

Charity and Poor Relief

Limbrey's Charity

John Limbrey of Hoddington House died in December 1801, leaving a bequest of £500 for the benefit of the poor of the parish 'as do not receive parochial relief'. In due course this was invested in £858 10s. 0d. of three per cent Consolidated Stock, which yielded a net income of £25 13s. 0d. a year. The trustees were the vicars of Odiham and Upton Grey and, with the assistance of the churchwardens and the overseers of the poor, they distributed the available income to the poor of the village. The number of recipients ranged from 20 in 1830 to 46 in 1886, with noticeable peaks in demand from 40 or more individuals in 1823/24, 1868/69 and particularly from 1878 to 1894, when 12 of the 16 years saw 40 or more claimants.¹ The same names appear year after year, in the same order, suggesting that payments from this charity became institutionalised, even though they represented little more than a week or two's wages.² Payments from the charity ranged from 14s. to 29s. to 21 claimants in 1812-14 to just 5s. to 12s. in the 1890s when there were over 40 claimants. Comparison of the recipients of relief from the overseers with those receiving payments from the Limbrey Charity in 1806 and 1834 shows that the trustees were mindful of the need to restrict payments to those not in receipt of parochial relief, with just one exception.

The census for 1891 lists 74 occupied houses in the village in which lived 113 males of working age. The Limbrey charity provided some support to the heads of 41 of those households and to about one third of the working age males. The charity was closed in 2005 and the investment transferred to Odiham Consolidated Charities, with the approval of The Charity Commission.

Poor Relief

The earliest personal bequests in Upton Grey wills date from the 16th century, starting with one from 1560, when Andrew Barnard remembered the poor of Upton Grey 'at the discretion of his executrix', who was his wife.³ A bequest in 1568 required the testator's son to have two bushels of wheat baked into bread and distributed to the poor for the ensuing

¹ Limbrey Charity Account book in private hands.

² British Labour Statistics: Historical Abstract 1886-1968: TNA/LAB 17/498 (9s 3½d in 1850 to 13s 9d in 1894).

³ TNA, PROB 11/43/527.

14 years.⁴ There were two bequests of 12d,⁵ one of which was to the poor of Mapledurwell, the testatrix also leaving four bushels of wheat to the poor of Upton Grey. In the 17th century, one in four testators left money for the poor. In the first half of the century, there were nine bequests; one of £5⁶, one of £2⁷ three of 10s. each⁸, one of which was to the poor of Tunworth, two of 5s.⁹ and others of 6s. 8d. and 4s.¹⁰ There were four bequests to the poor in the second half of the century, for £5, £3, £2 and 10s.¹¹

In the 18th century there were still six testators who remembered the poor of the parish, one being the Rector, Lawrence Smith, who left £2¹² and another being a member of the family who held the Lordship of the Manor, who left £3,¹³ both in the first decade. In 1740 James Burch, yeoman, left £1 to the poor, plus the same amount to the poor of each of three other parishes.¹⁴ In 1765 John Limbrey, Lord of the Manor of Hoddington, left £100 to the poor of that tithing¹⁵ and in 1780 even more substantial bequests were made by John Thomas Chandler, maltster, who left £50 to the poor of the village, spread over five years, half of which was for bread and books, plus £50 to the poor of Crondall on a like basis and £10 to the poor of Frimley, of which £3 was for books. He also left £60 to help provide apprenticeships for two boys from Upton Grey and two from Crondall.¹⁶ The century was completed by the schoolmaster William Gauntlett's charming bequest in 1797 of a threepenny plum cake for each of his scholars at the time of his decease.¹⁷

The earliest reference to overseers of the poor dates from 1737, when a settlement certificate was signed by the two overseers. However, the oldest surviving accounts of the overseers of the poor date from 1783, at which time the amount raised to provide for the

⁴ HRO, 1568B/082.

⁵ HRO, 1571B/008 and HRO 1580B/45.

⁶ HRO, 1644A12/1.

⁷ HRO, 1648/AD/40.

⁸ HRO, 1610A/084, HRO 1621A/10, HRO 1639A/024.

⁹ HRO, 1615A/09, HRO 1624A/47.

¹⁰ HRO, 1615A/56, HRO 1604A 96/1.

