

**Frank Lee Evans****PRESS RELEASE****Frank Lee Evans, B.Arch (Hons, Liverpool) RIBA, Dip CD, MRTPI- 03/01/2012**

Local Architect Frank Lee Evans died peacefully in his sleep in Hernhill on the 22nd of December 2011 leaving his wife Pam, to whom he had been married for 67 years, and his 3 sons, 7 grand-children and 9 great-grand children.

Frank moved to Canterbury in the early 1970's and founded Lee Evans Partnership in 1972 which today is recognised as one of the leading architectural practices in the South East, employing over 40 people. The practice is now run by two of his sons, Nigel and Nick. He was regionally well known for his work on public schools, church buildings and housing masterplans. Awards include Civic Trust Commendations for Dane John Court in Canterbury's historic Dane John Gardens and Waterfield's Restaurant, Canterbury (now Pizza Express).

His work has contributed greatly to the community. Positions held include Chair of the Canterbury & District Branch RIBA, Chair of the South East Region RIBA Planning Committee throughout the 1970s. He also was very active in the Canterbury Society and Chair of the Canterbury Society Planning Committee for 6 years fighting to ensure the preservation of the local architectural heritage and for architectural quality for new developments in the city. He also was the RTPI representative member of the Canterbury Conservation Advisory Committee for 16 years. He produced a series of illustrated guides for the Stour Valley Society and was active in local art groups. He was also an active member of St Peters Methodist Church.

Frank was involved in the design of many of the buildings built around Canterbury in the latter half of the 20th Century including; The Cloisters and Princess House in Kings Street and Orange Street; the Habitat building; Dane John Court; Mulberry Court and Temple Mews in Stour Street; Becket's Mews off Kirbys Lane; the Petrol Station at Canterbury Motor Company, various buildings at Kent College Canterbury; Clutton's old office on Beer Cart Lane (now Reeves).

For further details contact:

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He also restored and extended many other buildings in the city including St Peters Methodist Church and elements of the offices of Strutt and Parker, Reeves and Furley Page in St. Margaret's Street.

Frank Lee Evans was born on 8 July 1921 in Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire. His interest in architecture began at an early age and he in fact won a RIBA schools drawing prize at just 14 years old. He went to Liverpool University in 1938 to study Architecture followed by a Diploma in Civic Design under the tutelage of the famous Architect and Town Planner Lord Holford. His studies were interrupted by the war when he served with the Indian Army Bombay and Bengal Sappers and Miners. During the war in 1944 Frank and Pam married in the Anglican Cathedral in Madras whilst on leave. He returned to Liverpool to what was then the first school of Town Planning in the country and completed his Diploma in Civic Design in 1946.

After university he was employed by Cambridge County Council to work on the pioneering masterplan for the Cambridge New Villages. Three years later he returned to Liverpool to work for his former tutor Lord Holford at the architectural practice William Holford & Associates. In 1952, because of an arthritic condition brought on by his war service, he emigrated to the more temperate climate of Rhodesia.

Throughout the 1950s Frank was a partner at leading Rhodesian Architects Ayers, Wilson & Partners and soon established himself as one of the country's top architects designing many of the major buildings and developments of this time. His body of work includes the Mater Dei hospital in Bulawayo (1953), the village for the Central African Trade Fair, Bulawayo (1959) and the Catholic Church, Marandellas. He was also masterplanner and architect for the new University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in Salisbury, the foundation stone of which was laid by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1953.

An offer of a partnership with William Holford & Associates persuaded Frank to return to the UK in 1961. Influential projects during this period include a new science precinct at St Andrews University (1966) – the physics laboratory was acknowledged then as one of the finest in the world at this time.

In 1970 he was appointed as the first Chief Architect and Planner for the new Lee Valley Regional Park. This ambitious regeneration project on the outskirts of London to build Britain's first regional park for sport and recreation also formed part of the British Olympic bid at that time. The Lee Valley Regional Park masterplan has since had a significant influence on the current design for the 2012 British Olympic village which is to be located on the same site.

A consummate planner and architect, a fine artist (his drawings and sketches have been described as 'inspirational'), Frank's passion for architecture and infectious energy and drive have created an impressive legacy.

There will be a memorial service at St Peters Methodist Church, St Peters Street in central Canterbury on the Friday 6th of January at 11am preceded by a funeral at Barham Crematorium for the family at 9.10am

Further details available from Nick Lee Evans on 01227 731080 or from Lee Evans Partnership on 01227 784444.