

**Purchasing our  
22nd Almshouse**

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April  
2026

# The Earl *of* Southampton Trust

*Annual Report*



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# From the Chairman

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## **It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Earl of Southampton Trust Annual Report 2025–2026.**

Over the past year, we have continued to focus on our purpose: offering secure homes, improving quality of life, and strengthening support for those who need it most within the Ancient Parish of Titchfield.

A key milestone this year was the acquisition of our 22nd property, further increasing the number of households we can help. Alongside this growth, we have carried out important refurbishment work, delivered meaningful assistance through our grants programme, and maintained our commitment to supporting older residents across the parish. These priorities continue to guide everything we do.

This year also brought a moment of national recognition. Following the opening of Hockley Cottages, our newly converted almshouses at The Square, the Trust was honoured to receive the Innovation for Living Award from the Almshouse Association. This prestigious award celebrates forward-thinking approaches to almshouse provision, and we are immensely proud that our work has been recognised at a national level.

Our progress is only possible thanks to the dedication of our Trustees, volunteers, and supporters, whose time, expertise, and generosity underpin every achievement.

We are proud of the achievements made this year and remain committed to building on this momentum. Your continued support enables us to make a real and lasting difference—thank you.

*Josef Thoma*

**Josef Thoma**

Chairman of The Earl of Southampton Trust

# Purchasing our 22nd Almshouse

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**A significant milestone this year was the purchase of our 22nd almshouse, further expanding the Trust's ability to offer safe, affordable accommodation to local residents facing hardship.**

2026 has been a year of meaningful progress for the Earl of Southampton Trust, marked by continued commitment to our founding purpose: providing secure homes, practical support, and compassionate assistance to those most in need within the Ancient Parish of Titchfield.

The acquisition reflects both our long-term vision and our ongoing response to the growing demand for accessible housing. Each property we provide represents more than a roof over someone's head – it offers stability and the opportunity for individuals and families to live within a supportive community.



Adding a 22nd home strengthens this impact and ensures that our charitable work continues to evolve in line with local needs. Alongside this expansion, we have continued to invest in the upkeep and improvement of our existing almshouses, ensuring they remain warm, comfortable, and well-maintained.

# Celebrating National Recognition:

## Winner of the Almshouse Association's 'Innovation for Living' Award

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**The Earl of Southampton Trust is proud to announce that our charity has been honoured with the Innovation for Living Award by the Almshouse Association, the national body representing more than 1,600 independent almshouse charities across the UK.**

The award was presented at the Association's annual Members Day in London on 19 June 2025, where Trustees and staff attended to accept this prestigious recognition.



### **A Project Rooted in Community Need**

The Trust's mission is to provide high-quality almshouse accommodation for those in need within the Ancient Parish of Titchfield.

In 2021, following the pandemic, the Trust undertook a major review of how best to use 24 The Square, a ground-floor building that had previously housed a kitchen, lavatories, the Trust's office, and a day room for the elderly in the parish. Social distancing rules had forced the temporary closure of the day room, and following consultation, the Trust redirected funds to supporting the elderly in the whole of the parish.

With this in mind, and with the generous support of a £100,000 loan from the Almshouse Association, the Trust embarked on an ambitious plan: to convert the building into a modern almshouse while preserving its historic character. The project required close collaboration with the local planning authority, the listed buildings officer, and a team of skilled local tradesmen to ensure that the conversion was both sympathetic and future-proof.

### Transforming 24 The Square

The resulting almshouse is a testament to craftsmanship, care, and community spirit. Original beams, windows and architectural features were restored, while a fully accessible kitchen and bathroom, a spacious bedroom, and a bright living room overlooking Titchfield Square were created to meet the needs of a 21st-century resident.



Inspired by the momentum of this project, the Trust also undertook a full renovation of the market-rent flat above, 24A The Square, converting it into a second new almshouse. Together, these two homes increased the Trust's almshouse provision by 10% in a single year.

In honour of a long-serving and recently retired Trustee, the new almshouses were named 'Hockley Cottages', and were officially opened on 22 September 2024.

### National Recognition

The Almshouse Association's Innovation for Living Award celebrates projects that demonstrate creativity, excellence, and a clear commitment to improving residents' lives. The Trust's work on Hockley Cottages was recognised for its thoughtful design, sensitive restoration, and the way it reimagined a historic building to meet modern needs.



