# A brief history of THE BYFLEET UNITED CHARITY

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Based on archive material researched by Ken Mears

#### INTRODUCTION

For the past 100 years Byfleet United Charity has been serving the people of Byfleet and West Byfleet, but in fact its roots reach far further into the history of the two villages.

Back in 1905, the Charity Commissioners reorganised five local charities, amalgamating them under the title of The United Charities of Byfleet. The Lady Magdalen Bruce's Charity was created in 1635 for "the relief and comfort of the honest poor painful people, and such as were past labour." The Poor's Land Charity originated from the Byfleet and Weybridge Enclosure Act of 1811 that allocated certain common and wasteland for the benefit of the poor. The George Poulton Charity was created through his will, proved in 1878. Henry Smith's Charity gave the people of the Ancient Parish of Byfleet a share of a legacy of this remarkable 17<sup>th</sup> century Alderman. The Raper Charity for the Poor arose from a Determination Order made by the Charity Commission in 1904.

In addition to the original five, in 1921 a Trust was formed with a gift donated by Mr F C Stoop of West Hall "for the benefit of the needy aged people of Byfleet and West Byfleet". The gift was a mark of his gratitude for the end of the First World War and for the safe return of his sons and sons-in-law, all of whom served in the war.

These six charities then formed the basis of the Byfleet United Charity we know today, and the task is basically the same: working for the "poor and needy" of the Ancient Parish of Byfleet. This Ancient Parish extends slightly beyond the villages of Byfleet and West Byfleet, to include part of Brooklands Road in Weybridge, and part of Sheerwater, nearest West Byfleet.

Mr. F C Stoop Charity Trustee 1905 to 1933

The Trustees who administer the Charity give individual grants to people in need,

along with Community Grants given to organisations and schools who support people living in the Ancient Parish. The Charity also provide free-of-charge Carelines, an emergency call system administered by Woking Borough Council. People need help in many ways – some need help to pay gas or electricity bills, others need clothing for the children, help with nursery fees or to replace a cooker, fridge or washing machine.

In recent years, the Charity has been granting money to other organisations and charities working in the same area of benefit. For example, grants have been given to Byfleet Community Action, Byfleet Citizens Advice, Woking Furniture Project, and Byfleet Foodbank as well as to local schools to help with the cost of school trips for families in need.

Recent development of Byfleet United Charity land in West Byfleet centres on Camphill Industrial Estate and the sheltered housing at Stoop Court and Lindley House. The foundation stone of Stoop Court was laid in May 1986. Stoop Court also contains the administrative offices of Byfleet United Charity. In April 1995, the Lindley House annexe – named after the then Chairman of Trustees, Captain J W G Lindley RN – was officially opened.

The Charity's land holdings include school playing fields, allotments, part of Byfleet Recreation Ground, the Camphill Industrial Estate and wasteland behind it, and land occupied by the Camphill Club, Scouts Association, Stoop Court and Lindley House. The Charity's main sources of income are rents from its land holdings plus income from investments.



Byfleet in Edwardian times - The Village Hall and schools

In the coming pages you will read the fascinating history of a local charity that is still an important part of the life of the Byfleet Villages today. Take a journey back in time to the days when the Charity was widely known for its provision of coal to the needy and when grants included £1 for a new set of teeth! Delve into the history of the various parcels of land that make up the Charity's holdings and find out how the changing vision of Trustees has shaped Byfleet United Charity during the past 100 years and is continuing to shape it to serve today's changing, but still very real needs.

# **AN UMBRELLA CHARITY**

At the beginning of the twentieth century the poor of the Ancient Parish of Byfleet were receiving benefits, mainly in the form of coal and money, from five local charities. When the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales examined the accounts and activities of these charities, they concluded that there was considerable overlapping of benefits, and that these benefits were being spread too wide. The Commissioners felt that the funds could be better managed, and the needlest families better served, by the amalgamation of the charities and the appointment of one set of Trustees to administer their combined assets.

