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Relive Georgian Life – Olney

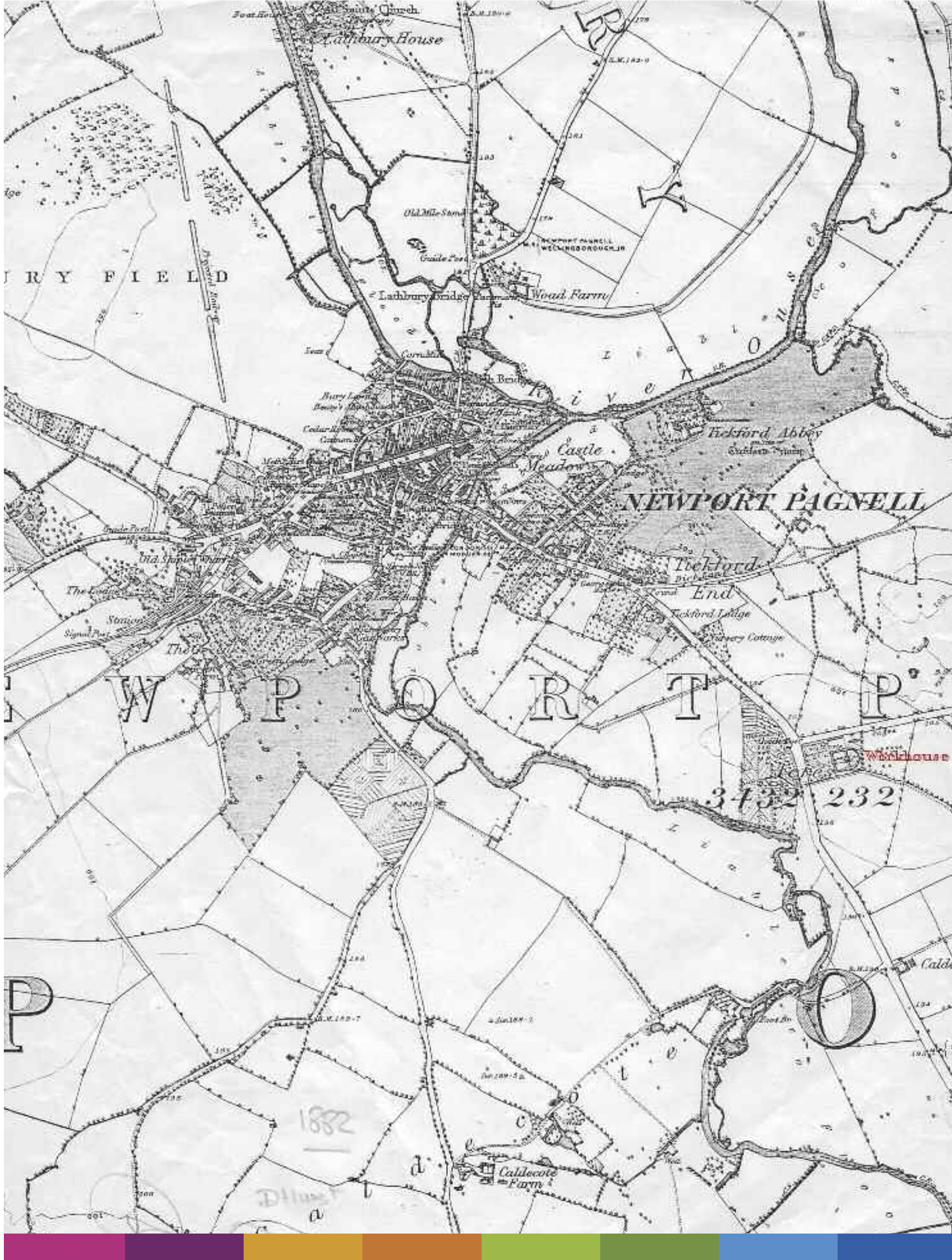


Image credit: Newport Pagnell Historical Society

After the Poor Law Act of 1834 parish workhouses were closed and large union workhouses were built in the larger towns. Newport Pagnell Poor Law Union was formed in 1835 and served the local area



