

THE BASLOW CHARITIES

&

STANTON FORD SCHOOL

A HISTORY

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Stanton Ford is centre bottom in valley. Curbar Gap is at the top of the picture

1. INTRODUCTION

Summary

The Baslow Charities and the Stanton Ford Charity School both originate in the 17th century. The article describes the progress of both until 1889 when the school closed and the charities were reorganised by the Charity commissioners.

It continues to describe the new scheme, its assets and its beneficiaries, and how all the lands were subsequently sold and invested in government bonds.

In 1994 the Charity Commissioners “disinvested” with a significant short and long term loss to the Charities. The value of the assets and interest received over the years is discussed and the effect of inflation considered. There follows a table of payments actually made to the beneficiaries since 1827.

Finally there is a description of the investments today, and a note on the role of the Trustees.

At the end there is a copy of the 2009 annual report, with details of Charity Commission numbers etc. and a transcription of the three Charity Boards in the church.

Baslow Village

Baslow is a village in the Derwent Valley in the Derbyshire Peak District. The population including the hamlet of Bubnell has varied around 1000 over the last few centuries. Curbar and Froggatt, villages to the north, were both part of the original Chapelry of Baslow in the parish of Bakewell. Baslow and Curbar both became parishes in their own right in 1860. The Manners family, the Dukes of Rutland, have been Lords of the Manor.

It has always been an agricultural village, though in the Middle Ages it produced millstones, had a coal mine and supported several lead smelting sites all of which contributed significantly to the wealth of the village especially in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Because of its relatively easy access over the hills to the east it has been and is on a main traffic route. Its pleasant scenery and good communications lead to its development in the 1900s as a tourist centre. It remains a prosperous commuter village, benefiting from the presence of nearby-by Chatsworth, the residence of the Dukes of Devonshire.

2. THE ORIGINAL CHARITIES

The village is fortunate in having details of charitable donations between 1680 and 1720. Many are listed on the Charity Boards erected in the St Anne’s church in 1720 (at a cost of 2s 6d). The two original boards are still on the west wall high up in a dark corner opposite the main entrance. Other information comes from contemporary wills, and yet more details are in the Parish records. In each case money or land was left in varying proportions to the Curate, to the Poor and to the School. There is a third Board nearby, listing later donations.

Some of the charities have survived over the centuries. The history of several is described below. Extracts from the Charity Boards (in italics) are followed by further comment.

SAMUEL WHITE senior and SAMUEL WHITE junior gave 3 Pound the interest to be given to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell yearly for ever upon the 24 of December, and the said Samuel White junior gave to the school of Baslow 2 Pound 10 Shil the interest to be paid to the Schoolmaster for the education of some poor child in Baslow and Bubnell for ever.

The Baslow Whites lived at Church Farm just opposite the main entrance to the church. Samuel White jun. died in 1684, a year before his father, and is the earliest local record confirming the presence of a school in the village. There is a longer entry in the vestry book,

and the wills of both men confirm the details. The money was left in the hands of executors. There are few further records of this donation and none confirming actual payment of the money. Sooner or later, the money got lost!!

HUMPHREY CHAPMAN of Baslow gave by his will all his copyhold land in Heathcott within the Manor of Hartington the rents thereof to be viz: to the curat for Preaching the anniversary Sermon on the 5 day of November 10 shil and to the schoolmaster 20 shil and to the poor in Baslow and Bubnell 10 shil and to the poor in Calver Corbar and Froggott 10 shil on the said day by his Trustees for ever.

This gift was know over the years as the Hartington Lands or the Chapman Charity. The rent, then amounting to £2 a year was divided between the school (2/5), the curate(1/5) and the poor (1/5) and the poor of Curbar, Calver and Froggatt (1/5). The income from this capital has been distributed in the same proportions ever since. The sermon continued for a while, but was long forgotten by 1827.

GEORGE WHITE of Bubnell gave by his will 3 Pound a year in land lying in Pilsley, the rent thereof to be paid viz: 10 Shil to the curate 10 Shil to the schoolmaster and 10 Shil to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell at White-Suntide and 10 Shil to the Curat 10 Shil to the Schoolmaster and 10 Shil to the said poor on the 5 of November for ever.

George White, a member of a prominent Bubnell family gave to the Poor, the Curate and the Schoolmaster on his death in 1694. Fortunately it was in land. Land has a permanence about it, a security and a legal tradition which protects it from disappearance, intentional or otherwise in the hands of trustees. Like the Hartington Lands (The Chapman Charity) above, this charity has survived.

MARGARET WHITE gave by her Will 20 Pound the Interest to be paid on the 24 December 10 Shil to the Curat and 10 Shil to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell for ever

Margaret was probably the wife of George White above. There are several entries in the records about this bequest partly because of legislation for the welfare of the poor.. According to the return for the Charities for the Poor Act of 1786, the Overseer (of the Poor) had £12 10s 0d from which 10/- was paid annually to the poor. Possibly the balance was paid to the curate. It is specifically mentioned in the Charity Commission's report of 1827 by when the capital had long been merged with Parish funds. It is easy to appreciate how original bequests in money, even in the care of chapelry officials, can disappear over several generations.

WHESTON LANDS AND TURNPIKE TRUST

In 1762, the Chapelry acquired two further charities. One was a piece of **LAND IN WHESTON** bought for the sum of £60. Half perhaps all of the money came from the from the will of Robert Stafford who died in 1728 leaving money to the curate, school and poor. If it was £30 it is not clear where the extra money came from. There may have been further bequests, or as suggested by the report to the Charity Commissioners in 1827, it may have come from "pecuniary donations stated in the chapel which are not otherwise accounted for".

The other purchase was a Security of £25 on the Turnpike Roads from Manchester to Newhaven, dated 1762 and assigned to the Church, School and Poor. In this paper I have called it **THE TURNPIKE TRUST** though the official name was the Charity for the Minister, School and Poor. Again the origin of the money is not known.

