

## Mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> C. Lakenheath Charities.

Bequests to the village in earlier times were quite common but most often these were to the church rather than to the poor of the village.

The rapid rise of non-conformism, led to the development of a social conscience amongst the wealthier in society many of whom saw it as their Christian duty to help the poor. Over time some villagers had become prosperous and as years went by several families became extremely wealthy with the result that a number of charities were founded with the intention of giving relief to the poor.

At this time the price of wheat was rising steeply causing the price of bread to rise and education was beginning to be seen as a way of reducing poverty and diseases like diphtheria may well have been present.

Some of these early charities were:

1663 POORS TURF-LAND.

1741 GEORGE GOWARD'S Charity.

!0 shillings per month in bread to the poor of Lakenheath. The remainder of rents and profits to go to the education of the poor (boys) of Lakenheath.

1756 JOHN EVANS and ROBERT KITCHENER.

13 acres of land in Mildenhall the leasing and renting out of which to provide education for the poor (again boys) of Lakenheath.

1762 HANSLIP'S DOLE.

Paid from his estate 2 shillings to 60 poor families in Lakenheath.

1798 JOHN BARNES, a rector/vicar, but not of Lakenheath, left sums of money to provide relief to poor widows of the Parish. He is buried in St. Mary's.

*Kelly's Directory 1844.*

*Memorials and Statements of Charitable Donations.*

*Suffolk Heritage Explorer*

The valuable work of some of these Charities continues, if under different names, to this day.