

Our house our street – The place we call home

The National Federation of ALMOs
Portrait Exhibition 2017

Our house our street
– The place we call home

Welcome



As Chair of the National Federation of ALMOs I take great pleasure in opening this year's Photography Exhibition '**Our house our street – The place we call home**'.

As a member organisation representing the interest of more than half a million council owned homes we tire of the negative images and stereotypes often shown in the media of our tenants and communities. This exhibition challenges these perceptions. Following in the footsteps of last year's successful exhibition at the House of Commons we continue to tell the story of our tenants and residents. The people that transform bricks and mortar into homes that are loved, and help create vibrant communities.

Each of the photographs give us a glimpse into the lives of our tenants and the places they are proud to call home. For a brief moment transporting us inside the homes that are loved and to the heart of the places that bring us together to create a sense of belonging. Importantly each of the photographs challenges the perception that social housing is undesirable.

We cannot change public perceptions overnight, but with the support of our Media Partner 24Housing and our sponsor Resource the National Federation of ALMOs will continue to share the stories of our tenants through the medium of photography.

These are just a few of the many entries we received, and I hope you thoroughly enjoy viewing the exhibition. Please take time to cast your vote for the winning photograph.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Hugh Broadbent'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Hugh Broadbent

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This brochure was kindly produced by Resource

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May Bareham

May Bareham is Colchester Borough Homes' oldest tenant. Aged 104 years old, May can recall the date she moved into Harrison Court, a sheltered housing scheme, 28 years ago. May explains:

"My flat means everything to me, it is spacious and warm. It gives me the independence I want but with the knowledge there's help if I need it. I like to be able to go to bed when I want, watch what I like on the television and be surrounded by my photographs of family and friends."

May was born in Colchester, and lived and worked there for most of her life. May moved into Harrison Court in 1989 and has always been an active member of the local social and community scene. Until recently May was the organiser of the Over 60s activities club.

As a guest speaker at a Colchester Borough Homes' staff conference three years ago May shared memories from her a century long life, and when asked the secret of such a healthy life replied:

"To laugh often ... and a tot whisky."

May's photograph is taken beside family pictures and memories of her long life.

Image captured by Mell Robinson, Colchester Borough Homes

Colchester Borough Homes



Stuart Ralphson

Thirty four year old Stuart lives at Hendra Park, a supported housing scheme in Cornwall for residents with learning differences.

Moving into his own studio apartment gave Stuart the chance to have some real independence, with the security of a support worker on site to assist with any issues. Stuart regularly meets with fellow tenants to undertake activities in the communal area.

Previously living with his mum he craved his own space, and was excited to move into his own home. Stuart adds:

"I am very close to my mum, but living in my new home has changed my life. I have control of my own things, but also have support when I need it. I enjoy being around the other residents, I feel very lucky to be living here."

