

Henville Educational Foundation

Charles Brune Henville was born in 1781 and educated at Winchester College. He went on to New College in Oxford and then returned to be a fellow (governor) of Winchester College from 1814 to his death.

He became Vicar of Portsmouth in 1814 and later Portsea. Rev Henville was a wealthy man and being without a family he spent his wealth freely for the benefit of the parishes in which he served.

In 1838 he became the Vicar of Hamble and Hound and lived in Hamble Rectory. He was responsible for setting up Hamble's first School in 1840 and for raising the funds for its construction. He arranged for the land on which it was built to be gifted from Winchester College. As it was a Church School, he as Vicar was the sole manager of the school.

He leased 3 tenements on the north side of the High Street and in 1842 he pulled them down and erected in their place two dwelling houses of much greater value. Winchester College agreed to purchase one of the houses for £600 which was to be a new house for Manor Farm. The other newly erected house, that was named 'Henville House', was occupied by Rev Philip Thresher.

Rev Charles Henville built the house to be rented out and use its income to support the new school. He then set up the Henville Educational Foundation charity.

The earliest surviving Foundation document states the Trustees may apply a yearly sum not exceeding half its net income towards the cost of maintaining and improving Hamble Church of England School. Also use the income to assist boys and girls resident in the Parish of Hamble to attend schools, institutions and classes other than that provided by elementary education and to promote the education of the boys and girls of the poorer classes in the Parish.

Charles Henville married a widow from Emsworth, Margaret Lind, in 1844. He was interested in local events such as cricket and horticultural societies and supported them financially.

As an example in 1847 he supported the Cottagers Fete which was held at Hamble School. It was reported that there were an immense number of prizes in money, for produce from cottage gardens, which were competed for by the labourers. The resident nobility and gentry visited and after the show over 60 labourers and their wives sat down to a substantial dinner, accompanied by some good ale, at the cost of Rev Charles Henville.

In 1849 the Rev Charles Henville died, but his Henville Educational Foundation charity funded by the rent from 'Henville House' continued.

In 1985 'Henville House' was sold, as more money was needed to maintain the house. The cost of maintenance had resulted in little income to fund the Henville Educational Foundation. The proceeds of the house sale were invested to provide income, so that the Henville Educational Foundation can continue to provide grants today.

Today any person under the age of 25 who lives in Hamble, may apply to the Foundation for financial assistance for their education, provided that it is not already available through public funds. Groups or organisations can also apply for grants for those under 25 years of age living within the boundaries of the parish.