

SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION

Haig News

WINTER 2019

HAIG HOUSING'S NEWSLETTER

A photograph of HM The Queen smiling and holding a bouquet of flowers. She is wearing a blue coat and a blue hat with a floral decoration. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman in a purple coat and another in a brown coat holding a large pink-wrapped bouquet.

**HM The Queen attends the opening of
Haig's Centenary Development in Morden
Friday 11th October 2019**

TRUST NEWS • TENANT NEWS • EVENTS • FUNDRAISING • INFORMATION

Introduction

On the 11th October 2019 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, Patron of Haig Housing Trust, visited our Morden estate to open the Centenary Development. This was the last development of 68 new homes that concluded the programme of growth that the Trustees set out to deliver in their 2014 'Strategy for Growth'. It was a marvellous day with Her Majesty meeting many residents not just from Morden but a wide selection of Veterans and their families who were able to explain how the charity had helped them. I hope you enjoy reading this winter edition of the Haig Newsletter, which not surprisingly will cover this wonderful occasion fully in articles and especially photographs.

It is important to say that the Strategy for Growth has not just been about Morden. Because of housing demand in London and the South East and our availability of land without cost, it was much more affordable and logical that these new homes were in Morden. But alongside this development, which has already won a prize for its design and security, it is worth reflecting on other developments achieved earlier in the Strategy.

Haig's growth started in 2014, with Rimaud House in Reading bringing eight 2-bedroom homes into use in the vibrant and expensive M4 corridor. This was followed by purchasing properties in Aldershot and Colchester, 38 in all that will

form the last step of a Veterans' pathway working with other military housing charities. Soon after this 20 homes were provided in Manchester, in an exciting redevelopment of derelict houses assisted by the popular BBC programme 'DIY SOS'. Scotland also expanded its stock with 15 new build homes on a private development in Hamilton. These 2 and 3-bedroom homes were filled immediately from our Scottish waiting list. In early 2018 we were able to open eight transitional homes in Morden by demolishing an old café and warden's house. These homes are aimed at younger Service leavers, providing low cost accommodation and access to a network of support to make that leap from service to civilian life. With the completion of these 68 new homes, from 1 to 4-bedroom houses and apartments, Haig has delivered 157 new homes, a 12% growth since 2014.

There is no resting on laurels and the Trustees are now considering the priorities and vision for what the Trust does next. As we conduct Roadshows throughout the coming year we will explain what these ideas may mean.



Photo: © Aarefx 2019

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter; a keepsake item to record the Queen's visit. May I wish you at this time of year a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I would encourage you to attend if one of the many planned Roadshows comes to your estate.

With warm seasonal wishes
James Richardson
Chief Executive

Our partner @veteransgateway is open 24/7 including Christmas Day and New Year's Day. If you need help finding support over the festive season or just want a chat with an advisor who is a like-minded veteran, contact them on www.veteransgateway.org.uk



A NEW CHAIRMAN FOR HAIG



At the Board Meeting in October 2019, the Board of Trustees appointed **David Williams** to be the new Chairman of Haig Housing. David replaces Cathy Lester-Walker, who steps down having completed her nine year term as a Trustee, including four years as Chairman.

David is a former regular and reserve Royal Artillery officer, whose last appointment was as Battery Commander of 265 (Home Counties) Battery RA in SE London. David enjoyed a banking career in London, New York and Singapore and for the last few years has been a non-executive director of a City-based bank. He lives in Bosham, West Sussex and spends his spare time racing around Chichester Harbour in his small wooden sailing boat.

David joined the Board of Haig in 2015 and chairs the Audit & Risk Committee. David is also Deputy Chairman of Care for Veterans, which operates a 60 bed hospital for physically disabled veterans in Worthing, West Sussex.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall governance and strategy of Haig and, working with the Chief Executive and his team, for directing how it is managed and run. Haig currently has nine Trustees who are unpaid and bring a range of relevant backgrounds and experience.

On taking up the appointment, David said *"It has been an enormous privilege to have been on the board of Haig during such an exciting period of growth, culminating in the opening of the Morden development and the visit of HM the Queen. I look forward to working with my fellow Trustees and the team at Haig in improving the lives of veterans and their families by providing quality homes at an affordable rent. I hope to meet as many tenants as possible over the coming months and to strengthen the links between the Trustees and Haig's residents."*

Haig is delighted to welcome the following new staff.



Klara Buzas joined us in August as Property Services Director, and will prioritise the Stock Condition Survey due to take place in 2020 (see The Near Future on page 19)



Blaise Oaklands joined our Morden Grounds Maintenance Team this September.

Highlights of this issue

- Page 6** Tenant News
- Page 8** Opening of the Centenary Development
- Page 14** Tenant Information
- Page 16** Ken Souter – A Life in Flying

Front page picture:

HM The Queen attends the opening of Haig's Centenary Development

Photo credit: www.acutepix.com

Haig Roadshows for 2020

Next year's programme will include the locations listed below. An advisory letter will be sent out well before each event giving further details including the location; we try to use a local community hall or equivalent, or even an empty property if one is available.

