

Case for Support

80th Anniversary Appeal to extend The Almshouse Association's Charity Rolling Fund for the benefit of member almshouse charities and to develop the services of the Association



Overview of The Almshouse Association

The Almshouse Association, which originated in 1946, is an essential component of the almshouse movement and is committed to supporting member charities in providing good quality housing for those in need, promoting the welfare and independence of residents and preserving the historic tradition of almshouses for the enjoyment of future generations.

Today there are over 1,500 independent almshouse charities in the UK providing safe, warm, affordable homes for approximately 34,000 residents who are in housing need. This makes the almshouse movement a significant provider of homes for people in need throughout the country. In rural areas almshouses are often the only provider of accommodation of this type.

The Almshouse Association is the only organisation in the country providing a vital communication link for almshouse charities. The majority of almshouse charities have less than 20 dwellings and only a modest income derived solely from weekly maintenance contributions from the residents. Some of these smaller charities are struggling, as Trustees are unable to fund the cost of essential repairs and improvements and our challenge is to ensure that they are given much-needed financial assistance to upgrade their accommodation and continue as their benefactors intended. The Almshouse Association is committed to ensuring that almshouses offer a standard of living that we would welcome for ourselves and our families. We can only achieve this with your help and generosity.

Who qualifies and what the movement offers

It is the quality of life that almshouses offer to residents that makes them so special. Almshouses offer people the opportunity to remain independent and live their lives with dignity and fulfilment, with the knowledge that in the background there is someone who may be called upon in times of need, such is the support and care of Trustees. This is vitally important, as many almshouse residents, being elderly, are frail and vulnerable to falls, sudden illness and other incidents when it is essential to summon help immediately.

An increasing number of people are living well beyond retirement age into their eighties and nineties. Providing suitable accommodation and care for our ageing population is now of far greater significance. Almshouses fulfil a vital need by providing good quality housing to residents within a special almshouse community in a locality which is often near to their families.

Research undertaken by Bayes Business School supported by The Almshouse Association in 2023 shows that living in an almshouse charity reduces loneliness, extends life expectancy by around two and a half years, and delivers savings to the State of approximately £43 million per year. Almshouses lead to reduced demand on public services, demonstrating the powerful impact of supportive, community-based housing.

Collectively, these charities provide safe and affordable accommodation for those in need, which include the elderly, single parent families, ex-servicemen and retired key workers from a range of industries and professions who do not have the means to access local authority housing and private landlords.

For many, the past few years have highlighted how important a comfortable home and caring community are to our health and wellbeing. Social isolation and problems associated with poor housing particularly affect those on limited income, in poor health, older people and those with disabilities. These are the people almshouses exist for and help and why we believe almshouse charities are increasingly worthy of support.



We need your support

The Almshouse Association Charity Rolling Fund

Established in 1996, the Charity Rolling Fund offers practical, interest-free financial support to almshouse charities carrying out essential upgrades and improvements.

The nature of the fund is such that donations to it are made in perpetuity, meaning that any donation received not only supports almshouse charities now, but also over years to come. To continue meeting growing demand and to ensure no almshouse charity is forced to delay essential works, we rely on the generosity of donors. Your donation to the Charity Rolling Fund strengthens a permanent source of support, enabling us to respond swiftly to urgent needs, invest in long-term improvements, and extend help to the smallest and most vulnerable almshouse charities. By giving today, you are not only helping to improve homes and lives now, but safeguarding dignified, affordable housing for generations to come.

The Almshouse Association is committed to ensuring that almshouses offer a standard of living that we would welcome for ourselves and our families. We can only achieve this with your help and generosity.

The purpose of The Charity Rolling Fund is to enable us to make interest-free loans or grants to those almshouse charities carrying out new build, essential repairs, conversion of bedsitting rooms into flats and the installation of new kitchens and bathrooms, enabling elderly residents to enjoy safe and easy access. The loans are repayable over a ten-year period thereby allowing the fund to be continuously replenished, meaning that any donation will not only help almshouse charities now, but also in the future. Grants are also considered for member charities that are unable to repay our loans due to financial constraints.

Current demand from almshouse charities means that the Charity Rolling Fund is not sufficient to meet the ever-growing need, as many struggling charities, especially the smaller ones, are unable to fund the cost of ongoing essential repairs, such as roofing, guttering, re-pointing, replacement windows and modern boiler systems.



Requests for support and help are growing year on year, can you support us to help more people?

"I used to wash in a bucket of water and boil eggs in a kettle.... and I lived 11 years without heating on at all. I can't describe how wonderful it is just to be warm"

"I was desperate, I was living on the street, then I got lucky, I won the lottery, I got a place. Since then, its changed my life and I feel as enthusiastic as a kid again."

Year	Charities Supported	Amount
2021	23	£801,220
2022	14	£421,835
2023	19	£883,214
2024	16	£873,677
2025	23	£1,248,500
2026	11	£972,650 (August 2026)

**Please send any correspondence to
The Appeal Office:**

**Registered Address:
The Almshouse Association
Leonard Hackett House
17-21 Victoria Street
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Berkshire SL4 1HE**