

Lackford Charities

Annual Report to Lackford Annual Parish Meeting, 14 May 2018

Object

The prevention or relief of poverty in the parish of Lackford.

History

At different times from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries four major benefactors have bequeathed money and property to benefit the poor of Lackford:

- Richard Firmin (1559), one acre of land at Rattlesden.
- Edward Kirke (1613), five acres of land at Rattlsden.
- Dame Elisabeth Kytson (1628), provided a length of cloth to make two gowns, more latterly, 8 shillings to buy a gown for a man and woman in alternate years.
- John Booty (1771), money vested in Consols.

In 1962 the Charity Commission amalgamated these bequests into a multiple charity, the Lackford Charities (registered number 206672), to be administered by the church.

Capital

At 31 December 2017 the foundation was vested in:

six acres of tenanted arable land at Rattlesden, with an agricultural value of around £30,000
426 Investment Units in the Common Ordinary Investment Fund of the CCLA worth £6,292
cash in a NATWEST current account..... £4,972

Total capital.....£41,264

Income

Returns from rents and equities in 2017:

Income from the land amounted to£450

Dividends from Investments£161

Total income.....£611

Impasse

Identifying the poor is the difficulty. There shouldn't be any poor, deserving or otherwise, if government social policies are working. Sadly, government support does not always reach those most in need, so each year a notice is displayed in the Parish Magazine, announcing that if anyone wishes to submit a claim they should contact the Trustees in strict confidence, Colin Smith (01284 728316), Alan Chinery (01284 728319 or Simon Dry (01284 729092).

In effect, there has been no claim on the Charities for many years.

New scheme

For the past 15 years, at least, availability of grant aid for the poor of Lackford has been advertised in the parish magazine, but there have been no applications for help.

To enable Lackford Charities distribute the income, application has been made to the Charity Commission to amend the scheme by revising the Charities' object to read: '...for the general benefit of the people of Lackford.' So far, no response has been received.

*Colin Smith
Churchwarden and Chairman*