

A brief history of Headington Parish Charity

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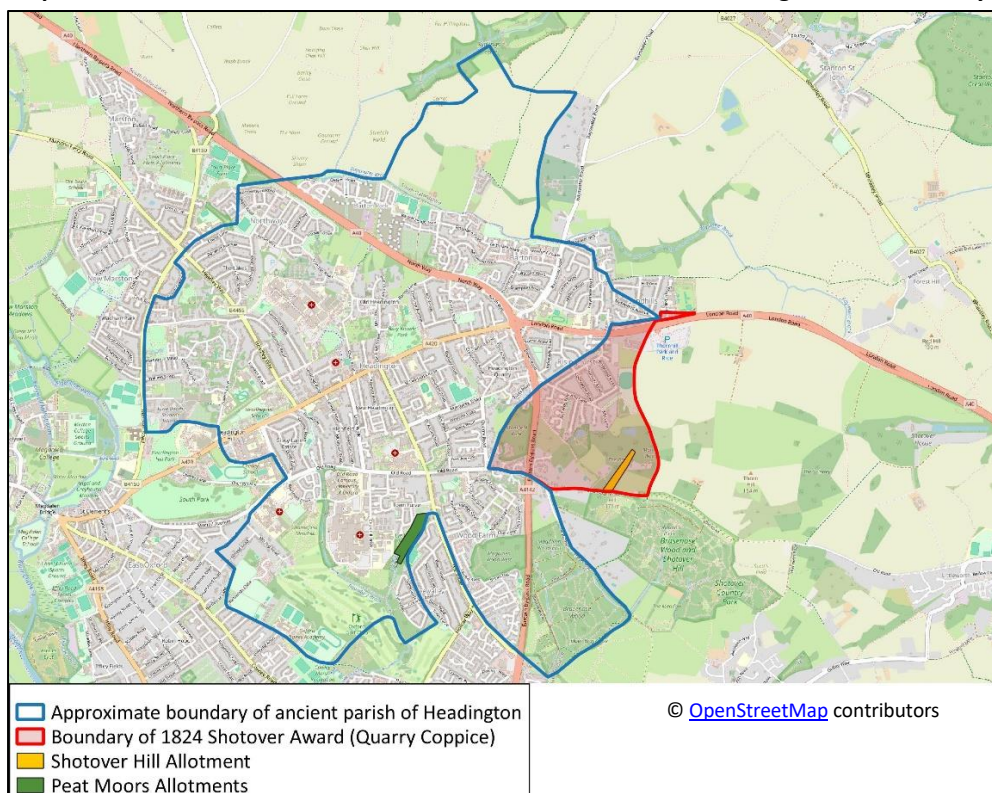
Introduction

Headington Parish Charity is a small registered charity that provides financial support to those in need at Christmas time each year.¹ This paper provides a brief history of the charity, which has existed in various forms since 1805. It builds on a previous summary prepared by Frank Samson.² Unfortunately, the records of the charity are fragmented and incomplete. Documentary evidence held at the Oxfordshire History Centre, the Oxford Town Hall archives, and the National Archives, Kew, was reviewed in compiling the paper.³

The origins of the charity

Headington Parish Charity has its origins in four smaller charities. These earlier charities consisted of two allotments of land owned by the trustees: the Peat Moors Allotments and the Shotover Hill Allotment (Map 1), together with investments from the estates of Catharine Wharton and Emily Stone. The objective of all the charities was to support the needs of poor people living in the parish.

Map 1: Location of the two historic allotments associated with Headington Parish Charity⁴



¹ Charity Number 205632.

² Samson, A.F. (1998). Headington Parish Charity. Unpublished.

³ See annex for research methods.

⁴ Headington Parish boundary taken from Kain, R. and Oliver, R. (2001). Historic parishes of England and Wales: an electronic map of boundaries before 1850. Sheet 158. Oxfordshire History Centre, reference MR11: 352 (KAI), accessed 7 February 2024.

The Peat Moors Allotments

The first of the four original charities is the Peat Moors Allotments established by the Headington Inclosure Award of 1805.⁵ This Award partitioned the common land inside the parish and assigned individual rights to each parcel of land. The Peat Moors Allotments is an example of a Fuel Allotment (or Poor's Land), which were often proposed at the time of enclosing common land as compensation for the loss of free access to fuel resources by poor residents over the entire area.⁶ The Award provided for the Lord of the Manor of Headington, the Vicar, and Churchwardens of St Andrew's church to act as trustees for the poor of the parish to allow for the "cutting, taking and carrying away furze [gorse] and fern and digging and carrying away peat for their own use" within the allotment area.⁷