The assets consisted of parcels of land in present-day Byfleet and West Byfleet, various investments, and part of the income from an estate in Sussex. Most of the land was held by the Poor's Land charity. This was land that had been enclosed in 1811, under the Byfleet and Weybridge Enclosure Act, to provide the poor with common land. The Charity of Lady Magdalen Bruce held a few acres of agricultural land for the use of the poor in general, as requested in a will dating from 1635. The Charity of Henry Smith provided income for the poor in Byfleet from a three-fiftieth part of the net income of the Eastbrooke Estate in Sussex, as requested in the 1627 legacy of a remarkable benefactor, Alderman Henry Smith, bequeathed gifts to the poor not just in Byfleet but across Britain. In addition, investments, in the form of consols (government stock paying a fixed amount of interest), were held by the Charity of George Poulton, Raper's Charity for the Poor and the Charity of Lady Magdalen Bruce.

The five charities agreed to amalgamate and on 6 October 1905 the new, umbrella charity, The United Charities of Byfleet, was established. In time, it was known locally as the BUC and in 1989 the Trustees decided to alter the charity's name to The Byfleet United Charity, the local name thus becoming a true acronym.

The first meeting of the BUC Trustees took place on 22 December 1905 in Byfleet Village Hall. There were six Trustees, including the Rev. G E Money, Rector of Byfleet, who was an ex-officio appointment. Mr G Barron Holroyd,

'one of the churchwardens at Byfleet', was elected Chairman. Mr Charles Muggleton was elected Clerk on an annual salary of £5 – a sum that indicated he would be expected to fit in his clerking in his spare time.

## **LANDS**

# West Byfleet, 1905-1960

In 1905, the ancient parish of Byfleet included much of present-day West Byfleet. The largest parcel of land listed in the 1905 *Schedule of Property of the United Charities of Byfleet* was a 34-acre plot in West Byfleet, between Parvis Road to the south, Camphill Road to the west and the Rive Ditch, which runs along the south bank of present-day Basingstoke Canal, to the north. It was bounded to the east by present-day Dartnell Park. In the schedule, this area is referred to as 'Camp Hill, Byfleet' and was a mixture of agricultural land and allotments. Chertsey Rural District Council owned land further along the Rive Ditch, which they were using as a tip in 1905, and the 1905 schedule shows that the Council rented just under four acres of adjoining BUC land as a depot for their dust carts.

This substantial piece of land was originally Poor's Land and therefore subject to the restriction that, as a general rule, it could not be sold by the Trustees – the only permitted transactions were exchanges of land. Thus, in 1909, when land was wanted for the expansion of St John's Church at the south-west corner of Camp Hill, the Trustees agreed to transfer half an acre to the Church in exchange for nearly one acre in Chertsey Road, Byfleet. This was the start of a series of transactions by the Trustees that led to an altered BUC property list, both in West Byfleet and Byfleet and helped provide for the poor of the Ancient Parish.

Highlights of these transactions in West Byfleet include two transactions between 1911 and 1913. In the first, the BUC gave two acres of Camp Hill land to the Surrey Education Committee to build an elementary school – the present-day West Byfleet First School. In exchange, the BUC received two fields (about 15 acres in total) of ex-glebe land in Byfleet Village on the site of the present-day Recreation Ground, and a payment of £236 which was invested. In the second, the BUC parted with about 12 acres of Camp Hill to Mr C E N Charrington of Broadoaks and Mr F C Stoop who paid a lump sum of £630 to the charity 'in lieu of rent' and then transferred the land to the Recreation Ground Charity, so that it could be used as a public recreation ground. West Byfleet Recreation Ground was not formally opened until 1921 as the land was required to grow vegetables during the First World War.

In 1920, the Trustees agreed to lease out a further one acre of BUC land north of the railway line to Chertsey Rural District Council, which they used to extend their depot and for the erection of a mortuary. The mortuary was extended in 1930. In 1937 the Council, which had by then become the Woking Urban District Council, relinquished the mortuary and transferred the remaining lease of the site on to an organisation called the Byfleet Parish Day for use as a store. During the Second World War the Ministry of Food requisitioned the building so that it could be used as a food store.

