

Sir Robert Hitcham's Almshouses at Levington

Annual Parish Meeting Report 2022

I am pleased to report that all four Almshouses in Levington are currently occupied. Mrs Vanessa Hay joined the residents in June 2021. The Trustees are always pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in becoming a beneficiary of the Trust and live in an Almshouse should one become vacant in future.

The Almshouses are in a sound state of repair and the Trustees are committed to ensuring that they remain so, for the benefit of current and future residents. In line with Almshouse Association guidelines, part of the Weekly Maintenance Contribution paid by residents is invested into an Extraordinary Repair Fund for any very large scale and extraordinary work and part is held in a Cyclical Maintenance Fund account, which funds other work. The Trust's policy is to continue to build these reserves for future requirements.

During the last year the old single glazed units in the historic building have been replaced with new, double glazed timber units. The old failing timber units in the modern kitchen extension have been replaced with UPVC double glazed units. Permission was given by the local conservation department for the work, as required for these listed buildings.

During the year we succeeded in completing a review of the governing instrument and agreement for this will be sought with the Charity Commission in 2022. The registration of the property with the Land Registry was completed in 2022 and the annual return made by the Trust to the Charity Commission is on their website.

The Trustees are currently six volunteers from the parishes of Nacton and Levington, chaired by the Rev. Ian Wilson. During the year the Board of Trustees have appointed a new Clerk, Mrs Ros Eaton, who has the difficult task of living up to the reputation of her predecessor, Mrs Louise Overbury, who was an exemplary Clerk. Also joining the Trustees during the year was Mrs Sarah Gregory. Chris Mayhew (Red House Walk) took over as Treasurer from Mrs Dorrie Giles, who remains a Trustee for a further year.

Our next AGM will be in the autumn of this year.