

Lives Remembered

More on Edward Erdman deceased

In your obituary of Edward Erdman (6 May 2003) you say that in 1978 he became chairman of a sheltered-housing scheme now known as the Sanctuary Housing Association. That is not quite correct. May I explain?

The story began in 1968 with the desire of certain prominent property developers, including Charles Clore and Paul Getty, to set up a national housing charity that would make some return for the post-war fortunes that had been amassed by people in the property world. For this purpose the World of Property Housing Trust (WPHT) was constituted as a statutory housing association (not providing sheltered housing) on May 5 1969. On May 3 1978 Edward Erdman was appointed Chairman of the WPHT Central Council.

WPHT's name was later changed to the Sanctuary Housing Association. On March 18 1987 I made a speech proposing that Edward Erdman be appointed President of the Sanctuary Housing Association. This was agreed. In the speech I mentioned that by then WPHT, which started as nothing but a blank sheet of paper, now owned nearly 6,000 dwelling units valued at around £125m and employed over 200 staff. It has since become much larger.¹

¹ *The Times* Register (Lives Remembered), 10 May 2003.