The 1805 plan of Headington Parish maps the location of 105 enclosed allotments.⁸ One of these is the Peat Moors Allotments, identified on the map under the title of "The Poor: Plot No. 3" (Map 2). This small, five-acre parcel represented 0.3% of the total area enclosed. The boundaries of the allotment follow part of the present-day boundaries of the Lye Valley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), now managed within a local nature reserve under the ownership of Oxford City Council. The SSSI citation states that "a base-rich peat up to 1.5 metres thick has been laid down along parts of the valley".⁹ Evidence that peat was cut from within the allotment area is found in the Headington Vestry Minutes of 6th July 1871, where mention is made that peat was being removed from the Peat Moors by the then tenant.¹⁰

The history of the allotment throughout the 19th century is largely unknown, although by mid-century part of the allotment area was being occupied by two families who lived there without paying rent to the trustees.¹¹ This situation was left unresolved for over twenty years allowing one of the squatters (Thomas Steele) to sell the small north-east section of the allotment, having secured title by adverse possession (see Maps 2 and 3).^{12,13} In 1901 a single tenant was selected for the remaining part of the allotment (Joseph Coleman) on condition he provided an annual income to the charity of five pounds.¹⁴

⁵ Under Act 41 Geo. 3. c.72 (1801) Private.

⁶ Ashby, A.W. (1917). Allotments and small holdings in Oxfordshire. A Survey. Made on behalf of the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics, University of Oxford. Clarendon Press. Available at: <https://archive.org/details/cu31924013762285/page/n23/mode/2up?view=theater>, accessed 19 October 2023.

⁷ Jenkins, S. (1998). Headington Inclosure Award. Transcription. Available at: https://www.headington.org.uk/history/misc/enclosure_award.pdf, accessed 19 October 2023.

⁸ Map associated with original inclosure award for Headington, 12 June 1805. Oxfordshire History Centre, reference PAR126/16/H/2, accessed 17 January 2024

⁹ Natural England (1987). Lye Vally SSSI citation. Available at: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/PDFsForWeb/Citation/1002848.pdf>, accessed 19th October 2023.

¹⁰ Headington Vestry Minute Book, 1855-1892, page 59. Oxfordshire History Centre, reference PAR126/2/A/6, accessed 17th January 2024.

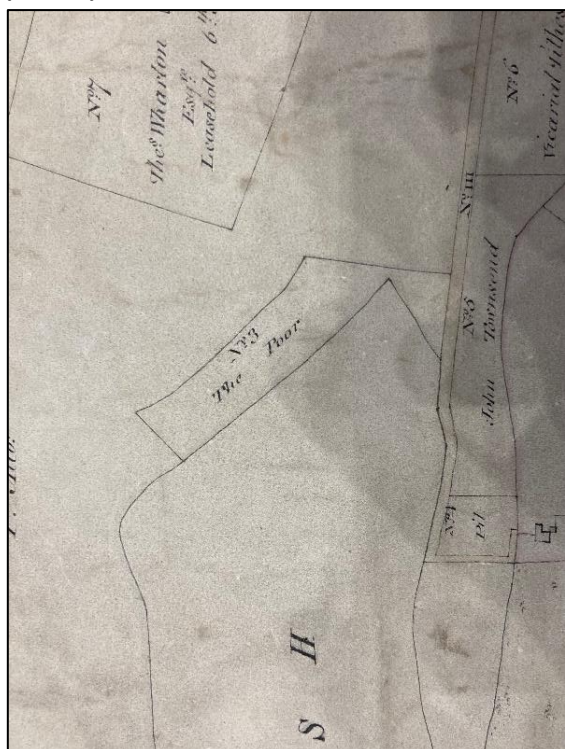
¹¹ Samuel, R. (1975) "'Quarry roughs': Life and labour in Headington Quarry, 1860–1920. An essay in oral history", in Raphael Samuel (ed.), Village Life and Labour. Routledge and Kegan Paul. Page 67.

¹² Headington Vestry Minute Book, 1855-1892, pages 106-107. Oxfordshire History Centre, reference PAR126/2/A/6, accessed 17th January 2024.

¹³ Adverse Possession means someone occupying land belonging to someone else, without permission. If this is done continuously for several years (normally 10 or 12 years) then, in certain circumstances, the land may become theirs.

