

Newcombe Fund

A fund for conservative repairs to historic almshouses that remain in use. The grant is for specific repairs to the historic fabric and not for modernisation. The almshouses do not have to be listed but are more likely to be considered if they are.



The Misses Newcombe bequest for historic almshouses

The fund, administered by the SPAB, is for conservative repairs to historic almshouses that remain in that use. Under the terms of the bequest preference is given to those used by women, but grants have been given to those that are mixed or used by men only. The almshouses do not have to be listed but are more likely to be considered if they are.

The main condition is that the grant is for specific repairs to the historic fabric and not for modernisation. For example it can be used to repair a roof during a modernisation programme but not for the installation of services such as heating, kitchens etc.

All grants are discretionary and tend to be small. In reaching their decision the trustees will be looking for clear evidence that the proposed works are based on a sound understanding of SPAB principles of conservative repair. For example, they will normally expect to see proposals based on a thorough familiarity with the breathability of historic buildings; for the repair rather than replacement of historic joinery such as windows and doors; the use of suitable lime mortars for repointing; minimal stone or brick replacement; the retention wherever possible of historic internal features; an avoidance of the use of second-hand materials etc. Unfortunately too many historic almshouses suffer from the mistakes of the recent past, particularly the use of hard cement renders and pointing. The trustees are unlikely to offer a grant for a satisfactory repair if it is part of a wider scheme which contains something to which they would object strongly.

Full details of the work proposed with clear photographs, drawings etc are essential, and the Committee are unlikely to consider an application without them. The Society may well arrange for an experienced professional member to visit the building before making a recommendation to the trustees.

A grant may well be made subject to conditions about the proposed works. It is only paid once work, or a significant phase of it, has been completed to the Society's satisfaction, and may in certain circumstances be withheld if this is not the case. It must be claimed within two years of the date of a formal offer.

The Society is very happy to provide technical advice and information, and suggest names of suitable experienced professionals, builders etc (though these are not a recommendation). We also publish technical advisory leaflets and run short training course both for owners and professionals on the repair of historic buildings, which have been attended by almshouse trustees.

We are keen that historic almshouses, often the most interesting surviving historic buildings in an area after the church, remain fully used and usable by elderly people, but wish to show how this can be achieved without the mistaken approach which tries to turn them into modern buildings.



Newcombe Fund Grant Application

Date	
APPLICANT	
Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
SPAB Member?	Yes / No
AGENT / ARCHITECT / BUILDING SURVEYOR	
Name	
Address	
Phone	
Email	
SPAB Member?	Yes / No
PROPERTY	
Name	
Address	
Is the property listed?	Yes / No Grade I / II* / II / Scheduled
Approximate date of construction	
Brief description of the property	
Current use	
Future use	



PROJECT	
Has a specification and schedule of works been prepared?	Yes / No
Will the architect or building surveyor be supervising the works?	Yes / No
What is the estimated cost of repairs?	Yes / No
Will the repairs be phased?	Yes / No
<i>Please give details</i>	
Have you applied for grants from any other sources?	Yes / No
<i>Please give details</i>	
Are there any other relevant details?	Yes / No
<i>Please give details</i>	

Please enclose the following documents with your application:

- Specification and Schedule of Works
- Photographs
- Drawings
- Conservator's Report (if applicable)
- Quotations/Estimates from Contractors

Signed

Please return this form and the supporting information to the Director, SPAB, 37 Spital Square, London E1 6DY or email to director@spab.org.uk. We would prefer to receive your application and supporting information in an electronic format if at all possible.

Terms and Conditions

- The decision on whether to award a grant or not will be made by the SPAB's Executive Committee. Grants are usually awarded up to a maximum of £2,000.
- The grant will not be paid until after the work has been completed.
- The grant claim should be made on our Newcombe Fund Grant Claim Form.
- The SPAB reserves the right to review the completed work before making payment.