



Corporate Trustees of

THE CYRIL WOOD MEMORIAL TRUST

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Press Release

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For immediate release

SIR JOHN & LADY TAVENER OPEN NEW CHAPTER FOR CYRIL WOOD COURT

Cyril Wood Memorial Trust officially opened its new and refurbished flats at Cyril Wood Court, Bere Regis, on Monday 17th May 2010.

The new flats were opened by Sir John and Lady Tavener, Sir John a notable British composer. Also in attendance were members from the *PRS for Music* Members Benevolent Fund, including Trustee David Bedford, well known for his classical music, Nicky Graham, Ray Davies and Brian Willey. Local MP Annette Brooke, Homes and Communities Agency Representative Lisa Broom as well as members of the Bere Regis Parish Council were also present to mark the occasion.

Originally founded by Rosalind Wood in 1976 in memory of her husband Cyril Wood, who died in 1974, the Trustees aim for Cyril Wood Court was to provide housing for writers, musicians and artist-craftsmen, described in the original promotional literature as “a creative community who never retire.”

Today the scheme continues to promote the creative arts in a supported living environment and the opening marks the completion of a £1.9 million redevelopment project. Cyril Wood Court remains a sheltered housing scheme specifically for retired artists, writers, musicians and crafts-people but the extensive redevelopment work has created an up-to-date housing scheme with modern accommodation and facilities. In total there are now 24 self contained flats including six newly built two bedroom flats and 18 refurbished one bedroom flats, on

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site laundry facilities, communal gardens, a converted barn for practising art, craft and musical activities as well as a Community Room which brings together the residents and village community for art exhibitions and music performances.

Managed by Wimborne based housing association East Boro Housing Trust, who took over as Trustees in 2006, all accommodation is under the social housing umbrella and flats are let at affordable housing rents.

Well positioned in the heart of Bere Regis with views over Thomas Hardy's Kingsbere (St John the Baptist) Church, the accommodation at Cyril Wood Court now also features a variety of eco-friendly characteristics from light enhancing sun pipe sky lights and new windows to improved insulation and sedum roofs.

East Boro Chief Executive Kevin Hodder comments: "The Cyril Wood scheme was facing significant maintenance costs to sustain the existing accommodation and Trustees considered several different options with regard to possible redevelopment. The new accommodation as it can be seen today was designed and built to meet the Government's Decent Homes standards, supported by grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency to the sum of £1.3 million."

Funding for such developments as this is achieved through the Source Development Partnership; a Dorset based consortia in which local housing associations work together to ensure housing need is met. The partnership bids for grant funding to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA.)

In addition to the £1.3 million funding the HCA granted on this project a supporting loan was also contributed by the *PRS for Music* Members Benevolent Fund, who in 2009 featured Cyril Wood Court in their 75th Anniversary Year Charity Appeal.

Supporters of this appeal included Composer Fiachra Trench, Singer/producer/songwriter Barry Blue, Stan Cullimore from The Housemartins and the Foreigner's Mick Jones.

Commenting on the partnership between Cyril Wood Memorial Trust and the *PRS for Music* Members Benevolent Fund, Singer-Songwriter PJ Harvey said: "I am very happy to be supporting the Cyril Wood Court Housing Project" and Level 42's Mark King commented: "I'm delighted to be able to offer support to the Members Benevolent Fund and wish the latest housing project in Bere Regis every success for the future."

This more recent support from the *PRS for Music* Members Benevolent Fund is one in a line of notable supporters that have consistently backed Cyril Wood over the years, from founding members including John Apley, CBE, David Bethel, Victor Bonham-Carter, The Right Honourable Arnold Abraham Baron Goodman, Joyce Irene Grenfell, OBE, The Right Reverend Graham Douglas Leonard, Bishop of Truro, Yehudi Menuhin OM KBE, Sir John Francis Prideaux, OBE and Aneurin Morgan Thomas to original Trustees including John Antrobus, Alan Bailey, John Le Carre, The Right Honourable The Earl of Harewood KBE, Adrian Longley and Alan Peters.

Cyril Wood Memorial Trust Chairman Richard Teather explains: "As Corporate Trustees East Boro is keen to continue to honour the artistic constitution at Cyril Wood and in 2009 formalised a pre-existing partnership with the *PRS for Music* Members Benevolent Fund to

be able offer *PRS for Music* Members access to housing at Cyril Wood Court.”

He continues: “This partnership not only helps protect the constitution of Cyril Wood Court but also preserves the overall artistic ethos of the scheme.”

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Note for Editors:

Cyril Wood OBE was a theatre producer and director, drama director of the BBC (West Region,) playwright and broadcaster. During his time Cyril Wood also founded and became the first Director of the South West Arts Association and helped to reconstitute the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

East Boro Housing Trust is a local, Wimborne based housing association committed to providing housing for local people. Established in 1960, this year sees East Boro celebrate its Golden Jubilee 50th Year. The Trust owns and manages over forty housing schemes across the Dorset area specialising in providing housing and support services for the sheltered elderly, adults with learning disabilities and other vulnerable client groups in social housing need. In addition to its core tenant base, East Boro also offer services to people in the wider community, with a Handy Van Repair Service for older people in Bournemouth and Poole, a Visiting Support Service to older people in Poole, and a Housing Related Support Service for people with physical disabilities also in Bournemouth. For more details about the Trust’s work please visit www.ebht.org.uk

PRS for Music Members Benevolent Fund is a registered charity that provides assistance to members and ex-members of the Performing Right Society and their families. The Fund can help in a number of different situations. Circumstances where unexpected financial problems can arise include ill health and accidents, and difficulties can be experienced due to old age or disability. For more information please visit our website www.prsformusicfund.com or email John Logan at john.logan@prsformusic.com

The Source Development Partnership is one of the largest consortiums in the South and is committed to providing high quality, affordable housing whilst supporting the local communities in which it works. For more information visit www.source-development.co.uk

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