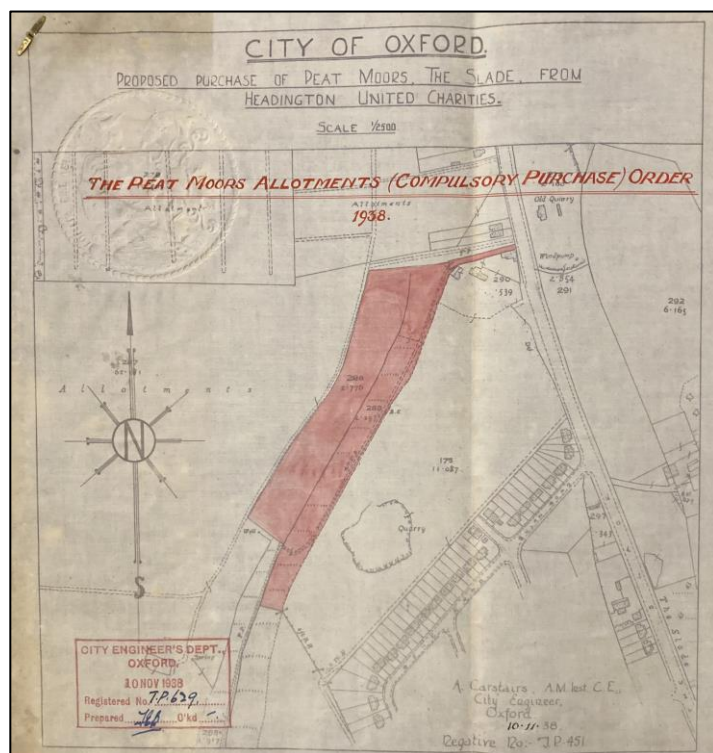
¹⁴ Headington Parish Council Minute Book 1894-1918, page 156. Oxfordshire History Centre, reference OCA Y.3.1, accessed 11th January 2024.

Map 2: 1805 map of the Peat Moors Allotments (extract)



Source: Oxfordshire History Centre, reference PAR126/16/H/2, accessed 17 January 2024

Map 3: 1938 map of the Peat Moors Allotments



Source: Oxford City Archives, reference OCA 5/3/C2/14, accessed 5 December 2023

Ownership of the allotment was subsequently transferred to the City Council through a compulsory purchase order (CPO) in 1939.¹⁵ A CPO was applied because although the trustees desired to sell the land (for unknown reasons), they were prevented from doing so by the Charity Commissioners as the land had been constituted as a Fuel Allotment. Under these circumstances, the only way of effecting a transfer to the City Council was by way of a CPO. At the time of the CPO, the District Valuer's Office estimated the freehold value of the allotment at £260.¹⁶ The report of the City Engineer described the circumstances leading up to the application of the Order in this way: "The Peat Moors Allotments have for many years ceased to be used as Fuel Allotments and are now put to no use whatsoever, except for about one acre which was let by the Trustees on a short-term tenancy to a chicken farmer".¹⁷

The City Council's interest in acquiring this small strip of land arose because of the Oxford Town Planning Scheme of the early 1930s. This plan aimed to preserve open spaces, with the objectives of (a) the preservation of spots of natural beauty and (b) the provision of walks and parkways within the city".¹⁸ A legacy of the allotment is reflected in the neighbouring street name of Peat Moors, off The Slade.

¹⁵ Letter from Ministry of Health to the Town Clerk, Oxford dated 14th July 1939. Oxford City Archives, reference OCA 5/3/C2/14, accessed on 5th December 2023.

¹⁶ Letter from District Valuer's Office to the City Engineer dated 19th July 1938. Oxford City Archives, reference OCA 5/3/C2/14, accessed on 5th December 2023.

¹⁷ Peat Moors Allotments. Report of the City Engineer and Surveyor re necessity of proposed purchase, and circumstances leading up to application for confirmation of Compulsory Purchase Order. 20th January 1939. The Town Hall, Oxford. Oxford City Archives, reference OCA 5/3/C2/14, accessed on 5th December 2023.

¹⁸ Ibid.

The Shotover Hill Allotment

The second of the four original charities is the Shotover Hill Allotment. This was created at a slightly later date, under the Shotover Award of 1824.¹⁹ This allotment also appears to be an example of a Fuel Allotment (*sensu* Ashby, 1917, quoting Halsbury's Laws of England). The allotment was located just outside the parish boundary near the summit of Shotover Hill, on the north-east side of the old London Road. In the inclosure map the allotment is labelled "Headington Poor" (Map 4).²⁰

The management of this allotment by the trustees throughout the 19th century is not recorded, other than a tenancy to John Coppock was extended for a period of eight years in 1871 at a rental of eight pounds each year.²¹ A 1902 Charity Commission Order listed the allotment area as being just over four acres, with a single tenant (Frederick Cooper) providing an annual income to the charity of a lesser amount (three and a half pounds).²²