Most roadshows are held in the early evening at around 6pm so those of you who work during the day have a chance to attend. For those who cannot easily get to the venue we can usually offer an earlier home visit.

These roadshows are an opportunity to meet the Chief Executive, senior staff and possibly a trustee, who will be able to answer your questions, whether relating to your own home or estate or to broader matters. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.



Chairman David Williams and Corporate Director Pat Horgan talk with Hampstead residents, 20 Nov 2019

Photo: © J E Richardson

Spring: Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Kings Lynn, Enfield, Salisbury, Wimborne, Lymington, Leicester

Summer: Hull, Grimsby, Carlisle, Bristol, Penzance, Edinburgh, Hamilton, Glasgow

Autumn: Farnborough, Winchfield, Southend, Morden



Competition

We have some fantastic new prizes for you, in the shape of a beautiful handmade Arketa ballpoint pen in chrome and wood, in its own presentation case, and also a brilliant uncirculated D-Day £2 coin from the Royal Mint, which we are offering together with a copy of Portsmouth City Council's 'D-Day in Photographs'.

To enter simply send your name and address, and the prize you would like to win (PEN or COIN) to **communications@haighousing.org.uk** or by post to:

Newsletter Competition
Communications & Fundraising Dept
Haig Housing
Alban Dobson House
Green Lane
Morden SM4 5NS

Congratulations to our lucky winners from the Summer 2019 edition who were Mrs E Bentley of Liverpool (COIN), Mr J Morgan of Bristol (PEN) and Mrs C Gill of Wimborne (THERE BUT NOT THERE TOMMY).

In Memoriam

We are very sorry to report the death on the 19th October 2019 after a short illness of Wing Commander **Tim Underwood**, a much respected Trustee of Haig for nearly 20 years until his retirement in 2017. He will be remembered by many of our long-standing tenants as he always went out of his way to meet and visit residents, and his wisdom and support to the Trust will be greatly missed.



London Marathon 2019

The Royal Parks half marathon, first held in 2008, takes place each October, starting and finishing in Hyde Park. It is the only half marathon that travels through central London and four of the Royal Parks and is one of London's largest half marathons with over 16,000 participants.

Haig supporter John Coyle (centre pic) represented us this year on Sunday 13th October with his wife Cheryl and their friends Graham Hughes and James Mahoney, and between them they raised some £1,900 for the Trust.

Cheryl reports 'It was a great day, we all managed to get finished before the heavy rainfall. John finished in 2 hrs 5 mins and I finished in 2 hrs 6 mins. Legs really tired and a bit sore but we are feeling really proud of ourselves!

Our congratulations and thanks to John and his family and friends on their great achievement.



If you would like to fundraise for Haig, whether a challenge event or an individual effort, please contact Kellie King on 020 8685 5777 for help and advice, let us know how it goes and take lots of photos, and we will be very happy to feature your efforts in the next newsletter.

PRUDENTIAL RIDELONDON 2019

RideLondon, known as Prudential RideLondon, is an annual festival of cycling held in London. It was developed by the Mayor of London, London and Partners and Transport for London in partnership with Surrey County Council, and is managed by London & Surrey Cycling Partnership.

Alex Thomas, Key Account Director Southern Region of Worcester Bosch Group, rode on behalf of Haig in this year's race which took place on the 4th August 2019.

Alex said: 'I was extremely happy to be riding for Haig Housing. In the civilian world we forget how fortunate we are to be safe, comfortable and secure. It's the veteran community that often goes unnoticed when we think about

threats to our livelihood. Working for Worcester Bosch and providing comfortable heating to residents (in some cases vulnerable) in Haig Housing properties, gives me a chance to give back to the Servicemen and women that have helped support our peaceful lives.'

We would like to congratulate Alex on his epic 100 Mile RideLondon fundraising event, and thank every donor who helped him raise £908.24 for Haig Housing Trust.

Worcester Bosch is Haig's preferred supplier for replacement boilers across its estates. The company has a history of commitment to the Armed Forces and has consistently received Which? Best Buy awards during the last 10 years including 2019. In 2009 they were awarded a Royal Warrant.



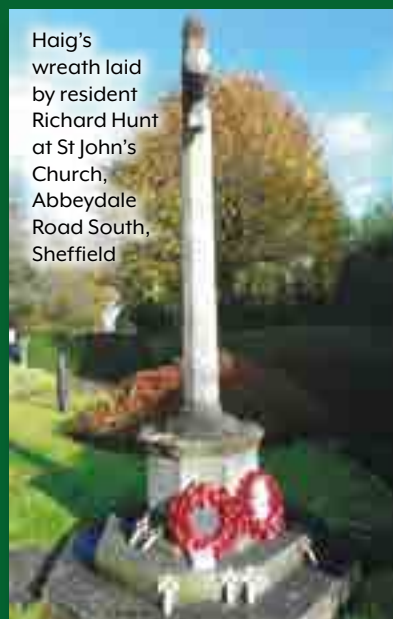
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Photo © AudePix 2019

The ceremony at the Trust's Garden of Remembrance in Morden was led by the Rev David Heath-Whyte of St Lawrence Church, with wreaths laid by Cllr Kelly Braund (Merton Council), Mr Andrew Weir (Haig Housing Trustee), Mr Ser Pun (The South London Nepalese [Gurkha] Association), Mr John Bradbury (Blesma) and Mr John Deronde (Rotary Club of Morden). Morden resident Chris Parfitt was the Standard Bearer and readings were given by Haig staff and residents.



