

**The Cuckfield Cottage Homes Trust**  
**Registered Charity No 229475**

***The Cuckfield Cottage Homes:***

***A Short History***

***In Celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1882-2007***



***David Thunder/Trustee***

***Trustees: Revd Nicholas Wetherall (Chairman), Paul Goldfinch (Hon Secretary),  
David Thunder (Hon Treasurer), Jane Crampton, Pam Edgerton,  
Liz Holdridge, Isobel Simmonds***

## **The Cuckfield Cottage Homes Trust 2007**

*A Short History for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### **Introduction**

*As we celebrate 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cuckfield Cottage Homes Trust, this Short History looks back through the Trustees Minute Books for the period 1882-1975 and offers some snippets from the archives – in celebration of the Homes and for the interest (and occasional amusement) of our readers.*

*The Cottage Homes were founded on 21 May 1881 when the Sergison Trust conveyed Church Field on the west side of the Churchyard to Miss Mary Frances Maberly, daughter of a former Vicar of Cuckfield. She acquired the land for the construction of the line of three cottages we know as The Cuckfield Cottage Homes, and a year later the Homes were ready to receive their first residents. The Homes were officially opened by the Service of Dedication held in Holy Trinity Church on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1882.*

**David Thunder/Trustee**

### **Part A: The 1882-1945 Minute Book**

#### **3 April 1882**

At their first meeting Trustees appointed the first residents to Cottages No. 1 and 2. At this stage in their history the Homes consisted of a terrace of three separate houses, rather than the six flats we know today. In order however to make best use of space, residents were appointed “on this condition to be attached, that they should be willing to receive a lodger should the Trustees desire them so to do”. At the May meeting it was also resolved to “appoint a Collector of Rents at a salary of 5%”. The grounds were completed by the addition of “a small gate leading from the Cottage Homes into the Churchyard” and instructions were given to “make an oak (park paling) fence at the back of the Cottages to separate them from the adjoining property”.

#### **12 July 1882**

The Cuckfield Cottage Homes were formally opened with a service of dedication taken by the Revd Mount at “The Church of the Holy Trinity Cuckfield”.

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Liz Holdridge, Isobel Simmonds**

**3 November 1882**

“It was resolved that Widow Burtenshaw late of Iron Pear Tree and her 2 daughters Sarah Ann and Emily Burtenshaw be appointed to occupy the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cottage, but on the understanding that in the event of their mother’s health failing, the two daughters shall have no claim upon the Trustees to continue as occupants of the said cottage”.

**1 December 1885**

This day the Trust Deed of the Charity was finally formalised establishing The Cuckfield Cottage Homes Trust by the conveyance from Miss Maberly “to the Vicar of Cuckfield and others (the trustees)” the property and the related land. Miss Maberly was the first Trustee, with the Vicar *ex officio*.

**21 September 1893**

“It was resolved to lay water from the Mid Sussex Company’s Works, but as no estimate of the expense had been sent to the Trustees, no further steps could be taken”.

**25 October 1895**

It would seem that Widow Burtenshaw had passed on, because the Trustees agreed at this meeting “that the Widow Burtenshaw’s daughters Emily and Sarah should be allowed to live in their mother’s cottage”.

**4 July 1896**

Trustees took the first of many decisions to make best use of all the separate rooms in the Homes. Directions were given “that the rooms on the first floor at Mrs Willetts (No. 1) should be cieled (*Sic*), floored and have a window so as to make habitable and that the tender of E

Norris and Sons execute the work for £9”.

**29 March 1899**

Miss Maberly proposed that “the sum of £3-12-00 be expended on the repairs of the road and pathway leading to the Cottage Homes”. Trustees “proceeded to inspect the fence and gate at the back of the Cottage Homes adjoining the wall of Mr Hounsell’s yard (*Mason’s Cottage*), the boiler in Daughter Burtenshaw’s scullery, the small skylight in Widow Pattenden’s roof and the gate into the churchyard – and directed that the necessary repairs be effected”.

**24 July 1899**

It was agreed that “on the occasion of a vacancy, notices should be posted on the doors of the Churches in the Parish”. It was also agreed that the “Widows Packham, Richardson, and Wynter should each pay a rent of 6d a week”.