CHARITY COMMISSIONERS IN 1827

The Charities Commissioners visited Baslow in 1827 as part of their national review of Charities. Their report gives an overall view of the four charities in the village at the time. It includes information about the origin of the Charities, the distribution of money and when relevant field names, rents and tenancy agreements. The information confirms and augments the details already available.

The Charities in 1827, with the distribution of income

Charity	Acres or Value	Rent or Income	distribution			
			School	Curate	Poor	other
Hartington Lands	7a 1r 28p	£4 0 0,	2/5	1/5	1/5	1/5
Pilsley Lands	6a 3r 22p	£6 6s 0d,	1/3	1/3	1/3	
Wheston Lands	1a 3r 14p	£4 10s 0d,	1/3	1/3	1/3	
The Turnpike Trust	£25 0s 0d	£1 5s 0d	1/3	1/3	1/3	

The report comments that the charities were supervised by the Overseer of the Poor, who ensured that the income was distributed in the exact proportions specified in the original wills, to the School at Stanton Ford, The Curate, the Poor of Baslow, and the Poor of Curbar Calver & Froggatt (“other” in the table).

Until the end of the century the Overseers Accounts continue to record details of the rent received and payments to the School, Poor and Vicar. The Vestry Book records a spate of activity in 1858. It seems that the number of Trustees had fallen, and an urgent public meeting had to be held for the election of new members. At their first meeting they received an expected report from the Charity Commissioners, as the result of which they agreed that the “Charity Estates be vested in the Official Trustees: also the sum of £25 now in Bakewell Bank”. From this date the Charity Commissioners were responsible for all the charities’ investments.

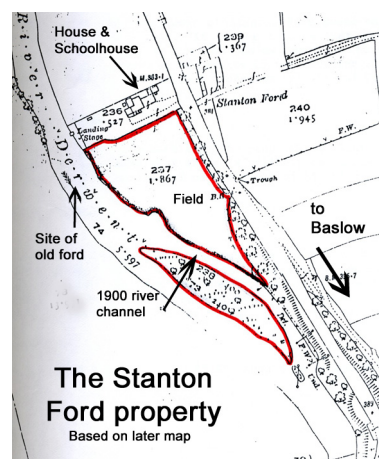
At the same time they took the opportunity to increase the annual rents, Hartington to £6, Pilsley to £10 and Wheston to £5.5.0 each year.

3. STANTON FORD SCHOOL

The Early History

There has been a charity school at Stanton Ford since the mid 1600s, but there is no record of how and exactly when it was founded. Lord Manners, who was Lord of the Manor in Bakewell as well as Baslow, founded Lady Manners School in Bakewell in 1636. Maybe Baslow School started about the same time. It was certainly present in 1651 when the records of Peterhouse College, Cambridge shows that John Gardum from “Baslow School” was a student at the college in that year.¹ The first local reference to a school is in the Will of Sampson White dated 1684, in which he left money to the school.

The school building, possibly the original building itself, is now the garage of Stanton Ford House, very visible from the road from Baslow to Calver just before Cliff College. The property included a garden as at present, and close or field south of the house in the triangle between the school, the road and the river. The diagram shows the property in relation to the road and river.



The Parish records start mentioning the school in 1717 when 4/8 was spent on “hair and lime couching for Church and School”. In 1718 “half a 100 slates” were bought for 3/0 and Wm Dals was paid 5/0 for “mazing and pointing school”. Detail of such minor repairs occur regularly. £9 was spent, mainly on the roof in 1766 and a similar sum in 1776. In 1788 two

¹ The Gardoms were an influential family based at Far End, Baslow who farmed the valley under Gardoms Edge. A branch of the family moved to Bubnell Hall, then to Cliff House which later became Cliff College.

chambers were build over the school for £20. Such fees confirm the close association between the parish and the school.

The Chapelwardens and the Overseer were appointed (or ?reappointed) trustees for the school in 1797, a commitment which included choosing the children to attend. The Overseer paid £1 2s 0d for a Licence for School in 1765. There are frequent subsequent entries for £1.

The first mention of a schoolmaster is in 1753 with the entry "9d spent with schoolmaster". In 1766 a rent of £1 2 0. was received for Ford House. Joseph Barton paid £1 in 1778, and Mr Frances Beets paid annually from 1806 to 1809. William Barker paid £1 in 1816.

Charity commission Report

As stated above, the Charity Commissioners visited Baslow in 1827. Stanton Ford was a charity school and so it received their full attention. Their report quoted below gives a good and indeed the only description of Stanton Ford School.

CHAPELRY OF BASLOW. FORD SCHOOL.

There is a school, known by the name of Ford School, or Stanton Ford School, in the township of Baslow, about half a mile from the village. The building consists of a school-room, with two chambers over it, in which the master resides.

Within a short distance of the school, and adjoining to the River Derwent, there is a small garden, with a field, containing together, about three acres, belonging to the school, but it is not known at what time, or by whom, the school was founded, or the land given. The only document which we have met with, relating to them, is a resolution of the inhabitants of Baslow and Bubnell, assembled in vestry, in 1797, whereby they appointed the chapelwardens and overseers of the poor thereof, trustees for the Stanton Ford School, and the green or greens adjoining and belonging to it, and directed that they should receive 5s. yearly, as a rent, from the master of that school ; and that the minister, chapelwarden and overseer, should appoint children as they should think proper, and that the master should receive 1s. entrance for reading, and 1s. per quarter, for writing.

The schoolmaster is appointed by the inhabitants of the chapelry of Baslow, and is allowed to have possession of the land, on paying 5s. a year to the chapelwarden, as an acknowledgment. The present master, who was thus appointed about two years ago, occupies the garden and underlets the field, which is stated to be worth from 36. to £8. a year. In addition to this rent, he receives £1 12s from Chapman's charity, one-third of the rents of the Wheston lands, hereinafter mentioned, being £1 10s., and one-third of the rents of the Pilsley lands, hereinafter mentioned, being £2. 13s. 4d.

It would seem, that the schoolmaster is also entitled to a third part of the interest of a turnpike security for £25., hereinafter mentioned.

