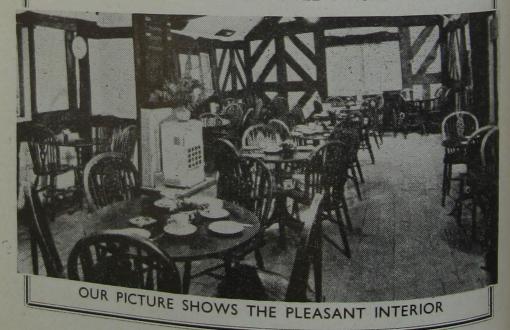


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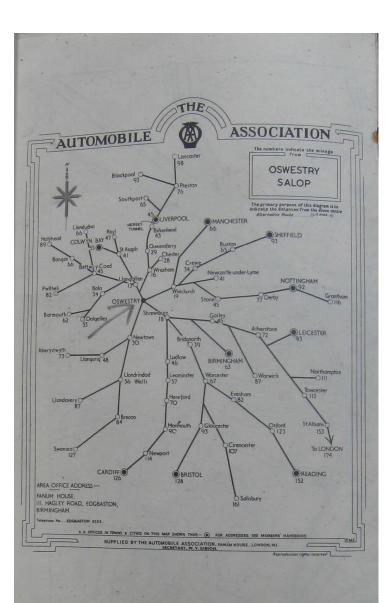
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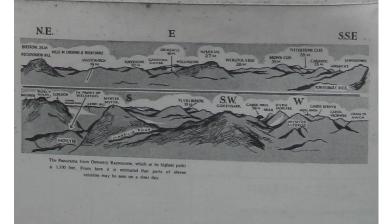
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WELFARE DEPARTMENT, HOMES AND HOSTELS Ambulance Depot, Morda Rd 3543 Child Welfare Centre, Upper Brook St 2311 Home Help Office, 32 Upper Brook St 2534	Beehive Woolshop, Willow St	0

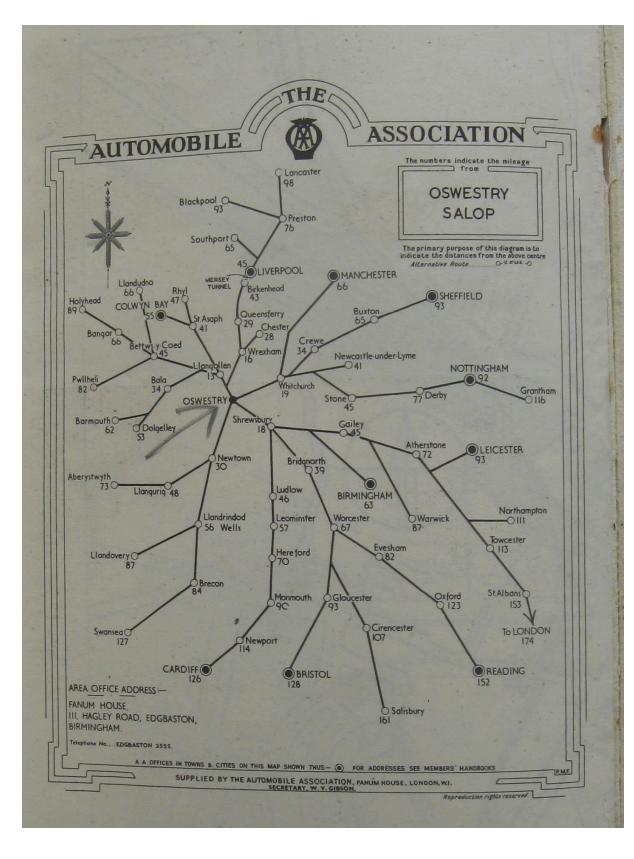
INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

