

Jeffery's Dole & Radcliffe on Trent

What is it and who was he?

With Thanks to Radcliffe History Society for the main body of factual information.

In 1617, Jeffery Limmer a wheelwright of Radcliffe left a £10 legacy in his will for the poor & needy of Radcliffe, other benefactors (named in a marble plaque inside St Mary's church) added to the fund between the years 1636 -1687, originally the legacy was loaned out to the poor of the village which was then repaid with interest.

In 1718 the decision was made to purchase open fields with the original capital, these are named as: Stoneyfield, Breckfield, Cliff Field & Sunpit. This land was rented out at the annual Parish Meeting within the village, the profit from the rents were then distributed to widows and the poor & needy of the village at Christmas , the remainder to be used for the poor if they became sick.

The main criteria (as it still is today) is that the money can only be given to Radcliffe residents and a need has to be established.

When the enclosure act came into force in 1790 the fields were exchanged for a piece of land on Bingham Road. In 1877 the trustees realised that more money could be generated by house building so the land was leased on a 99 year lease with the Trustees stipulating the types of property and building materials that had to be used. The ground rent that was collected was then distributed amongst the poor sick and needy of Radcliffe. At the time of the sale £24 per annum was being generated.

In 1880 a governing body of Trustees was appointed comprising of 9 persons, which it still is today, all must be residents of Radcliffe or work in Radcliffe, one of them might be your friend or your neighbour, their names are all listed on The Charity Commission website.

It was decided in 1881 that education was to become a priority of the charity and monetary prizes awarded for attendance, maintenance of the school and evening classes, the charity today still make donations to the Radcliffe schools.

The main purpose was, and still is, that of helping the poor, sick and needy as its founder would have wished.

During the mid 1890s a "dole" of 10 shillings was given to 100-150 residents to assist with living conditions.

In 1967 the freeholds of the properties on Bingham road were sold and the money invested. From the original £10 that Jefferey Limmer passed to Radcliffe , the money today is worth in excess of half a million pounds , from which only the annual interest can be distributed , it remains invested with the charities' official investment fund COIF .

The charity continues to this day to distribute funds to the needy of the village.

The annual report of how the money has been spent is always given at the annual Parish Meeting.

The trustees are always interested to learn of anyone who is in need and may benefit from a helping hand. The initial information you are asked to supply by email is name, address and contact number to anna.chandler@freeths.co.uk.