Photo © John Royboud



Haig's wreath laid by resident Richard Hunt at St John's Church, Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield

About 100 people overall attended this year's annual Armistice Day service at the War Memorial Cottages & Bungalow in Norwich. These included past and present residents of the War Memorial Cottages and Bungalows, as well as representatives of No 1 Coy, 3 Royal Anglian, members of the Coldstream Guards Association and Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force detachments from Langley School Combined Cadet Force. The event was overseen by Col Tony Taylor,

a past Area Secretary of The Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Association, and the service itself by Father Jones of Walsingham who gave a very moving address about the regimental system and comradeship based on his father's experiences during the 2nd World War with the 10th Hussars. Wreaths were laid on behalf of The Royal Norfolk and Royal Anglian Associations, the Coldstream Guards Association, Langley School Combined Cadet Force and Haig Housing.



Portsmouth resident Patrick Hill lays Haig's wreath at the RN War Memorial, Southsea Common

Armed Forces Day, Ashtead



On the 29th June, tenants at Ashtead in Surrey got together on the green to celebrate Armed Forces Day with a barbecue.

The day was a great success with everyone having a lovely time and the residents are now looking forward to repeating the event in 2020.

Wimbledon Tennis

I was very privileged to accompany 12 beneficiaries to the Opening Match on Centre Court 1st July 2019. We were very lucky to watch some amazing tennis, be treated to a strawberries and cream tea and even get a few autographs. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was definitely an experience to remember forever. If you get the chance to apply for tickets next year please do it, even if you have to travel to get there, it is worth every moment. **Kellie King, Events Coordinator**

The opportunity to attend a truly iconic sporting event and watch the now Wimbledon 2019 champion



play was an incredible experience, both myself and my guest will remember this for a long time. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the "Lest we Forget" association for making this experience possible. Regards, **Billy Stanton**

Thanks to all involved in our wonderful day at Wimbledon. It was the perfect experience to tick off your bucket list. I had a fantastic day which will never be forgotten. Best wishes, **Mike Newman**

It gave me an opportunity to meet others that live on the estate that I've never met before. It was overall a wonderful experience with the full package, including the afternoon tea. Many thanks to the Lest We Forget Association for this opportunity. Kindest regards, **Nedra Daniel**



Photo: K King

It was a day to cherish forever please pass on our heartfelt thanks to the Lest We Forget association for the tickets and of course the opportunity to attend the most famous tennis tournament in the world. Regards, **Carol & Michael Donlon**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVITED TO FUTURE EVENTS

Please email us on communications@haighousing.org.uk giving your name and address and quoting 'EVENTS'. We will then put you on a mailing list to be notified whenever tickets for events are made available.

Opening of THE CENTENARY DEVELOPMENT

On a slightly damp October morning the Trust was honoured to welcome its Patron HM the Queen to Morden to open the new Centenary Development, and Queen Elizabeth Terrace that is named in her honour. She was greeted by the Chairman of Haig's Trustees, Mrs Cathy Lester-Walker, Brig James Richardson, Chief Executive and Lt Col Rory Ingleby-Mackenzie, Operations Director, as well as the Mayor of Merton, Janice Howard, the Lord Lieutenant Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE and Deputy Lieutenant Mrs Clare Whelan.

It had been 70 years since Her Majesty first visited the Trust, then



Photo: © AcutePix 2019



THE QUEEN

visits Haig Housing
11th October 2019



as Princess Elizabeth, opening new homes in Jersey in 1949 (see above). She has been our Patron since succeeding her father King George VI. To have her visit and open our extraordinary new development was a huge honour and we invited many supporters, tenants, local dignitaries, representatives from the London Borough of Merton and other ex-Service charities that we work with and of course the builders, architects, development consultants and agents who delivered the scheme. Also joining us was Helen Helliwell, Chief Executive of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust that had provided 50% of the funding for the new homes, without which the scheme would not have been possible.

The rain magically held off for the 45 minutes the Queen spent walking round the development meeting with the guests, supporters, staff and especially the local schoolchildren who greeted her enthusiastically and with many bunches of flowers. This was a happy and unique day for Haig and we very much hope you will enjoy the photographs.



Outside Queen Elizabeth Terrace, a posy was presented to the Queen by 6 year old Naomi Gurung, who was accompanied by her parents, Mr Udaya Gurung and Mrs Sunila Gurung, and sister Christina.

