

ASH UNITED CHARITIES

Benevolent Fund.

This charity is a collection of six bequests, the earliest having been donated by Richard Camden in 1642. This, and the succeeding five bequests donated in 1833, 1846, 1864, 1895 and 1934 are invested in a charitable fund known as COIF. The purpose of each bequest is quite specific and includes the upkeep of a monument in the church, repair of the painted window, polishing a brass plaque, providing coal and otherwise for 'Relief in Need' to those who are in hardship or distress. As Trustees we only have access to the interest on each fund and it is therefore difficult to provide any meaningful assistance when funds are so 'ring-fenced' and interest rates in charitable accounts are so dire. However, if the vicar wishes to apply, there is available 5 shillings a year from the Richard Camden fund which after three hundred and seventy nine years is now worth £280.00.

Resthaven Almshouses .

This row of four cottages bequeathed by the Gardner family, have provided homes for local, retired people since 1903. The present Trustees have always been ambitious to provide more almshouses for the village and in 2018 when the funding was put together, planning permission was achieved for two further homes that have been linked to existing. Despite the difficulties of a pandemic the construction work continued and new residents moved in last summer.

The Frank Kingsland Trust for the Elderly.

Our small almshouse trust, thanks to the generosity of Mr Frank Kingsland who lived in Westmarsh, consists of two semi-detached bungalows.

As with all our properties the Trustees are responsible for the day-to-day management, setting the budgets, organising a rolling programme of maintenance, repairs and refurbishment and ensuring financial viability for the foreseeable future. We prepare annual accounts for each charity and we are responsible to the Charity Commission and the Regulator of Social Housing.

This report is also to record my grateful thanks to the trustees, Carole Palmer, Kevin Ellis and Maureen Bubb who have provided outstanding support to me and the residents. Thus my thanks also go to our residents who have come through a difficult year of lockdown and restrictions with stoical humour and good grace.

Mary Smith

Chairman

April 4th 2021