**26 April 1901**

Miss Maberly reported that the fence adjoining Hounsell’s garden was out of repair. It was agreed that “if necessary it should be replaced by a brick wall 4 feet high, and then that the pathway by the side of it should be repaired with hard stone siftings. Mr Bevan expressed his anxiety that special care should be taken that this path should not become public”.

“E Burtenshaw having asked that a gas cooking stove should be supplied to her Cottage, it was agreed that arrangements should be made with the Gas Company”.

**21 March 1903**

“It was reported that the Gas Company declined to make the arrangements for a cooking stove suggested at the last meeting”.

**22 January 1907**

The Trust Deed was examined “and it was found that Miss Maberly and the Vicar are the only trustees actually appointed, and it was agreed that Mr Waugh be requested to draw up a deed of appointment including the names of Mr Bevan, Miss Louisa Best and Mr Waugh”.

This is the first mention of Miss Best, after Miss Maberly the second most important character in this history. She took over from Mr T W Best. Incidentally, the frequency of spinsters names among Trustees in this early history is easily explained: the Deed provided for spinsters to resign on their marriage so as not to be distracted from their duties to their husbands and families.

*Over the next few years little of note is recorded outside of the routine business of repairs and annual accounts*

**2 July 1915**

“No candidate for the vacant room had been found in the Ecclesiastical District”. The Vicar was instructed to write to the “Vicar of Staplefield to establish whether any suitable candidate existed in his district of the Parish of Cuckfield”. If that did not work, similar approaches were to be made to the Vicar in “the Haywards Heath District of Cuckfield Parish”. This is an interesting reminder that Staplefield and St Wilfred’s Haywards

Heath are daughter churches of Cuckfield.

**18 February 1916**

“It was stated that there had been for several months a vacancy for another inmate at No. 1, the only occupant at present being Miss E. Burtenshaw”.

The Homes were redecorated at a cost of £24-10-00. It was also agreed that “Fire Insurance be raised from £900 to £1200, and also that the buildings should be insured for a similar amount against damage by hostile aircraft”.

**17 January 1919**

“It was stated that the Homes had been insured against damage by hostile aircraft for one year only and that the Policy had not been renewed. It is now of course no longer necessary owing to the cessation of hostilities”.

**27 June 1919**

Insurance was raised to £1500, which Mr Bevan said, “was not nearly enough owing to the extravagant cost of building”. It was also resolved once again “to approach the Gas Company as to the probable cost of supplying gas to the Cottage Homes chiefly for the purposes of cooking”.

**12 February 1920**

“Miss Maberly stated that it was not advisable to supply Gas to the Homes”. No further discussion or reason is mentioned.

**28 January 1921**

Miss Osborne had “expressed a wish that a small cooking stove should be placed in her room in place of or in front of the open grate and after due

consideration and discussion of ways and means it was left to the Chairman to do what was necessary”.

**12 August 1921**

It was noted that “a small cooking stove had been obtained at very reasonable cost for Miss Osborne’s room and that it has given great satisfaction”. The Trustees considered “how best to increase the cleanliness of the Homes and various suggestions were made”.

**4 December 1922**

“The Chairman referred to the death of Miss Maberly which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> October and it was unanimously decided to pass a resolution to be inserted in the Minutes: *That the Trustees hereby express their deep regret at the death of Miss Maberly and their sense of the great loss which the Parish has sustained together with their appreciation of the services of Miss Maberly who had for more than 30 years<sup>1</sup> been a Trustee of the Cottage Homes. Miss Louisa Best was elected Treasurer in Miss Maberly’s place.*”

**3 August 1923**

Trustees reviewed an “application for the use of the upstairs room in the House which is now occupied by Miss E. Burtenshaw”.

**22 February 1924**

“Attention was drawn to the fact that the lower rooms in the top house were practically unoccupied (as Miss Packham had been in the Work House Infirmary for several months and she would not be able to come out)”. During her absence her rent had been “paid for by friends”. Miss Best was asked to “interview Miss Packham’s friends and to ask them to remove her furniture without delay”.

**28 May 1925**

The Chairman reported that “the garden had been taken up by the School Managers, and was now under cultivation by the School”.

**1 July 1925**

“The Chairman stated that Miss Betsy Pattenden who had been an inmate of the Homes since their erection in 1882 had died on 21 June in the Infirmary”. She had been a resident of the Homes for 37 years.

