

# Lord Lieutenant of Kent Marks Start on Site for new Larkfield Extra Care Scheme

The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling and a host of guests joined the Society, to celebrate work starting on site for its new extra care housing scheme in Larkfield.

Guests of the charity and housing association gathered at the site on 20th September, to celebrate work commencing on the project, which will comprise a mix of 74 one and two bedroom apartments with care and support for older people.

Twenty of the apartments, which are being constructed in Martin Square by Kind & Company, will be reserved for veterans and/or their spouses, providing much needed care, compassion and companionship to those in need.

In his speech, the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Lord De L'Isle said: "Inherent in the job of working in the armed forces is a high risk of harm, both physical and psychological. Abbeyfield Kent's commitment to providing specialist support to people who served the nation valiantly is admirable. It can be a lonely and sometimes hostile world for those leaving the forces, after a considerable length of service. As an ex-regular soldier, I have



Dignitaries joined AKS at the site in Martin Sq

come across veterans who need additional time to adapt to changed circumstances. Those suffering need to be able to call on more support in the changed environment outside the military, if they are not to fall between the cracks in these different circumstances."

George Jessel DL, who leads a fundraising committee, which has raised over £1m of their £2.8m target to contribute to the project, was also in attendance, along with three of the Queen's Own Buffs with their Standard Bearer and representatives from Kind & Company. Guests enjoyed a visit to the site, followed by speeches and refreshments at the Larkfield Priory Hotel.

Extra care housing enables over 55s to maintain independence and continue living in their own self-contained apartment, whilst having their care and support needs met on site, accessing an excellent range of on site facilities and embracing a community focused environment.

To find out more about the extra care housing scheme, which is due for completion in 2018, visit [www.abbeyfieldkent.org](http://www.abbeyfieldkent.org).



Lord De L'Isle gives his speech at The Priory