Duke of Gloucester Opens Almshouse Association's Windsor HQ



The Duke of Gloucester cuts the ribbon outside Leonard Hackett House in Victoria Street, Windsor *(Photo: Richard Gray, supplied by The Almshouse Association)*

By Windsor Today Newsdesk

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24 MINUTES AGO · NEWS CHARITY

The Duke of Gloucester opened The Almshouse Association's new national headquarters in Victoria Street, Windsor. The charity moved there from Billingbear.

The national charity for almshouses now has its headquarters in Windsor. HRH The Duke of Gloucester officially opened The Almshouse Association's new home at Leonard Hackett House, 17-21 Victoria Street, on 22 October.

The Association represents more than 1,600 independent almshouse charities across the UK. It moved to Windsor from Billingbear, near

Wokingham, where its founder Leonard Hackett first set up office. Fifteen staff work at the new building.

OVERVIEW

The Almshouse Association, the membership charity for the UK's almshouses, has moved its national headquarters to Leonard Hackett House in Victoria Street, Windsor. The Duke of Gloucester opened the building on 22 October by cutting a ribbon, unveiling a commemorative plaque and cutting a commemorative cake. The charity was founded in 1946 and was previously based at Billingbear, near Wokingham.

Who the Duke met

During the visit the Duke met the charity's trustees and staff. He also met residents and trustees from two local almshouses: Ellison House Almshouses, also in Victoria Street, and Penny Royal Almshouses in Old Windsor.



Duke of Gloucester beside the covered commemorative plaque at Leonard Hackett House. Photo: Richard Gray, supplied by The Almshouse Association

The Association says Ellison House is just a minute's walk from its new office, one of "quite a few stunning historical almshouses in Windsor".The

Nick Phillips, the Association's chief executive, said: "It was an absolute honour and a wonderful privilege to welcome His Royal Highness to officially open our new home here in Windsor.

"The Duke's presence made this an incredibly special and memorable day for our staff and trustees, as well as the local Windsor almshouse residents and trustees who joined our celebrations. His Royal Highness took the time to speak so warmly with everyone, leaving an enduring impression that our community will cherish for many years to come."

Why the charity moved to Windsor

The Association says the move to Victoria Street puts it in a good position to push on with its 10-year campaign to support the building of 5,000 new almshouse homes by 2030.

What almshouses are

Almshouses are homes held in trust for local people in housing need. They are run by independent almshouse charities, which the Association says draw on more than 8,000 local volunteers across the UK. It calls them the oldest form of community-led housing, and says they have been around for more than 1,000 years.

The Association puts the number of people living in almshouses at around 36,000 to 37,000. In its reply to Windsor Today it said almshouses "have been proven to support wellbeing" and "alleviate some of the isolation and loneliness so prevalent in today's society".

The charity offers support, guidance and representation to its member almshouse charities, and works with councils and the government to get more almshouses built. More about its work is on **almshouses.org**.

Source: The Almshouse Association.