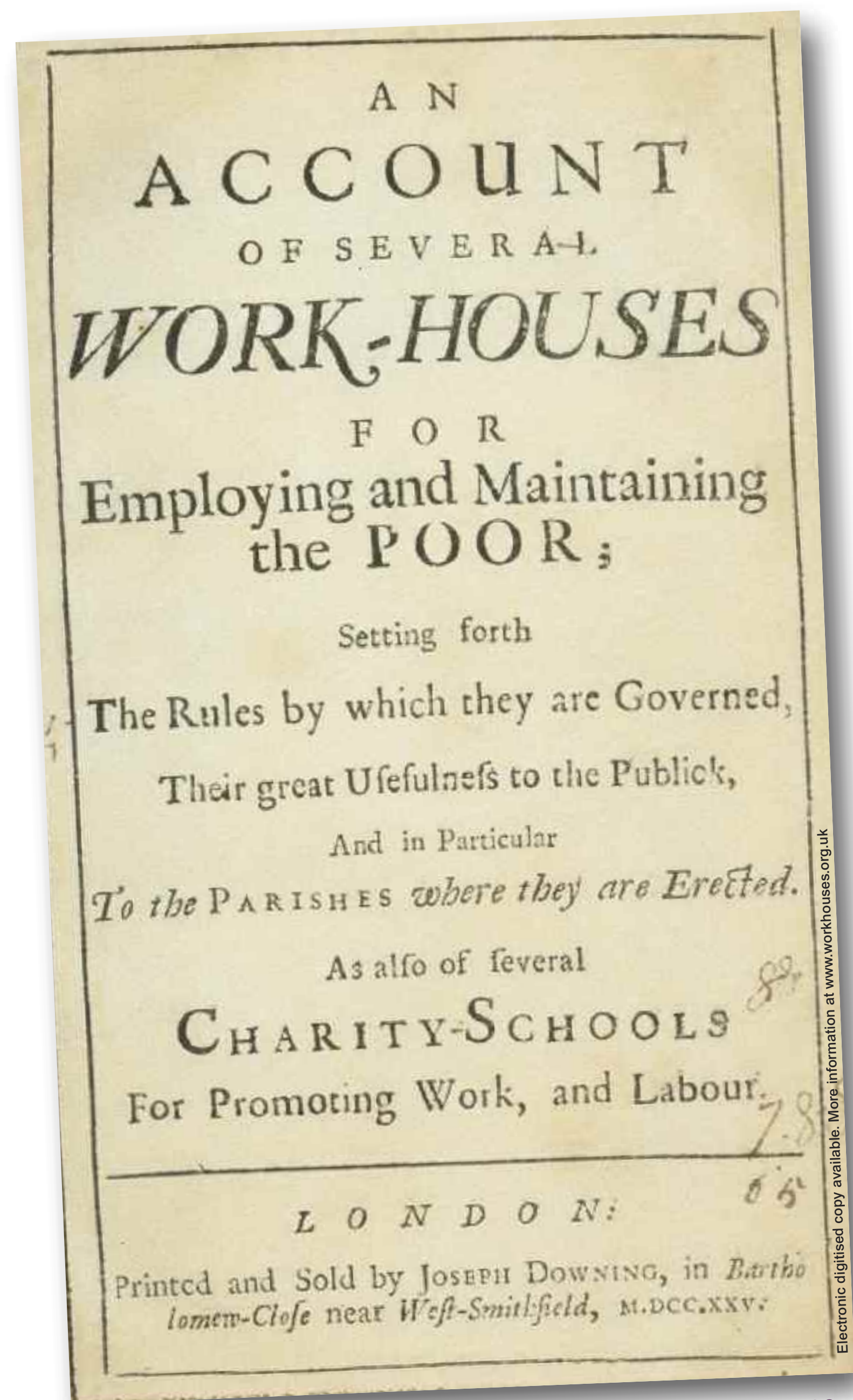
Image credit: Newport Pagnell Police Museum website (archived). The Museum is now closed and the collection is now cared for by Milton Keynes Museum

Newport Pagnell Workhouse: In a time before social services, society's most vulnerable people relied on the support of the local parish either as outdoor poor relief or within a Poorhouse or Workhouse

'The people here are mostly poor – the country low and dirty.' Letter from Rev John Newton to Alexander Clunie.

In the 18th century the parish **Overseers of the Poor** taxed local inhabitants to raise money to support those in need. Sometimes money, food, clothing or medical care was provided as outdoor relief which meant the family stayed in their own houses. The sick, the elderly and orphans though would usually be given support within a Poor House or Workhouse. All expenditure and income was recorded and many detailed records survive.

'The Poor Rates in Olney are very high, owing to the great numbers of Lace-makers who are employed in the town, and who frequently become chargeable to the Parish' (Dartmouth Survey)



Electronic digitised copy available. More information at www.workhouses.org.uk

'An Account of several Work-houses ..' published in 1725 & 1732. Workhouses in Olney, Buckingham, Hanslope, Lavendon, Stoke Goldington, Newport Pagnell, & North Crawley. This document also contains information about the workhouse rules.