The thrilled family later said "It was surely one of the greatest days in our life which will live long in the memories of my family".



The Queen was shown round the disabled friendly kitchen at one of the new flats in Maxi Martin Court, where she was introduced to Morden resident Mr Alan Spencer and his daughter Charlotte by Housing Manager Julie Cann.



Mrs Cathy Lester-Walker, Haig's outgoing Chairman of Trustees, introduces the Queen to incoming Chairman Mr David Williams.



Housing & Development Director John Lau introduces professionals responsible for the building project.



Photos © AcutePix 2019



Photos © AcutePix 2019

Mr & Mrs Michael Bowman and their two children Harry and Kye, who recently moved into Maxi Martin Court, welcomed the Queen to their home for tea.

Mr Bowman said 'being lucky enough to be allocated a new property is amazing. Then on the day of the

opening of the new estate, to invite the Queen into our own property was a very proud and unique moment we will remember for ever'.

Youngest son Harry mentioned he had the same coloured hair as Prince Harry, and the Queen told him his was redder, which he found 'very cool!'

"... to invite the Queen into our own property was a very proud and unique moment we will remember for ever"



Photos © AcutePix 2019

Housing Manager Lisa Waterman introduces the Queen to Morden residents Mrs Pauline Burroughs (above), Mr & Mrs Charles Glover, and Mr & Mrs Nur Thapa.



Photo: © AcutePix 2019

The Queen was introduced to marshals Carol and Jeremy Davies-Webb and Melanie Parfitt, and walkers Peter Barron, Cdr Kevin Tokarick, John Coyle and Stephen Kelliher, who had taken part in Haig's event The Long Walk Home in November 2018 to commemorate the 100 year centenary of the 1918 Armistice. She was also presented with a copy of Haig's book about the event.

THE PETER WALLEY MEMORIAL GARDEN

The garden at the centre of the Centenary Development has been named after pilot Peter Walley, who was shot down by a Messerschmitt 109 on the 18th August 1940. Coming down over south Morden, rather than bailing out, he managed to just steer his aircraft from hitting the Haig estate, and crashed in Morden Park. Only 20 years old, he was buried in St Luke's churchyard in nearby Whyteleafe, close to RAF Kenley.

We were very pleased to be able to invite Peter Walley's nephew, Mr Mike Squires (centre right) to the opening of the Development on the 11th October. Mr Squires laid a wreath in honour of his uncle.



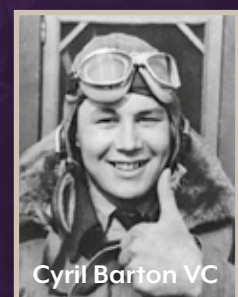
Photo: © AcutePix 2019



Photo: © AcutePix 2019

CYRIL BARTON HOUSE

One of our new housing blocks is named after Cyril Barton VC, and we were delighted to welcome his sisters, Mrs Joyce Voysey and Mrs Cynthia Maidment, and their families, to our opening event. Cyril Barton died in 1944 at the age of 22 having nursed his damaged Halifax home on a four and a half hour journey across Germany and occupied Europe, but ran out of fuel on reaching England. He crash landed in Ryhope, Co. Durham, after steering away from houses and coal pit-head workings. His three crew members survived the landing and Cyril Barton was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.



Cyril Barton VC



Photos © AcurPix 2019

Operations Manager Phillip Johnson introduced the Queen to beneficiaries of Haig's special housing scheme. From the left are Mr Som Raj Thapa and his wife Sarmila, who used the Trust's shared lease scheme to buy a property in Kent, and Mr Richard Flanagan (talking to the Queen) with his wife Kirsty, who we assisted in purchasing a property in Devon.

Next to them is Stuart Durie, who was our first tenant in our transitional housing scheme at Parry Court, and has now moved out to live in Farnham with his partner Natalie Inman. Stuart told us "Everything you have done for me was brilliant. Keep doing what you are doing, Haig Housing is a fantastic organisation".

On the right is Mr Dan Phillips, with his wife Sarah and children, who served in the Royal Artillery and The Mercian Regiment and used our shared ownership scheme to buy a property in Sussex. Dan is a silver medallist and current UK team member for the Invictus Games.

THE UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE OPENING



Photo © AcurPix 2019





Children from our two local primary schools, Morden Primary and Abbotsbury, were invited to line the route and wave flags. They were so excited! They all had a wonderful time and the Queen was delighted to receive flowers from many of them.



Remembrances of the special day sent to us by the children at Morden Primary School.

HELPFUL ADVICE FROM INCOME DEPARTMENT

PAYING RENT IN ADVANCE:

In line with your tenancy agreement, rent should be paid in advance. The advance amount depends on how you make your payments, for example if you pay monthly, your account should be a month in advance. If you see a balance with AR next to it on your statement, please call the Income Team so we can advise you accordingly.

