

KINEDO CASE STUDY

Kinemagic ideal for Almshouses



Kinemagic Serenity Shower Cubicle

The Derbyshire village of Etwell features a stunning courtyard of Almshouses originally funded in the 1500's by Sir John Port, the founder of the famous private school, Repton, located nearby.

Today the 8 houses and 2 bedsits are managed by a Charitable Trust that allocates the accommodation to tenants of 50 years and over that have close connections to the village and who are in need of housing. As properties become empty they are assessed for improvements, which are carried out whilst empty.

A major renovation to the bathroom of No 10 involved replacing the bath with a shower enclosure carried out by local plumber Etta of Derby. The new client wanted hand rails and a folding seat which proved difficult to fit retrospectively and ultimately required reinforced stud partition walls. The whole process, according to Graham Wale, one of the trustees, was long winded and took longer than anticipated.

“The end result was OK, but our existing tenants are now asking for showers to replace their baths, so I needed a solution that was quicker to install to minimise disruption. I also needed grab rails and seats as part of the package, so that we could avoid the hassle of fitting extra partitions. Our local plumbers merchant in Derby, Willbond, put us in touch with Saniflo to get some information about their Kinedo integrated cubicles. To my surprise one of their representatives came out to carry out a site visit so that the right product could be recommended. The Kinemagic Serenity featured everything we needed and so we ordered an initial unit.”

Judy Ride, who has lived in her house for 18 years, was the recipient of the Kinemagic which was a direct swap for a bath. The unit features integrated internal opaque glass panels that fit over the lip of a bespoke shower tray to create a fully watertight environment. No tiles, no grouting and no silicone is required so, once the existing fittings were stripped out, the installation was pretty straightforward. A member of the Saniflo

technical team joined the plumber from Etta to provide training on the initial installation - which was duly completed in a day despite the uneven nature of the walls in such an old property. An electric shower panel was fitted as an option into the cubicle because water is supplied via a conventional gravity fed hot water supply. Judy is delighted with the unit;

“The Kinemagic is excellent. The low entry and non-slip surface gives me total peace of mind that I can get in and out of the shower easily and safely and the hand rails are perfectly positioned to give me that extra security. I don't use the seat each time I shower, but it is useful if I am tired. I'm pleased because I know I will be able to use this shower for many years. Oh and it's also easy to clear which is a benefit as you get older.”

A second, slightly smaller unit of 1200 x 700, has since been fitted into another Almshouse. The integrated shower valve, rainshower head and handset were used for this installation as water is supplied via a combi boiler. The installation was very straightforward this time as the bathroom is an extension to the original house and was built in the 1980's to a simpler shape. The water was back on before the end of the day.

Graham, who was formerly a mechanical engineer and now runs his own property services business, is particularly impressed by the service from the team at Saniflo;

“I was very pleased at the level of support we were given by the team at Saniflo. We even had a visit from another technical guy who was near to us when we did the second installation. Whilst we can't use Kinemagics in every bathroom in the Almshouses – some have sloping rooves that will prevent them going in – we will certainly be looking to use them in future renovations. The clients love them and they certainly save us time. It's a win win.”