## 'A committee was formed for the purpose of raising Funds to relieve those in want...' (Letter re Hull Fishermen's Widows and Orphans Fund, 9 Jan 1895)

# CHARITABLE FUNDS

For the Benefit of the Distressed Widows and Orphans of the Unfortunate Seamen who perished in the Ship Royalist.

#### MECHANICAL & OPTICAL EXHIBITION, WHITEFRIARGATE, HULL.

R. LOUIS, duly impressed with a sense of gratitude for the generous and distinguished Patronage, with which his "RATIONAL AMUSEMENTS" at the above place have been honoured, by the Inhabitants of Hull and its Vicinity; prompted also by a feeling of Humanity, to assist in the noble undertaking of wiping the tear from the eye of those who have so unfortunately been plunged into Wretchedness, by a most calamitous and untoward Disaster, begs most respectfully to announce, that he intends apportioning the Whole of the Receipts of One Day and Evening's Exhibition in aid of the RELIEF of the said WIDOWS and ORPHANS, who, by this unfortunate Event, have been deprived a like of Protection and Support : and that MONDAY next; September 19th, is fixed upon for that Purpose; when the nett Profits arising from that Day and Evening's Exhibition will be paid into the Hands of the Gentlemen forming the Committee for managing the Subscription for the above benevolent design.

The Proprietor pledges himself, that nothing shall be wanting on his part to render the Day and Evening's Exhibition, worthy of their attention : and the Public, at the same time that they have an opportunity of witnessing these truly and wonderful Pieces of Art, will have the pleasing reflection, that they are also contributing their Mite towards the Alleviation of the Distresses of the Widow and Orphan.

The EXHIBITION will be Repeated, on TUFSDAY the 20th, for the BENEFIT of Mr. Louis's STAGE ASSIS-TANTS, whom, on account of their unremitted attention to their duty, he begs to recommend to the protection of a generous and feeling Public.

\*.\* Doors open in the Morning, from Eleven o'clock until Four .--- Admittance One Shilling.

17 In the Evening, the Doors will open at Half past Six, and the Performance begin precisely at Seven .-- Admittance Two Shillings each Person : but in order to give an opportunity to the Rising Generation to see those vast efforts of human invention, Children, under Twelve Years of Age, will be admitted at One Shilling.

Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette, 17 Sep 1814

LTAS, by recent and unavoidable calamities, been reduced to a state of extreme exigency. Domestic troubles, and other circumstauces, over which he had no control, had very materially diminished his Property, when the ship EBOR, which formed the chief source of his livelihood, was wrecked, during one of the severe Storms of last Season, and completed the ruin of his Fortune. The Sum insured upon the Ship, which was scarcely one half of its value, along with his Household Furniture and all his other Effects, he has assigned for the equal benefit of his Creditors, who have all accepted the offer, and who he earnestly hopes will receive from 15s. to 17s. in the Pound.

Being thus cast from a respectable Situation in life into oue of complete indigence, some of his Fellow-Citizens, who have long known and respected his Character, have determined to endeavour to raise a Sum, for the purpose of enabling him to obtain, by industrious exercion, a Subsistence for Himself, his Wife, and two Children. For this object, they venture to appeal to the sympathy of a benevolent Public.

Any Donation will be most thankfully received, and may be paid at the York Banks; to Messrs. Tukk, WALLER, and COPSIE; Mr. JOSEPH AGAR; Messrs. CATTON, CROSBY, and Co., York; or Mr. R. ALLANson, Packet Office, Scale Lane, Hull. Yonk, August 14th, 1823. Hull Packet, 1 Sep 1823

**Fact:** In 1801 a subscription was started to help the families of Hull seafarers being held as prisoners of war during the Napoleonic Wars with France

### Appeal to the Public.

#### JOHN JEFFERSON,

Lately a SHIP OWNER in the Trade between YORK and LONDON.

Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette, 24 Jan 1801

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS



#### HULL, January 2d, 1501.

T a Meeting of the Merchants, Ship-Owners, and other inhabitants of this town, holden at the Exchange this day,

#### W. OSBOURNE, Efg. in the Chair,

It was unanimouply refelved,

That a Subscription be immediately opened for affording fuch relief to the Wives and Families of our bruve and unfortunate beamer belonging to this port, now confined in Ruffia, as their peculiar fituations may require.