After the war, the building lay empty for a brief period. Then three friends set up a toy making workshop on the premises and in 1946 it was renamed Bridge House. In 1949 new tenants, a firm of local builders, moved in and had to deal with a demand from the Southern Railway for ten shillings yearly rent for light and air, as some of the windows overlooked the railway. It is not recorded whether the tenants paid up! In the 1960s, the building firm was permitted to use BUC land adjoining Bridge House as a builder's yard.

During this period, there had been considerable activity on the Camp Hill land south of the railway. Allotments were an important part of the life of the cottagers, as the residents of Byfleet were known at that time. In 1917 the Parish Council leased more BUC land at Camp Hill to add to the existing acreage of allotments (about 2 acres on the 1905 Schedule) which form the kernel of the present-day stretch of allotments behind Stoop Court. Although allotments continued to be a valuable resource for the cottagers, individual plots gradually reduced in size, starting in 1934 when a West Byfleet allotment holder asked for permission to share a plot with a neighbour, as he could not manage a full plot on his own.

Rough ground was in demand too. In 1920 the West Byfleet Ex-Servicemen's Mutual Aid Society rented a plot of rough ground, adjacent to present-day Camphill Road, where they built a club room and entertainment room. The Girl Guides followed suit, and built a hut nearby, but they could not afford to keep it up and in 1928 the First West Byfleet Scouts took over their land and hut, plus another strip of adjoining land. Both these buildings were extended during the 1930s. In 1946, the Byfleet Red Cross Society rented a hut next to the Ex-Servicemen's Club, which they used until the late 1980s and in 1947 the British Legion took over the nearby Ex-Servicemen's club.

By the mid-1940s, the West Byfleet Elementary School needed to expand and the Surrey County Council made an offer of a cash settlement, plus over 3 acres of land on the north-west side of the railway, in exchange for some BUC Camp Hill land. It took many months for the details of the deal to be ironed out, but in 1949 the Trustees formally agreed to lease an L-shaped piece of land of about 2.5 acres, on which the Council proposed to build prefabricated

classrooms. In return, the BUC received a lump sum of £1,625 (which was used to purchase British Electricity stock), a right of way to Scotland Bridge, and a triangular piece of land of about 3.75 acres south-east of the railway, next to the council depot.



Byfleet in Edwardian times – the Blue Anchor

# Byfleet, 1905-1960

The BUC started with about 10 acres of land in Byfleet village, an area behind St Mary's School (present-day St Mary's Day Centre) was used for allotments, and four other pieces of agricultural land, off Rectory Lane, off Brewery Lane, and two pieces in the Common Meadow (one called Bennett's Corner)

In 1917 the Byfleet Parish Council took the lease on the two fields of BUC land, stretching between Rectory Lane and Brewery Lane, to be used as allotments. At this period, the charity's rules dictated that allotment holders should be 'those of the labouring class of certain age'. However, when the Parish Council applied to the BUC to use part of the allotments behind St Mary's School as a school garden, the Trustees agreed to change the terms of the lease and allowed the children to have their garden. They also agreed to sell half an acre of the Brewery Lane plot to Chertsey Rural District Council for use as a pumping station for a new sewage scheme, on the basis that the improvements

in the sewage system would benefit the whole community. In 1931, also with the welfare of the community in mind, Trustees gave permission to the Central Electricity Board to lay a cable across BUC land and in 1935 to set one foot of a large pylon on BUC land at the Recreation Ground, for which the BUC received eight pence rent per annum.

In 1923 the parcel of land in Common Meadow was bought by Hugh Locke-King, of Brooklands fame, with £50 of consols.

Part of the BUC's ex-Glebe Land, which it had received in exchange for land in West Byfleet, was transferred to Woking UDC in 1936, to be used as a recreation ground for the people of Byfleet. The BUC received £500, which they invested in war stock.