RENT INCREASES:

Your Rent Increase Notice is a legal document and you will need to produce it if you apply for benefits. Please ensure you keep it in a safe place. You should increase your payments before the increase takes effect. If you are in receipt of Local Housing Allowance or Universal Credit you should provide a copy of your Rent Increase Notice letter to the relevant authority for them to action the change in circumstances.

PAYMENT REFERENCE:

Everyone has a unique reference number which should be quoted on all payments and will ensure your payments go direct to your rent account. Your unique reference can be found on the left hand side of your rent statements and on letters from the Income department. You will also need this reference to set up an online account for making payments.

Photo by ALDECAstudio - stock.adobe.com

A DOG IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

The RSPCA has some good advice about having a pet safe Christmas. Pets are rewarding but come with long term responsibilities. Some festive goodies can be dangerous to pets, including chocolate, mince pies and Christmas pudding, and bones from carcasses may cause choking. Plants and flowers including poinsettias, holly, ivy, mistletoe and lilies can be toxic, and both cats and dogs may be tempted to chew or play with hanging tree decorations. Christmas and the New Year can be busy and chaotic, so help your pet cope by keeping to their normal routine as much as possible.

Please remember you must have Haig's written permission before getting a pet, and that the Trust only allows you to keep one dog at a time. So if you are considering a bundle of fur this Christmas, or at any time, please check out the Trust's policy on pets on the Haig website (Tenant Area, Tenant Handbook) and complete our Pet Application form, which can be obtained from your Housing Manager.

Photo by Reddys - stock.adobe.com

HELP WITH BUYING BASICS – THE MRS WILLIE JAMES CHARITY

Mrs William James, born Evelyn Forbes (1868-1929) founded the Housing Association for Officers' Families (HAOF) in 1916. On the merger of the Association with Haig Homes in 1995, the Mrs Willie James Charity was created as a memorial to her.

The Charity helps tenants of Haig Housing by providing items, services

or facilities they need but cannot otherwise afford. All tenants who qualify as beneficiaries of Haig Housing are eligible for assistance. Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they do not have the resources to provide the item or service themselves.

A wide range of assistance may be given with such necessary small items as furniture and white goods, payment for dental work or new glasses; items to improve quality of life or medical conditions such as a rising chair or television; courses or equipment to help with a return to work; respite care; occasional expenses, etc.

If you would like to apply please contact Shirley Skinner for an application form on 020 8685 5777 or by email shirley.skinner@haighousing.org.uk.



KEEPING WARM IN WINTER

Some sensible advice from Age UK which is useful for us all to remember however old we are.

It can be nice to dig out our favourite winter coat, or settle in on a chilly evening in front of the telly. But the winter weather, shorter days and longer nights can leave us feeling a bit out of sorts and lead to worries about energy bills and our health, especially as we get older. The following winter tips can help you stay warm and well this winter:

- Make sure you get your annual flu jab – this is free if you're over 65, a carer or have a long-term medical condition.
- Stay warm when you're out and about. When you go out, a scarf and layers of clothing will help you stay warm.
- Keep your home warm – find a temperature that suits you and keep your home at a stable temperature.
- Get a benefits check at your local Age UK to check you're claiming all you're entitled to.
- Contact your energy supplier and ask them about their Energy Companies Obligation scheme which could save you money.
- Keep an eye on the weather forecast so you're not caught out by any particularly bad weather.
- Write down emergency numbers, such as the doctor, energy suppliers, a plumber, a neighbour or emergency contact just in case.

For more information, contact Age UK on 0800 169 65 65 and order a Winter wrapped up information guide or visit our website at www.ageuk.org.uk/winter.



TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Please can we remind you that all improvements and alterations to your home, including any garden areas, require the written authority of the Trust. Failure to obtain this is a breach of the conditions of your tenancy.

If you wish to carry out an improvement that we would have to remove before letting the property to another tenant, we may ask you to pay us a bond, which will be held to indemnify Haig against the cost of the future work.

In addition, please be aware that the planting of trees, and any works carried out to trees, including but not limited to felling, is classed as an improvement and requires our permission.

You are responsible for the following within your home:

- Keeping the interior clean and in good condition
- All internal decorations, including associated repair and preparation work
- All internal doors and locks
- Replacement of fuses, light bulbs, door/window keys, glazing, toilet seats, plugs and chains, toilet roll holders, tap washers, bath panels, door bell, battery operated smoke alarms, washing lines and posts where not communal, adjusting ball valves, bleeding radiators, and re-igniting boilers.
- Ventilating and heating your home to minimise the risk of condensation
- Unblocking and cleaning internal drains, wastes, traps and external gullies
- Repairing any fixture or fitting damaged by you, your family or visitors
- Treatment and removal of vermin and nests, ie wasps, ants, mice, etc.

KEN SOUTER – *a life in flying*

Ken Souter was born in Sunderland in June 1919. His father John, was a local businessman who owned some ships and imported timber from Finland to supply the local coal mines with pit props. Originally destined for art school, the war intervened and Ken went off to train as a pilot with the RAF and on July 5th 1939 made his first training flight in a Tiger Moth biplane, which was the standard RAF trainer of the day. His first solo flight was on 20th August.