Kelly's 1883 Directory of Oxfordshire records that the annual income of both this and the Peat Moors charity was distributed as cash gifts to the poor.²³ However, the Churchwardens Account Book of 1889-1905 records that these charities gifts were distributed as 'coal tickets' for the purchase of coal, distributed by the Churchwardens and valued at 2s/6d each [*equivalent to approximately £13 in today's values*].²⁴ Up to 78 individuals received these coal tickets each year between 1889-1894.²⁵ Morley, writing about coal and clothing clubs, observed: "The distribution of coal as an endowed charitable gift to the poor was established by the mid nineteenth century as prices fell to affordable levels for general household consumption through increased production and lower transport costs".²⁶

In the mid-1930s, the recently established Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) approached the charity to purchase the allotment with the intent of preserving the views from the summit of Shotover Hill. However, in 1939 the charity's trustees decided to proceed with a sale to a Mrs Montgomery of North Oxford to build a house on the land for £800 (Map 5).^{27,28} The OPT could not raise sufficient funds to make a higher offer, and so the sale appears to have gone through. However, no house was ever built, and the land appears to have remained undeveloped. The OPT purchased the adjoining Monks Farm Meadow, which it retains to the present day.

It is assumed that the money raised from this sale and that of the Peat Moors CPO was retained by the trustees and then invested, however no financial records from the period remain.

¹⁹ Under Act 59 Geo. 3. c.85 (1819) Private, not printed.

²⁰ Shotover Award. Oxfordshire History Centre, file no PAR107/16/H1/1, accessed 17 January 2024.

²¹ Headington Vestry Minute Book, 1855-1892, page 59. Oxfordshire History Centre, file no. PAR126/2/A/6, accessed 17th January 2024.

²² Charity Commission (1902). United Charities Order 2263/2. HMSO.

²³ Kelly & Co. (1883). Directory of Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon. Page 577. Available at:

(<https://archive.org/details/kellysdirectoryo00kell/page/n5/mode/2up>, accessed 20 October 2023).

²⁴ All money conversions according to the Bank of England's inflation calculator:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>

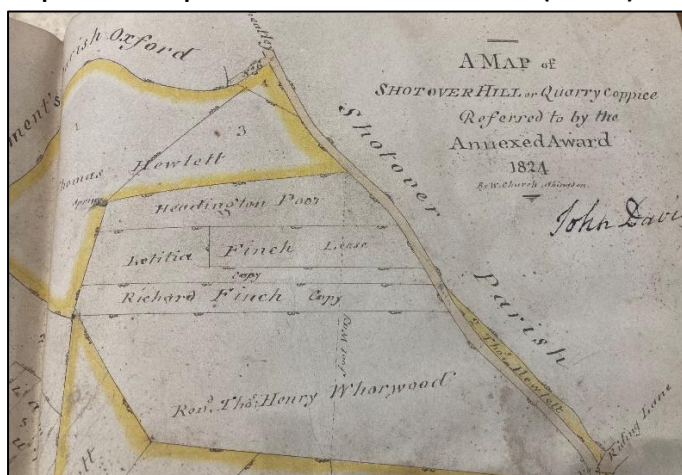
²⁵ Churchwardens Account Book, 1889-1905. Oxfordshire History Centre, file no. PAR126/4/F1/3, accessed 17th January 2024.

²⁶ Morley, S. (2015). Coal and clothing clubs: an essential component of the parish welfare system, 1834-1910. Oxoniensia, 80, 41-56. Available at: <https://www.oxoniensia.org/volumes/2015/Shawn%20Morley.pdf>, accessed 19 January 2024.

²⁷ Charity Commission Notice. No. 53 of 1939. Oxfordshire History Centre Reference O21/2/3/C1/9, file 2 of 4.

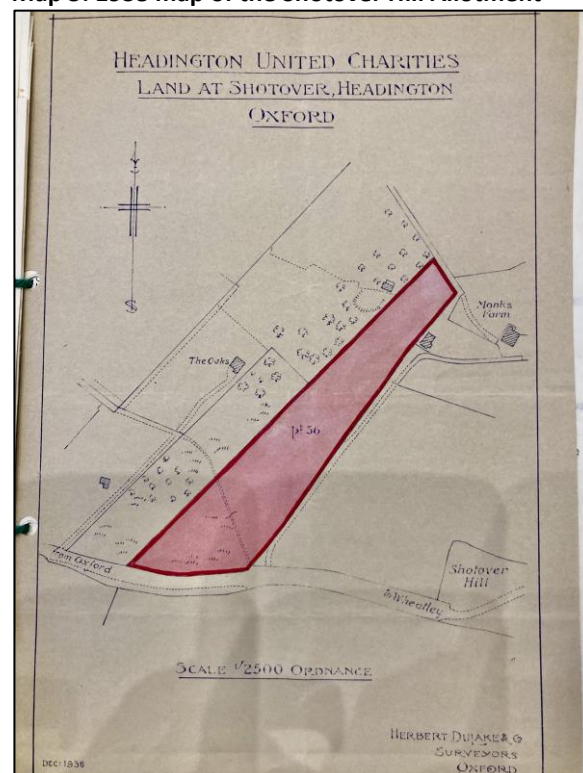
²⁸ There is no record of the Charity Commissioners objecting to this sale, in contrast to the Peat Moors Allotments.

