

## The Old School House

1735

James Christmas of Stratfield Saye died on 4th February 1735. In his will, he left £100 for building a charity school at Sherfield and £1100 for purchasing land. The income from the land was to be used to run the school, clothe the poor and to provide bread for the poor of Stratfield Saye.

1737

The trustees appointed by his will, William Garrett, Daniel Chase and John May, built the school in 1737. The trustees were given the land for the school on 13 June 1737 by the Rt Hon John Tylney. The land is described as 60 poles of ground, part of the waste of the manor. This perhaps indicates that the school was a new building in 1737 rather than a modification of an earlier structure. The accounts for the charity, which are held at the Public Record Office in Winchester, show the expenditure in carrying out the work. In total, just over £200 was spent (note, above, the budget of half this!) with the carpenter receiving £86 3s 0d (£86.15p), the blacksmith charging £6 6s 0d (£6.30p) and the bricklayer £24 3s 6d (£24.18p). The accounts also show the delivery of 'tyles' so presumably the building was never thatched.

The property purchased with the £1100 was a farmhouse and buildings and about 60 acres of land at Farley Hill in Swallowfield. This farm was subsequently known as Charity Farm, until it was sold to the Dean of Bristol for £3333 in 1865.