

## THE GODDEN CHARITY

By his will of 8 February 1662, Edward Godden, son of the farmer at Paddlesworth, who by then was a Citizen and Haberdasher of London, gave "20 acres in Ivychurch to Brett Netter and his heirs to the intent that they should pay yearly to the churchwardens and overseers of Snodland [and also Birling] £10 on trust with £5 thereof to put forth one poor child male or female apprentice to some honest trade or calling'.

We also have a document dated 1670, kept by the parish, because the charity was to be paid by Godden's son-in-law Brett Netter and his heirs. Unfortunately, he didn't keep up the payments, so the parish was forced to take him to court. This document has survived, but is too large to display permanently, although it can be seen on request. Other survivals are a group of more than twenty original indentures dated 1717-1769 for various Godden apprenticeships.

- (a) WILL OF EDWARD GODDEN (A few words still to decipher)
- (b) COURT CASE AGAINST BRETT NETTER
- (c) IMAGES OF SURVIVING 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY INDENTURES