In respect of the emoluments which he receives, he teaches ten children, appointed by the minister and chapelwarden, to read and write, four from the township of Baslow, which includes the hamlet of Bubnell, and six from the other townships in this chapelry, viz. three from Calver, two from Curbar, and one from Froggatt. The school has been repaired by the chapelwardens, but is not now in a good state of repair.

The Late 1800s

There is little further information about the school itself after 1827. In 1836 both the school and the school house were in such a poor state of disrepair that they had to be rebuilt with money kindly provided by the Duke of Rutland. In return the Duke was given the freehold of the school building (only) and the right to appoint the headmaster.

There is no mention of fee paying pupils attending the school, though this is likely to have happened.

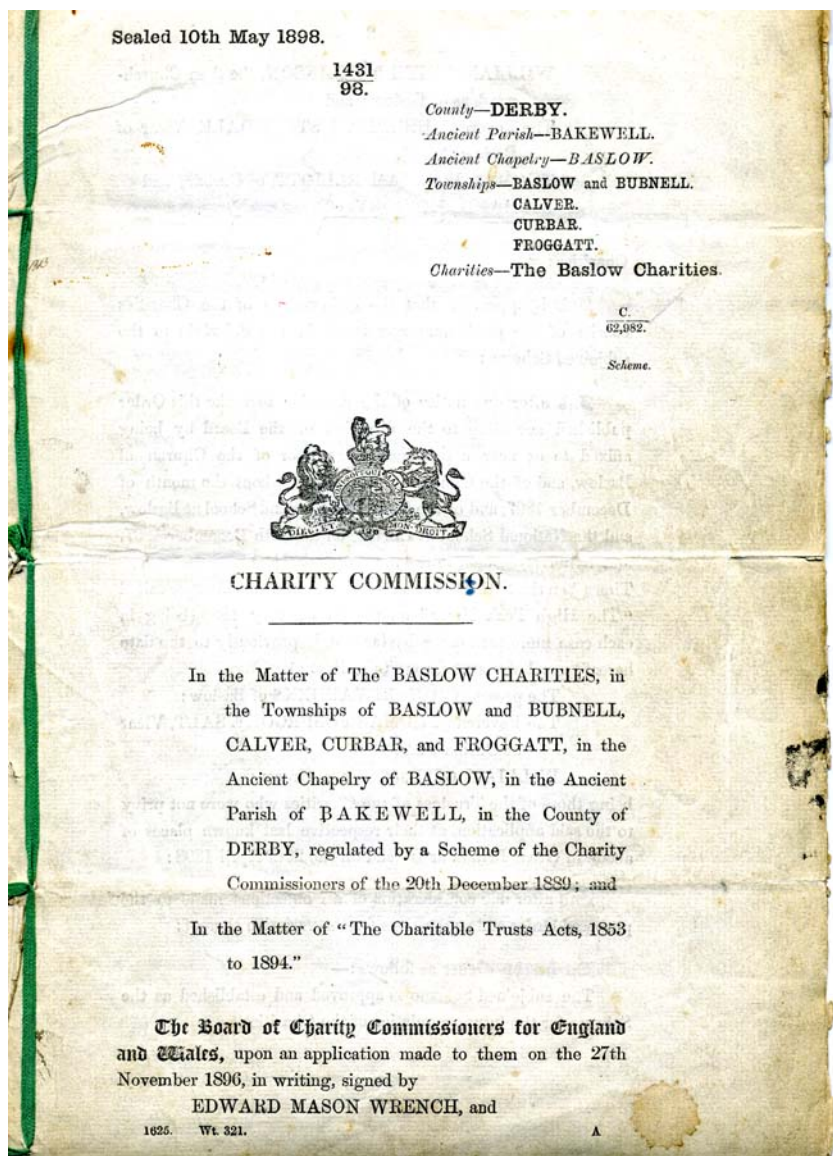
Mr Edward Moore, appointed in 1826, remained headmaster until his death in 1892. Known out of his hearing as 'Old Neddy Moore', he was renowned for his teaching of an excellent

copperplate handwriting, and his stubborn violent temper. In 1835, after some conflict with the trustees, he tendered his resignation, only to be reappointed at a later date. He was often in arrears with his rent: in 1858 he was taken to court and ordered to repay at 5/- a month. He had a second occupation as a surveyor of Land and Mines. Mr Moore died in 1883. According to Kelly's Directory 1881, Mrs Harriet Moore was the school mistress.

In the Enclosure Act for Baslow, Bubnell, Curbar and Froggatt of 1824 the school, by virtue of its freehold status, was awarded "Land on the Moore", 5 acres adjacent to present Curbar Gap Car Park, which was then known to locals as Moore's Piece. Like the field next to the school, it was sublet to augment the master's income.

Mr Moore had died in 1883, and his wife 6 years later in 1889. In the same year the school closed down. It must have been fairly sudden as the fees had been paid for 10 pupils, 4 from Baslow, and 2 each from Curbar Calver and Froggatt. It is known that the buildings were in a poor state of repair, but money was not a problem as £65 was available. Probable the school was becoming irrelevant and the trustees took the opportunity to close the school rather than reappoint a new teacher. Whatever the reason the Charity Commissioners were called in to set up a new administration for the charities in the village.

4. THE 1889 SCHEME



Notes

- From this point money is in the modern £ p format. At times the pence have been omitted
- The term Baslow Charities is confusing: in the context of this article it will normally refer to all the charities covered by the 1889 Scheme. The four old charities described above and listed in the 1827 report I have labelled the "Original Charities". The Charity Commissioners reorganised money due for the Baslow Poor and the Vicar into a sub charity called "Baslow Charities". This "Baslow Charities" fund will always have inverted commas.
- Governments and other organisations raise money by issuing Bonds. The Bond guarantees that the government will pay a fixed rate of interest until the maturity date, when the original or sum is returned to the lender. Some Bonds are undated - interest is paid indefinitely with no date set for the return of the capital. Bonds can be bought and sold on the open market, when their value may be more or less than their "nominal" value depending on the market conditions at the time. Consols and Conversion stock described below are government bonds.
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5. THE BASLOW CHARITIES FROM 1889

The Charity Commissioners were called in when the Stanton Ford School closed in 1889.

