

Jarvis Charities report 27/11/19

The Trustees meet quarterly and otherwise as necessary. I have so far attended three regular and one special meeting, the most recent being the regular meeting on Monday 21st October.

There are three charities under the Jarvis banner:

The Jarvis Educational Foundation which has as its objectives 'to promote the education of persons under the age of 25 years who are residents in the County of Herefordshire and who are in need of financial assistance (preference being given to persons who are resident in the area of the parishes of Staunton-on-Wye, Bredwardine and Letton)'.

Its primary activity is to support Staunton's primary school, and it will be providing £60,000 towards the cost of a new classroom (total budget for which is £200,000), the school all but reaching its maximum current intake (of 105 pupils) this present school year. The classroom is expected to be ready for the 2020 intake.

It also gives grants of either £500 or £1,000 to help those between 18 and 25 (some think it might only be 23) who are on courses be it at university, studying for an apprenticeship etc.

The Jarvis Eleemosynary Charity which has its objectives 'the prevention or relief of those in need, hardship or distress in the villages of Bredwardine, Staunton on Wye, Letton and Rural North and South Herefordshire, in particular, but not exclusively, by providing and managing 12 almshouses in Staunton on Wye and giving 'one-off grants, items and services to individuals in need'. The almshouses are let out at very low rents on a licence agreement. At the last meeting it was agreed that the rents were overly low and will be increased, and charges also levied for electricity use over and above what is deemed a reasonable amount.

At present several of the almshouses either just have been or are in the process of being refurbished, taking the opportunity to do so as they fall vacant. This work includes fitting new kitchens better designed for elderly people, and likewise new bathrooms, in some cases fitting wet rooms. Re-carpeting and decorating is being carried out at the same time. Residents should be over 65, retired and ideally have a past or current attachment to the village.

The Trustees are also investigating ways of 'filling gaps' or supporting existing services which can, in particular, help meet the needs of the elderly of the parishes or their carers. It had been hoped that by the end of this year it would have been possible to deliver a 'questionnaire' to all households in the three parishes asking for ideas as to what the charity could do to help support people. This should happen at some point in 2020 instead.

The Jarvis Recreational Charity is by far the smallest of the three (in terms of its resources) and has as its objective 'charitable recreational purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of any of the parishes of Bredwardine, Staunton-on-Wye and Letton.

It's main 'activity' is that it owns a patch of ground in Staunton which is let out at a peppercorn rent to the parish council for use as a playing field, all costs of caring for it being met by the council.

The Trustees are in the process of merging the Recreational Charity with the Eleemosynary Charity (the Commissioners already allow the trustees of the latter to manage the former), at the same time broadening the charity's remit to allow it to support relevant activities outside the three parishes. This would reduce overheads in terms of accounts and statutory returns, as well as allow more flexibility in the use of the two charities' funds.

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