

Update for Annual Town Meeting 19th April 2021
Burltons, Cookes and Sayers Almshouses, Bewdley
(Charity Number 1088784)

The Almshouses in Bewdley are known as the Burltons, Cookes and Sayers Almshouses.

They have existed for 400 years and hold a wealth of historic information and fascination. Their former use has been as hospitals, gentlemen's residences, sanctuaries for travellers and dwellings for local workers.

Currently, fourteen properties form the trust and are occupied by older people who have served or lived in the community.

Located at 3 sites, Lower Park, High Street and Park Lane, they comprise of small one- and two-bedroom dwellings. Twelve of these are occupied and have been extensively restored by the current trustee board. The two remaining will be similarly renovated in the near future.

Almshouses have existed throughout the UK for centuries with the oldest believed to be in Worcester, established circa 990. 1600 Almshouse charities exist throughout the UK sometimes offering sheltered support dependent on the details of the governance document.

Our Almshouses are suitable for older people who become beneficiaries of the charity and cannot own or purchase the property they are allocated. Beneficiaries have very different rights to that of a tenant and are allowed occupation under the terms of a contract.

The chairman Richard PERRIN, his six local trustees and a part-time clerk manage the properties. The trustees are all local residents and are required to act in accordance with the Charity Law and Trustee Act of 2000. They meet regularly and are very much involved with the day to day running of the trust.

Applications for residency are welcomed from local persons who fit the criteria of becoming a beneficiary. They will be interviewed and need to provide supporting information before being offered a property. There is a waiting list.

The charity is well prepared to meet the challenges ahead, due to age of the buildings, safety and pandemic requirements. Perhaps a new site may be purchased or bequeathed in the future.

The UK Almshouse Association Patron is HRH the Prince of Wales and Vice Patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

Sharon HARVEY
BSc Cert Ed
Clerk to the Trustees