

THE

WILLOUGHBY

CHARITY

CIRCA = 1437

UNTIL

1983.

(546 YEARS)

THE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY.

F.L.M. WAS INVITED BY THE LATE GEORGE HANCOCK TO BECOME A TRUSTEE TO THE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY ON 14TH JUNE 1961 AS A NOMINATIVE TRUSTEE.

IRONICALLY HE WAS THEN CALLED UPON TO REPLACE THE THEN DECEASED GEORGE ON THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ON 5TH FEBRUARY 1969.

F.L.M. WAS THEN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY IN FEBRUARY 1978, TO SUCCEED THE LATE FRED HANCOCK, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUNDATION ON THE RETIREMENT OF SIDNEY IVENS IN FEBRUARY 1980.

AN ADDRESS TO THE WILLOUGHBY SOCIETY ON 25TH APRIL 1984 AS AN UP-DATE TO THE CHARITY RECORDS ALREADY PART OF THE VILLAGE ARCHIVES - THIS AS A RESULT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY GEORGE HANCOCK IN THE EARLY 1960'S.

AN INTRODUCTION TO F.L.M. AND HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THIS VILLAGE OF WILLOUGHBY.

I HAVE BEEN A VERY LUCKY CHAP!

MY PERSONAL INTRODUCTION TO THE VILLAGE BEGAN IN 1948 WHEN AT A SOMEWHAT TENDER AGE I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE WILLOUGHBY TENNIS CLUB - NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH THE CHARITY EXCEPT THAT ON A WARM JUNE DAY I WAS TO MEET 3x MEN WHO WERE TO HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON MY LIFE IN THIS VILLAGE WHICH BEGAN IN APRIL 1955. GEORGE AND FRED HANCOCK TOGETHER WITH SIDNEY IVENS.

GEORGE WAS A PERFECTIONIST AND DURING OUR JOURNEYS HOME TOGETHER ON THE MIDLAND RED BUS SERVICE - THE STORY OF THE VILLAGE OF WILLOUGHBY AND THE CHARITY IN PARTICULAR - UNFOLDED.

GEORGE'S WRITINGS ARE ALREADY PART OF THE VILLAGE ARCHIVES AND ARE MOST COPIOUS IN QUANTITY BUT HE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT WAS TO FOLLOW DURING THE NEXT 20 YEARS

WHAT A CHAPTER OF EVENTS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THOSE 20 YEARS EACH IN THEIR OWN WAY FUNDAMENTAL TO THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY. THE PRESENT (1984) TRUSTEES HAVE AUTHORISED THIS ACCOUNT OF THE CHARITY TO BE GIVEN IN PUBLIC WHICH IN ITSELF IS UNUSUAL - BECAUSE OF THE HAPPENINGS OF THE PAST THE TRUSTEES ARE GUARDED IN THE INFORMATION DIVULGED

THE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY

APRIL 1984

A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE ANCIENT WILLOUGHBY TOWN CHARITY. (THE TOWNSHIP OF WILLOUGHBY IN MAY 1953 THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY ARCHIVIST REMOVED FROM THE WOODEN CHEST IN ST NICHOLAS CHURCH - WILLOUGHBY "AN IMMENSE NUMBER OF PARCHMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, PRINCIPALLY LEASES AND CONVEYANCES, OF ANCIENT DATE..... THESE RECORDS HAD LAIN IN THE CHEST FOR AT LEAST 125 YEARS - PROBABLY MUCH LONGER.

ALL THE RECORDS PRIOR TO 1535 WERE ON PARCHMENT AND IN LATIN, AND ALL ARE NOW HOUSED IN THE COUNTY ARCHIVES.

THIS ONE ACT ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES DID MORE TO AWAKEN INTEREST IN LOGGING THE HISTORY OF THE CHARITY THAN ANY OTHER. THE ORIGINAL DEED OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHARITY IS MISSING, BUT THE COLLECTION OF TITLE DEEDS WAS SUFFICIENTLY FULL AND INFORMATIVE TO ENABLE THE HISTORY OF ITS VARIOUS AND NUMEROUS PROPERTIES TO BE TRACED IN DETAIL DOWN TO THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE ACQUIRED BY THE CHARITY.

I HAVE LISTED SEPARATELY - AS AN APPENDIX - THE CHARITY RECORDS HELD AT WARWICK.

SUFFICE TO SAY THESE RECORDS GIVE AN ACCURATE INDICATION OF JUST HOW ANCIENT THIS WONDERFUL VILLAGE OF WILLOUGHBY IS AND HOW AFFLUENT AND INFLUENTIAL IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THIS PART OF WARWICKSHIRE.