	Page.		
	92	Howell, John J.	Page
Babyland Baird, J. & R Bodfach Hall Residential	26	Hughes. Albion Hill	. 30
Baird, J. & K.	DOT TO	Hughes, R. & R. & Co.	. 48
Bodfach Hall Residential	44		. 6
	46	Jones, T. H	
D dor Breweries	10	Jesson A & Con	. 90
Rorder Counties Advertizer	4	Jesson, A. & Son	. 60
Bradleys	7		
Bridge Service Station, The	78	Kay, G. W. & Co	. 70
Bristow, C. & Son	14		
Burgess Taxis	-92	Last Inn, The	. 42
Butler, J. Alexander	64	Lawrence, S. & Son Ltd.	. 66
	03		
Chamber of Trade	92	Martin's Coal	. 86
Chirk Castle	40	Mervyn's	64
Christian, R. J. Ltd	62	Morris, Harry	70
"Coach & Dogs" Restaurant	66	Morris, T. R	44
Corbett & Co	76		77
Country Quest	28	Naylor, W. L	20
Cranston Shoes Ltd	70	Nunnerlay's	76
		Nunnerley's	/0
Davies, David & Sons	82	Oswestry Industrial	
Davies, F. W. & Co	84	Co-operative Society Ltd.	8
Dodd, K. Hugh & Bowen			
Inside front co	ver	Oswestry Public Library	
Dutton's Sigarro Stores	52	Owen's Fish Restaurants	
		Owen, Thomas (Oswestry)	02
Eagles, The, Llanfyllin	86	Ltd	02
Edwards Ladies' Shop. The	80		10
Ellis' Garage Ltd	34	Pritchard's (Oswestry) Ltd.	10
Ellis, J	86	n nonnited	54
English, Joan. Inside back co	ver	Reeves, R. & R. B. Ltd	2
Evans, E. Roy	22	Roberts, T. P. & Son	
		Salop Paint & Varnish Co.	50
Farrars Francis, J. & Son	12	Salop Pallit & Vallish	
Francis, J. & Son	60	School of Advanced Motoring, The	80
Francis & Sons	88	Motoring, The	56
Gitting E T TAI	-	Motoring, The Secretarial Services	54
Gittins, E. J. Ltd. Glyn Valley Residential	24	Silliui, W. II. a son	
Hotel Clarification		Smith, W. H. & Son Shrewsbury Cafe Co. Ltd. (Smarts)	72
Hotel, Glynceiriog	38	(Smarts)	
Olden lankard	68	Tanat Valley Hotel	88
	88	Tanat Valley Hotel	58
		The Two-in-One Shop	18
	62	The Two-in-One Shop Thomas, Edward & Co.	74
Italia Hotel Chi-1-	36	vvi e Co Itd	78
		Wolstenholme, Betty	50
	90		68
	58 94	Warrell's (Tarage	56
	94	Wrekin Ales	16
Stores	22	Wrekin Ales Wynnstay Hotel	
Stores	32	wynnstay 110to.	

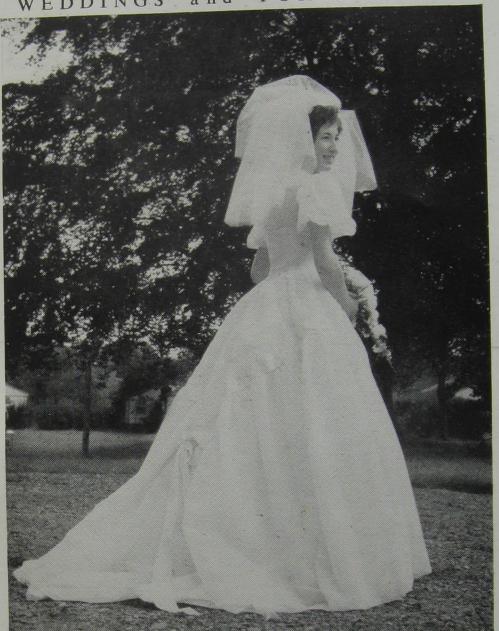








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