

AN APPEAL FROM THE HALESWORTH AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

A rare and significant local document has just been offered to the Museum by a bookdealer in Essex. It is the printed and highly detailed specification of work needed to construct the Bulcamp House of Industry (the Workhouse) in 1764. It was produced by the architect and builder of the workhouse, Thomas Fulcher of Debenham and is accompanied by a hand-written schedule of all the rooms in the proposed building.

The Bulcamp building – now converted into residential accommodation but still standing as Blyth View, overlooking the river at Blythburgh - was one of the earliest to be built in the area. Others survive at Shipmeadow and Melton. It served as a public building (House of Industry, then Workhouse and finally hospital) for well over 200 years.

The Museum Trustees are anxious to secure this document so that it can return to the area and be seen by present and future generations. The bookdealer has promised to reduce the asking price by 15% if we can raise the money.

We are therefore appealing to you, as someone with an interest and commitment to our local history, for your help in buying this valuable piece of local social history. Eleven 'Friends Indeed', each contributing £50, would secure it from the bookseller.

If this is too much to ask, any smaller sum you feel able to offer would be valued, or any advice as to other possible supporters we might approach.

If you are able to help, a cheque, made payable to the Halesworth and District Museum and sent to the Treasurer, Brian Howard, at Halesworth and District Museum, Station Road, Halesworth, IP19 8BZ would be gratefully received. If we can tell you more, please contact Brian on 07715 679711 or at office@halesworthmuseum.org.uk

Thanks for listening.