PRACTICALLY ALL THE INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE BUSINESS SIDE OF THE CHARITY IS CONTAINED IN 3x MINUTE BOOKS DATING FROM 15TH DECEMBER 1842 - ALL IN OUR POSSESSION - TOGETHER WITH A NUMBER OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS.

FOUNDATION :

IN 1437 UNDER THE TERMS OF THE WILL OF JOHN HAYWOOD AND HIS WIFE MARGARET THE ISSUES AND PROFITS FROM MESSAGES, LANDS, AND TENEMENTS, WITH HEREDITAMENTS SITUATED IN WILLOUGHBY, WOOLSCOTT, WALCOTE, LITTLE HARDWICK, GREAT LEAMINGTON, BROADWELL, AND THURLASTON, SHOULD BE APPLIED TOWARD THE -

- A). REPAIRS OF THE CHURCH OF WILLOUGHBY,
- B). THE PAYMENT OF THE FIFTEENTHS. (FEUDAL SYSTEM)
- C). RELIEF OF THE POOR IN WILLOUGHBY,
- D). BUYING OF ARMOUR,
- E). SETTING FORTH SOLDIERS,
- F). MENDING CAUSEWAYS AND HIGHWAYS IN WILLOUGHBY,
- G). REPAIRS TO SAWBRIDGE BRIDGE,

IN MODERN TERMS THEREFORE - THE INVESTMENT OF PROPERTIES MUST HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE TO YIELD IN THE ORDER OF £20 PER ANNUM. THE SEVEN ORIGINAL OBJECTS WERE SATISFIED FOR VERY MANY YEARS SO WE CAN ASSUME THAT THE £20 WAS PROPERLY ALLOCATED AND SPENT VERY WISELY BY THE EARLY TRUSTEES WHO WERE MOST PROBABLY THE ANCIENT VERSION OF THE MODERN EXECUTOR.

IN 1496 A WILLIAM FLAVELL OF WILLOUGHBY DID, BY SPECIAL DEED AUTHORISE THAT THE SUM OF FOUR SHILLINGS (20P.) BEING AN ANNUAL RENT OF HIS LANDS IN WOOLSCOTT AND WALCOTE (COUNTY OF WARWICK) SHOULD BE APPLIED TOWARD THE MAKING AND REPAIRING OF THE PAVEMENTS AND CAUSEWAYS OF WILLOUGHBY.

IN 1536 THE 'TRUSTEES' OF THE 'HAYWOOD CHARITY' - AS IT HAD BECOME KNOWN - PURCHASED FROM A JOHN BROOKES ONE TENEMENT, ONE CROFT, ONE HALF-YARD, AND ONE QUARTER OF LAND IN THURLASTON TO EMPLOY THE YEARLY ISSUES AND PROFITS TO THE SAME OBJECTS OF THE HAYWOODS CHARITY.

IN 1611 - AN INQUISITION (ENQUIRY) WAS SET UP BY THE COMMISSION OF CHARITABLE USES - WHICH WAS THE FORERUNNER OF THE CHARITY COMMISSION AND IT MET AT WARWICK ON 23RD AUGUST 1611. THE CAUSE OF THIS ENQUIRY INTO THE 'HAYWOODS CHARITY' WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY A BREACH OF THE TRUST BY SOME OF THE TRUSTEES. CERTAIN ILLEGAL LEASING HAD BEEN TAKING PLACE OF CHARITY LANDS - ALLOTMENTS - IS HOW WE WOULD REFER TO THEM NOWADAYS. IF ONE CONSIDERS THE SITUATION - OF TRUSTEES HAVING THE 'POWER' TO DECIDE ON WHO SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT USE A STRIP OF LAND TO HARVEST A CROP IN ORDER TO MAKE A LIVING FOR HIS FAMILY. IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT BRIBERY AND SOME CORRUPTION WOULD ENTER INTO THE VILLAGE SCENE!

TO SUMMARISE THEREFORE -

THE WILLOUGHBY TOWN CHARITY WAS FOUNDED BY THE ENDOWMENT OF JOHN AND MARGARET HAYWOOD IN 1437, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ENLARGED BY THE GIFTS OF LATER DONORS.

IN 1826 - THE TRUSTEES AND THEIR HEIRS (FOR OVER 200 YEARS IT HAD BEEN A FATHER AND SON AFFAIR) HAD FINALLY BEEN REDUCED TO 5 THE FIGURE SET IN 1611 BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A FURTHER 5 - TRUSTEES WHO WERE INHABITANTS OF WILLOUGHBY, THIS WAS DULY COMPLETED AND THE FIRST NAMED TRUSTEES WERE MESSRS. COWLEY, MALIN, ELLARD, COCK, AND JEPHCOTT. WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED BY MESSRS. DESTER, CROPPER, HANCOCK, HESON, AND COCK, MAKING A TOTAL OF 10.