Map 4: 1824 map of the Shotover Hill Allotment (extract)



Source: Oxfordshire History Centre, reference PAR107/16/H1/1, accessed 17 January 2024 (map alignment is East-West)

Map 5: 1938 map of the Shotover Hill Allotment



Source: Oxfordshire History Centre, reference O21/2/3/C1/9, file 2 of 4, accessed 23 November 2023

The Catharine Wharton charity

The third charity was founded by the 1852 Will of Catharine Wharton²⁹, with the Parish Vicar and Churchwardens acting as trustees.³⁰ The income of this charity came from the interest on a capital sum of £1,000 [equivalent to approximately £115,000 in today's values] that was invested in Government Stock. Kelly's 1883 Directory of Oxfordshire records that the charity's annual income of £27 [equivalent to approximately £2,700 in today's values] was used for the purchase of fuel for the poor of the parish.³¹ This was, by far, the largest income of the original Headington charities, as can be seen by the coal tickets purchased by the Churchwardens between 1889-1894. These were valued at 10s/9d each [equivalent to approximately £57 in today's values], given to fifty recipients each year.³² These coal tickets would likely have been highly valued at the time. Unfortunately, no records remain of the beneficiaries of these annual gifts.

Catharine Grape was the daughter of the Revd William Grape, sometime Vicar of St Andrew's Church in Cleeve Prior in Worcestershire, and so would have grown up in a religious family. She married Brian Wharton, the younger son of an Oxford apothecary Theophilus Wharton, in 1829. The Whartons were an affluent family that had been linked to the Morrell family of Oxford by the marriage of Jane Wharton (Brian's younger sister) to James Morrell in 1807.³³ Catherine and Brian

²⁹ Catharine Wharton appears in the records of the Charity Commission as Catherine Wharton.

³⁰ Jenkins, S. (2023). Will of Catharine Wharton. Transcription. Unpublished.

³¹ Kelly & Co. (1883). Directory of Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon. Page 577. Available at: <https://archive.org/details/kellysdirectoryo00kell/page/n5/mode/2up>, accessed 20 October 2023.

³² The number of beneficiaries as directed in her Will.

³³ Allen, B. (1994). Morrells of Oxford. The family and their brewery, 1743- 1993. Oxfordshire Books.

lived for a short time in Headington Lodge^{34,35}, which had been built by Brian's elder brother in the then Regency style.³⁶ Brian died ten years later, and Catharine subsequently returned to her family home in Henwick, Worcestershire, where she died in 1852. They had no children. It is unclear how Catharine accumulated her wealth; however, at the time of her death her Will contained gifts to the value of £10,310 [*equivalent to approximately £1.2 million in today's values*].³⁷

Both Brian and Catharine are buried in St Andrew's Church in Headington. A memorial stone to them is mounted on the wall to the left of the south door of the church, with her inscription referring to the charity created by her Will: "She remembered the poor of this parish in her last will" (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Memorial stone to Brian and Catharine Wharton, St Andrew's Church, Headington



These three charities were combined for administrative purposes under the title of the United Charities by the Charity Commission Order of 1902. However, what was to prove challenging almost a century later was this Order did not formally amalgamate the three constituent charities (see below).

The Emily Stone charity

The final constituent charity of Headington Parish Charity is the Emily Stone charity. On her death in 1891, Emily Stone bequeathed to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish £500 [*equivalent to approximately £50,000 in today's values*] to be invested in Government Stock. The annual income of the charity was to be used for the purchase of coal immediately prior to Christmas for distribution to the poor of the parish, with special regard being given to any poor widows.³⁸ This remains a consideration for the charity's trustees to the present day.³⁹

³⁴ Now two separate residences: White Lodge and Sandy Lodge, Osler Road.

³⁵ After their marriage in 1829 it appears that they lived in Wick Farm for several years before moving to Headington Lodge, see: https://mail.headington.org.uk/history/listed_buildings/wick_farm.htm

³⁶ Jenkins, S. (no date, a). History of Headington. Headington Lodge (White Lodge and Sandy Lodge), Osler Road. Available at: https://mail.headington.org.uk/history/listed_buildings/headington_lodge.htm, accessed 20th October 2023.

