



30 FACTS FOR 30 YEARS

Celebrating 30 years of sustaining village communities

Since its inception in 1989, Warwickshire Rural Housing Association has developed into a thriving specialist housing provider, renowned for bringing affordable local homes to local people where they are most needed in Warwickshire's rural communities.

Today it manages almost 600 homes in 43 rural communities across the county, transforming the lives of hundreds of people and helping to keep Warwickshire's villages alive.

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The very first meeting of WRHA took place on 10th January 1989 at The Abbotsford in Warwick and Lady Valerie Owen was appointed Chair of the Committee. WRHA was registered with the Housing Corporation on 4th December 1989.



First Chairman, Lady Valerie Owen, at Stretton on Fosse

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In 1990, WRHA began to build its first scheme of 10 affordable homes at Harolds Orchard in Stretton on Fosse. Weekly rent was £42.50 for a two bedroom house.



WRHA's first development, Harolds Orchard

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WRHA's 50th home was completed at Whatcote in 1993.

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In 1993, WRHA signed a management agreement with Mercian Housing Association to manage 81 properties in Alcester.

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WRHA brought much needed affordable homes, specifically for local people, to villages including Loxley, Bishops Tachbrook and Snitterfield in 1995.



New affordable homes in Loxley

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Midlands Rural Housing took over from the Rural Housing Trust as WRHA's service provider.

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Lady Valerie Owen retired after 12 years as Chair of WRHA and Matthew Dick was appointed.

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Craig Felts was appointed WRHA's Company Secretary in 2005. He said: "Our role is about so much more than just building homes. We often talk about building communities and building lives and this has never been more true. Although we may be considered a small housing association compared to some, it doesn't stop us achieving great things."



Celebrating new homes in Snitterfield

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WRHA's affordable development in Long Compton was completed in 2005 and was named 'Development of the Week' in Inside Housing.



Craig Felts and Derrick Dyas

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Derrick Dyas became Chairman of WRHA in 2008, having been a founding member of the association due to his dissatisfaction with the lack of affordable rural housing provided.

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Angela's Meadow, our community scheme of 26 affordable homes, was completed in Shipston on Stour in 2010 and included a specially equipped play area for younger residents.



New play area at Angela's Meadow

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WRHA's 500th home was completed in 2011 at Hereburgh Way in Harbury. Anna Scholder-Harper was presented with flowers when she moved into her new home and residents helped to plant a commemorative tree.

13

In 2013 WRHA's development at Curlieu Lane in Norton Lindsey won a Building Excellent Award from Stratford District Council.

14

Residents in Snitterfield joined us for a community Easter egg hunt when we officially opened our 10 new homes in 2013.



May celebration at Ilmington



Bursary recipient, Jenny Yates

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To mark its 25th anniversary in 2014, WRHA helped five residents to further their personal development, education, employment or community involvement, by providing £500 bursaries.

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The whole community celebrated our 10 new homes in Ilmington in 2014 with traditional maypole dancing.

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WRHA launched plans to develop a potential 37 affordable homes in the region between 2015 – 18, helping individuals and families to stay in the villages in which they have been brought up.



MP Jeremy Wright at Jubilee Fields

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We welcomed Jeremy Wright MP to our new Jubilee Fields development in Stockton in 2015 to show how rural affordable housing can make a big difference to villages.

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Parish, district and borough councillors came together for a tour of our developments in Ilmington, Harbury and Stockton in 2015, to see at first hand the real difference which affordable rural housing is making to local villages.



Participate and Paint event

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Local residents, councillors, Board members and staff joined in our Participate & Paint event in 2016 when we painted all the communal fencing throughout our housing scheme in Alcester as part of the national Clean for the Queen campaign.

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We funded new play equipment at Wootton Wawen CofE Primary School in 2017 as part of our new development in the village.



New play equipment in Wootton Wawen

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To celebrate Rural Housing Week 2017, our Board Tour took in Wootton Wawen, Great Alne and Broom where much needed new homes were getting underway.

23

Our Skip Day saw residents from our 80 properties in Alcester clear out unwanted items from their homes, gardens and local alleyways in 2017, helping to improve their neighbourhood.



Tree planting at Keyte Gardens

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Local school children joined councillors and partners in planting the first trees at our scheme in Wootton Wawen in 2018 to create a natural woodland scheme at the environmentally-friendly development.



HRH The Princess Royal opening Keyte Gardens

25

In 2018, HRH The Princess Royal officially opened WRHA's ground-breaking development, Keyte Gardens in Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire's first Passivhaus development of affordable homes. The ultra-low energy homes help to reduce their carbon footprint and tackle fuel poverty.

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WRHA's flagship development, Keyte Gardens, was declared 'Best Green Scheme' in the 24housing Awards 2018 and was named as one of four finalists in the 'Housing Crisis Solution' category of The Sunday Times' British Homes Awards.

27

WRHA moved into North Warwickshire for the first time in 2019, taking ownership of two affordable bungalows on the new Corley Gardens development.

28

Weston Court, a truly community led project from start to finish, was opened in Long Compton in 2019 and included a new play area for the village.



Weston Court, Long Compton

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WRHA came full circle in 2019 when it celebrated its 30th anniversary with the completion of phase 3 at Stretton on Fosse, the site of its very first scheme of affordable homes.

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Following 30 years' involvement with WRHA, and a lifetime's work in social housing, Chairman, Derrick Dyas retired in September 2019.



Developing new homes at Great Alne

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