THE PROSPEROUS YEARS DID NOT LAST VERY LONG HOWEVER, AND IN 1831 A MOST INFAMOUS PIECE OF WILLOUGHBY HISTORY OCCURRED.

" THERE AROSE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG THE TRUSTEES OVER THE QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTER OF WILLIAM WILKINSON - THE SCHOOLMASTER AS A RESULT OF WHICH SOME OF THE TRUSTEES TOOK THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS AND TURNED THE SCHOOLMASTER, HIS FAMILY, HIS FURNITURE AND BELONGINGS INTO THE STREET "

THE BACKGROUND TO THIS WAS THE SERVING OF 3x SEPARATE " SIX MONTHS NOTICE TO QUIT " ALL OF

THE OUTCOME OF THE INQUISITION WAS A DECREE THAT WAS TO CHANGE FOREVER, THE RATHER RELAXED WAY THE 'HAYWOODS CHARITY' HAD BEEN OPERATED UNTIL 1611.

- 1) SEVEN OF THE EXISTING TRUSTEES SHOULD RENOUNCE THEIR OFFICE AND CONVEY THEIR INTEREST IN THE TRUST.
- 2) TEN TRUSTEES WERE TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSION.
- 3) WHEN THESE TEN APPOINTED TRUSTEES OR THEIR HEIRS HAD BEEN BY DEATH REDUCED IN NUMBER TO FIVE THEN THE REMAINING FIVE SHOULD MAKE A NEW TRUST DEED CONVEYING THE TRUST TO THEMSELVES AND FIVE OTHER INHABITANTS OF WILLOUGHBY.
- 4) THAT A LARGE BOOK SHOULD BE KEPT - RECORDING MONIES COMING IN AND THE MANNER IT WAS BEING USED. ONCE A YEAR IN EASTER WEEK IN SOME OPEN OR CONVENIENT PLACE BEFORE THE PARSON AND CHURCHWARDENS THE TRUSTEES SHOULD GIVE A JUST AND TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE PROFITS OF THE YEAR BEFORE. (THE LARGE BOOK IS ALAS, NOT AMONG OUR OLD RECORDS - BUT THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT IS MADE PUBLIC, NOT PUBLISHED, AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING EACH YEAR)

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT WITH THE NEW CONSTITUTION CREATED BY THE COMMISSION IN 1610 THE ABUSES CEASED AND THE CHARITY BEGAN TO PROSPER SO THAT IN 1816 A NEW SCHOOLHOUSE

WAS BUILT AT A COST OF £420 AND IN THE SAME YEAR -

£99. 6s. 4d. WAS PAID FOR REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH,

£16. 7. 2 PAID TO THE CHURCHWARDENS,

£53. 11. 2 PAID FOR REPAIRS TO THE ROADS,

£16. 11. 3 PAID FOR REPAIRS TO THE HOUSES,

£40. 0. 0 PAID FOR SCHOOLMASTERS SALARY,

£108. 3. 8 PAID FOR CASUAL GIFTS,

£25. 0. 0 PAID FOR COAL AND OTHER PAYMENTS,

MAKING A TOTAL OF £358. 19. 6 FOR THE YEAR

IN ADDITION TO PAYING FOR THE NEW SCHOOLHOUSE!

A VERY PROSPEROUS CHARITY INDEED.

IN 1674 - CAPTAIN GEORGE WATSON DID BY DEED DATED 15TH JULY GIVE TO THE POOR OF THE PARISH OF WILLOUGHBY THE SUM OF £50 TO BE INVESTED - AND THE PROCEEDS TO BE DISPOSED OF ACCORDING TO THE DISCRETION OF THE MINISTER (FOR THE TIME BEING), GEO. WATSON APPOINTED HIS WIFE AS EXECUTRIX,

THE HAYWOODS CHARITY TRUSTEES ACTED FOR THIS CHARITY AS RECORDED ON A TABLET IN THE CHURCH

FINALLY IN 1773 - BRIDGET FREEMANTLE DID BY WILL GIVE £20. THE INTEREST ON WHICH (20 SHILLINGS) TO BE DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY ON ST. THOMAS'S DAY (21ST DECEMBER) TO THE POOR OF WILLOUGHBY,

THE TRUSTEES OF THE HAYWOODS CHARITY ALSO ACTED FOR THIS CHARITY

WHICH HAD BEEN IGNORED - OBVIOUSLY THE TRUSTEES WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THIS MAN'S PERFORMANCE BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY DID NOT KNOW - OR WANT TO KNOW - HOW TO SET ABOUT RIDDING THEMSELVES OF WILLIAM WILKINSON, OTHER THAN TO TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.