More training followed and in July 1940 Ken transferred to a Hawker Hart which was, at that time, an ageing biplane fighter which was used to prepare pilots for the new Hurricanes and Spitfires. More training in Harvards followed before he was finally let loose in a Hawker

Hurricane later that year and joined 73 Squadron on operations.

In early 1941 the squadron was loaded onto aircraft carrier, HMS Furious, en route to North Africa. Despite never having operated off a carrier before the squadron took off without incident and, guided by a Blenheim bomber, headed for Sudan then on to the Western Desert in Libya. Once there, combat operations started in earnest and the number of pilot losses began to mount. Ken was credited with a 'probable' (later confirmed) shooting down of a JU88, a German twin engine bomber. However, later that month he was lucky to emerge uninjured when he wrote-off his Hurricane whilst taking off in a sandstorm and ploughing into a fuel bowser.

In early 1942, despite the accident, Ken's exceptional flying ability was recognised and he became a de facto test pilot for a vast range of different aircraft types operating in the Western Desert, a risky job often resulting in enforced belly landings due to various mechanical malfunctions in repaired and modified aircraft.

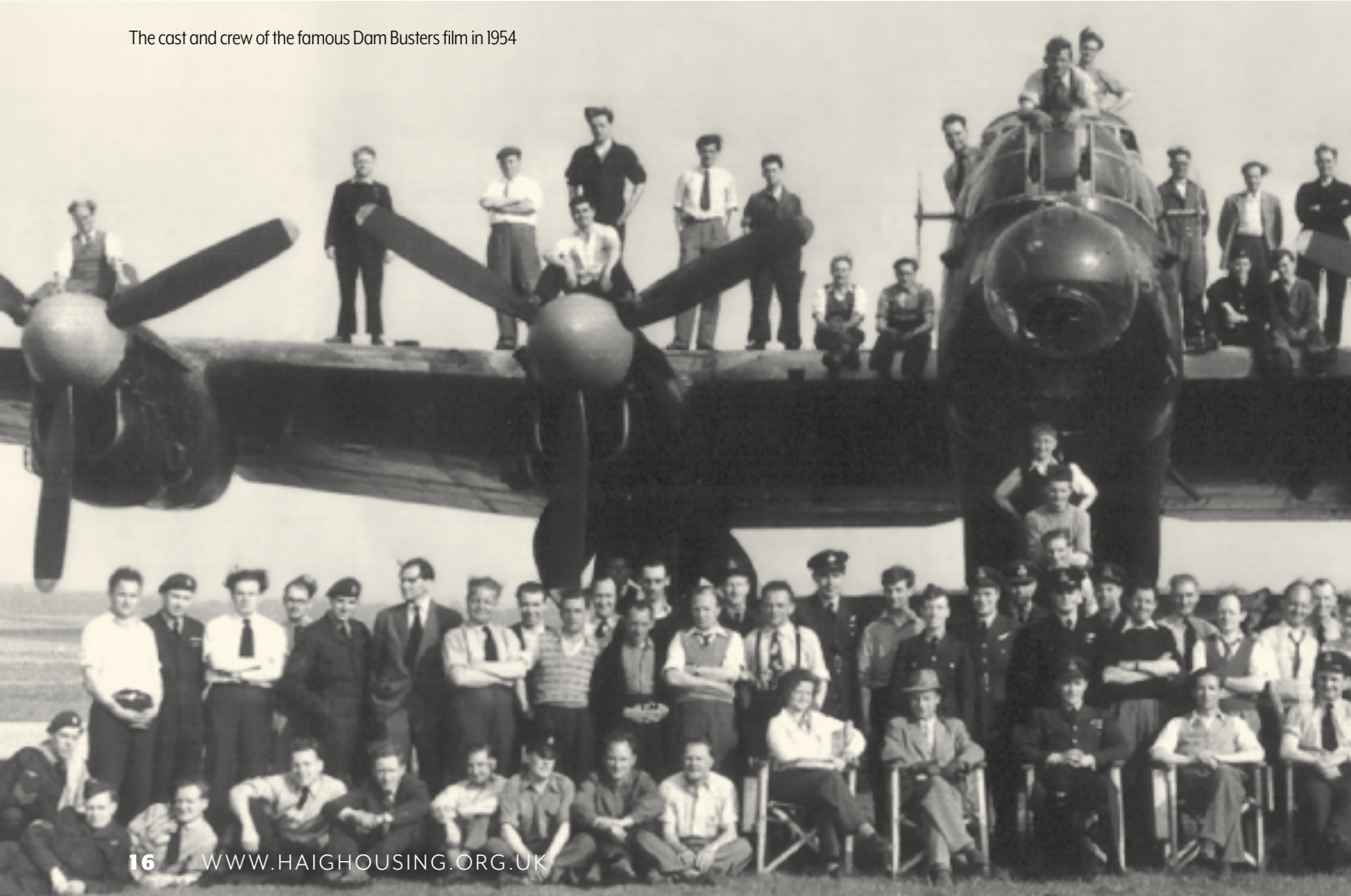
In January 1943 trouble with a damaged ear-drum ended his front-line operational flying and, glad



to escape the flies and the heat of the desert, he returned to England for more test flying and a spell at the Air Gunnery School in Scotland. He also continued his test pilot role, notably with the Naval Air Fighting Development Unit, until the end of his service in May 1945. On demobilisation Ken moved to join his brother in South Africa where jointly they established a panel-beating business. He married and had a son, Antony in 1949.