- a. They arranged for new Trustees.
- b. They reorganised all the assets of the Stanton Ford property as well as the four charities listed in their 1827 report – the “Original Charities”
- c. They set out who would receive the income and the criteria on which it would be issued.

The original Scheme, a detailed 10 page document, was set up in 1889. It was modified in 1898 (illustrated above) but the changes affected only the appointment of Trustees. The 1989 Scheme remains the governing instrument for the Baslow Charities.

It was amended in 1935 when the Charities Commission approved the words “Urban District Council” of Baslow and Bubnell be replaced by “Parish Council”. The requirement the Co-optative Trustees be approved by the Charities Commission was removed.

From The Minute Book

The first meeting of the new Trustees, on 26th March 1890, was duly recorded in the minute book, an imposing leather bound volume engraved with the words “The Baslow Charities, Minute Book, 1890”. A subsequent entry in this book described the approval then purchase of a corresponding leather bound Ledger from Pawson and Brailsford, of Sheffield at a cost, with other stationary £2.25. A metal box was also bought with the comment that it should be kept at Baslow School. All three are still in the possession of the Baslow Charities. Together with other documents in the box they provide the basis for the rest of this paper.



a. The Trustees

The 1898 Scheme provides for five representative Trustees, two from the Urban District Council of Baslow, one each from Calver and Curbar, and one from the Parish Meeting of Froggatt “until such time as they have a Parish Council”.. There are two co-optative Trustees, one from Baslow and one from the other villages. The only ex-officio Trustee is the Vicar of Baslow who at the time was the redoubtable Jeremiah Stockdale: he was promptly elected chairman, and the Vicar has remained chairman ever since. Representative Trustees are re-elected every 4 years, and the co-optative trustees every 5 years.

The first Secretary or Clerk was Mr Matthewman the schoolmaster. Succeeding headmasters held the post until 1989.

b. The Assets

The Baslow Charities had two main sources of income. The Original Charities as described in the 1827 report, and rent the property at Stanton Ford including the 5 acres of the Land on the Moor awarded to the School in the 1824 Enclosure Award.

In 1904, in response to Board of Education Act of 1899, a sub charity, The Educational Foundation was set up for all the assets due to the schools. This was not fully implemented at the time so the clerk had to had to calculate the sums due from various sources until the division was eventually completed in 1994.

Pilsley Lands

The Duke of Devonshire who owned most of Pilsley had wanted for years to buy the three fields at the top of the village owned by the Charities. In 1904 they finally agreed, and with

permission from the Charities Commissioners, the land was sold to the Duke for the very generous sum of £650.

The Charity Commissioners invested the money in 2½% Consuls with a nominal value of £699.87, which produced a steady unchanging income of £17.87 (2½% of £699.87) until the shares were sold in 1994.

Wheston Lands and Chapman Charity (the Hartington lands)

The Baslow Charities kept the land in Wheston and Hartington until 1930. At this time, the Great Depression had started, food prices were low, and the minutes show that the tenants were having difficulty in paying their rent which had already been reduced. The Trustees took the decision to sell, for the low price of £70.00 and £64.30. Invested 3½% Treasury Bonds they yielded a joint interest of £5.90.

The Turnpike Trust

This was properly known as the Charity for the Minister the School and the Poor. The original shares had been sold, probably when the turnpikes were abolished around 1880, and the cash was held on deposit until 1889 when the Charity Commissioners invested it in 2½% Consuls (interest £0.68).

Incidentally the Bank account was at the Bakewell branch of the Sheffield and Rotherham Bank where it has remained ever since, though the bank itself was taken over first by Wm Deakins Bank and it is now the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Land on the Moor

The Duke of Rutland had a policy of acquiring total control of all the local moorland. He persuaded the Trustees to sell it in 1902, giving in return the freehold of the part of Stanton Ford conceded to him in 1836 and the sum of £150 which was also invested in 2½% Consuls (interest £3.88).

Stanton Ford House

At some time a house was built adjoining the school – there are no records of its construction which must have been after 1827 and before 1889. Perhaps Mr Moore built it for his own use.

In the photograph, the house is on the right. The smaller building on the left is the original school, rebuilt over the years.



When the Baslow Charities were reorganised in 1889, both buildings were already leased to Cliff College for £12 per annum. There were several subsequent leases at £20. One still in the possession of the Baslow Charities shows that the property consisted of the house and garden, the old school building by then a coach house and stable, and a 3 acre field south of the house.

Originally there was no island downstream from the house so the property extended to the channel on the far side of the present island. In 1890, Cliff College tried to reduce their rent by claiming that 2000 sq ft had been washed away since 1878: money was allocated to remedy the situation but it soon became obvious that nature could not be stopped and the money was withdrawn. Mr Barber, who was tenant from 1902 commented in a letter dated 1918 that he had memories of the island being “ separated by a mere trickle from the bank”.

The Charities considered selling the property in 1918, but this was opposed by local residents especially in Curbar. Instead a 99 year lease was negotiated with Mr Barber at a rent of £30 a year. In lay terms Stanton Ford itself would be the property of the owner until 2017 when Baslow Charities would resume full ownership of the entire site. The rent was fixed at £30 annually.

Cliff College bought the property in 1929. They tried to buy the freehold (technically the Reversionary Freehold) as well but the Baslow Charities demanded £3100, an unrealistic sum which was duly rejected by Cliff College. The College later sold the property in three parts.

The first part, the house, was sold in 1958 with a ground rent of £25 payable to the Baslow Charities. The second part, the fishing rights were sold at the same time with a "ground rent" of £5. The third part, the field was sold in 1988 to a local farmer with no rent due. The author does not know whether the island was sold as well or whether it still belongs to the Cliff College. It will revert to Stanton Ford House in 2017.

