

# VINCENT HOUSE

## ABOUT US

VINCENT HOUSE was built in the late 1930s, welcoming its first residents in March 1940. Following a conversion to a charitable structure in 2023, it is now owned and operated by **VINCENT HOUSE LONDON Limited (VHL)**, a trading subsidiary of the **ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION**, a charity dedicated to helping those affected by homelessness and its causes. The **FOUNDATION** is named after Alice Roughton, who led the development of VINCENT HOUSE in the 1930s.



VINCENT HOUSE continues to provide good value residential accommodation to around 100 people, as well as a small number of short-term visitors, and live in accommodation to several of its employees, many of whom come from Europe or further afield. **VHL** is committed to treating staff fairly and developing them through training and support.

The **ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION** also owns Carlisle House, a property in Hayes, Middlesex, leased on benevolent terms to Trinity Homeless Projects, a charity providing accommodation & services to vulnerable and homeless individuals. (A new website for the **FOUNDATION** and its charitable activities is due in Autumn 2025)

## OUR HISTORY



VINCENT HOUSE was developed as a new residential club for working men and women. Three badly dilapidated houses on the corner of Pembroke Gardens were identified by Alice Roughton (who had been involved in two earlier residential houses for women in London) and her colleagues as the perfect site. VINCENT HOUSE LIMITED was formed in 1937 to raise investment through the sale of shares and loan finance to demolish the old properties and develop a 160-room club style residence. VINCENT HOUSE opened its doors to its first residents in March 1940. Many were government personnel working on efforts to win the Second World War. In the decades following, the House continued to attract civil servants as well as other professional people.

In the early 60s, the success of VINCENT HOUSE attracted the attention of private investors and VINCENT HOUSING ASSOCIATION (VHA) was formed to protect it for its original purpose. A friendly take-over was formalised in 1965. VHA was a socially responsible business with members who held £1 shares. After paying members a small annual dividend, VHA used its surplus to invest in maintaining VINCENT HOUSE as a residence and to support other charitable & social organisations working with homelessness and its effects.

In the early 2020s VHA's Board and its members agreed to restructure as a charity. This led to the formation of the **ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION** (registered as a charity by the Charity Commission in 2023) and its trading subsidiary **VINCENT HOUSE LONDON Limited**, which now owns and operates VINCENT HOUSE.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alice Roughton Foundation and Vincent House London Limited both have their own Board of Directors. Currently most of the Directors are on both Boards with some having family links with the original founders of Vincent House or the setting up of Vincent Housing Association (VHA) in 1965.

### DIRECTORS of ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION and VINCENT HOUSE LONDON Limited



**RORY SILKIN (CHAIRMAN, ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION):** Rory became Chairman of Vincent Housing Association in 2014 having joined the Board in 1972 following the death of his grandfather Lewis Silkin, who was a key figure in setting up VHA and its first Chairman. Rory studied law and worked in private practice as a solicitor going on to be Assistant Director in the legal department of Royal Mail before retiring. He is now a legal consultant, active in local charities in Kent and a local councillor.



**JULIA BINDMAN (CHAIRMAN, VINCENT HOUSE LONDON LIMITED):** Julia joined the Board of VHA in 2011 and is a communications and training consultant, working in the corporate and voluntary sectors. She began her career at Anti-Slavery International and has an ongoing interest in bringing people in from the margins.

**SPENCER CARROLL:** A Director of Lighthouse Surveyors, Spencer led the survey and project management of a significant improvement programme at Vincent House in 2014/15. He has over 20 years' experience as a chartered Building Surveyor and the Directors of VHA were keen to add his valued skills when he joined its Board in 2019.



**MIKE FARRAR:** Mike joined the VHA Board in April 2015. Formerly Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation he is now an independent management consultant working within the health sector and is on the Boards of several health & sports related organisations.

**SOPHIE FARRAR:** Sophie is the daughter of Mike Farrar and grand-daughter of Vincent House's original founder Alice Roughton. Sophie joined both Boards in May 2025. She recently graduated from the University of Bristol with a history degree and is currently working for Bristol City Council as a Town Planner at the same time as pursuing a Masters Degree in Urban Planning.



**MARY SHAW:** Mary has worked as a solicitor since the 1980's and, since joining the Board in 1987, has often provided legal advice to Vincent House. She now specialises in Private Client Law and is Partner & Team Leader at Warners Solicitors, a top tier law firm based in Kent offering a wide range of legal services to its clients across the South East.

### OTHER BOARD MEMBERS & SENIOR MANAGEMENT



**JENNY RUGMAN (DIRECTOR VHL & TREASURER, ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION):** Jenny became a director of VHA in 2014 taking on the role of Treasurer. She is a Chartered Accountant and has held senior finance roles at HSBC, Deutsche Bank, Cable & Wireless and Willis Group.

**FI MCLACHLAN (DIRECTOR, ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION):** Fi joined the VHA Board in 2012. She was introduced through her work with homelessness charities. She has a wide experience of the voluntary sector and helped set up a foodbank in her local area in East Sussex. She originally trained as a social worker and gained experience in child protection and psychiatric support, before moving into the charity sector.



**SARA IVES (SECRETARY, ALICE ROUGHTON FOUNDATION):** Sara joined the Board of VHA in 1993, succeeding her father Tommy Ives as Secretary to VHA following his death in 1996, a role she held until the restructure in 2023. She co-ordinated the marketing of Vincent House for almost two decades as well as its projects with charity partners. As the **FOUNDATION's** Secretary she is also responsible for heritage activities.



**RICHARD TOMKINS (MANAGING DIRECTOR, VINCENT HOUSE LONDON Limited):** Richard started working at Vincent House in the late 1990s. He became its General Manager in 2005 and following the recent re-structure is now Managing Director of Vincent House London Limited overseeing a team of around 40 employees headed up by the House's General Manager, Carla Soares Hester.