As also mentioned earlier, in 1909 the BUC had received other land in Byfleet (Chertsey Road) in an exchange with St John's Church. This was used for allotments which, like those at Camp Hill, were divided into smaller plots during the 1930s. In 1949 the Chertsey Road allotment holders asked for mains water to be laid on, but as the Trustees only received five shillings per annum for each allotment, they felt they could not afford to provide this service.

Later the allotment holders at Brewery Lane lost their allotments in 1952 when the Trustees agreed to sell both parcels of BUC land, stretching from Brewery Lane to Rectory Lane, to Woking Urban District Council for housing. The £745 paid by the Council was invested in British Electricity stock.

# West Byfleet 1960 to the present day

The recent development of BUC land in West Byfleet centres principally on two areas: Camphill Industrial Estate and Stoop Court.

Present-day Camphill Industrial Estate began to take shape in 1972, when Woking UDC gave up the lease of their depot which faced on to Camphill Road. New boundaries, enclosing 5.1 acres of BUC land, were drawn up; the site was fenced; services were laid on; and 60-year leases, with break clauses at 10-year intervals, were taken up in 1976. A typical rent at this period was £2,400 per annum.

At the end of the 1980s, the Trustees agreed to draw up plans for the development of the back part of the estate, furthest from the road, but the planning authority turned it down. An offer of £1.4 million was made for the whole estate by a developer but this was not accepted. In the early 1990s the Trustees turned their attention to improving the general appearance of the estate: a path was laid from the nearby bus stop to the estate; the grounds

were landscaped; the footpath in front of the estate was completed. Meanwhile, various landlord/tenant problems arose: a company in liquidation; a boundary dispute between two plots; rent disputes; vandalism. The rents from the estate, however, continue to benefit the wider community. An average rent in 2004 was £17,500 per annum.

The benefit of providing almshouses for the older members of the community had long been recognised by BUC Trustees. As early as 1910, they had obtained Charity Commission approval to build 'small cottages on Poor's Land'. Rejecting Camp Hill as a suitable site 'on account of its quiet and remoteness from the village', they had drawn up plans for four cottages on land in Chertsey Road, Byfleet. But the First World War intervened, and it was not until 1977 that they returned to the challenge.

This time, Camp Hill was no longer considered remote, and a service road was built behind the Camphill Club (previously the Ex-Servicemen's Club). But it took several more years to get approval for the erection of eighteen almshouses, incorporated into a single, communal building, which were to be administered by a separate charity, the Poor's Land Almshouse Trust. The BUC funded the building and BUC Trustees became the Trustees of the new charity.

The foundation stone of this building, which was called Stoop Court after the parish's great benefactors Frederick Stoop and his wife, was laid on 23 May 1986. The following summer Stoop Court's first warden, Mrs Maureen Land welcomed the new residents who immediately reaped the benefits of this kind of sheltered accommodation which provided independent living yet with access to communal rooms, activities and gardens, and the security of a permanent warden.



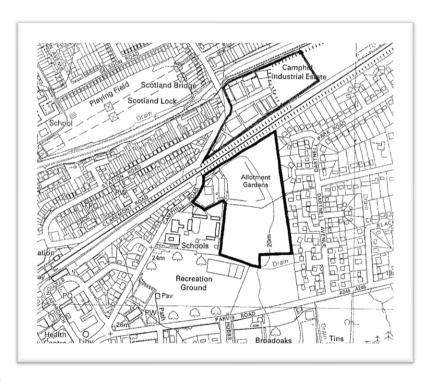
Chairman of the Trustees Mr H S Cawsey, lays the foundation stone for Stoop Court in May 1986

The Trustees soon realised that there was a pressing need to increase accommodation the Stoop Court. They got permission to sell investments to fund this and built an annexe on land previously leased by the British Red Cross to the north of Stoop Court. A sum of about £450,000 spent on was construction and on 21 April 1995 Lindley House, after named BUC Chairman, Captain J.W.G. Lindley RN, was officially opened by Lady June Onslow, adding six units to the existing eighteen.

