



Press Release
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RAF100 Centenary Baton Relay comes to Kings Hill

The RAF100 Centenary Baton Relay - which honours Royal Air Force personnel over the last 100 years - came to Kings Hill to commemorate the site's history as RAF West Malling.

The 100-day relay is visiting every region of the UK - and several overseas including the Falkland Islands, Washington DC, the Middle East and Afghanistan. A specially designed baton has been made from materials used in RAF aircraft over the past 100 years.

The RAF100 South East Baton Relay team arrived at the Control Tower at Kings Hill where they were met by Susan Davies of Liberty Property Trust and Kings Hill Parish Councillors Sarah Barker, Chris Brown, Dave Waller and Ray Cassidy.

Also there was a one-off £275,000 Red Arrows Aston Martin Vanquish which was specially designed and raffled to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund. It was won by ex-serviceman Humphrey Bradley.

"It was an incredibly moving moment when they arrived," said Susan Davies of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust. "We are very proud of Kings Hill's heritage and it was an honour to be included.

"It was especially touching as someone had left flowers anonymously on the RAF roundel outside the Control Tower in memory of a family member, who, the message said, had flown from here."

RAF West Malling was officially opened in 1941, having been acquired as a fighter command sector station two years earlier. Home to as many as four day and night fighter squadrons at a time, the base was active in missions over France and Germany as well as intercepting doodlebug flying bombs launched towards London from the French and Dutch coasts.

It remained in use until the early 1960's as Britain's premier night fighter station and then became home to several squadrons of the US navy. It was returned to the RAF in 1964 and sold by the Ministry of Defence in 1971.

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Picture caption:

(l-r) Cllr Dave Waller, Cllr Sarah Barker, Humphrey Bradley who won the Aston Martin, Susan Davies of Liberty Property Trust, Cllr Chris Brown and Cllr Ray Cassidy.

Notes to Editors:

The RAF100 Baton Relay will visit every region of the UK and several overseas locations including the Falkland Islands, Washington DC, the Middle East and Afghanistan, from 1 April to 10 July 2018. Twenty RAF sports associations are involved in the Relay, which will see the RAF100 Baton carried on a variety of RAF aircraft, vehicles and sports equipment by personnel from the RAF, RAF Reserves, RAF Air Cadets and wider RAF Family. The RAF100 Baton Relay was conceived by the RAF Orienteering Association; every participant is expected to plan his or her own route in order to promote navigational skills, fundamental both to the sport of orienteering and the military training received by RAF personnel. The RAF100 Baton was designed and manufactured by RAF apprentices at No. 4 School of Technical Training, MOD St Athan, and represents the RAF's century of service to the Nation.

About RAF100. From 1 April 2018, the Royal Air Force will launch RAF100, a national campaign to mark its 100th year. The centenary itself will feature events, activities and other initiatives running nationwide from April to the end of September 2018. Reflecting on its proud record of serving the Nation, the RAF will commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who have gone before; thank its service men and women for their dedication; and inspire the next generation so that together, we can continue to help shape our world for the next 100 years and beyond. For more information visit www.raf.mod.uk/raf100

Liberty Property Trust (NYSE:LPT) is a leader in commercial real estate, serving customers in the United States and United Kingdom, through the development, acquisition, ownership and management of superior industrial and office properties. Liberty's 100 million square foot operating portfolio provides productive work environments for 1,200 tenants.

Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd is developing Kings Hill - www.kings-hill.com - as a rapidly growing sustainable community in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), ensuring economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. Kings Hill combines commercial, residential, educational, retail, community, sports and leisure uses within 800 acres of highly landscaped low density parkland and aims to promote quality of life by providing a unique environment in which people can live, work, play and study. In addition to providing accommodation for SME's, Kings Hill also attracts significant international tenants such as Barclays, Rolex, Cabot Financial, Marsh, Arthur J Gallagher and Kimberly-Clark.

Liberty Property Trust UK and Kent County Council formed a collaborative public/private sector "partnership" to develop Kings Hill as an exemplar mixed-use community. Kings Hill is the County's flagship development for attracting inward investment and promoting regional economic growth.