¹¹ TNA, PROB 11/380 IMAGE 17163, HRO 44M69/D12/1/48, HRO 1670A/070/1, TNA PROB 11/368/435.

¹² HRO, 1708B-61.

¹³ TNA, PROB 11/442-309.

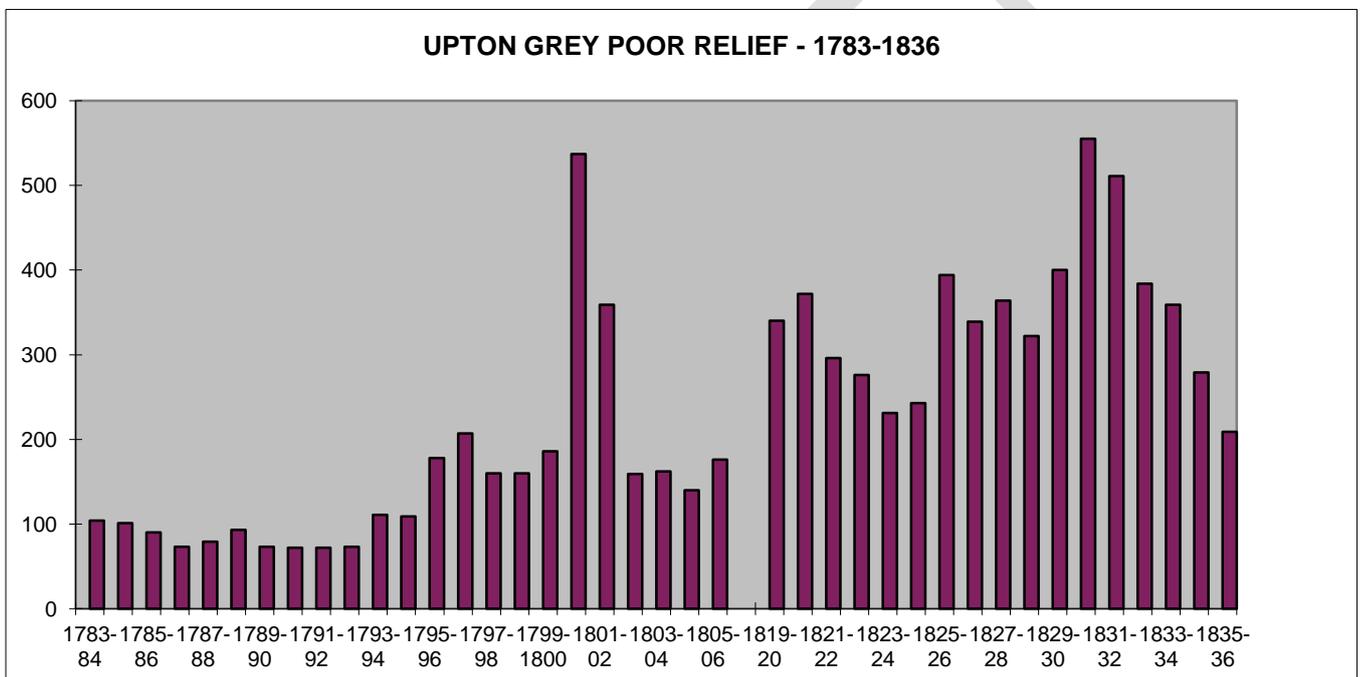
¹⁴ HRO, 1740A-17.

¹⁵ TNA, PROB 37/206.

¹⁶ HRO, 1780B-12.

¹⁷ HRO, 1797A/29.

poor was about £100 a year.¹⁸ Poor relief remained at or below that level until, as elsewhere, the impact of the French Wars from 1793 to 1815 severely affected food prices. From 1795 to 1806 the average amount paid out in Poor Relief was £203, but that included large increases to £537 in 1800/01 and £359 in 1801/02. Unfortunately the overseers' accounts for the years from 1806 to 1819 have been lost but Poor Returns revealed that £172 was spent on the poor in 1813, £335 in 1814 and £167 in 1815.¹⁹ Out relief was paid to 10 to 16 individuals permanently in 1813-15 and a further four to six were relieved occasionally.²⁰ In 1826 the Overseer listed 28 paupers in the village who were discharged from paying poor rates, including just one woman. In the 17 years from 1819 to 1836 the



average annual poor rate was £345, with a peak in 1830/31 of £555.²¹ From 1834 the poor of the parish became the responsibility of the new Basingstoke Union.