**3 September 1925**

The Trustees began discussion of “certain alterations to make the Cottages more habitable” and requests for estimates were to be sent out.

**19 March 1926**

The debate about improvements continued with the middle cottage the focus of concern: “especially to making a window, and to improvements of the stairs which are

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<sup>1</sup> Miss Maberly had in fact been a Trustee for 41 years at the time of her death

unsuitable for those who are aged and infirm". The Chairman had concluded, "considerable structural alterations were advisable which were not practicable on grounds of expense". To do a proper job would require "funds by public subscription", but it was decided that "owing to the stringent terms of the Trust Deed such a project was inadvisable at the present time". He pleaded however that Trustees should try to find "any way in which the staircase in the middle house could be altered to make it safer for old people".

**3 April 1927**

"The Chairman reported that Miss Emily Burtenshaw who had been an inmate of the Homes since 1882 had been a patient in the Infirmary for the past 6 months and that she would not be able to return to the Homes. It was decided that the Chairman should write to Miss Burtenshaw's brother in Ardingly and ask that her furniture and effects should be removed as convenient". She had been a resident of the Homes for 39 years.

**9 March 1932**

"The middle house rooms on the ground floor were now vacant. Miss Walker asked if she might have the use of the lower rooms instead of living upstairs". After discussion, Trustees decided that "Miss Walker's request could not be granted and that an allowance of 6d a week should be made to her to pay a girl to carry up her water". Discussion turned to the "fumigating and cleaning of the lower rooms".

**22 July 1932**

The deed of Conveyance of 1881 and other legal documents "were handed over for safe custody" to the Bank.

**30 May 1933**

A letter of application had been received from the "occupant of the Clergy House to erect a portable garage which would encroach a short distance upon the ground at the back of the Cottage Homes". Trustees granted the request provided there was agreement "to remove the garage if called upon to do so, and to paying a nominal ground rent".

**18 October 1934**

It was decided finally to install "another hand rail on the staircase" in the middle cottage. It is unclear whether this means a *second* handrail, a *replacement* handrail, or whether it really did take six years to decide how to make that staircase safer.

**16 November 1936**

A letter was read "from the Sanitary Inspector" drawing Trustees attention to the "lack of sanitary dustbins" and "the want of any water to flush the closets". The Water Board had quoted for the supply of "100 feet of piping at 2/6 a yard" and the Trust decided to buy "3 Dustbins 20 inches high".

**29 June 1937**

Trustees noted that "the Dustbins had been purchased" and the requirement for "water supply to the closets had been met".

**12 October 1937**

Five years after her first application, Miss Walker, still languishing in her upper rooms, was finally allowed downstairs into the lower rooms "on

account of her lameness". Trustees anguished over whether "rents of bottom rooms for newcomers could be raised to 1/3d", and Miss Best "undertook to inspect the Deed".

**3 February 1938**

A new stove for cooking was purchased for Mrs Miles at a cost of £3-15-00.

**9 November 1940**

Miss Best (still Treasurer) was authorised to "conclude an insurance policy on the Homes under the proposed Government Compulsory Insurance Scheme on all property against War Risks". This is the last reference in the Minutes to Miss Best.

**21 November 1942**

With Miss Best gone, Mr W E Mitchell was appointed Trustee and Treasurer in her place. Trustees finally increased the rents to 1/3d. The instalment on the War Risks policy fell due "18/- less charity relief of 18/-".

**8 May 1943**

The Dennings (husband and wife) were appointed Trustees. This meeting contains the first reference to the death of Miss Best and to her Will: "a letter was read from Messrs. Waugh Brumell and Bally that the legacy of Miss Best was *not* free from legacy duty". In this one bald reference a difficult few years in the Trust's history opened at this meeting.

