

Edwards Coat and Gown Charity January 2022

The Coat and Gown charity was created to provide relief of the poor, originally to provide help to young people starting a trade or going into service and for supporting those needing a change of air for convalescence. Its funds have now been amalgamated with of a number of funds left by various benefactors from the parishes of Beausale, Hatton, Shrewley and Kenilworth. The benefactors include William Edwards (1818), Jane Baker (1849), Jane Norcliffe (1897) and Catherine Throckmorton (before 1652)

The funds of the charity are held in COIF shares and the income from these is shared between two charities, Kenilworth United Charities and Hatton Consolidated Charities.

The trustees for the charity consist of 3 nominated trustees from Kenilworth Town council and 3 Co-opted trustees one each from Hatton, Shrewley and Beausale. The Kenilworth representatives are Kate Dickson – chair, Rob Barry and Sam Cooke. We meet annually to agree the share of funds to be paid to the two charities.

This year we met on 19th Jan. Following discussions at this Town Council Cllrs raised an enquiry about the ethical credentials of the investments made by the charity. Whilst COIF investments are generally considered ethical, we discovered that a letter had been sent to our clerk last year offering transfer to a more ethical fund which includes less support of fossil fuel industries and other industry including baby milk companies. Following reassurances that the funds delivered similar benefits it was decided that the clerk should arrange transfer of the funds to the CCLA ethical investment shares.

The trustees agreed to pay each of the charities £1800.

Cllr Kate Dickson Chair Edwards Coat & Gown Charity