

# Appendix One: The History of Blaggrave 1981-2012

The Trust was set up in 1978 and endowed in 1981 upon the death of Herbert Blaggrave, who left to the Trust the majority of his substantial assets, including the Linkenholt estate, which comprised an Edwardian manor house, 21 cottages and houses, 1,500 acres of farmland, 450 acres of woodland, a village shop and a blacksmith's forge. A portfolio of shares was also included in the endowment.

Herbert Blaggrave was the scion of a wealthy Reading family, born in 1899 in Cheltenham. A keen sportsman, he was a capable footballer, golfer and cricketer (playing once for Gloucestershire in 1922); and, from the late 1920s, was a racehorse breeder and trainer. He was also a Director and later President of Southampton FC when they won the FA Cup in 1976.

Herbert Blaggrave's wife predeceased him and he had no children of his own. To ensure he did not die intestate, his advisors suggested that he should set up a charitable trust. He added to his will a "Memorandum of Wishes" which asked the trustees to consider assisting charities *"for the relief of distressed elderly gentlefolk ... injured jockeys ... handicapped children ... injured sportsmen, especially cricketers and footballers ... and charities for the benefit of sick persons generally..."*. Essentially, this will was intended as a holding operation while he made up his mind, but it was left unchanged when he died three years later in 1981.

Starting life as the "Herbert and Peter Blaggrave Trust" (Peter was a brother, but the endowment was all Herbert's), it had the initial character of a small family trust, but with no family members. Its first three trustees had been, or were, successors to Herbert's professional advisors – a solicitor (who had suggested Herbert set up the trust), a property agent and a stockbroker.

For many years the Trust had a relatively modest distributable income. Early on, the trustees decided that grants should be focused on the three counties in which Herbert had lived – Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire – as a way of restricting demand. Most grants were annual and for modest sums, although some larger grants were awarded to major capital appeals such as hospices. The grant-making was conscientious and unremarkable.

In 2009, the trustees sold the estate, which was the main endowment, in order to diversify the investments and enable the Trust to increase the distributable income substantially.