In March 1951, Ken re-enlisted in the RAF, this time in bomber command flying the Avro Lincoln (a derivation of the WW2 Lancaster) for 83 squadron. In August 1953 the squadron relocated to Singapore to assist in the 'Malaya Crisis' when Malayan separatists were attempting to achieve independence from Britain. This involved many

The cast and crew of the famous Dam Busters film in 1954



In our Summer edition we featured Morden tenant Ken Souter, who was celebrating his 100th birthday. Some of you may have read the fascinating article the Sun printed on the 12th October 2019, and we are delighted to have permission to print the official biography of his amazing life written by his son Tony.

bombing missions over jungle targets. The squadron returned to the UK at the beginning of 1954.

In April 1954 Ken was selected to head-up a flight of four previously mothballed Avro Lancasters tasked with re-enacting the flying sequences for the celebrated film about the 1943 WW2 'Dam Busters' raid by 617 Squadron. Described by a member of his own crew as "a brilliant pilot and a very laid-back individual" Ken was joined by



Ken (circled) with his fellow RAF test pilots

three other veteran Lincoln pilots from the Malaya campaign for the flying sequences in the newly refurbished Lancasters.

Extremely low-level flying sequences in the Lake District demanded by the script led to some

exciting moments: for example, the 60ft altitude flown by the 'real' raid was reduced down to 40ft as the higher altitude was not impressive enough on film. On one occasion Ken's Lancaster was low enough for the propellers to whip up spray from the surface of Lake Derwent. "Bloody dangerous!" Ken was heard to comment.

An entire year of exciting but extremely taxing low-level formation flying ensued day and night, culminating in the completed film being released in May the following year. It's now a British cinema classic, rightly acclaimed for its daring flying sequences which are ably recounted in Jonathan Falconer's book 'Filming the Dam Busters'. Richard Todd, who played Guy Gibson in the film, said of the air-crews: "those RAF chaps in the film took a lot of chances and did a wonderful, wonderful job for us."

In 1955 Ken made the conversion onto fast jets, firstly the Gloucester Meteor then onto the successor of the Lincoln, the new and hugely successful Canberra twin-jet engine medium range bomber with 61 squadron. After three years flying Canberra's in various parts of the world Ken left the RAF in 1958 for a second time



Ken with second wife Birgitta

at a time when the service was gearing up for the new era of the V-bombers which carried Britain's nuclear deterrent.

After a period of various itinerant flying jobs on a range of different aircraft, including a spell as a test pilot, he reunited with an ancient decommissioned Lincoln bomber researching the effects of various wing de-icing rigs. Around 1964 Ken turned to piloting a new category of aircraft, the executive jet, for a number multinational companies. He finally retired from flying for good in the 1970's when the old WW2 injury to an ear-drum made a reappearance. He remarried and had two sons, Christian and Robin.

© Tony Souter 30/5/2019.



2019 has continued to be an exciting year for Ken. Since his 100th birthday in June he has been granted Honorary Life Membership of the RAF Association, and the picture above shows him being presented with his certificate by David Meanwell, Chairman of the Kenley & Caterham Branch. He also met the Queen on the 11th October, together with his son Christian, and was able to show her the birthday card she sent him. She was pleased it had arrived safely!



Photo: © AcutePix 2019

Haig Housing Shop

We have some new items for you which can be ordered through our website (www.haighousing.org.uk/donation/fundraising-shop) with instant payment through PayPal.

Postage and packing costs are as indicated for each individual item. For multiple orders please email us at communications@haighousing.org.uk or telephone **020 8685 5786** and we can let you know what the combined postage cost will be.



Trolley token
£3 including p&p



Pin Badge
£2.50 including p&p



Oyster card holder
£3 including p&p



Key ring
£3 including p&p



T-shirt in white (S, M, L or XL)
£3 plus £2 p&p



Wristband (adult or child)
£1 including p&p



Umbrella
Small £3, Large £5 plus £3.50 p&p



100 Years of Housing Heroes
From the early days of the Great War through to the present day, this fabulous book spotlights the people, anecdotes and history of Haig Housing Trust
£5 plus £4 p&p



Queen & Country Limited Edition
If you are a fan of the portrait and fashion photographer Rankin you won't want to miss this beautiful limited edition book of some of our beneficiaries and supporters who served their Queen and Country
£25 plus £4 p&p

The Long Walk Home

A high gloss, hardback book commemorating our amazing event that took place in November 2018. 100 Veterans, 100 Years, 100 Miles. Their journey from the Menin Gate Belgium to the Cenotaph in London. For anyone who would like to have a spectacular memento of this epic adventure, or just to show your support for all the Haig tenants and supporters who took part.