The parish had a Poor House in the latter part of the 18th century, with annual payments for rent from 1783 until 1805 made by the overseers, as well as a payment of £2 for wood and

¹⁸ HRO, 2M81/PO1.

¹⁹ *Parl. Papers* 1818 (82), 402.

²⁰ *Parl. Papers*, 1818 (82), 402-3.

²¹ HRO, 2M81/PO2.

small bills for mending windows.²² The Overseers in 1807/08 raised additional rates to pay for the erection of three new terraced cottages for the use of the poor, 500 yards to the north-east of the village centre, the site of which is currently used as a scaffolding yard.²³ The cost of this potentially farsighted venture was £232 16s. 7d., which was largely funded by the collection of two double rates. The list of materials suggests that the cottages were timber-framed and thatched with wattle and daub walls.²⁴ The cottages were not adequately maintained and were in a dilapidated state when the parish had to sell them after 1834. They were eventually sold at auction to William Lutley Sclater, Lord of the Manor of Hoddington, for just £45.²⁵

Settlement and Bastardy

Five settlement certificates have survived, all from the 18th century. Three were given to Odiham for Nathaniel Burton and his wife Mary, Thomas Norman, a framework-knitter and William Crockford, his wife and children.²⁶ A certificate was issued to Upton Grey in 1792 for Henry Silver, his wife and son of Odiham and in 1745 Upton Grey issued a certificate to confirm that John Baker, framework-knitter, was legally settled in the village.

In 1722 and 1747 two boys from the Bluecoat school in Basingstoke were apprenticed to James Woodman, a framework-knitter, and John Baker, then described as a stocking weaver.²⁷ In 1864 George Brewer of Odiham, aged 14, was apprenticed by indenture.²⁸

Three orders were issued for the removal of individuals from Odiham to Upton Grey: Jane Pain and her son in 1724; Thomas Millard and his wife in 1785; and James Mancy in 1817.²⁹

It was also ordered in 1814 and 1827 that Ann Bushell and Charlotte Hall be removed from Herriard to Upton Grey.³⁰ There is only one removal order out of the parish, for John Soper the younger to go to Odiham.

There were a number of bastardy orders. In 1669 when John Clark, a farmer in Upton Grey and William Chitty from Greywell committed themselves and their heirs and assigns to

²² HRO, 2M81/PO1.

²³ Grid Ref: SU703487.

²⁴ HRO, 2M81/PO3.

²⁵ TNA, PRO MH 12/10674-5.

²⁶ HRO, 3M70/52/13, HRO 47M81/PO3/60, HRO 47M81/PO3/74.

²⁷ HRO, 148M71/2/6/8/53, HRO 148M71/2/6/8/70.

²⁸ HRO, 21M51/45/27.

²⁹ HRO, 47M81/PO6/10, HRO 47M81/PO6/36, HRO 47M81/PO6/99.

³⁰ HRO, 86M82/PO2/2, 86M82/PO2/10.

discharge the parish of Odiham from all costs arising from the birth of a male child to Barbara Vinden;³¹ the second from 1801 where Thomas Hughes (late of Upton Grey) and William Vickery bind themselves to indemnify the parish of Odiham in the sum of £50 if they don't meet the expenses of the female child of Mary Crockford.³² And in 1832 George Edwards of Upton Grey, a hurdlemaker, is ordered to pay the parish of Basing £3 7s. 0d. plus one shilling and sixpence per week so long as the bastard child of Mary Rolfe be chargeable to the parish of Basing.³³ However, it was not uncommon in the 1830s to find the Overseers supporting up to nine bastard children, only some of which would be mitigated by contributions from the fathers.³⁴

Private relief and self-help after 1834 in the parish

When the Revd. Robert Heanley retired in 1898, amongst the notes he left for his successor were details of some small charities that existed in the village.³⁵ These were:

Beaufoy's charity - £50 left in the mid-19th century by Charles Beaufoy for the benefit of poor women on confinement, at the discretion of the minister. Usually 5s. was paid to the woman when she was 'churched' and the baby baptised. At the time of his note the fund amounted to just £12 14s. 5d. and had been left untouched with an average of £1 10s. being paid from the offertory or from private funds.