That the undermentioned Gentlemen be appointed a Committee. and be requefted to folicit Subscriptions.

That the Fund to be raifed for the above purpose he under the management and direction of the Committee, and will be received by Meffra. Smiths and Thompson ; Meffra, Peafe, Knowfley, and Wray Sir C. Sykes and Co. Mellin. Peale, Harrison and Co. and McBrs, Mozons, Bankers, in Hull, where Subfcription Lifks are alfo left.

COMMITTER.

Wm. Jarratt Elq. mayor John Sykes, Efq. William Ofbourne, Efg. William Bolton, Efg. Joseph Egginton, Edu. Mr. Thomas Thompion Avisua Terry William Collinfor

Mr. George Knog William Giblon Thomas Collinion William Horncaftle John Ogle Qgle Anthony Atkinfon **Obifon Kirkbride** A. Hollingworth

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and Co. } 100	0	0	William Bourne	5	5		
Jof. Sykes, Sen & Co. 100	0	0	James Milnes	5	5	0	
John Sykes, Efq. 20	0		lof. Wilkinfon	5	5	0	
William Jarratt, Elg. 20	0	0	I. S. Brandfrom		5	0	
W Ofbourne, Elq. 31	10	0	John Wm. Hentig	5	5	0	
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W. Horncaftle 41	0	0	W. Middleton & Son	31	5		
John Robinfon, 41	0	0	A. & J. Whitaker	5	-	0	
Benjamin Hickfon 41	0	0	Francis Wood		3		
Thomas Collinfon 31	10	9	W G. & C. Sellers	3	3	0	
G. and J. Egginton 31		.0	J Howard	2	3	0	
			T. Cleadow	2	3	0	
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-			Nicholas Walter	2	1	0	
The. Hall and Sons, 7 10	10	0	Mrs. Mary Sugth	3	2	0	
for Ship Aurora 5	-	0	Wede and Richardlo		2	0	
Owners of Flaston 21		-			3	0	
Mary Frances 21			W. Rawlon	I		0	
William Collinfon 2				1	T	0	
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During the 18th and 19th centuries there was no welfare state.

If times got really hard, the only place to turn was the workhouse, which was little more than a prison for the poor.

Injured seafarers, and the widows and orphans of deceased seafarers, were often reliant on charitable handouts to help make ends meet if they wanted to stay together and in their own homes.

Savings Bank in the joint names of-

revert

Any Widow or other recipient of this Fund, proved guilty of immorality or drunken habits, shall at once forfeit the moneys allotted to them, and so deposited in the Bank as aforesaid, and the same shall be applied by the Trustees for the benefit of the Orphan children (if any), and where none, shall be divided equally between the two local Orphanages.

**Fact:** A Hull Fishermen's Widows and Orphans Relief Fund was established in the wake of severe gales in 1883, which cost the lives of many fishermen

hunter look-

#### TOWN HALL,

Hull, 29th January, 1884.

Dear Sir,

Annexed we beg to hand you copy of a proposed scheme for the distribution of this Fund, which will be considered at a MEETING of the Executive Committee, to be held at the TOWN HALL, on FRIDAY, the 1st February next, at Twelve o'clock at noon, when we trust you will make it convenient to attend.

Yours truly,

W.M. F. B. EYRE, Joint Hon. Secs. ROBT. HODGSON,

Hull Fishermen's Midows and Orphans Relief Fund.

#### Scheme for Distribution of the Fund.

The estimated balance of this Fund available for distribution among the Widows and Orphans of Hull Fishermen, lost at sea during the heavy gales of January and March, 1883, amounts to the sum of £5511.

It is proposed that this amount shall be divided in the following manner :---" Aged Parent ...... 20 0 0 These payments will absorb the sum of £5211, as follows :— 59 Widows ......at £45 .....2655 0 0 .2436 0 0 116 Orphans.....at 6 Aged Parents...at 20 120 0 0 (5211 O C

And leave a surplus of £300.

In consideration of the valuable services rendered by the two local Orphanages, it is proposed that this Surplus shall be divided between them, and a payment of  $\pounds_{150}$  made to each Orphanage upon condition that the Orphans now being paid for by this Committee, shall be accepted by each Home as duly elected, without further payment.