Hardback £30 + £4 p&p, Softback £10 + £4 p&p



Haig Housing awarded Gold Certificate by 'Secured by Design' for new development



At a presentation ceremony on Friday 9 August 2019, Secured By Design Chief Executive Officer, Guy Ferguson, presented their Gold Award certificate to John Lau, Housing & Development Director for Haig, for standards achieved with their latest development of new housing for Veterans and their families on the Haig estate in south Morden.

This presentation recognises the highest standards of security awarded by Secured by Design (SBD), the national police crime prevention initiative, and the estate has been described by the local policing team as an 'island of tranquillity'.

Guy Ferguson, who made the presentation, said: *"I am extremely pleased that we have been involved in providing new secure homes for the ex-Service community. These new homes are set in a wonderful and safe environment which is totally appropriate and befitting those who may have experienced the worst of armed conflict in the service of their country."*



Photo: © Secured Design

John Lau, Scott Bashford, Guy Ferguson, Paul Stannard

John Lau, Haig's Housing & Development Director, said: *"The vast majority of people want to feel secure in their home, not just ex-Service people, and that is something we worked on with the architects in designing this build. The applicants that we have taken around to see the show flats have been overwhelmed because it's a well-designed scheme. It's important for people who may have post-traumatic stress disorder and serious injuries to have that external environment around them to create a sense of peace and quiet."*

Scott Bashford, Haig's Development Officer, was in attendance together with Paul Stannard, Project Manager for our excellent contractor United Living, who lived up to the Considerate Construction scheme in everything that they did and built an estate of which Haig is incredibly proud.

Become a UK volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

The Eyes On, Hands On project will see the creation of a nation-wide army of volunteers equipped with the know-how to play their own part in the remarkable work of maintaining the memory of some 300,000 war casualties and their graves across more than 12,500 locations in the UK. If you want to help you can find out more by visiting the CWGC's website where you can complete an online application form in their Eyes On, Hands On section.

We'll include a full article about the CWGC with an update on the project in the Summer 2020 newsletter.



THE NEAR FUTURE

As Haig has completed its strategic growth programme we will now turn our attention to upgrading and refurbishing many of our properties around the country. Our new Property Services Director, Klara Buzas, has just let a contract with Rand Associates to complete a Stock Condition Survey across all 1500 Haig properties. This is a strategic review that will tell us where our priorities

for works and options for initiatives and improvements are needed or can take place. Trustees have agreed an internal investment programme to be held over 5 years which will see some major projects take place such as roof and chimney replacements, upgrading damp courses, weather proofing and hopefully window & door replacements and kitchen and bathroom upgrades.

Please contribute to this work by giving access to our contractors to complete the survey and please do offer your own ideas. We can't afford everything but it would be good to know where our beneficiaries thought that improvements could be made.

James Richardson

CHRISTMAS CLOSING

Please note we will be closed on Christmas Day 25th, Boxing Day 26th and Friday 27th December, as well as New Year's Day Wednesday 1st January 2020 (and also 2nd January 2020 in Scotland).

HOW TO CONTACT HAIG

Our postal address is **Haig Housing, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey SM4 5NS.**

Our telephone number is **020 8685 5777**. This number is staffed Monday to Thursdays from 9am to 5pm and on Fridays from 9am to 4pm. Outside these times and on Bank Holidays the number will automatically transfer, after a short delay, to our Emergency Maintenance Operator. Please note if you have a **GAS EMERGENCY** you should phone **0800 111 999**.

Our email address is **enquiries@haighousing.org.uk**. You can also contact us on social media, but should note that we may not be able to reply outside working hours.



/haighousing



/ComingHomeOrg



/HaigHousingTrust



This is your newsletter. Please help us to make it relevant to you.

Please let us know about the commemorations, celebrations, anniversaries and fundraising happening in your area and we will do our best to include your news in our next issue. We are also hoping more Haig residents will share their life stories in future editions, and if that could be you, please get in touch!

Is English not your first language?

If you need any Haig official information translated or need a translator for any verbal communication with Haig Housing then please contact our Head Office to arrange this.

Do you have a visual impairment?

If you need copies of any Haig information in **LARGE PRINT** or **BRAILLE** then please contact our Head Office.

PRODUCTION

Produced by Haig Housing with contributions from beneficiaries, Veterans, staff and supporters. Thanks to all of you.

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If you want to comment on this edition or contribute to the next newsletter please contact Ann Clark, Newsletter Editor, Alban Dobson House, Green Lane, Morden SM4 5NS, telephone 020 8685 5777, email ann.clark@haighousing.org.uk

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