

HISTORY OF EAST WOODHAY CHARITIES

The history of East Woodhay Charities is very interesting and goes back to 1732 when the first bequest was made. In each case land was given to the parish so that the rent from it would provide an income for the poor. Over time the land has been sold and the proceeds invested to make best use of the income. It is a fascinating insight into the social history of the parish.

Originally there were five local charities, which are detailed below, but in 1969 a new scheme was approved resulting in the two we have today – **East Woodhay Relief in Need** and **East Woodhay Relief in Sickness**.

Four charities are administered under the title:

1. East Woodhay Relief in Need

Elizabeth Goddard's Charity

This was established by her will of 1732 in which Elizabeth Goddard bequeathed money to provide linen for the poor to be distributed by the rector and churchwardens. Land in Ashmansworth was purchased with the money and this provided a regular income from rents etc. This income was then used to purchase calico for shirts for the poor. The land in Ashmansworth was sold in 1900 and the proceeds invested for continued use by the charity. This charity was also known as the 'Calico Charity'.

Wakefield's Charity

This was established in 1753 by the will of the Revd Joshua Wakefield, late rector of East Woodhay. He bequeathed a piece of land in the parish from which the rents were to be given for the education of poor children of the parish. This land was eventually sold, and the money divided between Woolton Hill school and East Woodhay school.

Poor's allotment Charity

This charity administered land acquired by enclosure award of 1819 for the use of the poor in the parish. About 40 acres of land was available for parishioners who occupied land rated at not more than £6 per annum. The charity also distributed coals to the poor.

This land, originally known as the Poor's Allotment, was sold in 2021 to provide a better disposable income for the Charities.

The Public Watering Place Charity

This was an enclosure award of 1908.

The fifth charity is now administered under the title:

2. East Woodhay Relief in Sickness

Woolton Hill Charity

It appears that there were various trusts which in 1953 were created into a new trust for the benefit of Woolton Hill Parish, to be known as the Woolton Hill Charity.

Today the Charities are administered by 5 trustees. The Chairman is always the Rector of East Woodhay and Woolton Hill (now part of the North Hampshire Benefice); there are two trustees appointed by the Parish Council appointed for four years each and two trustees co-opted for five years each.