***Miss Louisa Best***

*Miss Louisa Best, like Miss Maberly before her, was a long time local benefactor. She had been a Trustee for 35 years, and Treasurer for 20 years, a position she took over on Miss Maberly's death.*

*Miss Best's Will was dated 1 August 1942, and probate was granted on 14 May 1943. Mr Charles Herbert Waugh (a fellow Cottage Homes Trustee who had also served for 35 years) was one of the executors and trustees of her estate. In the Will her brother was the main beneficiary, but she also left her motor car and £100 a year to her chauffeur, a gift of £50 and an annuity of £26 a year to her housekeeper. She left £700 for the Ansty Village Hall Trustees to build a "permanent hall" for the village, and £1,000 for the Vicar of Cuckfield for the purposes of "one or more additional clergy".*

*To the Cottage Homes Trust she left £1,000 for the "erection (subject to the written approval and consent of the Trustees of the Cottage Homes) of two or more cottages, adjoining the present ones, such cottages to be erected on one floor only within three years of my death". Consent to the additional cottages had to be given within six months of the death, or the monies would form part of the residuary estate. The terms of her will gave the Trustees a major problem over a number of difficult wartime and post-war years.*

*By 1943, with two world wars and the long economic depression of the thirties impacting their short history, the Homes were showing signs of dilapidation. They were falling behind even the basic amenities of the time. The Trustees desperately needed funds for refurbishment, and alterations. The terms of the Best Bequest however limited the Trustees to building the additional cottages on the south side of the existing cottages.*

*This turned out to be a tough request in the middle of a war. The minutes from the outset of this issue show the Trustees discomfort. Ideally what they would have liked is to be allowed to spend the £1,000 legacy (£900 after legal fees) on modernising the existing Homes. Their tactics were to accept the bequest within six months, but ask if the terms could be varied.*

*It was 6 May 1946 before the Attorney General gave permission in the circumstances for one home to be built, rather than two. But by 1946, with post-war inflation raging, it was increasingly uncertain whether £900 could build even one additional Home.*

*In the end, as time dragged on, resolution only came with the Trustees appearing before Mr Justice Vaisey in the Chancery Division of the High Court to explain their failure to have built the extra homes within three years of the death, and for the Judge to rule (if the bequest had failed) how the monies were to be used and by whom.*

*The judgement of Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 1949 levied the costs of the action against the Trustees. With so little real capital now left there was no chance of building even one house. The Judge therefore ruled that the proceeds could be applied for the “general purposes” of the Cottage Homes – so at a late hour delivering the Trust’s first significant injection for modernisation since 1882.*

*The executor of the Will (Mr Waugh, Miss Best’s fellow Trustee of the Homes) appears to have resigned on her death. However, as a long-term friend of the Homes his behaviour was exemplary. Not only did he arrange for the Trust to be loaned the equivalent of the bequest, repayable only if the monies were released from the estate, but when the residue of the bequest was finally received and the loan repaid, he made a donation equal to the legal costs the Trust had incurred. At heart it was as if he knew what Miss Best would have most wanted for the Cottage Homes.*

*The Louisa Best Charity continued to be listed as a subsidiary charity of the Cottage Homes Trust until the Charity Commissioners removed it from their central register in 1992.*

*The extracts from the minutes that follow give glimpses of what the Trust went through – the full story is only gleaned from the legal papers that resulted in the court case.*

**17 July 1943**

A letter was received from Mr Waugh “acknowledging the receipt of the consent of the Trustees of the Cottage Homes for the erection of two cottages by the trustees of the Will of the late Miss Best in accordance with the terms thereof, and that they (*Mr Waugh’s company*) propose to take Counsel’s opinion with regard to the terms of the Will, in particular to the gift of the two cottages, and will communicate to us in future”.

**18 September 1943**

“A copy of the opinion of Counsel was read relative to the Estate”. The Secretary was asked to write to Mr Waugh saying that the Trustees “were glad to know that this consent was in order, and that they would like to know what the result of the application of the residual legatees is”.

Trustees wanted to raise rents from 1/3d but “owing to the Rent Restriction Act, the matter was deferred”.

**23 August 1946**

Mr Waugh, a trustee of the Will, “informed Trustees that the Attorney General has, in consequence of the prohibitive cost of building two cottages on the site, agreed to the erection of one cottage”.

The Trustees agreed to put in hand obtaining quotations to be sent to the Best Trustees. Before the work was done, however, water supply “already in use in the lavatories should be laid on to the cottages themselves”.

Various other suggestions were made including: “converting a room in the South Cottage into a bedroom, Electric Light, a covered way from the Cottages to the Lavatories, and the advice of Mr Towse to be obtained in the matter”.

