



## **OK, but why did a Stoke Charity want property in Leavenheath?**

When Lady Anne set up her trust for the almshouses in Stoke village in 1608, Leavenheath and Nayland weren't separate entities. The parish of Stoke by Nayland covered all of Nayland and much of what is now Leavenheath. The Stoke by Nayland Town or Parish Lands Charity had emerged by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, so the same applied.

Nayland became an independent ecclesiastical parish in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a civil parish in 1844. The civil parish merged with that of Wissington in 1884. Leavenheath became an independent ecclesiastical parish in 1863, and a civil parish in 1952, being constituted from parts of Stoke by Nayland and other neighbouring parishes. So in 1859 70% of the Plough Lane field was in Stoke parish and 30% in Nayland, and earlier had all been in Stoke.

Until 2019, the LAWC's Governing Document specified that residents of the Charity's almshouses had to be "inhabitants of the area of The Ancient Parish of Stoke by Nayland". The fact that no one knew for sure how much of Leavenheath was included in The Ancient Parish hadn't mattered up till then. But by then we were hoping to develop the Plough Lane field for almshouses, and these would be first and foremost for Leavenheath people. Plainly, we had to know who would be eligible, in terms of where they lived. Equally plainly, it would make sense for anyone in the existing Leavenheath parish to be eligible.

The Charity Commission agreed, when this was explained, and the Governing Document now specifies that residents of the Charity's almshouses have to be "inhabitants of the area of the civil parishes of Leavenheath, Nayland-with-Wissington and Stoke by Nayland".

So, a grassroots charity accumulated patches of land here and there over a couple of centuries - the big estate did a deal to consolidate both parties' holdings - the village charities were merged under the banner of the main property - the newer settlements got their own local government arrangements - the merged ancient charities brought their Governing Document up-to-date - and now look to develop the field acquired 160-odd years ago for the benefit of the parish created 70-odd years ago. And if we succeed, it won't any longer be just a Stoke Charity.

For more details about us, see our webpage at <https://stokebynayland.onesuffolk.net/parish-organisations/lady-anne-windsor-charity/>.

If you have any questions, do contact us, preferably by e-mail to our Clerk, at [LAWCclerk@gmail.com](mailto:LAWCclerk@gmail.com).

**The Trustees of the LAWC**