The BUC's present-day lands in West Byfleet include 6.75 acres of school playing fields, 6.1 acres of allotments, 5.1 occupied acres Camphill Industrial Estate, and 3.4 acres of wasteland behind the industrial estate. There is also around threequarters of an acre occupied by the Camphill Club and the **Scouts** Association and just over half an acre occupied by Stoop Court and Lindley House.



Lady June Onslow officially opens Lindley House in April 1995. She is pictured with charity chairman Captain J.W.G. Lindley R.N.



Byfleet United Charity land in West Byfleet

# Byfleet 1960 to the present day

In 1962, the land at Bennett's Corner was sold to Woking UDC for housing. Ten years later the BUC received £54,100 plus 2.85 acres in West Byfleet from the Council for two plots of BUC lands in Byfleet - the allotments at Chertsey Road and those behind St Mary's School.

The construction of the M25 motorway in the late 1970s led to the compulsory purchase of about 3.5 acres of BUC Recreation Ground land by the Department of Transport, for an agreed sum of £20,000. This money was sent to the Official Custodian for Charitable Investments.

Thus, the only remaining BUC land in present-day Byfleet is a 5.6-acre section of the Recreation Ground, leased to Woking Borough Council.

#### PROVIDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

# Coal

In the early years, the BUC was widely known locally for its provision of coal to the needy. Many families had come to depend on the deliveries of coal made by the original charities, and the Trustees of the BUC continued this practice, though initially they selected only 26 out of 111 households on the coal list to receive half a ton of coal each.

A deputation from the village, backed by the parish council, asked the Trustees to consider a wider distribution of coal, with less to be spent on pensions. As a result, by 1909 some 63 households were receiving extra coal from the BUC and the numbers only changed slightly in subsequent years. If people's circumstances improved, they were dropped from the list and sometimes families were considered 'undeserving' – possibly from a moral point of view.

In 1951 coal was no longer allocated by weight: money vouchers were offered instead. Gradually these money vouchers were used for other purposes. For example, in 1966 the BUC handed out 88 money vouchers, valued at thirty-five shillings each; 52 of these were used for coal, 23 for food and 9 for other needs. By 1980 coal was clearly no longer such a necessity. Instead, 107 Christmas vouchers to the value of £10 were distributed, mainly to pensioners. The pensioners' general needs were reflected further when, in 1989, the Trustees decided to give all pensioners a one-off £20 Christmas gift. In 1991 they established a regular £10 Christmas bonus for pensioners, which was raised to £15 in 1997.

#### **Pensions**

From the foundation of the BUC in 1905, a certain number of people were receiving a regular pension from the charity. The majority of the first recipients got five shillings a week (about £30 in today's money). When the national Old Age Pension was introduced in 1909, for those of 70 years and over, the Trustees had to ensure that the weekly amount they provided did not have the adverse effect of reducing the pensioner's national pension.

From 1918, the poor of the parish had access to another pension: the Byfleet Pension Fund or Stoop's Pension as it was called locally. This was formed by a gift of £5000 donated by Mr F.C. Stoop of West Hall for the benefit of needy aged people of Byfleet and West Byfleet. It was given 'as some indication of his gratitude for the happy termination of the First World War and for the preservation of the lives of his sons and sons-in-law, all of whom served in the war in which so many valuable lives were sacrificed.' Although not legally forming part of the BUC, this fund was administered, according to Mr Stoop's wishes, by the BUC's Trustees. Finally, in 1996 the Byfleet Pension Fund was formally amalgamated with the BUC.

For many years the pensions were hand-delivered by the BUC's clerk, but when because of ill health, he could not continue to do so they were sent out by postal order. In the twenties the village postmaster agreed to pay them, so pensioners could collect the BUC pension along with their OAP.

During the Depression years, the Trustees decided that they could not afford to pay out more than £200 per annum in pensions and that the number of recipients - 17 in the early thirties - would have to be reduced. The introduction of the government's Widows' Pension Scheme in 1937 gave relief to some of the BUC's most needy pensioners and by the early 1940s the maximum paid out by the BUC was seven shillings and sixpence per week.

