

ALMSHOUSE HISTORY

1800's

Almshouses were built by the Trust from the 1820s onwards in Sutton Coldfield Town Centre, Mere Green, Boldmere and Walmley, when there was no public or sheltered housing and all residential assistance for the elderly was funded by charities.

The first four Almshouses on the Walmley estate were built in 1863 and, in 1982, these were converted to house the offices of the Trust. The building proudly displays a blue plaque presented by the Civic Society in recognition of its unique history and the Trust's longstanding commitment to the provision of sheltered housing for local people. In 1898, two further bungalows were built following receipt of a legacy of £2,700 from Frances Lingard. These historic properties have recently been extensively and imaginatively renovated to provide a suitably modern interior, whilst retaining their original charm and architectural character.

1900's

In 1928, ten further bungalows were built and, between 1965 and 1975, eighteen flats, eight bungalows, a Guest Room, Warden's Flat and Residents' Lounge, were built on land owned by the Trust which was previously used as a local playground. In 1995, a further eight bungalows were constructed, bringing the estate to its current level of 46 dwellings. All properties have been extensively refurbished and modernised to a very high standard and provide the optimum level of insulation, energy efficiency and comfort.

2000 - Present

In 2011, a new suite of rooms known as the "Lingard Suite" was constructed in order to provide additional facilities for the residents, which further demonstrates the Trustees' ongoing commitment to provide enhanced opportunities for them to lead fulfilled lives. Residents now have access to a computer suite, an Arts & Crafts Room and a fully equipped Games Room.

During 2014, extensive refurbishment of residents' kitchens commenced as part of the Trustees' rolling programme of updating and improving the properties.