

July 2013
– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. White's Almshouse Bristol set for 400th anniversary celebrations

- **Bristol High Sheriff and Bristol String Quartet to mark anniversary**
- **4 month exhibition to open in September**

Dr. White's Almshouse, Bristol, is gearing up to mark its remarkable 400th anniversary with a celebratory Strawberry Tea Party and an exhibition spanning four months at Bristol B Bond.

Dr. Thomas White, a celebrated preacher, social reformer and benefactor, founded the Almshouse in 1613.

The Almshouse, formerly of Temple Street – now situated in Prewett Street near St. Mary Redcliffe – provides accommodation for 18 residents and a site manager.

The Almshouse charity is managed by a body of Bristol-based trustees who have unearthed artefacts and documents from its deep and eventful history, to mark the 400th year of operation.

• **Special Strawberry Tea:** The charity trustees are pleased to host a Strawberry Tea to celebrate the 400th anniversary. This is to take place on **Saturday 27th July 2013** at the Almshouse, commencing at 2pm. Refreshments, a buffet and entertainment from **The Bristol String Quartet** will be provided. Trustees, staff and residents are delighted to host **The High Sheriff** and the **Deputy Lord Mayor** amongst other esteemed guests.

• **Exhibition:** An exhibition of Dr. White's Almshouse artefacts will take place in the records office at **B Bond** between **Tuesday 10 September 2013** and **Friday 17 January 2014**. B Bond have artefacts dating right back to 1613, including the original copy of Dr White's will.

- **For further reading, the Almshouse has recently launched a website**
[www.drwhitesbristol.co.uk] and Twitter [[@drwhitesbristol](https://twitter.com/drwhitesbristol)]

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Do you know somebody with links to Dr. White's Almshouse, Bristol?

We would love to hear from you. Get in touch with your stories!

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Dr. Thomas White, a celebrated preacher, social reformer and benefactor, founded the Almshouse in 1613 – the Almshouse has a long and fascinating history. The Almshouse caters for elderly residents in a supportive community.

Until 1882, the Almshouse consisted of a parallelogram of small buildings, with a narrow grass plot running through the centre. It was originally intended for 10 'poor and impotent' people. In March 1882, Governors decided to pull down the Almshouses to rebuild and expand to house more than 10 residents.

This building was eventually demolished in 1968, replaced by the current Almshouses at Prewett Street.

1550 - Birth of Thomas White - Parish of Temple

1613 - Built hospital in Temple Way

1615 - Dr. Thomas White gifted his house at 45 High St, Bristol to the hospital

1624 - Dr. Thomas White dies

1968 - Site at Temple Way demolished and Almshouse moved to current site. Temple Way property compulsory purchased by Bristol City Council and is now the new fire station.

An Almshouse in its 400th year of residency is unprecedented and frankly astounding – hence its trustees' desire to turn the relatively unknown part of Bristol's history into a renowned landmark of a great city.

■ More information available at www.drwhitesbristol.co.uk