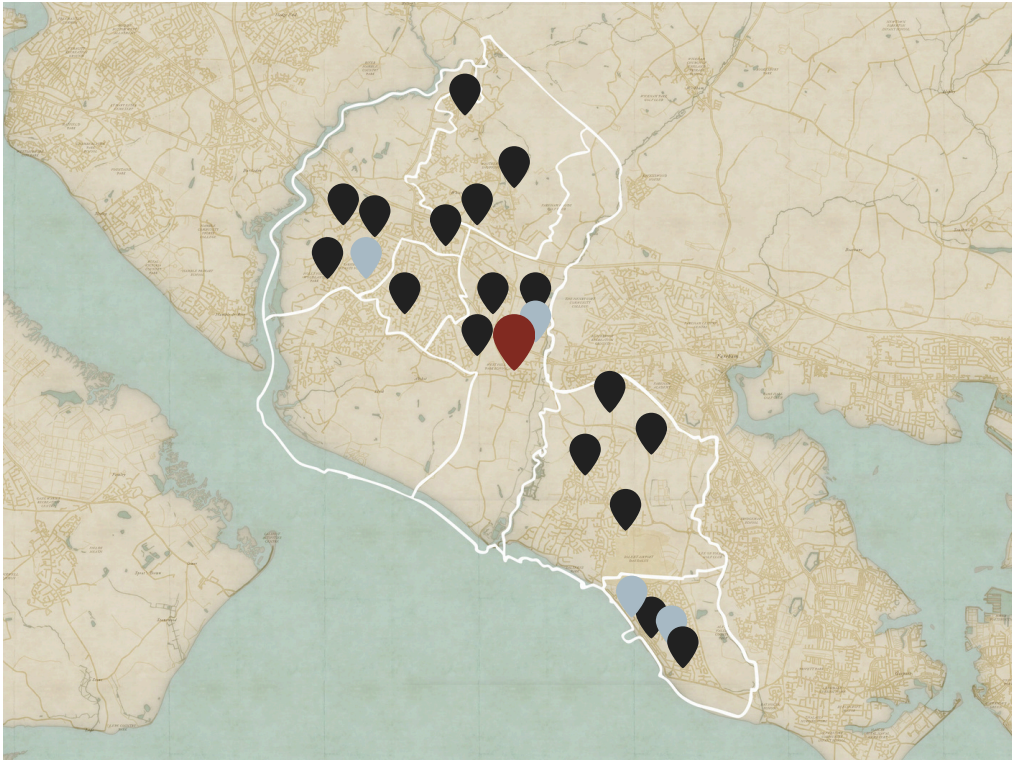
We are immensely proud of this achievement. The award reflects the dedication of our Trustees, staff, and local tradespeople, who helped bring this vision to life.

Most importantly, it reinforces our commitment to providing warm, safe, and dignified homes for those who need them most.

The certificate is proudly displayed as a ceramic plaque on 'Hockley Cottages'.

We work within

# *The Ancient Parish of Titchfield*



Titchfield

Whiteley


Sarisbury


Locks Heath

Lee-on-the-Solent

Hook with Warsash

Stubbington

 **EOST Almshouses**  
22 dwellings – as of March 2026

 **Relief in Need Grants**  
April 2025 – March 2026 – £21,398

 **Support for the Elderly**  
April 2025 – March 2026 – £4,276

# Our Almshouses

**The Earl of Southampton Trust has a long history of housing people in need. We provide housing for people who are in need, and currently resident in the Ancient Parish of Titchfield.**

The Trust currently owns 22 properties in Titchfield village, five of these properties are for older people only. When one of these properties becomes available it is advertised around the Ancient Parish.

## 22

**Current dwellings**



## 1

**New dwellings**  
added to portfolio this year

## 11

**1 Bedroom dwellings**

## 9

**2 Bedroom dwellings**

## 2

**3 bedroom dwellings**



# Our Trustees

as of April 2026



**Josef Thoma**  
Chairman



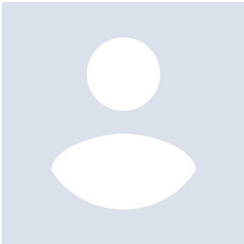
**Ian Brewerton**  
Vice Chairman



**Amy Kelly**  
Trustee



**Simon Wardell**  
Trustee



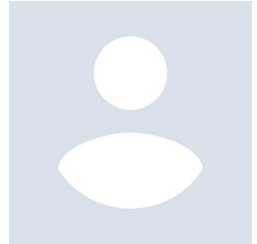
**Helen Devereux**  
Trustee



**Rev Penny Thatcher**  
Trustee



**Amanda McKinnon**  
Trustee



**Jill Stafford**  
Trustee



**Tracey Kenney**  
Property Manager &  
Clerk to Trustees

We're always looking for passionate and dedicated volunteer Trustees to join The Earl of Southampton Trust, and help guide the important work of our charity. **Apply to be a trustee on our website.**