The Baslow Charities sold freehold of the house in 1976 for £500. The money was invested in 7¼% Treasury Stock which yielded an interest of £67.27

The freehold of the field including the fishing rights was sold in 1995 to the owner of Stanton Ford House for the welcome sum of £5000 which was invested in Charities Official Investment Fund (The C.O.I.F.)

c. The Beneficiaries

The Schools

The 1889 and 1898 documents specified that the money for the schools of Baslow and Curbar should be for "the advancement of the education of children who are bone fide residents in the townships of Baslow and Bubnell, Calver Curbar and Froggatt". To qualify each child must have, from their school, "a written certificate of their good conduct, regularity of attendance and progress in learning". There were two levels of payment. The first was a prize or reward not exceeding £1 for children who had attended school for over two years: the other was an award of up to £5 for children who were continuing to attend school even though they had the option to leave.

For the first few years, full details were recorded in the minutes showing that each school awarded 2 or 3 prizes at the higher level of £2 50, and 20 to 30 at a lower level of 25p to 50p. After 1900 details were omitted, with Curbar School receiving about £17 and Baslow, with fewer numbers, about £14. In 1935 each school received £18 and this equal distribution has continued ever since.

For many years this arrangement was rigidly adhered to. In 1973 Baslow school asked whether books could be given instead. The Board of Education was consulted and permission given to be more liberal in the use of the money as long as it was for the benefit of the children.

Mr Peter Clark, headmaster of Baslow School and also Clerk to the Trustees immediately allocated the money for small projects in the school. Curbar School made some available for projects, but has continued to distribute part in cash to pupils, using it as a teaching point for Baslow Charities and Charities in general. As an example, at the meeting of Trustees in Oct 2009, it was recorded that Mr Flynn, head teacher at Curbar had used part of the previous years money for developing a school garden with the balance given to the pupils, while Mrs Palmer Coole at Baslow had put it towards a "Buddy Bench" in the playground.

The Poor

The 1898 Scheme gave several options for distributing money for the Poor. It could be given to suitable Dispensaries, to Provident Societies, for Nursing Care or in kind. The trustees chose the last option giving coal tickets in the autumn to a selected list of inhabitants. The list was updated regularly and names recorded in the minutes. Initially the amount paid out was about £8 with about 20 people receiving tickets worth nearly £0.50

Before 1933 the sum available for distribution was about £8 or £9. In 1934, the income from the Victorian Charities was included and the sum more than doubled to about £25 with a corresponding increase in payments. The change would not have affected the beneficiaries, as money originally from the churchwardens now came from the Baslow Charities.

The last distribution was in 1986. The following year it was decided to target the money giving a larger amount to a few individuals in need.

One fifth of the Chapman Charity was for the poor of Curbar Calver and Froggatt, and was soon nicknamed "Curbar Bread". The amount was initially £1 50. Over the years, the amount decreased to 37p but the Trustees always made it up to £1. Eventually the Trustee responsible made up the money himself to give flowers, but even this became so embarrassing that it was quietly dropped in 1995, with the small sum reallocated to the Baslow Poor and Vicar.

The Vicar

The Vicar has always received his share of the "Original Charities". He still does, and he still does not preach a sermon.

6. THE OTHER VICTORIAN CHARITIES

General

Three other Charities benefiting the Baslow Poor started in the 19th century. Until 1933 they were administered by the Churchwardens, then the Baslow Charities agreed to be responsible for the distribution of monies. The Trustees representing Baslow have always convened separately to decide on the distribution of all monies for the Poor.

These charities remain outside the official 1898 Scheme. No documents relating to the Branson and Milne Charity have survived.

The Charity Commissioners had listed the Milnes Charity as a subsidiary of the Rowland Eyre Charity. When the latter was removed from the Central Register in 1998 it became a subsidiary of the Branson Charity. The Branson Charity itself was removed from the register in 2003.

The William Milnes Charity

In the year 1830 William Milnes Esq. of Hassop left £50 to the Minister and Churchwardens of Baslow in trust, that they should distribute the interest thereof annually to the Poor of Baslow for ever. Details appear on the third, more recent charity board in the church.

In 1969 the charity consisted of £50.56 invested in 3% Savings Bonds which provided a return of £1.52 a year and which was repayable at par in Sept 1970. The Official Custodian of Charities wrote to the Trustees about re-investment. He commented that Savings Bonds and similar investments were subject to a decline in real value due to inflation and suggested that they re-invest in the C.O.I.F. The Trustees accepted his advice, and bought 47 shares in the Charities Official Investment Fund (C.O.I.F.) when the price was 1.076p a share. The income proceeded to rise steadily from £2.61 in 1970 to £12.24 in 1994.

The Branson Charity

Elizabeth Branson was the wife of Ferguson Branson, a Physician. They moved into "The Cottage" now Baslow House in School Lane in the late 1850s, and lived there until their deaths in the 1890s. It is not known whether he practiced medicine in the village. Elizabeth died in 1895 leaving in her will, proved in Derby in 1898, a sum of money probably about £500 for the deserving poor in Baslow. It was invested in 2½% Consols, giving an income of £2.02 annually. These were eventually sold in 1994 for £145.18 and invested in the C.O.I.F. The Charity was voluntarily removed by the Charity Commissioners in 2003.

The Gisbourne Charity

The Rev Francis Gisbourne, the Vicar of Staveley left money to a large number of parishes in north Derbyshire and elsewhere to be used for "the purchase of Flannel and Coarse Yorkshire Woollen Cloth for distribution amongst the poor". In 1818 he left yearly sum of

£5.50 to Baslow, increased to £7.25 some years later. The charity has a central organisation which makes a payment to the Baslow Charities each year.

Until 1965 the annual cheque was for nearly £3.50 when the funds must have been reorganised, as the amount increased steadily to £30 in 1994 and had varied between £25 and £50 ever since.

7. THE INVESTMENTS

The Official Guardian or Custodian of Charities Funds had been responsible for the investments of individual charities since 1858. Its invariable policy was to invest in Government Bonds which are secure and provide a constant and reliable income, ideal for charities in the short term. Unfortunately as the Official Custodian commented in 1969 about the Milne Charity, they suffer from the effects of inflation.