Image captured by professional photographer Mike Newman

Cornwall Housing

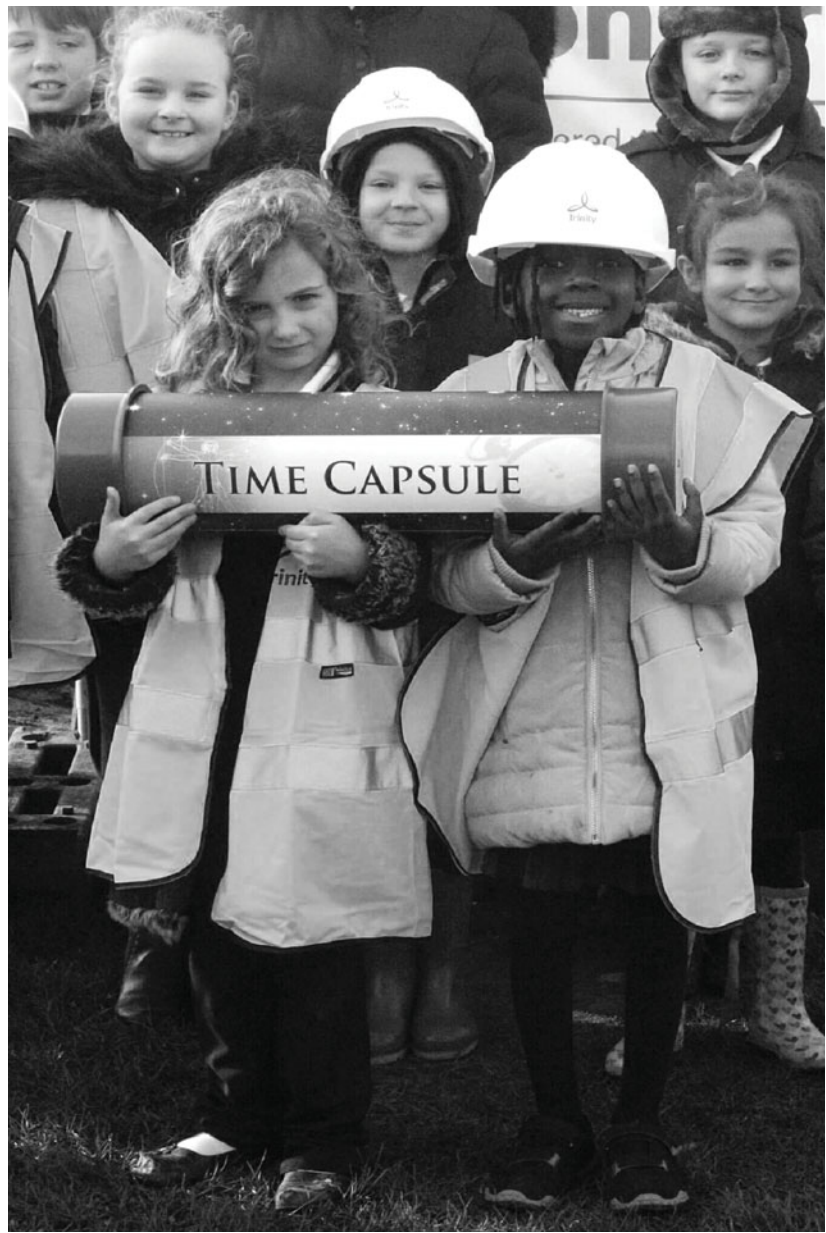


Time Capsule

To commemorate the development of thirteen new homes in their community, children from Oakland's Academy in Willingdon Trees were invited to take part in a competition to name the new building. Children were also invited to provide items for a time capsule that will give children in the future a glimpse into life today. The time capsule was buried to mark the commencement of work on the new homes, which will be available for rent early 2018.

Image was captured by Andrew McDuffie, Eastbourne Homes

Eastbourne Homes



The Birthday Party

The Birthday Party was captured by resident Vaughan Melzer.

Vaughan says:

"It makes me happy when I look out of my kitchen window and see a group of residents using the beautiful grounds they live in to hold a birthday party. When our estate was re-furbished in 1989, a highly active residents association played a part in re-designing the grounds. A play area hidden from view, was relocated so parents could see their children playing below and a patio and BBQ area were added. The BBQ has been very successful.

Many of my neighbours come from countries where eating outdoors is normal and sometimes they lay rugs on the ground to eat food. Many speak little English but I see how happy it makes people to have these outdoor family occasions together."

Image captured by resident Vaughan Melzer

Homes for Haringey



Nicholas Burton

Leaseholder Nicholas Burton has lived at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington since 1984. Nicholas watched the progress of the £10m refurbishment with a growing realisation that it was going to deliver a complete and utter transformation. Talking about his home Nicholas says:

"Over the years the building gradually got more tired looking, and visitors got a terrible first impression, so when I first heard of the plans to refurbish the entire tower, I was thrilled. But I didn't quite grasp how comprehensive the work would be. We simply never thought it would be this good!"

Nicholas added:

"I'm proud to call Grenfell Tower home. As a family we can sit at home with smart, energy efficient windows in a property that's better heated and more economical to run. The far reaching views are breath-taking and I never get tired of them. I feel very appreciative that the block has been transformed from a tired 1970s building to a shining example of twentieth first century living. I feel lucky and fortunate to live here."

Image captured by Pete Griffiths, Kensington and Chelsea TMO

Kensington and Chelsea TMO



Sylvia Mitchell

The Brackenhall Estate has undergone significant regeneration over the past 15 years, with many older properties being demolished to make way for developments. In 2002 Sylvia left her old home and moved to where she lives today. Quiet and intensely house-proud Sylvia turned her home into her own personal sanctuary – peaceful, warm and clean, with a lovely maintained garden outside.

A Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing surveyor spotted an ornament in Miss Mitchell's garden that bore a striking resemblance to two of his colleagues, Ken Britton and John Miller, and so this photograph was captured. Sylvia has a great relationship with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing staff and recalls the help she received when she moved into her home. Sylvia also has a sense of humour to match that of Ken and John.

Image captured by Jonathan Tunnicliffe, Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing

Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing



Terry and Trish Hall

Prior to moving into their adapted bungalow Trish and Terry Hall were struggling with everyday life. Trish's health and mobility had deteriorated to a point that her existing home was no longer suitable for her needs, and Trish was unable to move around or leave the property on her own.

Their new home is situated in a lovely Northampton village, and they knew as soon as they walked into the bungalow that it was somewhere they would love to live. The adaptations team worked with Trish to put in place a plan to enable her to live independently. Trish's life has been transformed; from being unable to make herself a cup of coffee in her old home to someone who now loves tending the garden and chatting to her neighbours. Their home and gardens look beautiful, it's clear to see how much pride Trish and Terry take in their home. They tell us:

"Living in their new home has allowed them to feel like a couple again and made the rest of life worth living".

