



TOWER BLOCKS UK ARCHIVE

(TBUK)

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Catalogued by Barbara Vesey, July 2022

TBUK Tower Blocks UK Archive 1983-2020

Name of Creator: Tower Blocks UK

Extent: 3 Boxes

Administrative/Biographical History: Founded in the 1980s as the National Tower Blocks Network, they regrouped in 2017 as Tower Blocks UK - a hub for sharing information and resources with groups and individuals who live in, or are concerned about tower block housing safety issues in the UK.

Their aims are to:

Support tenants and residents to be heard by providing more opportunities to exert pressure on decision-makers to prevent continued inadequate action and ongoing risk.

Extend the services that they provide to include online information resources, pro-forma systems for implementing housing rights and open fire safety and structural data.

Share examples of good practice in tackling tower block safety problems, from tenants and residents and landlords.

Custodial History: Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Tower Blocks UK via Danielle Gregory, 21 July 2022.

Scope and Content: Reports, publications, publicity material, press cuttings, press releases, photographs, video material, architectural plans, meeting minutes, conference documents and other papers regarding the National Tower Block Network and Tower Blocks UK, [1983-2020]

System of Arrangement:

No further arrangement required.

Language/scripts of material:

English

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

TBUK/1

National Tower Blocks Network

Meeting minutes, correspondence, architectural plans, press cuttings, press releases, notes and other papers regarding the National Tower Blocks Network and the Newham Tower Block Tenants Campaign, [1983-2018]

Includes:

- programme for the Receiving of the Keys by The Lord Lieutenant of London at Community Links (28 October 1993)
- letter regarding 'priorities for the National Tower Blocks events' (10 January 1983)
- hardback notebook filled with pencil and ink notes regarding various housing issues (2016-2018)
- Meeting minutes (12 April 1984)
- Newham Tower Block Tenants Campaign (NTBTC) letter to all tenants of Ronan Point
- photocopied press cutting regarding investigations at Ronan Point (Building Research Establishment, Department of the Environment, 1984)
- press release regarding new houses allocated to young families in tower blocks (London Borough of Newham; 17 November 1983)
- press statement from NTBTC (29 July 1983)
- letter to Councillor J J Hart from Newham Tower Block Tenants Campaign (06 August 1984)
- press release from NTBTC (20 July 1984)
- NTBTC letter to tenants regarding the 'emergency meeting of the Housing Committee on Saturday, August 4th' (1984)
- press release from NTBTC (22 April 1984)
- press release from NTBTC, 'Ronan Point – Up in Flames' (12 July 1984)
- press release from the House of Commons: Tower Block Questions (Hansard attached; 26 July 1984)
- typescript of article from the RIBA [Royal Institute of British Architects] Journal, 'Why, Why, Why?' by Sam Webb (December 1984)
- papers regarding 'the current investigations of Ronan Point' (27 September 1984)
- press release from the National Tower Blocks Network, 'Tower Block Faults: BRE's Findings Come Too Late?' (April 1985)
- press release, 'Go Ahead for Ronan Point Demolition' (London Borough of Newham; 16 May 1986)
- report, 'Ronan Point Dismantling' (London Borough of Newham, Engineering & Surveying Service; 16 May 1986)

APPLY TO ARCHIVIST

TBUK/2

National Tower Blocks Directories, Information Packs, Bulletins

Directories and information packs produced by Community Links/National Tower Blocks Network, Federation of Associations on Manchester Estates, [1987-1992]

Includes:

- Directory 1987 (one loose, one bound)
- Directory 1992 (one loose, one bound)
- Fire Safety Information Pack (c.1992)
- Safety and Security in Tower Blocks Conference and Exhibition, Manchester Town Hall (06 March 1992)
- The View: The National Tower Blocks Bulletin (May/June 1990)
- The View: The National Tower Blocks Bulletin (Winter 1990/91)
- The View: The National Tower Blocks Bulletin (Spring 1991)
- The View: The National Tower Blocks Bulletin (Summer 1991)
- The View: The National Tower Blocks Bulletin (Winter 1991/2)

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National Tower Blocks Network Conference

Papers and photographs (with negatives) from the first NTBN conference, [23 October 1983]

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Ledbury Estate

Correspondence, reports, information packs, Council Assembly documents, press cuttings, newsletters, residents questionnaire, structural assessment, regarding Ledbury Tower Blocks/the Ledbury Estate (Southwark Council), Ledbury Estate Resident Project Group and the Ledbury Action Group, [2017-2020]
[2 folders]

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Health and Safety

Reports, video materials, circular letters, press cuttings regarding safety issues in tower blocks, [1968-2019]

Includes:

- booklet/report, 'Business Case for Sprinklers' (Chief Fire Officers Association, 2013)
- DVD labelled 'Hartopp & Lannoy Point 1) BBC London News 29-11-17 2) BBC London News 17-1-18 3) BBC Documentary (1984) 'The Great British Housing Disaster'
- circular letter from London Fire Brigade regarding 'Tall Buildings – External Fire Spread' (May 2017)
- photocopied press cutting, 'A vision for housing, and the grim reality', Guardian (22 September 2005)
- photocopied press cutting, 'Safety scare on North flats', The Journal (20 February 1985)
- photocopied press cutting, 'Cladding confusion stalls the sale of flats', The Times (28 September 2019)
- photocopied press cutting, 'Tenants slam repair plan for Points' (18 May 1984)
- photocopied press cutting, 'Tower families call for action', West London Observer (17 May 1984)
- photocopied press cutting, 'Government convenes expert forum on Ronan Point-style blocks', Inside Housing (22 October 2018)
- photocopied Ministry of Housing and Local Government report, 'Flats constructed with pre-case concrete panels' (15 November 1968)
- report, 'A short history of 105 Barking Road' (Community Links, September 1993)
- typescript 'Background to Ronan Point and connections with the Poulson Affair' (2017)
- circular letter to tenants, 'Making sure that we are all safe in our flats at Hartopp & Lannoy Point' (10 August 2017)
- photocopied InSite: Quarterly Journal for Council Leaseholders (Summer 1994)
- photocopied InSite: Quarterly Journal for Council Leaseholders (Autumn 1994)

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Histories

Reports and press cuttings regarding tower blocks in the UK, [1984-2020]

Includes:

- typescript history of the National Tower Blocks Network (c.1984)
- 'Tower Blocks: a report by R Anderson, M A Bulos & S R Walker, Polytechnic of the South Bank' (1985)
- report on Walbrook House, London Borough of Enfield (c.2020)
- report, 'Fire Safety Checklist: a guide for people who rent in high rise buildings' (Tower Blocks UK and University of Kent, c.2016)
- photocopied press cutting, 'Ronan Point 50 years on', Inside Housing (14 May 2018)
- photocopied press cutting, 'London tower blocks residents ordered out over gas safety fears', Guardian (10 August 2017)

- photocopied press cutting, 'Hundreds of tower blocks across UK at risk of collapse, say experts', Independent (22 October 2018)
 - photocopied press cutting, 'Tower block residents need justice. History shows they must lead the fight', Guardian (25 June 2017)
 - photocopied press cutting, 'The tower blocks that time forgot', Inside Housing (16 May 2018)
 - photocopied press cutting, 'Listening to tenants could help prevent a second Grenfell disaster and we must start now', Inside Housing (13 June 2018)
 - report, 'Closing the Gaps: Health and Safety at Home' (University of Bristol and University of Kent, c.2018)
 - draft typescript speech from a former resident of the Ledbury Estate (June 2019)
 - Structural Condition Inspection Report Incorporating Limited Intrusive Investigation at Kedge House, Tiller Road London E14 8PS (Kirk Saunders Associates Consulting Engineers, 24 January 2018)
 - typescript 'Hartopp & Lannoy Point Harassment & Targeted Intimidation: YouTube Film Clips 1. & 2.' (2017)
 - flyer, 'Tenants Die When Landlords Don't Listen' (Defend Council Housing, n.d.)
 - report, 'Engaging and Including Social Housing Residents: Tackling Stigma, Segregation and Making Sure Voices Are Heard', Westminster Briefing (c.2020)
 - typescript 'A Message to the Residents of Hartopp & Lannoy Point from [sic] Independent Fire Safety Surveyor Arnold Tarling & Independent Housing Consultant Tony Bird' (28 November 2017)
 - photocopied press cutting, 'Tenants' SOS at "nightmare" flats', Fulham Chronicle (27 August 2015)
- [2 folders]

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TBUK Publications

Publications produced by Tower Blocks UK, [c.2018]

Includes:

- flyer, 'We are tower block residents and professionals who came together to tackle safety issues in response to the Grenfell tower fire tragedy' (4 copies) c.2018)
- leaflet, '...Our group has been active since the 1980s and re-formed following the tragic fire at Grenfell' (4 copies) (c.2018)
- A4 flyer, 'FixMyBlock: A Tower Block Action Guide' (4 copies) (c.2018)
- A5 flyer, 'FixMyBlock: A Tower Block Action Guide' (4 copies) (c.2018)

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Tony Bird

Reports, correspondence and press cuttings regarding housing issues and independent housing consultant Tony Bird, Peabody Trust, [1995-2020]

Includes:

- photocopied press cutting, 'Towering Uncertainties', Housing (February 1995)

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Repairs

Printed 'Notepad Entries for Property Ref. 41686' on the Ledbury Estate, with lists of Work Orders, Statuses (Raised/Completed/Cancelled) and other information, [1996-2017]

[2 folders]

CLOSED

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Enquiries and Case Studies

Printed documents regarding 'Member enquiry' reports, repair service tickets, tenancy agreements and 'case history – revenue account details', [2009-2017]

[4 folders]
CLOSED

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Tower Block

Three-dimensional tower block made of card and sticky tape, in a triangular shape. A yellow post-it note in the shape of a star is attached, labelled 'LPS', [n.d.]

[1 item]