*“The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life and rest in unvisited tombs”*

**Middlemarch George Eliot**



**Part B: The 1945-75 Minute Book**

*Between the 1880's and 1945 it is evident that the Homes had changed very little. They still had outside shared toilet facilities, no running water (other than for WC's), brick floors in the kitchens, no electricity, and at least one upstairs flat that gained access through the kitchen of the downstairs flat. The 30 years covered by the second Minute Book document the major changes that occurred to the Homes over that period – and are a fascinating social history of the rapidly improving living standards that occurred post-war.*



**5 October 1946**

Trustees expressed approval of the plans to build an additional cottage - to be erected on the south side of the existing cottages by the £1,000 bequest of the late Miss Best. The plans included laying water supply to the existing Homes, provision of paving to the outside lavatories and introduction of electricity. Permit to effect the works was sought under the post-war building controls.

**29 July 1947**

Final plans were approved with the addition of “the installation of indoor sanitation” for the “modernisation of the cottages”. With this element alone expected to cost £840, inflation led the Trustees to abandon the idea of the new cottage. A letter was sought from the Trustee of Miss Best’s Estate to ensure they could spend the bequest on improvements to the existing Homes instead.

**5 February 1948**

Miss Best’s beneficiary lent the Trust £725 “repayable without interest - and only if and when the same amount became available from the Best Estate”. Roof repairs of £200 were urgently needed “in the near future”, but could not be afforded. The Trustees were forced to double rents on upstairs rooms to 2/- a week, while downstairs rents went from 1/3 to 2/6 a week.

**5 October 1948**

Tenants of the upstairs flats, it was reported, “had voluntarily increased their rents from 2/- a week to 2/6 since the alterations had so improved their quarters they felt they should pay the same as the lower flats”. The costs of the improvements were rising fast

however and were now expected to amount to £1,068-17-6. The urgent roof repairs were deferred to the spring.

**28 February 1950**

Miss Best's bequest of £759-8-4 finally arrived after deduction of nearly £240 legal fees following the Court Case to have the terms of the bequest altered. Trustees repaid the £725 loan from Miss Best's trustee and executor, only to be given a donation from the same source of £300 to help offset the deduction of legal fees. The roof had finally been fixed in 1949, and mercifully had only cost £83-10-09. The Trustees returned to the question of electricity supply, which had been deferred in the meantime on grounds of cost.

**3 October 1950**

Lady Denning (Hon Secretary) reported "she had not asked Mr S Knight to estimate the cost of putting electric light into the Cottages as in Mrs Miles' (*one of the residents*) view the tenants did not want it". Legacy duty of £80 on the Best bequest also came out of the woodwork unexpectedly.

**2 March 1951**

Building Insurance needed to be increased from £2,000 to £4,000.

**11 March 1952**

Building Insurance of £5,000 had finally been put in place. It was pointed out that ground rent of one shilling a year had been outstanding for four years from the occupants of the Clergy House who rented the garage on Cottage Homes' land. Lord Denning pointed out that as that house was now empty the garage

"became the property of Cottage Homes". Steps were taken to let out the allotments in the grounds of the Homes and to seek a new tenant for the garage.

**13 May 1952**

The Clergy House was now occupied and the new residents again took up rental of the garage.

**28 October 1954**

Trustees finally approved "expenditure of £110 plus the General Electricity Company's connection charge for bringing the power to the Cottage Homes".

**16 November 1954**

Trustees heard that "there was little chance of getting the current on till after Christmas, although work was proceeding".

**23 February 1956**

Since the date of the last meeting, electricity had finally been "switched on in January 1955". The final cost of £117-10-00 had been "the gift of the Haywards Heath Soroptomists, and the electricity was most appreciated by all tenants". A report from the Head Master of the village School noted that "senior pupils would no longer require the garden when they moved to the new Senior School".

**1 May 1956**

Trustees agreed "to rent out the allotments in the gardens at 1/- a year each provided surplus produce was made available to the tenants".

## **Cuckfield Cottage Homes Trust – A Short History**

### **20 October 1961**

Trustees were delighted to hear that “The Forest District Ranger Company under their Captain Miss Barker and Lieutenant Mrs Mitchell had kindly decorated Flat No 2 and the stairwell at a cost to the Trustees of only £18 for materials”.

### **6 April 1964**

The first Trustee Minutes to be written in biro.