Image captured by professional photographer Kirsty Edmonds

Northampton Partnership Homes



Angel and Miller Dieckvoss

Made homeless by arsonists Angel was previously living in a homeless hostel, and then temporary accommodation until the birth of her son Jacob Christopher (known as Miller). Soon after his birth in 2001 they moved into their current home in Sherwood Nottingham. But all that seems a long time ago now – today Angel is a full-time children's residential social worker and Miller is studying for his GCSEs this year and hopes to continue his studies at sixth form.

Angel says:

"It's always been important to me to create a good home environment for Miller. He has a lot to deal with daily, with my bipolar and his own health challenges. The house has been fantastically adapted by Nottingham City Homes to meet Miller's needs."

She continues:

"I try to keep it well decorated and comfortable for us both. It's my haven, and where both me and my boy feel safe and secure. I'd really like to buy the house for Miller in the future. It would be an investment in his future."

With such a great childhood, a lovely home, and a fantastic mum, we're sure Miller's future is very bright indeed.

Image captured by Sam Whitworth, Nottingham City Homes

Nottingham City Homes



Graham Giles – Dame Gracy

To Graham Giles his home in Victoria Square (a retirement complex for the over 60's) is a place of safety and somewhere he feels very comfortable being himself.

As a retired drag queen, known as Dame Gracy, Graham feels at ease dressing in his drag outfits, so much so that he's been known to provide entertainment at social functions and charity events.

As a founder member of the Manchester Mardi Gras, now known as the annual Pride event, Graham still attends the event every year. He is also a supporter of Northwards' Retired Not Expired campaign which celebrates north Manchester's most inspiring pensioners.

Graham is extremely proud of his home and spends a lot of time planting and tending to a huge array of beautiful hanging baskets and planters outside his flat. But more than that, he also tends to the communal garden in the centre of the square which is an eye-catching place of colour all year round.

Victoria Square itself dates back to 1889 and is a Grade-two listed retirement complex. It was the first single-class housing area in the country and was the first example of municipal housing in Manchester.

Image captured by Louise Huntington, Northwards Housing

Northwards Housing



Charlotte Heys

Making a house a home you're proud of takes more than just a brush of paint or putting a photo on the wall. It takes a commitment, passion and overall determination to add your own mark.

Charlotte Heys unlocked the door to her new house with little more than a cot for her son and a bed. She wanted to find a way to furnish it that was affordable but would create a safe haven for her young family to grow up in.

This desire led her to the Furniture Station, an initiative which offers a range of affordable used furniture. It was here that a love for upcycling began. Charlotte worked tirelessly through the night to give old furniture a new lease of life with vibrant colours and smart styling. For a mum with three children to transform this house into a home within five months is testament to her determination, and passion for upcycling.

Charlotte and her family are proud of the place they call home.

Image captured by professional photographer Gareth Lowe

Stockport Homes



Saleha Jafrin

Saleha Jafrin grew up on the Clichy Estate, Tower Hamlets and lives in a four bedroomed maisonette with her mum and two sons. The family has lived in the area for over forty years.

Saleha says:

"It's a good family home, the area and neighbours are really nice. We have schools, colleges, hospitals nearby and we feel part of the community. Just because you're renting or living in social housing doesn't mean you're not well off. People used to say 'Oh Tower Hamlets is a poor area' but it's not, if you look properly it's an area to be proud about."

Saleha helped to establish the local Community Food Garden and adds:

"Our food garden was originally a park; we used to play there when we were kids, but then it was closed for many years. We worked with Tower Hamlets Homes to set up a community food garden. Everyone loves it. We grow Bangladeshi vegetables and when people pass by we cut them some coriander or herbs."

Image captured by Ben Schofield, Tower Hamlets Homes

Tower Hamlets Homes



Lizzy Mace

Lizzy Mace is a resident of Cranbrook Estate set in the heart of Bethnal Green. Opened in 1964, it is one of the most famous estates in London. The famed architect Lubetkin designed the estate, which is iconic for its brutalist style and 'teardrop' staircases.

Lizzy said:

"Last year I registered to take part in Open House London and I put together a photo exhibition of the estate and gave people guided tours of my flat. I went to the library to find old photographs of the Victorian terraces that were here before the redevelopment and I really enjoyed finding out all about the area. I only had a vague idea beforehand and it's nice to understand the history of where I live."

Lizzy added:

"I had no reservations about moving into social housing. I think people who have a poor idea of social housing are a bit out of touch with what's really happening today. I love living on this estate, I've found it really easy to meet people and get involved with the community."

Image captured by Ben Schofield, Tower Hamlets Homes

Tower Hamlets Homes



End note

The National Federation of ALMOs would like to thank all of its members for submitting entries to this year's Photography Competition. We have been delighted with the number of strong images and exceptional stories we received.

We would like to say a big thank you to the team at Resource who sponsored the exhibition and kindly printed this brochure for us. We would also like to extend our thanks to Media Partner 24Housing who have given their commitment to helping us promote the individual stories and photographs exhibited this year.

All of the photographs submitted to the competition can be viewed at www.almos.org.uk

Sponsored by

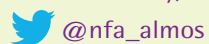


Media partner



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