



## Urban Renaissance Villages Limited

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### ANYONE FOR CROQUET?

One of the latest residents at Bramshott Place Village, the over 55s village in Liphook, Hampshire, is a former croquet champion who is planning to teach his neighbours how to play the game. Leslie Chapman, 71, and his wife Joyce, 72, have recently moved into a two-bedroom cottage at the development near the Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex borders.

Leslie, who retired on selling his structural engineering business 10 years ago, and Joyce have downsized twice. They initially moved from a large barn conversion in Alresford to a penthouse at Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth. "We had filled the barn with furniture and antiques. We sent five lorry loads up to Christie's in London for auction when we moved from there," comments Leslie.

"However, Gunwharf Quays became too busy and noisy for us and we



*Croquet champion Leslie Chapman has recently moved to Bramshott Place Village*

wanted some peace and quiet, which we have found at Bramshott Place Village. Hopefully this will be our last move.

“The build quality and amenities here are good, and the clubhouse is very nice indeed. It’s a lovely central area too, close to Guildford, Petersfield, Midhurst and Farnham and right on the A3 for getting to London.”

During his successful business career, Leslie also became one of the country’s leading croquet players. “It was the one recreation that I took up seriously,” he says. “I joined a local club in Winchester and started playing tournaments. It seems like a closely guarded secret but there are actually about 5,000 serious tournament players in this country, and lots of excellent croquet clubs. There is a handicap system, similar to golf, but instead of going from scratch to 28 as in golf, it goes down in halves from 24 to -3. My handicap got to ½. I thoroughly enjoyed the game, was coached by an ex-world champion, and won lots of trophies. I was ranked 21 in the UK at one point and I also designed my own mallets.

“There are two forms of croquet: the simple one is called golf croquet, and the proper game is called association croquet, which is a cross between chess and snooker. It’s very tactical and can take up to four-and-a-half hours. I love it and would be delighted to encourage my fellow residents to get involved and teach them to play properly.”

Bramshott Place Village is now well established and many of the apartments and cottages are occupied. The exclusive Clubhouse provides a restaurant, bar, library and leisure facilities including a hydrotherapy pool. Prices range from £295,000 to £525,000. Further information about the homes available for sale at Bramshott Place Village is available from the marketing suite on 01428 722800, or by visiting [www.bramshottplace.co.uk](http://www.bramshottplace.co.uk)

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**Note for editors:**

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