

### Chapter 1 : Letter from Lesley: reflections on Grenfell | APS

*A Bloodstained Letter from Julian Grenfell Posted on May 14, by acenturyback At some point either late yesterday or early today, army chaplain H K Southwell, wrote a short note and placed it in an envelope, along with the bloodstained letter scrawled by the wounded officer.*

But timing is now critical. Works must be started and finished by the autumn, if they are not to leave residents in terror of fire for another year, or alternatively leave them in buildings that have been stripped of insulation and left all winter exposed to the elements. Last winter, many residents were freezing, ill and miserable in de-clad homes, and facing astronomical bills. We wrote twice to the secretary of state about these issues but received no reply. Over buildings, in social housing, need re-cladding. The latest statistics on remediation works show three starts and three completions in the last month, bringing the number of remediated buildings to a grand total of But even those due to benefit from it are being put at risk by continuing delays. Thousands already die in cold homes every winter. And fires do happen. The standards and practices that led to the Grenfell fire must not go on to cost more lives. What must not be missed in the inquiry, which has so far focused on the actions of operational firefighters on that night, is how a policy that had previously kept safe the people of London and elsewhere for many years would be effective only as long as underpinned and buttressed by strong fire prevention legislation, with regular inspections of tower blocks and fire protection systems by local firefighters and specialist fire prevention officers, supported by statutory enforcement. Deregulation of fire safety by both Labour and Conservative governments was carried through in the face of strong opposition from the Fire Brigades Union. Such matters must also be fully considered by the inquiry and officers and politicians of the LFCDA, in addition to serving firefighters, called as witnesses, if a full picture is to be obtained. Hundreds of towers were then covered with partly organic materials that appeared to pass the relevant tests, despite being combustible in a hot-enough fire. Previously the guidance made it clear that combustible cladding was a risk in tall buildings, but the current version deleted this warning and reduced the standard to class B. It is worth remembering that in London before windows had to be separated by a yard of inorganic material, or by a balcony. This barrier delayed fire spread and gave time to fight it. There were never any fatalities, other than in the flat where the fire started, so the stay-put strategy made perfect sense. The awful reality is that the guidance made Grenfell possible, but evidence for this has not yet been heard by the inquiry, and the unsafe guidance is still in force. Many now believe that the public inquiry should and will identify individuals responsible for putting the tower into such a condition that 72 people died from the atrocity, and that those individuals should be punished appropriately. But the public response should not be confined to blaming and punishing those primarily responsible. The political and social climate in which any culpable decisions were taken, the climate of cost-cutting, minimising care and responsibility, relaxing standards and controls, and skimping inspections, was not created arbitrarily and out of nowhere by council officials, estate managers and the suppliers of building materials. It arose in the context of repeated electoral choices that taxes should be lowered, especially for the rich, and social provisions be reduced across the board.

## Chapter 2 : Grenfell Tower fire - Wikipedia

*22 March Added second report from the Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce, statement by the Housing Secretary, letter to members of the Grenfell Recovery Taskforce, and letter to residents.*

