



# Taunton Heritage Trust Almshouse Charity

## About us...

The Taunton Heritage Trust is an Almshouse and grant giving charity. We provide 66 self contained flats in Taunton. Each site has communal gardens which are maintained for the enjoyment of our Residents. Community rooms and guest accommodation are also provided.

At entry, our Residents have to be 60 years or over, in need of financial and social support and in good health. They must also be able to live independently, but have a desire to be part of a supportive community, following a very simple set of rules.

We aim to provide a community environment on each of our sites which encourages social wellbeing through a range of activities and events. The Trust organises and pays for two outings a year, usually a summer trip to the seaside and a Christmas party.

We provide part-time Warden support and each of our flats is fitted with a 24 hour piper alarm system, which is supported by the Deane Helpline. We provide flooring and a freestanding cooker and fridge in each flat. Communal laundries are provided on each site with washers and dryers maintained by the Trust.

## What is an Almshouse?...

An Almshouse is a unit of residential accommodation which belongs to a charity and is provided exclusively to meet the charity's purpose.

Each of our Residents are beneficiaries of the Trust and contribute a weekly sum towards maintenance.



# Trustees and Staff

The Taunton Heritage Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is registered with the Charity Commission (No: 1177162). The Trust is also registered with the Regulator of Social Housing as a housing provider and is a member of the Almshouse Association.

The Trust is governed by a minimum of nine Trustees, three of whom are nominated. Two are nominated by Somerset West and Taunton Council and one by the Court Leet. The Trust's Patron is the serving Mayor of Taunton.

The day to day responsibility for running the Trust and overseeing all its activities is delegated to the Chief Officer, who together with the rest of the Staff team, work on a part time basis.

## Our heritage

The two original benefactors of our charity were Robert Gray, who founded Grays Almshouses which were built in 1635 and Richard Huish, who founded Huish Homes, which was built in 1868. Both were merchants born in Taunton who had prospered in London.



The Huish Homes Almsmen taken around 1890 in the garden to the rear of Magdalene Street.. The roller in the photo on the right is still in the garden at Huish Homes today!

### Contact us:

Taunton Heritage Trust, Huish Homes, Magdalene Street,  
Taunton TA1 1SG  
Tel: 01823 335348 / [info@tauntonheritagetrust.org.uk](mailto:info@tauntonheritagetrust.org.uk)

[www.tauntonheritagetrust.org.uk](http://www.tauntonheritagetrust.org.uk)

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## Our grants scheme...



We are very proud of the Trust's grant scheme. Every year over 250 grants are awarded to individuals living in Taunton Deane who are in need to enable them and their families to benefit.

## Heritage Open Day Scheme...

We proudly open up Grays Almshouses to the public in September each year, as part of the National Heritage Open Day scheme. Visitors have the opportunity to tour the chapel and garden and look inside some of our Residents flats.



It is always a busy event with over 100 visitors.

## The future of Almhouse living in Taunton.

The demand for our almshouse accommodation is increasing and as a result, work is progressing to develop 11 additional almshouse flats with lift access and replacement offices for the Trust staff. The Corfield Hall site is in a beautiful location in the heart of Taunton and plans are under way to produce a building to be proud of well into the twenty-first century and beyond.