

HRO 46M89//14/1 Robert Cottle (Mayor) is concerned about Soup

Basingstoke Jan 9 1854

My Dear Sir,

I regret to hear that our excellent Soup Society is very much abused, and that Families in this Town, where the Heads are in the receipt of from 18/- to 30/- per week, all the year round, regularly send for Peas Soup, at 1d per quart, every day of the distribution, to the exclusion of families who are really poor, and I may say almost destitute. I understand that on Friday last 9 very poor families could not be served in consequence of parties who are not entitled to the benefit of the Charity having been previously served. Truly this system requires an amendment, so that those families who are really poor, may be served in preference to those who do not stand in need of such assistance. The circumstance has been raised to me by several individuals ...

I beg to suggest that any Family who may be considered entitled to a supply of Soup should be supplied with a printed Card similar to the one enclosed on which the name of the Family should be written, which the Party can retain, but on application for Soup must show the Card to the person in attendance before the Soup can be delivered. The names of all the Families to whom Cards are given to be entered in an Alphabetical Book, when the cards are issued, and an alphabetical list of all the recipients be stuck up in the Soup Kitchen in order that the attendant may have ready information and so that the Charity not be imposed upon. The tickets not to be transferable. I have now discharged a duty which I felt to be incumbent upon me in the hope that some remedy for the above complained of may be devised out of hand....

Robert Cottle