³⁷ Jenkins, S. (2023). Will of Catharine Wharton. Transcription. Unpublished.

³⁸ Raphael Samuel, in "Quarry roughs": Life and labour in Headington Quarry, 1860–1920. An essay in oral history", in Raphael Samuel (ed.), Village Life and Labour (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1975) states: "Widows in Victorian England are very often to be found in conditions of near destitution, and in some of the poverty surveys of the time 'widow' and 'pauper' seem almost inter-changeable terms."

³⁹ Copy of the 1883 Will of Emily Stone attached to a letter from the Charity Commission to AF Samson, dated 8 February 1996. Reference JW-30754-CD(T).

Emily Stone was the only daughter of James Morrell senior, the brewer and banker, who built the first wing of Headington Hill Hall. Emily had two brothers. Her elder brother, also James, inherited the family home and later converted it to the much grander Hall that is today part of the campus of Oxford Brookes University.⁴⁰ A memorial to James Morrell senior was erected by her down the hill in St Clement's Church, which mentions Emily Stone's home as Streatley House in Berkshire. There is a commemorative window to Emily in St Mary's Church in Streatley, acknowledging the charitable role she played in financing the rebuilding of that church in 1865.

As a member of the Morrell family in the early nineteenth century Emily would have been raised in an affluent household. She married a wealthy London barrister William Stone in 1830, further securing her position in society. When she died in 1891, she bequeathed her estate to Emily Alicia Morrell, her brother's only daughter as she had no surviving children of her own. Emily left bequests in her Will for the purchase of coal for the poor in Streatley and Headington. Whilst no records remain of the implementation of the Headington charity, the provision of coal supplies at Christmas time by the Streatley Coal Fund is documented in a 2013 paper.⁴¹

The Emily Stone charity was combined with the United Charities in 1931 through a Charity Commission Order.⁴²

Headington Parish Charity

The creation of Headington Parish Charity in 1996

The Charity Commission Orders of 1902 and 1931 determined that the four charities should be administered and managed by the same set of trustees. Neither Order formally amalgamated the four constituent charities, yet this appears to have become the working practice by the 1990s, with one set of annual accounts prepared. This anomaly came to light because of the new accounting requirements of the 1993 Charities Act immediately after Mr Frank Samson assumed the role of secretary to the trustees in 1994. Over a prolonged 2-year correspondence with the Charity Commission, it was eventually agreed to amalgamate the four charities as Headington Parish Charity on 11 April 1996.⁴³

The charity's restated policy as of 1996 is:

"The trustees shall apply the income of the charity in relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the ancient parish of Headington who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, where possible to have special regard in the distribution aforesaid to any poor widows".

⁴⁰ Jenkins, S. (no date, b). Headington history: people. Morrell/Wharton/Tawney families. Available at: https://www.headington.org.uk/history/famous_people/morrellfamily.htm, accessed 20 October 2023.

⁴¹ Brodie, M (2013). The Stone coal charity. Goring Gap Local History Society, 2013 Journal, 6-9. Available at: http://www.goringgaphistory.org.uk/uploads/2/4/4/1/24417872/stone_coal_charity.pdf, accessed 22 January 2024.

⁴² Charity Commission (1931). United Charities Order 2614/31. HMSO.

⁴³ Charity Commission (1996). Emily Stone Charity – 205632. Resolution made under the Charities Act 1993, Section 64(2)(c) – Modification of purposes. Letter to Mr AF Samson. Reference: JW-32995-CD(T).

Governance of the charity

The vicar and churchwardens of St Andrew's Church in Headington have been trustees of all the constituent charities of Headington Parish Charity since 1805. Initially, their number was augmented by the Lord of the Manor, then Parish Councillors and subsequently City Councillors, as the secular representatives of Headington parish. The governance of the charity has therefore remained constant over the 200-year period since the first charity was established.

The selection of beneficiaries each year has always been a decision made by church and secular officials. However, how this selection was made in practice historically – and how potential recipients were identified is unknown. In recent years, responsibility for identifying potential recipients has been vested in the hands of the vicars of three churches that exist within the ancient parish boundaries.⁴⁴ The trustees then make the final selection based on need, although there has never been disagreement over the proposed listing, at least in the last ten years.

The charity is now governed by up to seven trustees, supported by a secretary who is responsible for its administration. The trustees are the Vicar of St Andrew's Church, Headington, acting as the Chair, the two Churchwardens of St Andrew's Church, up to three representative trustees nominated by Oxford City Council, and one resident of the parish.⁴⁵ In recent years, the City Council has nominated two councillors.