The Coal Club – this was originally established to formalise the old custom of giving a quarter of a ton of coal to every cottage family in the parish, and thus about the same amount of bounty was given to members of the Coal Club. There was only a small charitable element as a quarter of a ton of coal cost £1 2s. and members paid 16s. and widows 14s. Up to £5 a year was collected from the gentry to cover the shortfall in member's subscriptions.

Sunday School Clothing Club – this was more a savings club as members had to pay a minimum of 3d. a week, to which was added a bonus of 1d., the bonus initially being funded by Henry Beaufoy, but latterly from the offertory fund or donations.

Upton Grey Educational Trust - The village school was closed in 1984 and after a lengthy battle in the High Court it was decided that half the net proceeds of the sale of the property

³¹ HRO, 47M81/PO7/6.

³² HRO, 47M81/PO7/130.

³³ HRO, 3M70/60/39.

³⁴ HRO, 2M81/PO2.

³⁵ HRO, 2M81/PZ6.

would be paid to the village. The Upton Grey Educational Trust was established in 1991 to hold the money, which amounted to £41,000 and was invested in a scheme set out by the Charity Commission. The income from this trust, which averages some £3,000 a year, can be used for 'the advancement of education', primarily in Upton Grey.

Allotments

Amongst a bundle of miscellaneous papers in the Hampshire Record Office³⁶ is a list of 32 allotment holders from 1833, two of whom are women. As one might expect, nearly all of them received relief from the overseers. On the Tithe Apportionment of 1841 the location of the allotments is shown as field No. 261, known as Lower Hartley, which comprises 14 a. and is situated on the south side of Weston Road opposite Hartley Cottage and the entrance to Weston Close.³⁷ The 1870 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of the village shows allotments on the north side of Weston Road as well as on the south side.³⁸ By 1910 the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map shows allotments only on the north side of Weston Road, in field No. 176.³⁹

In the sale particulars of Upton Grey House in 1923⁴⁰ the allotments are shown as in 1910, owned by Lord Basing, but it seems that use of the allotments was declining as by 1940 'wartime allotments' were offered in two locations.⁴¹ Their use lapsed after the Second World War as there is no subsequent mention of the existence of allotments and residents in the late 1940s have no memory of formal allotments in the village.

Medical services

There are frequent entries in the overseers' accounts for payments for doctors' services, such as £1 2s. 2d. to Dr Harris in 1792. Payments to unnamed doctors were made in following years and Dr Harris was named again in 1801, this time as the 'Parish Docktor'.⁴² By the 1820s and 1830s it was a Mr Workman, or Workman and Lyford or Messrs Workman & Co, who rendered accounts annually that ranged from £5 19s. 6d. in 1829 to £21 4s. 6d. in 1832. Those doctors were based in Odiham, but childbirth, preparation for burial and minor

³⁶ HRO, 20M76/Z111.

³⁷ HRO, 21M65/F7/241/1.

³⁸ OS Map 1:10,560 sheet XXVII (1872 edn).

³⁹ OS Map 1:2,500 Sheet XXVII.2 (1910 edn).

⁴⁰ Need HRO reference for sale of UGH in 1923.

⁴¹ Parish Council Minutes January 1940.

⁴² HRO, 2M81/PO1.

illnesses were handled within the village. An annual subscription of £1 1s. 0d. was paid to the County Hospital⁴³ and whilst several villagers were sent for treatment at Winchester Hospital, in June 1800 a bill from Hoxton Hospital amounting to £24 15s 10d was paid for a woman who should have been discharged in the previous year.⁴⁴

By the early 19th century there was a resident nurse in the village and a doctor held surgeries in the village hall. In 1940 a First Aid Point was established in the village and supervised by Dr Tallent. There was still a doctor's surgery in the village after the Second World War, as the minutes of the Parish Council recorded in 1949 that there was concern that patients had to queue in the road, but no action was taken as it was considered that the village was lucky to still have a doctor's surgery in the village. But by the middle of the century medical services were no longer made available in the village.

⁴³ HRO, 2M81/PO1, in 1801.

⁴⁴ HRO, 2M81/PO1, in 1800.