

Design

The Homes are a striking testimony to the Architect, Philip Hardy, one of the founding Trustees, whose work is a testimony of skill. Philip Hardy was married to Ethel Mary Bright. Ethel was the daughter of Percy Bright, of Bright's Stores, which was 'House of Fraser' in Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

Percy Bright was Mayor of Bournemouth immediately before Alderman Edgecombe.

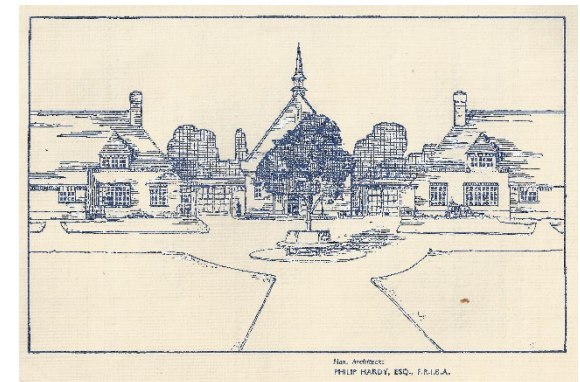
Philip Hardy entered into a partnership with architect A. J. Seal to form 'Seal and Hardy', whose work included the Echo offices on Richmond Hill in Bournemouth and the Westover Road Ice Rink.



Founders' Day

EVENTIDE
HOMES

An Almshouse charity housing
older people in need since 1936



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The Founder

John Robert Edgecombe was born in 1870. He set up his own grocery business in Boscombe, Bournemouth in 1899.

A family man with four sons, Mr Edgecombe was a Methodist Local Preacher and attended St. George's Church in Boscombe.

In 1919, he joined Bournemouth Borough Council as an Independent, representing the Boscombe East Ward.



The Vision

JR Edgecombe became increasingly aware of the growing number of cases of extreme hardship in the area. This was particularly so amongst ladies, who were left homeless and without adequate means of support.

In 1933, he was elected as Mayor, an office that he held for three years, becoming an Alderman, and it was during this time that JR Edgecombe envisaged a community of small villas where the needy could find security in the latter part of their lives.

Alderman Edgecombe made an appeal that was launched at a public Mayoral Dinner at Bournemouth Pavilion in 1934.

The dream becomes reality

The next stage of the development was to find a suitable location. The land was provided by the generosity of the Cooper Dean family on Castle Lane, and included payment for three homes. By July 1936, the first two blocks had been completed and were ready for occupation. Plaques were erected above doors and on the side of buildings in recognition of those who generously donated.

The Hall was opened with a concert on 29th July 1937 and was made possible thanks to the kindness of Sir Alexander Maclean (of toothpaste fame).

