

Welcome

It's been an exciting few weeks for us, helping Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to plan a special commemorative event to mark the 70th anniversary of the Dambusters; signing Kent's largest letting so far this year; announcing plans for this year's Music on the Hill and welcoming a new shop to Liberty Square. We have also been busy planting colourful trees next to the Control Tower and are looking forward to the renovations being completed by the summer.

Andrew Blevins

Managing Director, Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd.



Dambusters anniversary



'Running Airman'

A special Service of Commemoration is being held at Kings Hill on May 16 to mark the 70th anniversary of the Dambusters, one of the best known and most daring bombing raids of World War II.

Organised by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council and supported by Liberty and Kent County Council, the commemoration will be led by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle MBE.

Everyone is welcome and the day will include a Service of Commemoration next to the RAF West Malling Memorial 'Running Airman' sculpture at 12.30pm and a Spitfire flypast at around 2pm. The best viewing spot for this will be from the new

piazza between the Control Tower and Waitrose.

The Dambusters raid used 'bouncing bombs' to destroy the dams of Germany's Ruhr Valley and Kings Hill's connection with the mission is through the squadron's commander Guy Gibson, who served with 29 Squadron based at RAF West Malling in 1941/2. He loved his time there and said: "Of all the airfields in Great Britain, here, many say, including myself, we have the most pleasant."

Wing Commander Gibson was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the raid and a wreath and other tributes in his memory will be laid alongside the 'Running Airman' sculpture, which commemorates the

aviation past of Kings Hill. It honours the military and civilian personnel who were based there throughout the years. It was unveiled in 2002 by the late Richard Todd, who played Guy Gibson in the 1955 film 'The Dam Busters'.



Wing Commander Guy Gibson

"The Dambusters squadron was based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire but because of Guy Gibson's close connections with RAF West Malling we wanted to mark the occasion here as well," said Andrew Blevins.

Mayor Elect of Tonbridge and Malling Councillor Howard Rogers said: "We are very lucky to have such a rich heritage at Kings Hill and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to involve the whole community."



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Liberty's Caroline Binns with Stuart Girvan of Crest Nicholson celebrating NewBuy's first birthday

NewBuy helping people move to Kings Hill

The Government's NewBuy scheme, which enables people to buy a new home with just a five per cent deposit, is having a positive impact on house sales at Kings Hill.

Five of the homebuilders at Kings Hill offer the scheme – Bellway, Crest Nicholson, Hillreed, Taylor Wimpey and Ward Homes – and, said Annette Cole of Crest Nicholson: “We have seen a high number of ‘second-steppers’, especially young families looking for additional space, showing an interest in NewBuy.

“It enables them to take the next step up the property ladder without breaking the bank.”

Anyone can apply for the NewBuy scheme – which was a year old last month – providing the home is being bought as a main residence, that it costs up to £500,000 and has been built by a builder taking part in the scheme.

New homes are available at Kings Hill priced from £239,995 to £499,995.

Kent's largest leasing at Kings Hill



Russet's new offices

Liberty has just signed Kent's largest commercial property transaction so far this year.

Russet, Tonbridge and Malling's largest social housing provider, has taken an extra floor in its new headquarters 32 Tower View to add to the space it leased at the end of last year, which was also the largest transaction in the county for the year.

Russet's move to Kings Hill later this year will allow the housing provider to overhaul its customer services, streamline its operations and pass on a series of cost-saving benefits to its 16,000

customers. The new headquarters will replace Russet's Borough Green, Larkfield and Tonbridge offices with one central premises where Russet's staff can meet with customers.

Russet's group partner Invicta Telecare, which provides telecare services to more than 2,000 people in Tonbridge and Malling, will share the building and more than 170 people will work at the new headquarters.

Full disabled facilities and dedicated computer access will be included on site for residents' use thanks to a £1million refurbishment of the

new space by Liberty.

Caroline Binns, Liberty's head of leasing, said that Russet's and Invicta's move is a great endorsement for the park. “Their original commitment to the ground floor of the building was the largest commercial property transaction in Kent last year and we are delighted to be able to organise the extra space for them this year,” she said.

“Our investment in the quality refurbishment of the building has proved a success and a great benefit to our new tenants.”

Kings Hill on board with Comic Relief

A few weeks ago you may have noticed new additions to the lettings boards at Kings Hill – bright red noses. It was part of Liberty's support for Red Nose Day and by using a board at the entrance to Kings Hill visible to drivers on the A228, it also helped remind people about the charity and hopefully made them smile too.



Liberty's staff braved the snow on one of the coldest days of the year to join in the fun. Picture courtesy Kent Messenger Group / Matthew Walker

Ace colour for Kings Hill

Sue Ryder

Bargain chic

Anyone who loves a bargain is in for a treat now that a Sue Ryder shop has opened in Liberty Square.

As well as an extensive selection of second-hand clothes, handbags, accessories, toys, music and books, the newly decorated, stylish shop has a wide range of new goods, including art equipment, guitars and dolls' houses.

Money raised from the shop will help Sue Ryder provide specialist hospice and neurological care.

Charity shopping has become very fashionable and is a great way of recycling goods, knowing that the proceeds are going to a good cause.

"Sue Ryder is the leading operator in the charity shop sector," said Caroline Binns of Liberty. "As well as giving shoppers the opportunity to bag some bargains we feel that it will be a great community asset to aid recycling and it fits perfectly with our green and sustainability ethos too."