Headington Parish Charity is an 'excepted charity' under the 2011 Charities Act because its annual income is less than £5,000. As such, it is not obliged to submit its accounts to the Charity Commission for scrutiny unless specifically required to do so. Nevertheless, it maintains accounts that clearly show and explain the charity's transactions and prepares an annual report that describes the charity's activities.⁴⁶ The minutes of the annual meeting of the trustees is taken as the charity's annual report and the charity's income and expenditure is reported to the Charity Commission each year.

Beneficiaries of the charity

1960 is the first year for which a record of beneficiaries now exists.⁴⁷ Since 1996 (and the establishment of Headington Parish Charity), the charity has disbursed almost £18,000 to 600 recipients (Figure 2).^{48,49} In recent years, the trustees have provided cash gifts of a higher value to a smaller number of people identified as being in need, with the intent of being more impactful. The historic practice of disbursing coal tickets to address the winter fuel needs of many poor residents has been replaced by the provision of direct financial support to those considered to be most in need.

⁴⁴ St Andrew's, All Saints', and St Mary's. The vicars use their social networks to identify people in need of support; these are not restricted to church attendees.

⁴⁵ Samson, A.F. (2005). Headington Parish Charity. Revised. Unpublished.

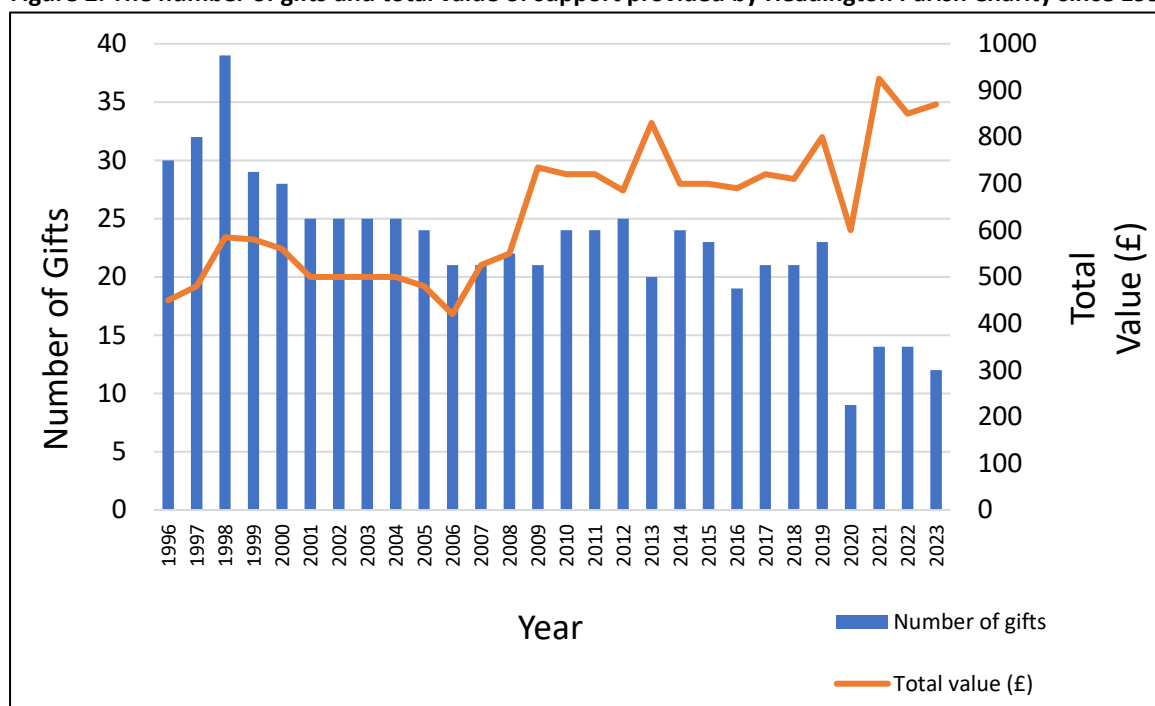
⁴⁶ Samson, A.F. (1998). Headington Parish Charity. Unpublished.

⁴⁷ Distribution year lists held in the Headington Parish Charity archives, as of October 2023.

⁴⁸ £17,885 distributed to 640 recipients.

⁴⁹ 2020 was an outlier year because of the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and with the retirement of the vicar of All Saints' no recipients were identified in that parish.

Figure 2: The number of gifts and total value of support provided by Headington Parish Charity since 1996



Source: Headington Parish Charity archives

Discussion

The charity in its present form is derived from two historic origins: the first associated with the early 19th century land enclosures; the second, the Victorian era of Christian charity-giving by affluent individuals. These periods pre-date the social welfare system that exists today, occurring at a time when support to people in need was less State led. Having said that, the two allotments were associated with Acts of Parliament and were therefore determined by national considerations of how to support the poor in society.

