

Another month has gone by already, and we have some fantastic news, but also some sad news which I shall get out of the way first. Gillian Thomas has had to step-down from leading the project with Wendy and myself owing to family illness. Gillian has been working with me almost from day one back in November and is a large part of the reason why the England Project is doing so well. I know we are all extremely grateful for the contributions she has made, and I am particularly grateful for her friendship and counsel. The good news is that she is not leaving us entirely, and is still in the project, so do say hello to her when you see her around.

In other news we have the addition of two new Project Coordinators this month. The lovely <u>Gilly Wood</u> has become the new PC for Welcome and Integration and is working closely with <u>Wendy</u> to help people into the project and beyond the Orphan Trail.

On the subject of which, the trail has delivered new graduates this month who are going great guns in the project and Ros herself is continuing to work with a large number of Trail-blazers who are all doing great things for England.

The second new Project Coordinator is <u>Joan Whitaker</u>. Joan has joined us as the PC for the <u>Profile Improvers Team</u> and she is busy creating sub-team pages and getting everyone together to help us achieve our goal to make English profiles the best that they can be. She is joined by <u>Carol Keeling</u> who is heading up the <u>England Connectors</u> sub-team. Carol is a Connector extraordinaire and will be sharing some tips and tricks with us to help us connect more English profiles to the global family tree. Just recently, she was able to get our very own <u>Neil Perry</u> connected and also <u>Alan Rickman</u>. Go Carol and the Connectors! (Almost sounds like a band!)

<u>Vivienne</u> has been doing a fantastic amount of work behind the scenes to facilitate our processes and systems. The bigger the project grows, the more we need to build-in these systems to facilitate our work, so a huge thank-you to Vivienne for this. One of the things she has done is design a form for people wishing to suggest profiles for the project to manage. A link for it can be found <u>here</u>. You might also want to check out our <u>guidelines for managed</u> <u>profiles</u> to see if the profile you are looking at fits the bill.

<u>Martin Allen</u> has been doing a monumental amount of work with categories and resources, and most particularly in Yorkshire. As we all know, Yorkshire has been a contentious subject with

some heated debates about categories. Martin has worked tirelessly in the midst of that to provide us with a system that is a compromise that should work for everyone. Thank you Martin for all your hard work. It has not gone unnoticed. Joan, a Yorkshire lass herself, has kindly agreed to step up and lead Yorkshire moving forwards.

We are slowly getting there transitioning to county teams and all the team pages have now been created. If you are a former sponsor and I haven't contacted you yet, don't panic, you are on my list and you should be hearing from me shortly. You can always reach out to me first if you like as I would love to hear from you.

Neil is working hard to build out new sub-projects for people to get involved with. In the past month we have started two new sub-projects. Ros is heading up an English Authors sub-project and is putting together a list of profiles. I have begun the English Suffragettes sub-project. If you are interested in participating in either of these sub-projects, or starting a new one of your own, please see Neil who will be able to help you out.

Finally... drumroll... WE HAVE AN ENGLAND BADGE! I can honestly say I never thought this day would come and am really excited. This is a credit to all of you who have contributed to the project in any way since 1 November. This project is now one of the most active and exciting on WikiTree and members truly represent England to the rest of the WikiTree community. Wear that badge with pride and know that it also means you are ready to help others with their questions about England and English profiles. To coin a phrase, "if you don't know, you know someone who does."

With this in mind, if you have time, do check out G2G for questions about England and English profiles and try to help out if you can. If you can't then let us know in the Google group and hopefully someone will be able to answer them. As well as being the most active project on WikiTree, let's also become known as the most friendly and helpful!

Thank you to all of you. I love logging on to WikiTree every day, and Wendy and I consider it an absolute joy to work with you all.

Onwards and upwards!

Susie