The shop's manager is Nikki Ellis and anyone who is interested in volunteering for the shop can email her on nikki.ellis@sueryder.org



Trees being craned in and, inset, what the leaves will look like

With the refurbishment of Kings Hill's art deco Control Tower nearly complete, six mature acer trees have been planted nearby to provide colour and seasonal interest.

They were specially selected from Hillier Nurseries – who were responsible for providing many of the trees for the Olympic park – and at seven metres high the trees needed to be planted with the help of a crane, which winched them into place.

The variety is Acer platanoides 'Deborah' – a type of Norway maple – which changes colour three times during the growing season, going from bright red

in spring, to dark green in summer and orange/yellow in autumn. Clusters of red-flushed, yellow flowers bloom on bare branches in early spring. The trees can reach over 15 metres when fully grown.

"The contrast in the leaf colour is stunning and the trees will look wonderful against the bright white of the Control Tower's exterior," said Liberty's Susan Davies.

When development began at Kings Hill nearly 25 years ago, one of the first tasks was mass planting of mature broad-leaved trees and conifers. This helped turn the flat, treeless site – a legacy of

its past as an airfield – into an interesting landscape.

"We have planted over seven thousand trees which, together with areas of ancient woodland that we have conserved, make Kings Hill a green, leafy place to live and work," said Susan.

"Landscaping and the reforestation of Kings Hill is an important part of placemaking. We have invested substantial funds and time in sourcing the best trees to go some way towards returning the land to what it would have been before it was levelled and the runway created."



Date for your diary

We are delighted to let you know that Music on the Hill is back and will take place over the weekend of 19 – 21 July.

Jools Holland will be appearing with His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra and special guests Roland Gift and Ruby Turner. McFly is returning after its sell-out appearance in 2011 and Peter Andre will be bringing his Up Close & Personal show.

The Family Summer Sunday has a great line-up too, including Brit-nominated StooShe, X Factor winner

Joe McElderry, Gareth Gates, Bucks Fizz, The Counterfeit Stones, Killer Queen and many more.

Music on the Hill is 100 per cent in aid of charity and the inaugural event, which was held in 2011, raised over £60,000 for Demelza Hospice Care for Children and The Children's Development Trust. This year funds will also go to Music on the Hill's new partners, Teens Unite Fighting Cancer.

Liberty and development partner Kent County Council



Jools Holland

are co-sponsors of the event and tickets are available now at www.musiconthehill.org.uk



Congratulations

Congratulations to Cabot Credit Management, which has been voted one of the Sunday Times Top Best Companies to Work For 2013. It is a vote of confidence from its staff as, to be included in the list, the company was subject to an employee survey as well as an evaluation of its key statistics, people processes and policies.

Cabot, the UK's leading debt purchase and management company, has been at Kings Hill since it was founded in 1998 and today employs a total of 660 staff, 350 of whom are at Kings Hill.

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Environ: 01732 848316
Hillreed: 01732 847500
Taylor Wimpey: 0845 688 5499
Ward Homes: 0844 700553
www.kings-hillnewhomes.com
www.kings-hill.com

Fun on the Hill

Kings Hill Football Club's first ever Fun on the Hill event takes place on Saturday 18 May on the playing fields next to the junction of Tower View and Kings Hill Avenue.

Organised to celebrate the club's 10th anniversary, it will be a fun packed afternoon of children's entertainment, music, food, drink and a host of shows. Safely fenced off, the event will feature an amazing display by world soccer freestyle duo The F2 and Soccer Elite will be running a range of fun football themed activities, including 'Feed the Goat and He Will Score', three-legged dribbling and beat the goalie.

The Kings Hill Golf Club will be running golf stations for all ages, there will be a street dance performance, bouncy castles, balloon sculpting and face painting. A bar will be selling Pimms, real ale and draught beers and burgers, chips, sandwiches, ice creams and soft drinks will also be available.



The event will be from 3pm to 8pm and tickets are £5 each, to admit one adult and two children. They are available online at www.funonthehill.org or from any of the Kings Hill football team coaches. Apart from the food and drink, everything is free and money raised will go the Kings Hill Football Club and the Leybourne Riding School for the Disabled.

Liberty sponsors the Under

12s team, and, said Dan Mason, chairman of the Kings Hill Football Club: "The club is an important part of the community and we are delighted that we have so much support. I am sure it will be a terrific event and a great opportunity for the community to get together in advance of our move to the superb new facilities Liberty has provided on Heath Farm."

One of the features that sets Kings Hill apart from other developments is the quality and maintenance of the environment, which is the responsibility of the Kings Hill Residential Estate Management Company (KHREMC). It is run by Liberty but has two residents as directors, John West (john@kingshillrentals.com) and Sarah Barker (sarah.barker-khrem@hotmail.co.uk).

Kings Hill Residential Estate Management Company Ltd can be contacted on 01732 870375 or kingshillresidential@libertyproperty.com

Kings Hill Estate Management Company Ltd, which is run on a similar not-for-profit basis to KHREMC, looks after the commercial business park within Kings Hill.

Log on for latest news

Our website www.kings-hill.com has information on all aspects of the development – maps; the masterplan showing the scale of the development; latest news; links to the Kings Hill amenities such as shops, restaurants, surgery etc; public transport timetables and information on matters that affect those living and working at Kings Hill.