Most of the investments of the Baslow Charities were in undated 2½% consols. The money from the sale of the Weston and Hartington Lands was in 3½% conversion stock while the Stanton Ford House freehold money was in 7¼ Treasury Stock.

Eventually in the early 1990s, the Charity Commissioners changed their policy and required individual charities, within certain guidelines, to assume responsibility for their own investments. The Charity Commissioners sold all the stock belonging to the Charities which Trustees invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund (C.O.I.F.) All the money for the schools went to the Educational Foundation account, and the money for the Baslow Poor and the Vicar to the “Baslow Charities” account.

The Branson and Milne Charities, which were outside the official 1889 Scheme, both acquired C.O.I.F. accounts.

a. The Story of the “Original Charities”

It is instructive to consider value of and income from the “Original Charities” since they started. The table gives the detail for the four charities. The 1994 values are theoretical and the result of calculation, as the original funds have been subdivided and merged together

Capital of the “Original Charities”					
	Pilsley Land	Hartington Land	Wheston Land	Turnpike	Total Value
origin	worth £3.00/yr in 1700	worth £2.50/yr in 1700	bought for £60.00 in 1762	bought for £25.00 in 1762	
Lands Sold	for £650 in 1904	for £64.30 in 1930	for £70.00 in 1930	£25.00 in 1889	£809.30
Invested in	2½% Bonds	3½% Bonds	3½% Bonds	2½% Bonds	
Sold in 1994 for	£203.56	£47.08	£51.24	£7.37	£309.25
Shares C.O.I.F.					43.20
Value 2009					£309.25
Income from “Original Charities”					
in 1827	£8.00 rent	£4.00 rent	£4.50 rent	£1.25	£17.75
in 1889	£13.60 rent	£8.00 rent	£5.00 rent	£0.58	£27.18
1940-90	£17.49	£2.83	£3.09	£0.63	£24.04
in 1996	£7.17	£1.66	£1.80	£0.26	£10.89
in 2009	£11.90	£2.75	£3.00	£0.43	£17.08

Inflation has had a major influence on the charities, causing a drastic reduction in their value. Up to 1900 it was not a major long term problem, prices perhaps doubled. It started in earnest in the 1st World War, and has continued at various levels ever since. Estimates vary, so my suggested figures should be used a guide only. Using 1904 as a baseline prices have risen by a factor of 60 by 1994, and by a factor of 90 today.

Consider the effect on the Pilsley Lands. When donated in 1684 they gave an annual return of £3 rising to £13.60 in 1904. They were sold in 1904 for £650 and invested in undated 2½% consols, which gave a steady reliable annual return of £17.49 for the next 90 years. Initially this was value for money as it was significantly more than the previous rent. But then inflation set in. In 1994 one would need £1030 in 1994 to buy the same goods which cost £17.49 in 1904. Today one would need £1550.

When the Charities Commissioners disinvested in 1994, the undated 2½% consols, were not popular on the Stock Exchange, so the price was low. Bought for £650, they sold for only £203, a further blow to the Charities finances. In 1994 it would have needed £39,000 to buy back the land (i.e. £650 in 1904). Today it would need £58,000.

The Hartington and Wheston Lands, invested in dated 3½% conversion stock did a little better, as they lost less of their value between 1936 and 1994 while the 7¼% Treasury stock acquired in 1976 actually did quite well.

All told the 20th century was a disaster for the charities with inflation reducing its assets a hundred fold or more. Action – disinvestment - had to be taken sooner or later and resulting drop in income was a painful but inevitable result of the process. If only action had been taken sooner, say in 1969 when the Charities Commissioners advised that the Milne Charity be invested in C.O.I.F.

And if only the lands had not been sold! Land was a safe haven for money in 1700. Maybe it still is. The “Original Charities” owned 15 acres 250 years ago: today at perhaps £3000 an acre, their value would be approaching £50,000.

Since 1995 all the assets of the charities have invested in the C.O.I.F. The share value has risen from 715p in 1995 to a peak of 1147p in 2008 and is now (Sept 2009) 914p. No doubt it will rise again when the present recession is resolved. The Fund has buffered the dividends against variations in the Stock Market so the income has risen by 30% since 1996 and is now at an all time high. The (theoretical) income from the Pilsley Lands would have been £7.17 in 1996 and £11.90 today, still less that it was in 1889.

b. The Reallocation of “Original Charities”

For many years an annual problem for the Clerk was the proper allocation of income to the recipients. The reason was that several funds were combined in a way difficult to understand. At disinvestment, the £309.25 from “Original charities” was divided in the ratios confirmed in 1827 and allocated as in the table below. The Educational Foundation received 14.84 shares in the C.O.I.F. while the “Baslow Charities, to be equally divided between the Baslow Poor and Vicar, received 28.36 shares.

Reallocation Table

	Pilsley Land	Hartington Land	Wheston Land	Turnpike	total	C.O.I.F. shares
Cash in 1994 for reinvestment	£203.56	£47.08	£51.24	£7.37	£309.25	43.20
shares	28.44	6.58	7.16	1.03	43.20	
Due to Educat. Foundation	£67.85 (=1/3)	£18.83 (=2/5)	£17.08 (=1/3)	£2.46 (=1/3)	£106.22	14.84 shares
Due to “Baslow Charities”	£135.71 (=2/3)	£28.25 (=3/5)	£34.11 (=2/3)	£4.91 (=2/3)	£203.02	28.36 shares

c. Payments made 1827 to 2009

This table shows the actual payments made to the School, the Poor and the Vicar from all the charities combined at intervals since 1827. Until the 1994 the amounts were fairly consistent for long periods, though with some variation due to expenses etc, with a permanent increase after the major events which are noted in the table. Recently they have depended on the dividends paid by the C.O.I.F.

In general all payments have been and still are made early in the financial year following their receipt. This policy was modified in 1990 in respect of the Baslow Poor when their payments became larger, less frequent and allowed accumulation of a reserve of money.