THE RESULT OF THIS ILLEGAL ACT WAS HIGH COURT ACTION AND THE COSTS AND DAMAGES WERE ESTIMATED A £2700. THE TRUSTEES WERE ORDERED TO RAISE A MORTGAGE TO COVER THIS AMOUNT AND TO TAKE £108 PER YEAR OUT OF THE INCOME OF THE CHARITY TO PAY THE INTEREST ON THE MORTGAGE AND £50 PER YEAR FOR INVESTMENT TO REDEEM THE MORTGAGE. THE ACTUAL AMOUNT RAISED BY THE MORTGAGE WAS £3491. 10. 4 AND THE INTEREST PER ANNUM WAS £139. 13. 2.

THE MORTGAGE WAS FINALLY REDEEMED ON 19TH APRIL 1918.

FOLLOWING THIS DISTRESSING, AND FROM A FINANCIAL POINT-OF-VIEW RUINOUS EPISODE - WILLIAM WILKINSON WAS RE-INSTATED IN 1832 AND SERVED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS IN THE POSITION OF HEADMASTER. THE JUDGE IN PRONOUNCING JUDGEMENT DECREED IN HIS SUMMING-UP THAT ONLY TWO OF THE FORMER TRUSTEES WERE FIT AND PROPER PERSONS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE, THEY WERE WILLIAM CRUPPER AND JOHN MALIN. THOMAS HANCOCK HAD DIED DURING THE PROCEEDS THE OTHER SIX THEREFORE WERE RELIEVED OF OFFICE AND ALL WERE DECLARED THE MODERN-DAY VERSION OF BANKRUPT.

IN PLACE OF THE RELIEVED TRUSTEES THE COURT APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING GENTLEMEN

- 1). THE RURAL DEAN.
- 2). THE RECTOR OF BRAUNSTON
- 3). VICAR OF WILLOUGHBY
- 4). VICAR OF DUNCHURCH

TO SERVE WITH THE FOLLOWING OWNERS OF LAND IN WILLOUGHBY.

- 5). GEORGE ARNOLD - ASHBY LODGE
- 6). THOMAS MAJOR - HILLTORTON
- 7). JOHN JUDKIN - STOW

AND TO COMPLETE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THE VERY REVEREND WILLIAM SPOONER OF ELMDON IN THE COUNTY OF WARWICK - THE ARCHDEACON OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER WAS APPOINTED A "VISITOR" WITH SPECIAL POWER TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AT ANY MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES.

"
THIS SYSTEM OF "APPOINTED" TRUSTEES LASTED UNTIL 1907 WHEN THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NOMINATED TRUSTEES CAME INTO BEING, BUT IT SHOULD BE A SOURCE OF GREAT CONFIDENCE TO THE KNOWLEDGEABLE VILLAGER TO KNOW WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF POWER GIVEN TO A FEW INDIVIDUALS IS ABUSED IN THE EYES OF THE LAW !!

THIS LEADS ME NICELY TO MY NEXT TOPIC ON THE CHARITY -

TO CONTEMPLATE SAY 2000 YEARS OF THE EXISTENCE OF A VILLAGE IS QUITE AWIE

INSPIRING AND CAN PROBABLY BE BEST SUMMED-UP AS PRE-BIBLICAL TIMES!

TO CONSIDER THEREFORE, 550 YEARS EXISTENCE OF THE CHARITY IN WILLOUGHBY IS NOT AS DIFFICULT.

WILLOUGHBY WAS, OF COURSE, MENTIONED IN THE DOMESDAY BOOK COMPILED IN 1068 AND WAS THERE LISTED AT 'WILEBEI' ALONG WITH TWO OTHER MORE OBSCURE SPELLINGS, WHICH AGAIN INDICATES OUR LONG LIFE AS A VILLAGE COMMUNITY.

SUFFICE, TO SAY THEREFORE THAT WILLOUGHBY AS A COMMUNITY IS VERY ANCIENT AND SINCE 1435 HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED EXTREMELY WEALTHY IN ITS CHARITIES NEVER MORE SO THAN THE PRESENT DAY (1984).

THE VALUE OF PRESENT DAY (1984) INVESTMENT IS OVER £60000 YIELDING SOME £3500 PER ANNUM IN POSSIBLE SPENDING TERMS.

THE PRESENT TRUSTEES BIGGEST SINGLE TASK IS DISPOSING OF THE PROCEEDS BY THE TERMS OF THE MODERN SCHEMES.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - THE TRUSTEES WILL MOST PROBABLY GIVE CONSIDERATION TOWARD AMALGAMATING OUR PRESENT TWO CHARITIES AS (PRE-1960) AND INCORPORATE THE ONLY REMAINING SEPARATE VILLAGE CHARITY (BARKER AND CROPPER).