#### Conditions upon which Grants made:-

The amount granted to each Widow and her Children shall be deposited in the Hull

The PRESIDENT, Mr. ALDERMAN LEAK, J.P. E. P. MAXSTED, Esq., J.P. THOS. STRATTEN, Esq., J.P.

DAVID WILSON, Esq., J.P.

In trust for their benefit. The money to be paid by instalments, at the rate of 4s. 6d. per week to

each Widow, and 2s. per week to each Orphan. These payments will absorb the amount allotted in each case, with interest, in 4 years. The Grants to the Aged Parents shall be invested in like manner, and distributed at the rate of 3s. per week, which it is anticipated will last nearly 3 years.

In the event of any Widow marrying again, the balance of the amount invested for her benefit shall at once be forfeited to the Trustees, who shall have power to apply the same for the sole benefit of her Orphan children. Should the Mother, however, elect to retain the custody of her children, the amount so invested, for her and their benefit as aforesaid, shall be divided by the Trustees unto and equally between the two local Orphanages.

Request sent to the Mayor of Hull, notice of meeting, and scheme for distribution Relates to the Hull Fishermen's Widows and Orphans Fund 1884 [C WM/138]



Widows and Orphans Relief Fund.

Disasters to Have Sishermen Widows Horphans Pelief Fund Requestion to the Worshippel the Mayor to call a foromo Meeting Quoi Milson Shipowner Under Man Mith Son Banhors. Mmason \_ do \_\_\_\_ Hy Brigg Son to Shipowner Mull Robert mons sols I. Penner, menhant, Studie The Shallen Mirchanh Grothan Muchant bur Nhadesono To Wrill Mannaney

#### Cogan House,

#### Bowlalley Lane,

HULL,9th January 1895.

Hull Fishermen's Widows and Orphans Fund 1895.

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You will no doubt have seenthe report in the papers as to a Meeting of the Fishing Trade held yesterday to consider what steps should be taken to alleviate the suffering and distress caused by the Gales on the 22nd December last.

A Committee was formed for the purpose of raising Funds to relieve those in want and a Deputation was appointed with a view of enlisting your assistance. Mr Alderman Toozes and Mr Councillor Simpson will see you to arrange for a Deputation to wait upon you at your convenience

> Yours obediently ROBT HODGSON. WALTER SCOTT ) Joint W.R.HAWORTH. ) Hon.Secs. J.VIVIAN

The Rt Worshipful the Mayor of Hull, . The Town Hall,

We are, Sir,

HULL.

#### Letters to the Mayor of Hull, 1895 [C WM/184]

#### Sir,

Sir,

At a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of Kingston-upon-Hull, held at the Town Hall yesterday for the purpose of taking such steps as might be deemed expedient for the relief of the widows and orphans of the Hull fishermen, who lost their / lives during the recent gales; a resolution was passed, requesting me to make an appeal, through the Press, to the general public, on behalf of the Fund which has been established.

Altogether 106 Hull fishermen perished, and they have left 55 widows, 128 orphans, and 12 to. 15 aged parents, who were dependent upon them.

**Fact:** As a result of the loss of life caused by mines during the First World War, a Hull Minesweepers' Widows and Orphans Fund was established to provide financial aid to the victims' families

January 18th 1919

George Ashton Esq, Tivoli Theatre, Hull.

Dear Mr Ashton,

On behalf of the Minesweepers' Widows & Orphans Funs I wish to thank you very much indeed for your kindness and the valuable assistance you rendered to our society in arranging and carrying out the Charity Matinee at the Tivoli Theatre, Hull on November 9th 1918, which was such a complete success.

Apart from our appreciation you will have the satisfaction of knowing that through your endeavours you have releaved the sufferings of many widows & orphans in this City and we are truly grateful to you.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman, Hull Committee Humber Minesweepers' Widows & Orphans Fund. Subscriptions, collections and benefit events were often arranged following a major disaster resulting in a large loss of life.

Following particularly bad storms, a significant wreckage, or during times of war, it was common to find newspaper advertisements of such charitable efforts to aid the families of lost and stranded seafarers.

Collections were held during services in chapels and churches that were closely associated with the seafaring community.

Local business owners and entrepreneurs would also make donations to such funds by holding benefit evenings and charity events.

Subscriptions were usually raised by a committee of local civic figures, often including the mayor of the town.