

Carlton Charity Lands

Between the years of 1317 and 1431 three gifts of land were made by deed for "use of the inhabitants of Carlton". This land lies on either side of the entrance to the sewage works on the road between Bank Farm and the railway bridge. In 1786 the land was vested in the churchwardens and Overseers of the poor. It produced an income of £8.20 per annum which was to be used to benefit the poor in the parish.

Over the years, at the discretion of the trustees, the use of the annual rent has been adapted as circumstances have changed. For instance, it has been used to fund apprentices for young people and to provide assistance in cases of particular hardship such as prolonged illness and loss of income. At present the money is distributed in December as a small Christmas bonus to those of pensionable age who have lived in the village for a minimum of five consecutive years.

At their AGM the trustees have agreed that, in line with Government plans to equalise pension ages for men and women, the payment of the charity money would, in future be made to both men and women at the age of 65. This decision will not affect anyone already receiving the Christmas bonus who is not yet 65. Only one payment is made per household and in future this will be made to the first person to reach the age of 65.

It is easy to keep track of who moved into the village and when, but it is not so easy to ascertain how old everybody is! Please let myself or the secretary Frank Mephram (01455 291933), know if you have reached pensionable age and you are not already in our records.

This year at their AGM the trustees of the Charity Lands have decided to break with tradition. Instead of distributing the charitable money to those of pensionable age (approximately £23 per household) a decision was taken to support the fund-raising activities undertaken by Nigel and Janie Axelrad at Bank Farm in order to provide the village with a defibrillator. A substantial amount of has already been raised, more news of which is in this issue, and several villagers have undertaken training in using this life-saving equipment. I am sure that you will agree that this is a very worthwhile use of the money.

Megan Thirlaway, Chair of Carlton Charity Lands Trust.(01455 291462)