THE REASON FOR OUR PRESENT CONCERN IS THAT THE PRESENT OBJECTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ARE JUST RELEVANT BUT IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY PROPERTY TO MAINTAIN THERE SEEMS LITTLE POINT IN SECURING CONSIDERABLE

CAPITAL, THE PRODUCT OF WHICH, IS FAR IN EXCESS OF REQUIREMENT OR CLAIM.

IN RECENT YEARS THE TRUSTEES HAVE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE LOCAL PUBLICITY TO THE CHARITIES IN THE HOPE THAT THE INHABITANTS OF WILLOUGHBY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS.

WILLOUGHBY CHARITY - (DECEMBER 1979)

AN INHABITANT CAN MAKE CLAIM FOR EXPENSES WHEN VISITING OR ATTENDING HOSPITAL FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANOTHER INHABITANT.

IF AN INHABITANT GENUINELY "FALLS - ON - HARD - TIMES" A PRIVATE VISIT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHARITY CAN ESTABLISH BASIC FACTS AND A CASE PRESENTED FOR THE TRUSTEES CONSIDERATION - AND IT IS QUITE NORMAL FOR A GRANT TO BE MADE WITHIN 48 HOURS OF THE INITIAL ENQUIRY, OR EMERGENCY.

RELIEF-IN-NEED - THIS IS THE MODERN-DAY VERSION OF RELIEF TO THE POOR PEOPLE OF WILLOUGHBY. IN OUR VILLAGE TODAY THERE ARE NO POOR PEOPLE - THE STATE SYSTEM WOULD MAKE ACCOMMODATION FOR THEM IN ANY EVENT - AND CERTAINLY NO ONE IS AS POOR AS IN THE 15TH CENTURY WHEN THIS TERM 'POOR' WAS FIRST PENNED! THERE ARE SOME WHO HAVE GENUINE DIFFICULTY IN MAINTAINING A REASONABLE STANDARD OF LIFE AS WE KNOW IT (1984) AND TO THOSE PERSONS A SUM OF MONEY IS AWARDED ANNUALLY AS RELIEF-IN-NEED) TO PURCHASE FUEL. THE AWARD IS MADE ENTIRELY AT THE DESCRETION OF ALL TRUSTEES.

FINALLY - THE MAIN CALL ON CHARITY FUNDS IS THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS WILLOUGHBY. MONIES MAY NOT BE USED FOR DAY-TO-DAY UPKEEP BUT FOR MAINTAINING - IMPROVING - MODERNISING THE FABRIC OF THE CHURCH.

THE RECENT RESTORATION - DECORATION - ETC... WAS PART-FINANCED BY THE CHARITY.

THE WATER SUPPLY AND MAKING-UP, KERBING AND TARMACING OF THE ENTRANCE PATH WAS WHOLLY FINANCED BY THE CHARITY.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - RE-START MECHANISM AND REPAIRS TO THE CHIMING MECHANISM OF THE VILLAGE CHURCH CLOCK. PROPERLY FITTED LOUVRES IN THE CHURCH TOWER AND GUARDING OF THE STRAINED GLASS WINDOWS - ALL CHARITY FINANCED -

WILLOUGHBY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION - (AUGUST 1960)

THE SYSTEM CONCERNING THE FOUNDATION IS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER AS THE PRINCIPLE BENEFIT MUST BE TOWARD INHABITANTS UP TO AND INCLUDING THE AGE OF 25 YEARS!

OF RECENT YEARS - CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN GIVEN IN THIS DIRECTION BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A GENERAL RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF PARENTS TO APPLY FOR WHAT COULD RIGHTFULLY BE THEIRS !!

IN CONSEQUENCE - THE FOUNDATION HAS CONSIDERABLE FUNDS ACCUMULATING YEAR BY YEAR.

PROPERTIES

THE PROPERTIES OF THE CHARITY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE -

1.) A FARM WITH DWELLING HOUSE AND BUILDINGS WITH SEVERAL PARCELS OF LAND CONTAINING 85 ACRES, 3 ROODS, 2 PERCHES, SITUATED IN THE PARISH OF WILLOUGHBY.

WILLOUGHBY FIELDS FARM WAS SOLD IN 1954.

2.) A FARM WITH DWELLING HOUSE, FARM BUILDINGS AND LAND CONTAINING 104 ACRES, 3 ROODS, 30 PERCHES SITUATED IN THE PARISH OF THURLASTON.

FOXLEY FARM WAS SOLD IN 1953.