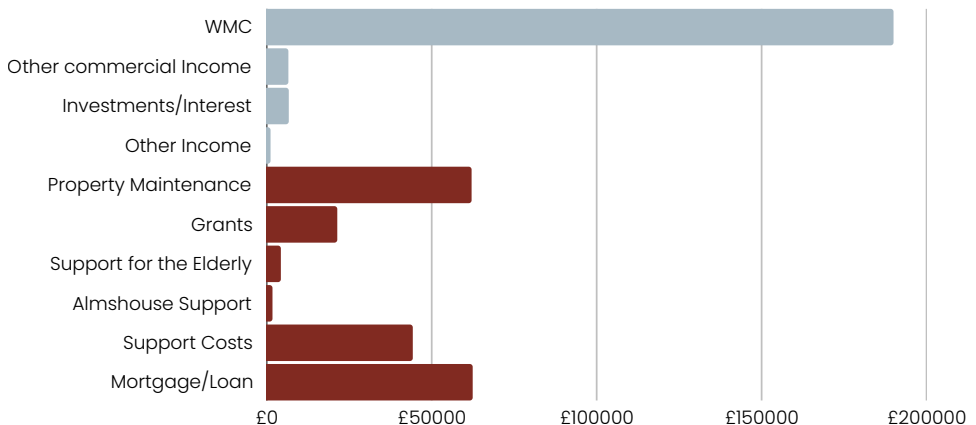
[www.eost.org.uk/  
trustee-application](http://www.eost.org.uk/trustee-application)



# Income/Expenditure

## 2025-2026

		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
● <b>Income</b>	WMC (Maintenance contribution from residents)	£189,985	£0
	Other Commercial Income (car parking)	£6,556	£0
	Investments/Interest	£6,677	£0
	Other Income	£1,148	£0
● <b>Expenditure</b>	Property Maintenance & Refurbishments	£0	£62,089
	Grants	£0	£21,398
	Support for the Elderly	£0	£4,276
	Almshouse Support	£0	£1,737
	Support Costs (professional fees, utilities, wages)	£0	£44,226
	Mortgage/Loan	£0	£62,423
		<b>£204,366</b>	<b>£196,149</b>



# *£21,398* Given in Grants

34 Total Grant Applications

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Carpets	<b>£2,810</b>
Childcare	<b>£349</b>
Counselling	<b>£396</b>
Energy Bills	<b>£500</b>
Household Appliances & Goods	<b>£3,552</b>
Computer Equipment	<b>£499</b>
Medical Equipment	<b>£501</b>
Rent	<b>£1000</b>
School Uniform	<b>£1,086</b>
Support to Local Organisations	<b>£8,408</b>
Support to Local Schools	<b>£997</b>
Support to Almshouse Residents	<b>£1,300</b>

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# Grant Referrals

## *Received From*

34 Total Grant Applications

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Church	1
Citizens Advice	2
Community Organisations	5
Fareham Borough Council	5
HCC Childrens Services	2
Other	1
Schools	13
Wellbeing Teams and Health Visitors	5

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## Support for *The Elderly*

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Given in total	<b>£4,276</b>
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Read more FAQ's



[www.eost.org.uk](http://www.eost.org.uk)

# *Frequently Asked Questions*

## **Where is The Earl of Southampton Trust based?**

We are based in Titchfield and support the surrounding areas within the Ancient Parish of Titchfield. Our services and grants primarily benefit the local community.

## **Can organisations apply for funding?**

Yes, local community groups and charities can apply for funding to support projects that align with our mission to benefit people in the Ancient parish of Titchfield.

## **How do I apply for an almshouse?**

When a vacancy arises, it will show on our website. You can apply by completing our online application form (contact us if you require a PDF or printed form). Applications will be reviewed, and the most eligible candidates will be shortlisted for an interview with the Trustees.

## **How can I support the Trust's work?**

You can support us by leaving a legacy gift in your will, becoming a Trustee, or spreading awareness of our work within the community.

# Support *our charity*

By donating to The Earl of Southampton Trust, or purchasing our merchandise, you help us provide vital support, housing, and opportunities to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

## **EOST Canvas Tote Bag**

£7.50



## **Four Centuries of The Earl of Southampton Trust**

*Book written by David G. Smith*

£7.50

## **Or buy both for £10**

You can donate to our charity on our website, or feel free to get in touch to discuss alternative ways to donate and support our charity.

**07458 304031**

**info@eost.org.uk**



**[www.eost.org.uk/  
donate](http://www.eost.org.uk/donate)**



# The Earl *of* Southampton Trust

## *Annual Report*

April  
2026

West Street



**Contact**

07458 304031  
[info@eost.org.uk](mailto:info@eost.org.uk)

**Postal Address**

Unit 10 The Tanneries,  
East Street, Titchfield,  
PO14 4AR

**Learn More**



[www.eost.org.uk](http://www.eost.org.uk)