Payments made to 2009

Paid To	The Schools	The Poor	The Vicar	Note
1827		£5.10	£5.10	Charity Commission report
1891 1890-1902	£25.00	£8.40	£8.40	At start of 1889 Scheme
1911 1905-30	£31.00	£8.10	£8.10	After sale of Pilsley Land & land on moor in 1904
1951 1934-1975	£38..60	32.40	£7.47	After sale of Hartington & Wheston Lands in 1930
1932				After addition in 1933 of Branson & Milne Charities
1981 1977-1991	£79.40	£52.46	£7.04	After sale house freehold 1976
1992	£90.49	Nil	£7.63	Before disinvestment
1997	£309.51	£60	£3.58	After disinvestment 1994 & sale of field freehold 1995
2001	£305.97	£50	£5.04	Peak in C.O.I.F. share price & interest
2005	£280.15	£100	£4.47	dip after 2001 peak
2009	£372.30	£50	£5.94	Today 2009

In addition to its share of the "Baslow Charities" the schools benefited from the rent from Stanton Ford house and the Land on the Moor. Income increased in steps after the sale of the Land on the moor & the Pilsley Lands, and after the sale of the freehold, first of the house in 1976 and of the field in 1995. The £5000 from the latter tripled the payments to the schools disguising the drop in income from other sources.

Payments to the poor increased with the addition of income from the Branson and Milne charities in 1933 and in later years from the better performance of the Gisbourne and Milne Charities.

The payment to the Vicar has always been from the "Original Charities. With no additions or subtractions his benefits have reflected the total income received from the "Original Charities". It dropped because of reduced income after the sale of the Wheston and Hartington Lands and again severely after disinvestment. He received £5.10 in 1827: if his payments kept in line with inflation he should get £7900 in 2009. In fact he got £5.90

The sum is of course rather small, only £6.94 in 2009. But it is money which was donated 300 years ago and payments have been made on a regular basis ever since. Its true value is the historical continuity.

8. THE BASLOW CHARITIES TODAY

Since the disinvestment of 1994 The Baslow Charities has been a collection of 5 separate charities, the Educational Foundation, The “Baslow Charities”, The Branson and the Milne Charities, and the income from the Gisbourne Charity.

a. The Educational Foundation

The Educational Foundation was founded in 1904 to handle all the money due to the Schools. Initially this was a share of the “Original Charities” and the rent from Stanton Ford Property. As various items were sold as shown in the table below, the fund increased especially after the sale of the field freehold and fishing rights in 1995.

The Educational Foundation

	Value when sold	shares in C.O.I.F.
Share from the “Original Charities”		14.84 shares
Land on Moor, sold in 1902	£150	6.31 shares
Ford House freehold sold in 1976	£500	114.29 shares
Field & Fishing freehold sold in 1995	£5000	753.95 shares
total share value		899.39 shares

The share price in Sept 2009 was 914p, making its total value £8181. The income in 2009 was £372.

b. The “Baslow Charities”

The “Baslow Charities” is the part of the “Original Charities” allocated to the poor and the vicar, now represented by 28.36 shares in the C.O.I.F. Half belongs to the Vicar, who received £5.94 in 2009.

The other half is for the Baslow Poor which is augmented by the Victorian Charities.

c. The Victorian Charities

The Branson and Milne Charities still exist in their own right. The Milne Charity, as shown in the table, has increased in value because it was invested in the C.O.I.F. in the late 1960s, compared with the Branson Charity which remained in 2½% consols until 1994. Money continues to arrive regularly from the Gisbourne Charity.

In 2009 the total income for the poor was just under £60.

Assets of the Baslow Poor

	Original Gift	C.O.I.F.	Value 2009	Income 2009
Share “Baslow Charities”		14.18 shares		£5.94
Branson Charity	£500	21.89 shares	£200	£9.17
Milne Charity	£50	47.00 shares	£429	£19.68
Gisbourne Charity				£25.00

The Trustees continue to have difficulty in identifying “The Poor” in the affluent village of Baslow. Payments of £50 to £100 are made some years, often to single mothers with small children. Even so a balance of £200 to £300 is usually carried over, being available for any emergency payment if needed.

d. The Trustees Meetings

The Trustees of Baslow Charities continue to meet each autumn. As always the Vicar is in the Chair. Much of the meeting is routine and has not changed for decades. An annual report is presented, which includes details of the Trustees, the Charity Commission numbers and C.O.I.F. accounts. There is also a summary of the accounts and a projection for the following years payments. The status of Trustees is reviewed as laid out in the 1898 Scheme. The allocation of money to the schools and the vicar has follows the same usual pattern is routinely confirmed. The Clerk's expenses have remained constant at £5.

At the meeting in Oct 2009, The clerk reviewed the origins of the charities, commenting that he was writing a history of the Baslow Charities. In view of the number of sub charities and the administration involved, the clerk was instructed to review possibilities to simplify them, perhaps by merging the Branson and Milne charities with the "Baslow Charities" (and giving the latter another less confusing name!)

After the main meeting has closed, the Baslow Trustees remain to discuss the sum to be paid for the Baslow Poor. Often payments are not made.

9. Conclusion

The Baslow Charities have existed 1654 to the present without a break. Together with the story of Stanton Ford School, they are part of the fabric and history of Baslow, Bubnell, Curbar Calver and Froggatt. Let them remain as a reminder of our heritage.