The fire also severely affected three low-rise "finger blocks" adjoining Grenfell Tower. These were occupied by leaseholders, or were privately rented out by them on the open market. The lower four storeys were used for non-residential purposes. Later, two floors were converted to residential use, bringing the total to apartments, housing up to people. Unlike in many other countries, UK regulations do not require a second. In , the group published a fire risk assessment by a TMO Health and Safety Officer which recorded safety concerns. Firefighting equipment at the tower had not been checked for up to four years; on-site fire extinguishers had expired, and some had the word "condemned" written on them because they were so old. GAG frequently cited other fires in tower blocks when it warned of the hazards at Grenfell. This fire had spread unexpectedly fast across exterior cladding. The coroner made a series of safety recommendations for the government to consider, and the Department for Communities and Local Government agreed to hold a review in . Over subsequent years, four ministers were warned about tower block fire risks that had been highlighted by the Lakanal House fire. King described his attempts to arrange meetings with minister Gavin Barwell: In May , LFB warned all 33 London councils to review the use of panels and "take appropriate action to mitigate the fire risk". He entered the kitchen and discovered the fridge-freezer smoking. Most of the firefighters entered the building. They set up a bridgehead internal base of operations on the second floor and connected hoses to the dry riser. They first entered Flat 16 at 1: It was a further seven minutes before they began tackling the kitchen blaze. Observing this, the incident commander requested another two pumps and an aerial appliance at . Some residents of unaffected flats also left around this time, after being alerted by their neighbours. The number of pumps requested was raised from 6 to 8 at . Communicating through radio proved difficult, due to noise, the sheer volume of talk and possibly the concrete building structure. Instead, details of trapped residents were written on slips of paper and ferried by runners from the command unit to the bridgehead on the second floor. At the bridgehead, incoming firefighters were assigned flats to go to and briefed on whom they would need to rescue. The firefighters encountered thick smoke, zero visibility and extreme heat when they climbed above the fourth floor. Three firefighters who went to rescue a year old girl on the 20th floor were unable to find her. Unknown to them, she had moved up to a flat on the 23rd floor, was on the phone to a control operator who had no means of knowing what the firefighters were doing, [75] and later died in this location. Eyewitnesses reported seeing some people jumping out, and four victims were later found to have died from "injuries consistent with falling from a height". Due to this danger, the police ordered the crowds to back away from the building. The MPS Territorial Support Group was present; besides being a specialist unit for public order policing , they provided riot shields to protect firefighters from falling debris. Assistant Commissioner Andrew Roe assumed direct command of firefighting operations for the next 11 hours, while Commissioner Dany Cotton arrived at . Rather than command the operations directly, she served as a Monitoring Officer, overseeing Roe and providing moral support to firefighters. Cotton admitted that LFB had broken their own safety protocols, by entering a large building without knowing whether it was in danger of structural collapse. The burnt cladding is visible on the outside of the building. By sunrise, the firefighters were still busy fighting the fire and attempting rescues on the inside. It was not brought under control until . In my 29 years of being a firefighter, I have never ever seen anything of this scale. Their analysis of CCTV evidence concluded that people of present had escaped. One victim died in hospital on 15 June due to inhalation of fire fumes. Psychological health and human factors[ edit ] Beyond physical injury, the fire was a traumatic event which had a psychological impact on residents, emergency service workers and the public at large, as detailed below. On 26 July , at the fourth public meeting of the Grenfell Response Team , a local volunteer reported that there had been at least 20 suicide attempts in north Kensington since the fire, one of which had been successful. Around 80 firefighters and Met Police officers were reported to be suffering from their experiences. All firefighters who attended Grenfell were given a psychological health check. It is unclear

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how far this indicates reaction to the fire and how far previously existing psychiatric conditions are being uncovered. Measures have been taken to protect student welfare, such as shielding classroom windows overlooking the tower. The tower is known to have contained Asbestos and other toxins. In her letter to NHS chief executive Simon Stevens, Dr Wilcox notes that firefighters involved in the September 11 attacks suffered significant health problems from smoke inhalation. She asked for a physical health screening programme to be established to help prevent future deaths. The government is not paying to put sprinklers into older tall buildings though sprinklers are required in new buildings over 30 metres tall. He asked that local authorities without the means to make buildings safe should contact central government. Of the fire he said: People from surrounding buildings were evacuated due to concerns that the tower might collapse. By 18 September, a temporary school in Scrubs Lane had been built by Portakabin in 12 weeks. The school had returned to its original site by 18 September Philip Hammond, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, had been due to address the event, but had said he would not do so following the fire. Their residents were evacuated due to the fire and many remained in temporary accommodation at the start of July.

### Chapter 3 : A Bloodstained Letter from Julian Grenfell | A Century Back

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### Chapter 4 : Vital questions Grenfell inquiry must not duck | Letters | UK news | The Guardian

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### Chapter 5 : Unite calls on members to sign open Grenfell letter to housing minister

*Public Private login. e.g. test cricket, Perth (WA), "Parkes, Henry" Separate different tags with a comma. To include a comma in your tag, surround the tag with double quotes.*

### Chapter 6 : Grenfell fire: Nearby residents warned of legal action for ball games | Metro News

*12 September Minister for Grenfell Victims' priorities moving forward and an update on progress being made to ensure there is a fitting memorial to the Grenfell Tower tragedy.*

### Chapter 7 : Letters from Aldeburgh by Joyce Grenfell

*Housing Secretary the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP and the Minister for Grenfell Victims the Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP write to residents.*

### Chapter 8 : Letter from Francis Grenfell | Meanings of Military Service

*A letter from Francis Grenfell addressed to his family, Written whilst in hospital it describes recent military engagements and his injuries. Francis Grenfell wrote numerous letters and kept accounts of the military engagements he was involved in and his day-to-day life whilst serving in the First World War, until his death in*

### Chapter 9 : Jeremy Corbyn damning letter to Theresa May over Grenfell Tower fire | Metro News

*Council lawyer's letter to #Grenfell blogger: stop 'harrassing' us 15/06/ 2017 by SKWAWKBOX in Uncategorized. The*

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*news channels and social media are still, rightly, full of footage of the terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington and its aftermath.*