GERALD M. RONSON CBE

CARMEL AWARD OF MERIT

13 Cheshvan 5773/ October 29, 2012
GERALD M. RONSON CBE

Gerald Ronson is one of the UK's most successful businessmen and respected developers of his generation. Alongside his business interests, he is one of the most hardworking and generous philanthropists in the UK today.

Gerald started working with his father in his furniture business at the age of 15, prior to joining Heron Homes, which became one of the biggest house builders in the South of England. In 1956, at the age of 17, Gerald founded Heron Group - now called Heron International Plc - of which he is Chief Executive. Since that date, he has spearheaded Heron’s growth, becoming the second largest private company in Britain and developing 156 buildings in 9 countries, 10 million square feet of commercial and retail property, and over 15,000 residential units in the UK, US and continental Europe. He was also instrumental in the introduction of self-service petrol in the UK and, since 1966, has built 968 across the UK.

He has spent a lifetime raising money for a plethora of good causes and has led a number of significant charitable campaigns and organisations. Each week, 15 per cent of his time is spent helping different charitable causes. Through the Ronson Foundation he has donated over £15 million and has set up ‘The Gerald Ronson Foundation’ to continue his philanthropic endeavours. In addition, he is directly responsible for raising over £8 million each year for the charities in which he plays a leadership role.

He was awarded the CBE in the New Year’s Honours List in 2012 for philanthropy and charitable services.