3.) A PIECE OF LAND 2 ROODS 6 PERCHES CONTAINED WITHIN ANOTHER FIELD AT SAWBRIDGE (IN THE PARISH OF WOLFHAMCOTE) ALLOTTED UPON THE ENCLOSURE OF CHARITY LANDS (1758) TO THE TRUSTEES IN LIEU OF THE TRUSTEES RIGHT TO A PIECE OF MEADOW GROUND.

THIS PARCEL OF LAND CAUSED NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS SINCE THE DEAL WAS ORIGINALLY DRAWN UP AS IT WAS NEVER PROPERLY DEFINED AND WAS SOLD IN AUGUST 1975 - AFTER 15 YEARS NEGOTIATION - FOLLOWING DEED SEARCHES AND MUCH LITIGATION FOR £100 TO THE THEN TENANT.

4.) THREE COTTAGES WITH A SMALL PARCEL OF LAND (HALF AN ACRE) IN THURLASTON.

THESE COTTAGES WERE LET ON LEASE FOR A TERM OF 66 YEARS TO A SINGLE TENANT UNTIL THE LEASE EXPIRED ON LADY DAY 1822 - THEY WERE THEN SUB-LET TO DIFFERENT TENANTS

SAINI WIKI

UNTIL THEY WERE SOLD IN 1916 THE RENT WAS PAID VERY INTERMITTENTLY AND WERE SOMETHING OF A MILLSTONE AROUND THE NECKS OF THE TRUSTEES. THE EVENTUAL PROCEEDS £75.14.6 WERE INVESTED IN A FUND TO BUILD COTTAGES AT WILLOUGHBY, THIS IDEA, WAS HOWEVER DOOMED TO FAILURE, THE FUND EVENTUALLY REACHED £1600 AND PLANS MADE TO BUILD FOUR COTTAGES ON CHARITY LAND (NOW THE PLAYING FIELD) BUT AN ACCESS ROAD WAS TO COST £500 MAKING THE SCHEME IMPOSSIBLE AND THE PROJECT WAS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY IN 1935.

5) A SMALL PIECE OF GARDEN GROUND ADJOINING THE SCHOOL FORMERLY HELD BY THE LOCAL SCHOOLMASTER, BUT MORE RECENTLY (SINCE 1835) TO 3x TENANTS WHO LIVED IN PARISH HOUSES RENT-FREE AS THEY WERE CONSIDERED PAUPERS. THIS GROUND WAS SOLD IN 1957 TO THE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL EDUCATION AUTHORITY FOR AN EXTENSION TO THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. - FOR £150 -

AND NOW TO OUR CURRENT PROPERTY WHICH CAME ABOUT IN THE 17TH CENTURY AS A RESULT OF A PARISH DEBT BY THE INHABITANTS OF LEAMINGTON HASTINGS. (THOUGHT TO BE 1633)

6). 25.774 ACRES OF LAND IN KYTES HARDWICK AT A YEARLY TENANCY - NOW IN EXCESS OF £45. PER ACRE, PER ANNUM.

7). 12.879 ACRES OF LAND IN KYTES HARDWICK AT A YEARLY TENANCY - NOW IN EXCESS OF £40 PER ACRE, PER ANNUM.

TRUSTEES

TRUSTEESHIP OF THE CHARITY WAS, IN THE EARLY YEARS (1437 ONWARDS) BESTOWED FOR THE MOST PART ON EXECUTORS TO THE WILLS OF THE RESPECTIVE BENEFACTORS AND/OR THEIR HEIRS AND SUCCESSORS.

550 YEARS AGO - POVERTY AS WE KNOW IT WAS THE NORMAL WAY OF LIFE FOR COUNTRY FOLK SO IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THEREFORE THAT AFTER 175 YEARS MATTERS WERE REPORTED TO THE COMMISSION OF CHARITABLE USES AS "GOING AWRY."

I AM NOT CONDONING THE ACTION OF MY PREDECESSORS BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW A LITTLE BIT OF BRIBERY HERE AND THERE VERY QUICKLY BECAME MAJOR CORRUPTION. IN THAT MALE DOMINATED SOCIETY IT WOULD HAVE BEEN QUITE POSSIBLE TO ACQUIRE AT A SMALL ADDITIONAL RENTAL THE USE OF ONE OF THE MANY PLOTS OF LAND AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURE (I IMAGINE THE STRIP SYSTEM AS USED COMMONLY IN FEUDAL TIMES), AND IT HAS BEEN ASCERTAINED THAT MANY OF THE FIELDS WHICH ADJOIN OUR PARISH TODAY WERE USED AND OPERATED IN THIS FASHION. MOST VILLAGES HAD A LORD OF THE MANOR - WILLOUGHBY HAD THE CHARITY FROM WHICH ALL COULD BENEFIT!