At various times certain Trustees expressed concern that by paying pensions to younger pensioners, they were discouraging them from working when this might be a better option. However, the BUC policy has generally been that the charity's role is to help those in need.

In recent years the Charity has assisted a growing number of young people in need. Trustees decided that the term 'short-term support' was more appropriate for beneficiaries aged under 60, as it was hoped that their circumstances might improve in time.

Pensions and short-term support continued to be a vital part of the BUC's work

in Byfleet and West Byfleet. An average of 210 pensions and short-term support were paid out each month in 2004, about a quarter to younger beneficiaries. An increase to £86 per calendar month was agreed in 1998, to take into account of expenses such as gardening and cleaning. With increases in the state pension and the introduction of pension credit, a number of elderly pensioners no longer qualified for the Charity's full pension and Trustees therefore introduced a policy of paying partial pensions where appropriate to ease the change-over.

# Financial help

The third area of practical help was money, which was given for a wide range of needs, from one-off payments to weekly amounts for a limited period of time. The charity's Scheme (legal document saying what the Charity can and cannot do) allowed the Trustees to give 'temporary relief in money' and so, throughout the BUC's history, requests have been made and, with a few exceptions, granted to many individuals and, more recently, to other local charities.

During the early years, there was a wide range of needs, many of which were later provided by the welfare state, particularly the NHS. Examples of early grants included two shillings and sixpence a week to help a county scholarship boy stay at school. £1 was given for a new set of teeth for a girl in poor health because she could not chew her food; and two guineas for a set of teeth for a 16-year-old-girl who had been saving for eight months to buy them. The Charity gave £5 to send children to Weybridge Curative Trusts for orthopaedic or sunlight treatment and there were grants for new spectacles and medicinal brandy.

After the Second World War, the Trustees continued to make one-off payments, such as a season ticket to Waterloo for someone who had to attend a London hospital for several weeks and fares to Roehampton for a man who needed a new artificial limb. There was then a gap of about fourteen years when funds were short, and no payments were made. However, in the late 1960s individual grants were again given for a range of needs, from funeral expenses, school uniform, extra heating, to a contribution towards a holiday for two. In 1980, when the Trustees were asked to help with the proposed new St. Mary's Centre for the Community, they felt that the terms of the BUC scheme did not allow them to make capital grants. This caused considerable disappointment locally, and it was not until almost twenty years later that the BUC found itself in a position to give this kind of help.

However, individual payments started up again in earnest towards the end of the eighties to help pay for a wide range of goods and services, from equipment such as telephones, televisions, washing machines, boilers and vacuum cleaners to gas, water and electricity bills. Disabled people were helped with specialist equipment; educational costs were paid for school field trips, adult literacy classes, university fees and books. These, and other more unusual items such as payment for the removal of a wasp nest and a cake for a pensioner's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, are all noted down in the BUC's minute books. Today, grants to individuals and families continue to form a significant part of the Charity's work. Grants for items such as kitchen equipment and clothing and help with utility bills and nursery fees are regularly given. In partnership with Woking Borough Council, the Charity also provides Carelines free of charge to qualifying residents.

Over the years, donations were also made to organisations such as the Byfleet Good Companions Club and the West Byfleet Evergreen Club and a £3,000 grant was made to Woking Council for a laundry in Shires House (Councilowned sheltered accommodation in Byfleet). Similar grants are still made today, and recent beneficiaries include Woking Hospice, Byfleet Community Action, Woking Community Furniture Project and Crossroads.

# **FUNDS**

At its inception in 1905, the BUC received income from three sources: rents from the lands it owned, income from investments it had acquired and income from the Smith Charity. In the early days of the charity, the contribution from the Smith Charity accounted for over twenty percent of the BUC's annual income, but by 1997, although the contribution had increased 400-fold to £1,380, it no longer represented a sizeable portion of the total income.

Today, rents account for the greatest part of the BUC's income. In 1905 rents brought in about £43 per annum. By the Second World War, this figure had risen to £100. The establishment of the Camphill Industrial Estate marked a dramatic increase in the annual figure to £2,000. By 1997 rents were providing the charity with £180,000 per annum. In 2019 this has risen to £227,559.