David Dalrymple-Smith Clerk to the Trustees from 1989

Postscript Jan 2011

The Branson and Milne Charities have now been merged into The Baslow Charities. The latter has been renamed "The Charity for Vicar and Poor" retaining the Charity No 214604

10. THE ANNUAL REPORT 2009**The Charities**

Name of Charity	Charity Com No	Distribution of Income
The Baslow Charities	214604	Baslow Vicar and Baslow Poor equally
Educational Foundation	527040	Baslow and Curbar Schools equally
Elizabeth Branson	221501	Baslow Poor
W Milnes		Baslow Poor
Gisbourne Charity		Baslow Poor

The Trustees

Andrew Montgomerie	Ex Officio	
Gordon Russell	Baslow PC	Appointed 2007 for 4 years
Julia Warne	Baslow PC	Appointed 2007 for 4 years
Julia Beswick	Calver PC	Appointed 2006 for 4 years
Stuart Allen	Curbar PC	Appointed 2007 for 4 years
Clifford Morton	Froggatt	Appointed 2006 for 4 years
Geoffrey Henshaw	Co-optative	Appointed 2004 for 5 years
Andrew Adlington	Co-optative	Appointed 2005 for 5 years

Investments in Charities Official Investment Fund

Account	COIF Number	Shares	Value on. 30 6 2009
The Baslow Charities	892890001 T	28.36	£259.29
Educational Foundation	889550001 T	889.39	£8131.43
Elizabeth Branson	889560001 T	21.89	£200.13
Milnes	181520001 T	47.00	£429.71
Gisbourne			

Activity during the year

It has been another quiet year. Routine correspondence has been received from the Charities Commission and appropriate returns made.

Cheques now need two signatures. At present the chairman, the clerk and Mr. Henshaw can sign.

Baslow and Curbar Schools each received £178.46. Mr. Flynn, the head teacher at Curbar, has spent part of his money on developing the new field and garden with the balance was going to pupils. Ms Palmer-Coole is using the Baslow gift for a "Buddy Bench" in the playground.

Two payments amounting to £150 have been made to a Baslow resident.

The value of investments have gone down, as expected in the present economic climate, but income has increased a little.

Summary of Income and Expenditure

1st Oct 2008 to 30th Sept 2009

Income		Expenditure	
Baslow Charities	11.87	Baslow School	178.46
Educational Foundation	372.29	Curbar School	178.46
Branson Charities	9.17	Vicar	£5.69
W Milnes	19.68		
Gisbourne Charity	25.00	Clerks Expenses	5.00
		Hire Church Rooms	10.00
		Paid to recipient	150.00
Total Income	£438.01	Total Expenditure	£527.61

Balance		
Opening bank balance on 1 Oct 08		£775.36
Income	438.01	
Expenditure	527.61	
Loss for year		£89.60
Final bank balance on 30th Sept 09		£685.76

Money available for distribution

Bank Balance on 1st Oct 2009	£685.76	
Due to Schools	£186.15	
	£186.15	= Educational Foundation income
Due to Vicar	£5.94	= Half of Baslow Charities income
Available for Baslow Poor & Expenses	£307.52	(after payment of Schools & Vicar)

Prepared in Oct 2009 by

David Dalrymple-Smith
Clerk to the Trustees
Ashenfell House, Church Lane,
Baslow, Bakewell. DE45 1SP

11. THE CHARITY BOARDS

The boards are in St Anne's Church Baslow in the rear corner immediately opposite the main entrance. The original two, Boards A and B, were erected in 1720 and have remained unchanged ever since. Board C was installed later.

Board A

Mr ROBERT MATTHEWMAN being Curat of Baslow 1660 gave 10 Pound to poor within this Chapelry the interest thereof to be distributed upon the 24 of December by the curat and the trustees of Humphrey Chapman for ever

SAMUEL WHITE senior and SAMUEL WHITE junior gave 3 Pound the interest to be given to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell yearly for ever upon the 24 of December, and the said Samuel White junior gave to the school of Baslow 2 Pound 10 Shil the interest to be paid to the Schoolmaster for the education of some poor child in Baslow and Bubnell for ever

WILLIAM BANES gave 5 Pound the interest thereof to be given to the poor in Baslow on the 24 of December for ever.

GEORGE WHITE of Bubnell gave by his will 3 Pound a year in land lying in Pilsley, the rent thereof to be paid viz: 10 Shil to the curate 10 Shil to the schoolmaster and 10 Shil to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell at White-Suntide and 10 Shil to the Curat 10 Shil to the Schoolmaster and 10 Shil to the said poor on the 5 of November for ever

MARGARET WHITE gave by her Will 20 Pound the Interest to be paid on the 24 December 10 Shil to the Curat and 10 Shil to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell for ever

ROBERT MATLEY of Baslow gave by his will 5 Pound the interest thereof to be given on 2 February to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell for ever

Board B

HUMPHREY CHAPMAN of Baslow gave by his will all his copyhold land in Heathcott within the Manor or Hartington the rents thereof to be viz: to the curat for Preaching the anniversary Sermon on the 5 day of November 10 shil and to the schoolmaster 20 shil and to the poor in Baslow and Bubnell 10 shil and to the poor in Calver Corbar and Froggott 10 shil on the said day by his Trustees for ever

ROBERT GREGORY of Baslow gave by his will 2 Pound the interest to be given to the poor of Baslow on the 24 of December for ever

JAMES EASTWOOD of Baslow gave by his will 10 Pound the interest to be given to the poor of Baslow and Bubnell for ever.

ANTHONY HALLAM of Baslow gave by his will 10 Pound the Interest to be given to the poor of Baslow on the 25th of January for ever.

GEORGE BOOTH of Corbar gave by his will 20 Pound the interest to be paid viz: 10 Shill to the Curate for preaching a Sermon on the 2 of February or the Sunday after and 10 Shill to the poor of Corbar at the same time for ever

Board C

Charitable Donations

Mr. William Elliot of Curbar who died 26th March 1806, left by Will the Interest of One hundred pounds, on security in the Road leading from Sheffield to Grindleford Bridge, to be paid on St. Thomas's day annually to the Poor of Curbar for ever

In the year 1818 Revd. Francis **Gisbourne M.A.** Rector of Staveley, gave the sum of £5 10. to be paid annually for ever in Novr. for the purchase of coarse cloth or flannel for poor of this chapelry to be distributed at the discretion of the Minister. In the year 1828, £1 15 per annum was added to the above Charity

In the year 1830 William **Milnes** Esq. of Hassop left £50.~ to the Minister and Churchwardens of Baslow in trust, that they should distribute the interest thereof annually to the Poor of Baslow for ever.