ONE OF THE LAST FIELDS TO BE USED IN THIS MANNER WAS 'THE GREEN' (NOW OWNED BY THE CRICKET CLUB) WHICH WAS SEGREGATED INTO ALLOTMENTS DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918) - EVIDENCE OF THIS COMES TO LIGHT

ALMOST EVERY YEAR - AS THERE WERE DOZENS OF 1" - 2" LAND DRAINS LAID BY INDIVIDUAL ALLOTMENT HOLDERS DUE TO THE VERY HEAVY NATURE OF THE SUB-SOIL - THESE SURFACE VERY OFTEN "END-ON" DURING HOT SUMMERS. TRUSTEES APPOINTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS IN 1610 DID, TO ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES OPERATE THE CHARITY IN A RIGHT AND PROPER MANNER FOR OVER 200 YEARS, BUT AFTER JUST 5 SHORT YEARS IN THE HANDS OF LOCAL GENTLEMAN THE NOW INFAMOUS COURT ACTION ALTERED THE TRUSTEESHIP FOR A FURTHER 60 YEARS.

IT IS LITTLE WONDER THEREFORE, THAT THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS NOW STIPULATE THAT NO TRUSTEE OR HIS/HER IMMEDIATE FAMILY MAY DERIVE BENEFIT FROM THE CHARITY ON WHICH HE/SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WILLOUGHBY CHARITY.

- A). VICAR OR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE - WILLOUGHBY.
- B). TWO APPOINTEES WILLOUGHBY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.
- C). THREE NOMINATIVE APPOINTEES WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL.
- D). THREE CO-OPTATIVE APPOINTEES BY A, B, AND C.

WILLOUGHBY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.

- A). VICAR OR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE - WILLOUGHBY
- B). CHURCHWARDENS - WILLOUGHBY.
- C). APPOINTEE COVENTRY DIOCESAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE.
- D). APPOINTEE WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.
- E). APPOINTEE WILLOUGHBY PARISH COUNCIL
- F). APPOINTEE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY.

CHARITY WEALTH

WILLOUGHBY CHARITY

THE RENTS RECEIVED ON THE PROPERTIES LISTED EARLIER WERE ALWAYS CONSIDERABLE - IN 1833 THE INCOME WAS £452. 11. 2. - MOST OF THE PROPERTIES HAVE NOW BEEN SOLD DUE PRINCIPALLY TO MORE AND MORE MONEY BEING REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE PROPERTIES AND THE CHARITY NOT BEING ABLE TO FIND LARGE AMOUNTS OF CASH.

OF RECENT TIMES (1984) WE HAVE BECOME VERY MUCH MORE PAROCHIAL.

THE CHARITY LANDS AT KYTES HARDWICK YIELD £1740 PER ANNUM, WHICH FORMS 60% OF THE TOTAL INCOME AND THE PRESENT TRUSTEES HAVE NO INTENTION OF SELLING THIS LAND IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

THE DIVIDENDS ON C.O.I.F. INVESTMENT WHICH PROVIDE THE BALANCE OF THE INCOME - ARE A RESULT OF WISE 'PLACEMENT' OF CAPITAL BY THE TRUSTEES - 20 YEARS AGO MUCH OF THE INVESTMENT WAS IN LOW YIELD GOVERNMENT STOCK AND TODAY (1984) PROVIDES 100% MORE IN ACTUAL DIVIDENDS.

THE PRESENT TRUSTEES HAVE BEEN VERY ENCOURAGED BY THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE WILLOUGHBY COMMUNITY, AND OUR PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL IN PARTICULAR FOR LOOKING AHEAD AND PLANNING IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR PARISH CHURCH ALL OF WHICH CAN BE FINANCED BY THE CHARITY AS THE FIRST CALL ON ITS "SERVICES" !

1977-1980

THE WILLOUGHBY SCHOOL WAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED AFTER MANY YEARS. SPECULATION IN JULY 1977. THE TRUSTEES WERE THEN FACED WITH SOMETHING OF A DILEMMA.

1). WHAT COULD THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS BE USED FOR ?

2). THERE WERE NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ALTERATIONS OR CONVERSION TO A DWELLING HOUSE, AND IN ANY EVENT THE PLANNING AUTHORITIES DID NOT FAVOUR ANY OF THE TRUSTEES SUGGESTIONS AS TO ALTERNATIVE USES.

THE TRUSTEES DECIDED, THEREFORE, AFTER 12 MONTHS OF SOLID NEGOTIATION TO SELL THE PROPERTY, THE LAST BIG EVENT HELD IN THE SCHOOL WAS IRONICALLY, A VILLAGE EXHIBITION IN COMMEMORATION OF OUR QUEENS' SILVER JUBILEE IN JUNE 1977.