Charitable works in Headington reflected national norms. At the beginning of the nineteenth century a huge amount of common land in England was enclosed, removing free access to fuel resources. The Fuel Allotment was one mechanism put in place to mitigate this impact, although as only 0.3% of the enclosed land of Headington in 1805 was put under this designation its effectiveness can be questioned. This very small allocation was also reflected at a national level, with Ashby noting: ““As the enclosure of the village lands proceeded during the early part of the nineteenth century, it was found that the small plots given in lieu of fuel rights, often meagre, unfertile, and inaccessible, did not satisfy the needs of the poor of the various parishes.”⁵⁰ Both of the Headington Allotments fit this description of being meagre, infertile and having poor access.

The two Victorian benefactors were both women, notable in a period when English society was very much male dominated. Both came from the same (extended) family, the Morrells. Catharine was Emily’s aunt by marriage. There was a brief period when one lived in Headington Lodge (Catharine) whilst the other lived in Headington Hill Hall (Emily). The nineteenth century saw women play an increasing role in charitable works, motivated by Christian values. Women bequeathed large sums to

⁵⁰ Ashby, A.W. (1917). Allotments and small holdings in Oxfordshire. A Survey. Made on behalf of the Institute for Research in Agricultural Economics, University of Oxford. Clarendon Press. Page 15.

charities and did so as a larger percentage of their residual estate than men. Prochaska cites a study of 100 wills from 1862-8 that was published in the *Illustrated London News*, where the percentage left to charity was 13% for women compared to 3.4% for men.⁵¹ These two bequests reflect a particular responsibility held by many Victorian women to help ease the conditions of those less fortunate in their community.

The 1996 process of amalgamating the four earlier charities led to the name of Emily Stone being emphasised (as can be seen in the Charity Commission webpage where Emily Stone is recorded as the only previous name of the charity).⁵² There is no reference in the charity record of the larger bequest of Catharine Wharton. It is therefore perhaps fitting that Catharine's memorial plaque should occupy a prominent place in the parish church of St Andrew's.

The present governance of the charity can be explained by its history, with trustees coming from both St Andrew's Church and the City Council. Whilst the two personal bequests were originally placed in the hands of the officials of the parish church, Parish Councillors became representative trustees of the united charities through the Charity Commission Order of 1902. The City Council then became responsible for the appointment of these representative trustees in 1930.⁵³ This changing institutional representation reflects an increasingly secular concern for the welfare of those in need within the local community. At a far larger scale, this move to State-led support can be observed in the national welfare reforms of the 20th century.

The charity has seen no material expansion since the 1930s. Consideration was given to disbanding the charity in 2003, on account of a then falling income and the difficulty the trustees had in identifying those in need. With the recent practice of relying on the vicars of three parishes (all within the boundaries of the ancient parish of Headington) to identify potential recipients the latter constraint has diminished. The charity's income has also increased in recent years due to the fund management of the COIF Charity Investment Fund, where all the charity's funds are now held.

Conclusion

The history of Headington Parish Charity reflects the major societal changes that have taken place over the last two hundred years. It has evolved from the distribution of coal tickets at Christmas time to the provision of direct financial support, enabling recipients to determine what to spend this assistance on. It is an example of a small faith-led charity that continues to add value to its local community in a society where social welfare is now provided principally by the State.

Acknowledgements

Stephanie Jenkins' support in accessing and interpreting historical records relating to the charity is gratefully acknowledged. Chris Gilliam at Oxford City Council provided much appreciated access and guidance on the city's archives relevant to the charity. Staff at the Oxfordshire History Centre were also supportive in assisting access to archival material at the centre.

⁵¹ Prochaska, F.K. (1980) *Women and philanthropy in nineteenth-century England*. Clarendon Press, Oxford. Page 35.

⁵² <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/205632/governance>

⁵³ Charity Commission (1930). *United Charities Order 2727/30*. HMSO.

Annex: research methods

There is little historical record of the earlier charities that now make up Headington Parish Charity. What records remain provide a fragmented and very incomplete picture of their operation.

This paper was written based on information available in late 2023 and early 2024. Research began by reviewing the charity's limited paper records. On-line searches were conducted using the keywords 'Headington charities'; 'Headington United Charities'; 'Shotover Hill Allotment'; and 'Peat Moors Allotments'. Archival searches were then undertaken, and the resultant material reviewed at the Oxfordshire History Centre, Oxford Town Hall, and the National Archives, Kew (the latter contained little relevant information, and nothing not available in the county history centre).