



Urban Renaissance Villages Limited

For immediate release
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Grade II* Listed Tudor gatehouse at Bramshott Place Village Unveiled

At a formal ceremony officiated by Adrian Bird, Chairman of the Bramshott and Liphook Preservation Society on May 1st, the fully restored Grade II* listed Tudor gatehouse at Bramshott Place Village in Liphook was finally unveiled and will now become the country's most elaborate and valuable bus shelter! It is an important building being one of only 5.5% of listed buildings to have the * listing. The many guests invited to

celebrate the completion of the complicated restoration were treated to champagne and canapés whilst enjoying music and entertainment from olde englishe minstrels and artistes: "This is the perfect English setting in which to mark this memorable occasion. We are very grateful to the developers of Bramshott Place Village for taking such great pains to restore this beautiful part of our local history to its previous glory," commented Adrian Bird.



A court jester joins Adrian Bird (L), Chairman of the Bramshott and Liphook Preservation Society and Bill Gair of Urban Renaissance Villages to formally unveil the Grade II listed Tudor Gatehouse at Bramshott Place Village.*

Bill Gair of Urban Renaissance Villages, joint developer with Helical Bar said: "We are very grateful for the expert valuable advice and guidance that we received from both English Heritage and the conservation officer from East Hampshire District Council. We could not have achieved this wonderful restoration project without their support. We are also indebted to St Blaise, the award winning historic buildings' restoration company, who have worked so hard with us over the past year to bring back to life the building we see today, resplendent in its former glory! St Blaise richly deserves its established reputation for excellence in all aspects of pure conservation and historic building repair and we hope to be working with them again on future projects."

Much of the site of Bramshott Place Village, currently being developed by Urban Renaissance Villages and Helical Bar as an exclusive collection of homes and facilities for the active over 55s, has historical significance. The gatehouse, which was probably more of a folly in the grounds rather than a real gate, dates from the first estate on the site, Bramshott Grange, which was built between 1575 and 1580 by John Hooke, a wealthy clothier from Godalming. The old house was demolished in 1850, and replaced by a larger property, Bramshott Place (hence the name of the new development), which had a walled garden and ice-house in the grounds. It later became a convalescent home for sailors and then a hospital, but was pulled down in the 1990s, leaving only the gatehouse and the partially collapsed Victorian walled garden, which will eventually be restored.

These remains were the subject of an appraisal by heritage experts Barton Willmore who pinpointed many areas that needed specialist attention. The gatehouse turned out to have Grade II listed status and was described as: "A gazebo above a gateway, probably to a walled garden which has disappeared. Early 16th century. A two-storeyed square structure, with walls of brickwork in English bond."

However, it had fallen into a very sad state of decay, shrouded first in unsuitable polythene sheeting and then, by the current landowner, in more robust corrugated metal sheets and scaffolding, with rotting timbers, crumbling plaster and all the lead stripped from the roof. Although some ham-fisted attempts had been made over the years to patch it up, it was placed on the English Heritage Register of Buildings at Risk. Urban Renaissance Villages, realizing that they had a little architectural gem on the site, has therefore taken a great deal of care to have the gatehouse restored, a project which turned out to be very complex. Damaged bricks, finials and pier cappings were replaced with new ones made



Over 100 guests enjoy champagne and canapes and are entertained by court jesters and minstrels to celebrate the completed restoration of the Tudor Gatehouse at Bramshott Place Village.

from casts of the originals: some of which were found lying in the rubble. A new roof, with lead replicating that which was used in the sixteenth century, has also been installed. Even the nails used are copies of those from Tudor times.

The gatehouse is the centrepiece for Bramshott Place Village and appears in the logo of the development. It is just one of the many 'extras' which combine towards making the Village a very special place to live. Residents will also have a Clubhouse, with a restaurant, bar, fitness and games rooms, hydrotherapy pool, library and communal entertaining areas. Everything is set within acres of open parkland with formal gardens and a wildflower meadow. In addition, residents have facilities such as a village manager, laundry, cleaning services and a health centre.

Buyers are now beginning to move into Bramshott Place Village, as the luxury apartments and cottages become ready for occupation. It's a way of living that has increasing appeal for independent, busy over 55s who like the idea of a community of like-minded neighbours, with convenient facilities and a little extra security on hand. Bill Gair continued: "It's about creating independent living within a supportive, maintained development and offering the freedom from daily chores to enjoy life to the full. There is clearly a real demand for this type of lifetime home for the over 55s. We saw this need many years ago, and have created our age exclusive village accordingly."

Phase 1 of Bramshott Place Village is now complete, with prices ranging from £295,000 to £315,000 for the apartments and from £430,000 to £499,000 for the cottages. Each property is sold with a 125-year lease and ample outdoor parking. Further information about the homes available for sale at Bramshott Place Village is available from sole agents Clarke Gammon Weller, on 01428 722800, or by visiting www.bramshottplace.co.uk

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