The BUC's third source of funds - income from investments - added just over £40 to their coffers in 1905. The investments consisted of over £1,600 in consols. In the early years, the Trustees kept almost all their investments in consols, even though the income dipped during the First World War. When Mr Percy Matcham made a gift of £20 in 1942, Trustees again purchased consols. But as investment rules were eased during the sixties, the Trustees gradually widened their investment base. Dividend income rose from £570 in 1965 to £9503 in 1985. In 1988 the Trustees took professional advice from investment advisors Fincare and by the nineties the charity had holdings in many major UK companies, including Sainsbury, Glaxo, ICI and BT, as well as treasury stock. By 1997, dividend income had reached £68,620. However, in 2001 the whole portfolio, apart from Treasury Stock, was transferred to a recommended charities investment fund (COIF).

#### RECENT HISTORY

In 1989 the BUC's scheme was revised, its name was formally changed to The Byfleet United Charity. Since 1997, the administration has been handled from the BUC office in Stoop Court.

A major review of BUC aims took place in the late nineties. In consultation with the Charity Commission, it was agreed that the scheme could be interpreted in a more expansive way and so the Trustees could now sanction the payment of capital sums to charities with the same basic aim: to help people in need. The Trustees, led by then-chairman Mrs Pat Acheson, welcomed this 'stride forward' which enabled immediate payments including £2,000 to Byfleet Community Action and £1,400 to St Mary's Primary School.

Further payments of £10,000 to Woking Hospice, £10,000 to the Critical Care Unit at St Peter's Hospital, £5,000 to the Crescent Project and £1,000 to the Alzheimer's disease Society have since been made. In 2004 work began on refurbishment to Byfleet Village Hall with the help of a grant from BUC.



In December 1994, the charity Chairman Capt. John Lindley RN presented a cheque for £50,000 to the Woking Mayor, Mr Rhod Lofting, for his Woking Hospice Trust appeal.

#### **POSTSCRIPT 2015**

In 2012 Stoop Court marked twenty-five years since being opened at the same time as HM Queen Elizabeth celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, an event suitably noted by festivities. The passage of time has also meant redecorations, new equipment and repairs as well as improvements like double glazing and solar panels.



Celebration of Stoop Court Silver Anniversary May 2012 with Mayor Michael Smith and Mayoress Anne Murray (courtesy Surrey Advertiser)

Rear row from left to right: Trustee BUC Mr. Ken Mears, Guest Mr. William Seymour (Chairman of Abbeyfield Ewell), Trustee BUC Mrs. Joan Mackintosh, Chairman of Trustees BUC Mr. Tony Thompson, resident Mr. John Watts, Cleaner Ms Michelle Marr, Mayor Cllr. Michael Smith and Mayoress Cllr. Anne Murray, Mrs Valerie O'Neill Assistant to Almshouse Manager, Caterer Ms Katy Pamboulos, Trustee BUC Rev'd. Alan Elkins and his wife Rev'd Joy Elkins.

**Front row from left to right**: - Residents Mrs. Sue Jackson, Mrs. Sheila Norsworthy, Mrs. Cath Boland, Mrs. Betty Hill, Mrs. Jean Kocsis, Almshouse Manager Mrs. Sue Curry and resident Mrs. Maureen Spear





Solar Panels on Stoop Court roof installed for power generation in 2015.

Inevitably there have been a number of changes among the Trustees and these are shown in the revised Appendix. In 2023 Mr A. Grimshaw took over the chairmanship from Mr T. Thompson who had served as Chairman since 2012.

Since 2020, several small but significant changes have occurred. Byfleet now has a Foodbank and a weekly outreach Citizens Advice. The charity provides Community Grants to organisations like these who provide sources of help and support to our community.

A new, modern website and grant programme has allowed us to reach out to and help more people than ever before. A more targeted approach to individual grants helps to recognise other needs rather than just financial.

