

The Betenson Trust

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30th September 2019

THE BETENSON TRUST

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Trustees	Alexander Mackay (Chairman) Rev. Andrew Procter Rev. Dr Peter Hayler Rev Lorraine Turner Rev. Edward Wright Christopher Lightfoot Thomas Owen Peter Russell (retired 11 th November 2019) Malcolm Wiffen David Bowles (appointed 11 th November 2019)
Clerk to the Trustees	Sarah Allewell Rookery Dene Long Mill Lane St. Mary's Platt Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8NA
Charity Commission Registration Number	207019
Principal Bankers	NatWest 43 Swan Street West Malling Kent ME19 6HF
Independent Examiner	John Gillespie FCA Bramley Lodge Borough Green Road Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7RA

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

The Betenson Trust was originally established in 1788 following the death of Helen Betenson who bequeathed some of her fortune to build and maintain twelve almshouses. The Scheme for the regulation of the Charity was approved by the Charity Commission in 1970. Trustees include three ex-officio members, being the vicars of Wrotham, St. Mary's Platt and Plaxtol. The remaining six co-optative trustees are appointed for a term of five years.

The Trust continues to provide accommodation for the benefit of twelve residents in the villages of Wrotham, St Mary's Platt and Plaxtol in the County of Kent. There are four residents in each of the villages who reside in buildings which, in the case of Wrotham and Platt, are listed as Grade II. Each resident pays a modest contribution towards the cost of maintenance and central heating.

After many years as a trustee, Peter Russell retired on the 11th November 2019. His contribution has been greatly valued by his fellow trustees and the residents of the almshouses in Plaxtol, and it is with immense gratitude for his time that the trustees wish him a very happy retirement. He is replaced by David Bowles who is warmly welcomed to the board of trustees.

Captain's Walk in Platt became fully occupied in January 2019, when, with special dispensation from the trustees, Mr & Mrs Owen moved in despite limited space. Mrs Williams vacated no.4 Betenson Cottages in Plaxtol in October 2019, and Mr Waugh became a resident there in February 2020.

Significant capital expenditure amounting to around £30,000 was spent on the stonework and roofing at Captain's Walk.

Investments, with a valuation of £192,630 at the year end, are held to provide funds for the maintenance of the properties. Cash funds amounted to £5,221.

The weekly contribution paid by residents has been held at £50, but will need to be kept under review as energy costs continue to rise.

The Trust was fortunate to receive donations from Great Comp, the Dodge Charity and Wrotham Fireworks.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

A D Mackay
Chairman of the Trustees
2nd July 2020

THE BETENSON TRUST

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BETENSON TRUST

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 30th September 2019, which are set out on pages 6 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Gillespie FCA
Bramley Lodge
Borough Green Road
Wrotham
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN15 7RA
2nd July 2020

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