

Open Day – Celebrating 65 years

Sixty-five years ago, a Christian businessman had a vision to provide accommodation for elderly missionaries retiring to the UK after a lifetime of service overseas. The fulfilment of that vision was marked with a special thanksgiving celebration at Quebec Hall, Dereham on 19th July.

Since 1960, the historic Quebec Hall, originally called Quebec Castle and built in 1759, has served as a charitable retirement complex. Today it provides full-time care for 22 residents in the main building, which is surrounded by 43 self-catering bungalows rented by more active retirees.



On Saturday, residents of hall and bungalows, family members, staff, trustees and volunteers who have been associated with the successful operation of the complex in myriad ways over the years, gathered in two marquees erected in the estate's mature grounds for the occasion.



Guests among the 150 people present included the Mayor of Dereham Ray O'Callaghan and two daughters of David Potter, the local builder who had the original vision for both Quebec Hall and its sister complex, Eckling Grange, which is located in another part of town.

*1960 vision of a
Christian builder
continues to
flourish at Dereham
care complex.*



Guest speaker for the afternoon was Professor Sam Leinster, an ex-trustee of Quebec Hall who, prior to retiring and moving to the north-west, was Dean of the Medical School at the University of East Anglia.

He gave a Bible address based on Nehemiah chapter 8 verse 10 – “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”



Reports were presented by the Chairman of Trustees Mr Stephen Read, General Manager Mark Woodgett and Head of Care David Woodgett. A common theme running through the reports was the sense of family that bound together those who lived and worked at Quebec Hall.



That was evidenced, guests were told, by the fact that one resident had lived on site for 30 years – transitioning from a bungalow the hall itself, two years ago –



five staff had clocked up a total of 144 years between them, one of the team of self-employed tradesman who maintain the complex had been doing so for nearly 40 years and one of the trustees had served for 24 years.



A superb buffet spread was enjoyed by visitors who were also invited to tour the hall and view three of the bungalows whose residents had kindly offered to show them off.



“A lot of people put in a lot of hard work – but we have had so many compliments about the day; it was very worthwhile,” said General Manager Mark Woodgett.

Please see our website for all the photos from the day.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

Our new General Manager Chris Simonds started at Quebec Hall on 1st October 2025

A message from Chris...

Hello, my name is Chris Simonds, and this October I feel very honoured to be stepping into the role of General Manager here at Quebec Hall.

My wife, Suki, and I live in Dereham with our four children, whose ages range from 9 to 21. Family is very precious to us, and after our own personal relationships with God, we see family as one of the greatest ways to serve God and bring the culture of the Kingdom of God into everyday life "...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

For over two decades We've been involved in both Christian ministry and work in the wider world. I've had the joy of being on staff at a multi-site church and bible college in our previous home in Sussex, and since moving to Dereham in 2020 we have started Worship Nights here in Dereham to allow believers to gather and worship Jesus for extended periods of time, where we can really see the whole body of Christ come together as one for an evening. Alongside that, my career has been across graphic design, business development and training. As a family we have learnt to cultivate an



attitude to serve people well and to do it "as unto the Lord" (Colossians 3:23).

I count it a real privilege to join Quebec Hall. It is clear that this place has been built on prayer and love for the Lord, and I am excited to see what He has planned for the days ahead. My prayer is that together we will continue to make Quebec Hall a home filled with peace, kindness and joy.

Thank you for welcoming me into this community.

With every blessing, Chris

Dear friends

Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29 v.13

Our Open Day was a joyous occasion of celebration for 65 years of the goodness of our God to Quebec Hall.

With a great deal of prayer and due process, we have been able to recruit a new General Manager to take over from Mark as he retires later this year. We have been blessed with the prayer partnership of some of our residents during this important task.

I know you have been wondering about the new manager, what will he be like? In this edition of QH News, he introduces himself. We hope that he will enjoy working with us and help further the work here.

New staff members are also joining the team, and we trust they also will enjoy working at QH.

Stephen Read, Trustee

Macmillan Cancer Care

We held our yearly Macmillan Cancer Care coffee morning on Saturday 20th September and many folks enjoyed the fabulous array of cakes provided by staff and residents.

We raised £268.50 and our thanks to all involved.

Open Day



STAFF NEWS...

New staff

We welcome five new staff members to Quebec Hall... Hermione, Hazel, Alison, Ela, Jane and Hope.

All are carers except Alison. We pray they will all settle in well and enjoy their time working here at Quebec Hall.



Hermione



Hazel



Alison



Ela



Jayne



Hope

FUTURE EVENTS...

★ OCTOBER

Friday 24th at 5pm
Quiz Night with Fish & Chips
- cost £10

★ NOVEMBER

Friday 14th at 5pm
Fireworks with Soup & Hot Dogs

★ DECEMBER

Monday 1st at 2.30pm
Salvation Army Singers

Thursday 11th at 3pm
Quebec Hall Carol Service

Quebec Hall

TRUSTEES:

Stephen Read (Chair of Trustees)
Andrew Bash · Chris Lambert
Richard Cracknell

SENIOR MANAGEMENT:

Mark Woodgett (General Manager)
David Woodgett (Registered Head of Care)
Lynda Watkinson (Deputy Head of Care)