

# From the Willoughby Society Archives

## Willoughby Charities.

The history of Willoughby Charities illustrates social concern from the early part of the fifteenth century.

In 1435, John Hywood and his wife, Margaret, established a "deed grant" whereby the income from several properties and lands in Willoughby and the surrounding area was to be Applied to the repair of the church, to the relief of the poor in the village, to the purchase of armour and equipment of soldiers and to the repair of the roads and the bridge over the Leam at the parish boundary. William Flavell and John Brooke added smaller benefactions at the end of that century. In 1678, Captain George Watson left the considerable sum of £50 in trust to provide money and bread for the poor; his memorial in the church records his activities off the coast of "Guiney", Mrs Bridget Freemantle gave £20 the same purpose later.

In 1610 the original charity was in some trouble due to mismanagement and a Commission of Charitable Uses ordered the dismissal of the trustees and set up a new trust deed with instructions for the proper keeping of accounts.

The trustees built the village school and school house in 1816 and appointed a schoolmaster at a salary of £40 a year plus property coals. The charity's property had increased markedly in the early part of the nineteenth century and in the same year the trustees were able to make substantial other payments for repairs to the church, on need repairs and relief for the poor.

Unfortunately, in 1842, the adverse result of a High Court action over the unjustified dismissal of the schoolmaster brought a bill for damages and costs of £2,700. The trustees involved were removed, but they had to borrow money to meet the award and this was a drain on the income for nearly eighty years more. Despite this burden the village school and schoolmaster were maintained until 1890 allotments were provided as early as 1858, contributions were made to church repairs and road costs and small pensions were paid to poor folk. The cost of repairs to their properties forced the trustees to sell them off gradually during the first fifty years of this century. The only properties remaining now are some land at Kytes -Hardwick and the village school and its surrounding ground.

A Charity Commission reorganisation of the trust deed in 1907 constituted an Education Foundation Charity as a separate entity from the main Charity to provide extra facilities at the village school and to assist students entering colleges and universities with individual grants distinct from the Willoughby Charity there is also a small Parker and Cropper Charity which can be applied to the relief of need in the village

Only now is it being realised. that the modern state cannot, and never All, be able to assist promptly with. small but important needs which were, and still can he, met by the old fashioned Charity

December 1976

F.P.

Willoughby Charity. Schedule of Property Held at 18/1/1907 Charity Commission

		<b>Area A R P</b>	<b>Tenant</b>	<b>Gross yearly Income</b>
1	School Buildings with site and appurtenances at Willoughby.	0 2 3		
2	Cottage at Willoughby	0 2 3	Edward Hollick	Monthly £3
3	Town Close, Willoughby	1 1 3	Thomas Arnold Junior	£4
4.	Hall's Farm Willoughby	85 1 39	Mrs Betsy Hall	£90
5	Foxley Farm, Thurlaston	104 0 0	Sheldon James Russell yearly	£120
6	Five Meadows, Kites Hardwick	38 3 4	John Hudson Edwin Gilkes C.J.Cockerill yearly	£76
7	Two Cottages, Thurlaston	0 2 1	John Lowe & George Wilson, Yearly	£1
8	Share (1 - acre) of Common Field Sawbridge.	1 1 0	T.j.Johnson yearly	£1
9	Consols. £112-2-2d			£2-15-4d
	ditto £ 57-17-8d			£1-8-8d
	ditto £ 11-?-2d			5-8d
	<b>Total Income</b>			<b>£309-13-8d.</b>