### **30 June 1967**

The staircase to flat 2A (first mentioned over 30 years earlier as a source of concern) again became unsafe and it was clear that major internal structural work could no longer be deferred, particularly as access to the staircase was through the kitchen of the downstairs flat. Separate toilet facilities were still needed for both 2 and 2A. Trustees opened discussions therefore to bring proper sanitation for all six flats inside and to provide separate bathrooms for each – together with separate access to each flat. It was clear fund raising would be needed, and rents were increased to £1 a week as a precaution. In the meantime plans and estimates for the work were commissioned.

### **12 December 1967**

The maintenance of the garden was becoming an issue. Trustees made application to the Church as part of the recently introduced “Time and Talents Scheme” to see what help might be forthcoming.

### **6 April 1868**

Plans for the refurbishment of the Homes were now to hand – but as it was “estimated that the entire project

should cost between £4,000 to £5,000, help would be required from every possible source within the Parish”. A new gardening season was approaching and “as no help had been forthcoming from the Time and Talents Scheme, Trustees agreed to approach the Group Scoutmaster”.

### **23 August 1968**

A scheme of work to cost £5,580 gained planning permission

### **29 October 1968**

Trustees were pleased to hear that Cuckfield Urban District Council had approved a £400 improvement grant per flat. This enabled the replacement of the brick floors in the kitchens to be added to the scheme, and application was made to Cuckfield Urban District Council for a 30-year loan of £3,700. Fund raising began in earnest.

#### **Major Donors: 1968-1971**

<i>The Independent State</i>	£1125
<i>The Donkey Club</i>	£400
<i>Holy Trinity PCC</i>	£400
<i>Private donations</i>	£348
<i>Worthing Traction Rally</i>	£80
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Cuckfield Guides</i>	£22
<i>Infant Welfare Clinic</i>	£20
<i>White Harte Ladies</i>	£16
<i>Sale of Goods</i>	£3

### **26 November 1968**

Rents were increased to £2-10-00 per week, building insurance to £20,000.

### **24 June 1969**

The UDC loan was finally approved.

**20 March 1970**

Trustees were relieved to hear that “the buildings were now almost complete”. Despairing of ever getting the allotment gardens under control again, the Trustees approved taking down the garage (empty again), “providing a 4 ft. fence and gate along the boundary where the garage was. Boundaries had been cleared out by the gravediggers and 48 new privets were put in at a cost of £1-18-6”. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cuckfield Girl Guides had raised £22 towards the costs of the fence and turf.

**26 January 1971**

Thanks to the fund raising efforts “two further sums of £500 were paid off the loan, £700 prematurely, and only £1,000 was now outstanding”. Trustees noted new Government legislation that said the elderly should be kept warm and resolved that “central heating should be installed throughout the flats” in order to maintain the required temperature of 70 degrees. Fifty- percent grants were available for the purpose, and the cost was likely to be about £1,500.

**20 October 1971**

It was reported that The Cuckfield Urban District Council gave grants of £774 for the heating and £608 towards essential repairs. The Trustees estimates had unfortunately forgotten to include the costs of the erection of the new boiler room needed to house the central heating controls. It was noted that “heating throughout the flats had now been put into action”. The expected cost of gas was £250 per annum.

**11 December 1972**

It was noted that gas had cost more than estimated - £305-35 “owing to excessive heating in the first few weeks after installation”. A further £500 was paid of the loan. Building Insurance was raised to £45,000. An electric mower was purchased to keep the turf that had successfully taken root under control. Warden Park School were “sending three pupils to be of assistance to the tenants painting, chopping wood, hedge cutting and helping in the flats”. Despite a suggestion made by Nesta Turner that Minutes should in future be typed, they continue to be hand written to this day.

**11 February 1974**

Trustees agreed to pay £50 towards the £150 costs of providing paving for the Clergy House forecourt.

**27 August 1975**

By agreement with the tenants the largest of their outside sheds had been made available for the mower. The shed needed to be “cleaned and decorated throughout”. A decision was taken finally to “close the fireplaces”.

**19 March 1976**

It was noted that “all fireplaces were now closed” and “as help was not forthcoming from the Scouts in the matter of restoring the shed for the mower”, £2-50 had been paid to David Foord-Brown for kindly helping out. Outside lights and Yale locks were installed.

*The story does not end here, if our brief look at the history of the Homes does. The work continues as it has over the past 125 years ...*