SOMETHING OF A BATTLE DEVELOPED ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SALE - BETWEEN THE DIOCESAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND THE TRUSTEES CONCERNING THE INSISTENCE OF THE DIOCESAN AUTHORITIES IN CLAIMING 1/3RD OF ANY PROCEEDS OF THE SALE. THE DIOCESE GOT NOTHING !!

THE SCHOOL WAS DULY AUCTIONED ON 15TH NOVEMBER 1978 AT ROGERS HALL, HILLMORTON. AND REALISED £11500.

THIS REPRESENTED A CAPITAL INCREASE OF £10622.94 TO FOUNDATION FUNDS IT WAS DULY INVESTED IN C.O.I.F.

THE ANNEXATION OF THE INFANT ROOM (AS IT HAD COME TO BE KNOWN) TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN 1955.

SCHOOL HOUSE WAS DULY SOLD FOR £18500 TO MRS B. GREEN

THIS LATEST SALE MADE A TOTAL INVESTMENT IN COIF. OF 25590 SHARES VALUED IN 1980 AT £34000 WHICH HAS NOW RISEN TO (1984) £61000 IN CAPITAL VALUE.

THE TRUSTEES CAN ONLY USE THE DIVIDEND RETURN ON THESE INVESTMENTS WHICH HAS ALSO QUITE NATURALLY RISEN ACCORDINGLY :

WILLOUGHBY CHARITY	1980: £565	1983: £854
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION	1980: £1750	1983: £2650

IN MY OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF BOTH THE CHARITY AND THE FOUNDATION TRUSTEES TAKE THEIR POSITIONS WITH DUE HUMILITY HAVING BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE MOST PART BY THE PRINCIPAL ORGANISATIONS OF THE VILLAGE IE. PARISH COUNCIL, PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL, OR BY THEIR FELLOW TRUSTEES (NOMINATIVE)

THE CHARITIES ARE (AND PROBABLY HAVE TO BE) A WATCHDOG ORGANISATION.

THE TRUE VILLAGER IS A VERY COMPLETE PERSON HE OR SHE HAVE THEIR ROOTS IN THE COUNTRY LIFE BY WHICH WE ARE SURROUNDED BUT HE OR SHE CAN ALSO BE INTENSELY PRIVATE. THEREFORE I AND MY FELLOW TRUSTEES KEEP OUR EYES AND EARS OPEN SO THAT IF WE CONSIDER ANY VILLAGER OR HIS/HER FAMILY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY OF BENEFITTING FROM THEIR CHARITY THEN A PRIVATE VISIT IS ARRANGED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE WAYS AND MEANS OF HOW BEST WE CAN HELP!

OUR ENQUIRIES AND HELP HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN POLITELY REFUSED - BUT THIS DOES NOT STOP ANY OF US DISPENSING THE CHARITY IN A WAY THE HAYWOODS' OF THE 15TH CENTURY - INTENDED.

AS TRUSTEES WE DO NOT HAVE TO SERVE - INDEED AS HAS ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED WE NOR OUR FAMILIES CAN BENEFIT IN ANY WAY.

I AM SURE THAT I SPEAK FOR ALL MY COLLEAGUES WHEN I SAY THAT WE REGARD IT A PRIVILEGE TO BE PART OF THE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR 547 YEARS (1984)

LONG MAY IT CONTINUE - THE CHARITY WILL, AS THE YEARS PASS, BECOME EVEN MORE AFFLUENT IT IS THE VILLAGERS JOB TO SEE THAT ALL THE POSSIBLE WAYS OF USING THE CHARITY FUNDS ARE EXPLORED; IF EVER THE TIME ARRIVES WHEREBY THE PROCEEDS OF THE INVESTMENTS ARE NOT BEING USED THEN THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS CAN SUSPEND THE WILLOUGHBY CHARITY AND FREEZE ITS FUNDS.

THE TRUSTEES SEEK THE HELP OF EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE IN SPENDING THE FUNDS WISELY - THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAVE SEEN A REMARKABLE CHANGE OF FORTUNES - AND AS THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN OF BOTH CHARITYS I AM MOST PRIVILEGED TO HAVE BEEN A TRUSTEE DURING SOME VERY LEAN YEARS BUT WITH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE LATE GEORGE AND FRED HANCOCK AND SIDNEY IVENS WE HAVE SURFACED TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE PRESENT HAPPY STATE OF AFFAIRS.

1983

A VILLAGE CHARITY WORTH AT TODAYS
 VALUES (1984) £ 66059.37 - MARCH 31 -
 PROVIDING AN ANNUAL DIVIDEND FOR SPENDING
 IN THE VILLAGE OF WILLOUGHBY OF £ 3500
 PLUS THE PROCEEDS OF OUR LAND RENTS.

ITS GREAT LIVING IN
 WILLOUGHBY.