The Trustees under their present Chairman Mr Grimshaw are determined to continue, through these varied means, to provide 'relief of need' in the Ancient Parish of Byfleet.



#### **APPENDIX – TRUSTEES OF BYFLEET UNITED CHARITY (1905 TO 2025)**

Rev'd G E Money Mr G B Holroyd	1905 to 1917 1905 to 1922	Mr D Thornton Ms V J Cresswell	1988 to 1992 1989 to 1991
Mr F C Stoop	1905 to 1922	Rev'd L S Smith	1989 to 2002
Mr J E Fitzwater	1905 to 1905	Mrs P Acheson	1991 to 2003
Mr J Bury	1905 to 1916	Mrs J P Mackintosh	1991 to 2019
Mrs A Howell	1905 to 1930	Mr D M Forsyth	1991 to 1999
Mr F Littleboy	1916 to 1933	Mr B F Smith	1992 to 2004
Rev'd H V Johnson	1917 to 1927	Rev'd R D Trumper	1993 to 2005
Rev'd R S Morris	1918 to 1947	Mrs M K Henderson	1996 to 2001
Miss D Egerton	1922 to 1958	Mr R Millar	1999 to 2004
Rev'd L R Hancock	1927 to 1931	Mr K Mears	2002 to 2022
Mr V Howell	1930 to 1934	Rev'd A B Elkins	2003 to 2014
Rev'd F J Cheverton	1931 to 1938	Mr D Rolfe	2004 to 2010
Sir J Maclure	1933 to 1938	Mr R M Barker	2004 to 2018
Mr H S Cawsey MBE JP	1934 to 1988	Mrs A M Daly	2005 to 2014
Mrs V Burnett/Cheverton	1934 to 1938	Rev'd Dr J H McCabe	2006 to 2024
Rev'd W C Wake	1938 to 1953	Mr T J Thompson	2006 to 2022
Mrs A R Bury	1938 to 1954	Mr P R Land	2010 to 2015
Mr G J Bruzaud MBE	1939 to 1969	Mr B Shelbourne	2012 to 2013
Rev'd E R Hougham	1947 to 1950	Mr M Brown	2014 to 2015
Rev'd A J Costin	1950 to 1972	Rev'd C Hollingshurst	2014 to 2020
Rev'd G E Meek	1953 to 1959	Mr A Grimshaw	2015 to present
Mrs E M Derisley	1954 to 1984	Mrs J M Haines	2015 to 2023
Miss M P Hovenden	1958 to 1963	Ms S J Ogley	2016 to 2019
Rev'd H F Jones	1959 to 1978	Mr N Bradshaw	2018 to present
Mr G Mears	1963 to 1968	Mrs. Claude-May Heath	2019 to present
Mrs N S Bradley	1969 to 1979	Rev'd K Elford	2021 to present
Miss A W P Bruzaud	1969 to 1975	Mrs R. Haddow	2021 to present
Rev'd J A M Jenkins	1973 to 1989	Ms. A. Boote	2022 to present
Miss M F Renton	1975 to 1991	Mr G Jones	2023 to present
Rev'd J M Stevenette	1978 to 1986	Mrs P Atkins	2023 to present
Mr R Summers	1979 to 1992	Mr G Doogan	2024 to present
Cpt J W G Lindley RN	1985 to 1996	Mr R Davidson	2024 to present
Rev'd J V M Kirkby	1986 to 1993		

The original booklet was published in time for the centenary celebrations which took the form of a service led by the Rev'd Alan Elkins, the Vicar of St John's followed by tea at Stoop Court for invited guests, residents, staff and Trustees. Mrs Mackintosh said the charity was honoured by the presence of the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Woking and Mr. Humfrey Malins MP. Mr Malins unveiled the centenary plaque at the entrance to Stoop Court and as part of the celebration the charity also donated two items of equipment to the West Byfleet Health Centre. –The centenary plaque has since become the logo for the charity.

This booklet was augmented and republished in 2015 to mark 110 years of the work of The Byfleet United Charity