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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Staindrop Almshouse Charity signposts its heritage**

The Henry, Duke of Cleveland Charity has commissioned a bespoke Oak notice board containing a history of the almshouses in Staindrop. Kevin Allen Clerk of the Charity said: *"We thought it would be interesting for residents and visitors to know the story of the Almshouses and their place in our community. The notice board will also be very useful for communicating information to almshouses residents."* The properties are located behind Office Square in Staindrop.

The 12 almshouses were built in 1860-61 by Henry Vane, the 2nd Duke of Cleveland and have been modernised at various times since then. The Henry, Duke of Cleveland Charity was registered with the Charity Commission in 1905 and provides housing for persons in need of affordable housing who are over 60 years of age, not in full-time employment and have a proven connection to Staindrop.

Mr Allen went on to say: *"The history of UK almshouses stretches back to medieval times. The oldest almshouse foundation still in existence is thought to be the Hospital of St Oswald in Worcester founded circa 990. The role of almshouse charities is now more vital than ever. In some rural areas, almshouses are the only provider of accommodation for those in need."*

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