



Scenes from the comic

Free comic tells tale of 20th century transformation

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A COMIC telling the story of a century of council housing in Bristol is being given away all over the city.

Some 40,000 free copies of *Homes for Heroes 100* are now available from Bristol's libraries and other outlets.

The comic tells the story of how Bristol was transformed in the 20th century with the building of tens of thousands of new houses and whole new districts.

The house-building programme started in 1919 with the passing of the so-called 'Addison Act' as part of Prime Minister David Lloyd George's promise to build "a country fit for heroes to live in."

A second, and even bigger, burst of council house construction took place in the decades after the Second World War, expanding the city's boundaries and creating huge estates which offered tenants real homes well away from the noise and grime of central Bristol, which in those days was still heavily industrialised.

Homes for Heroes 100 tells the story through the fictional

Daisy Bell, who grows up in a city centre slum in the 1890s and early 1900s, finds "love at first smell" with George, who works for Fry's before going off to fight in the Great War. After the war, Daisy and George are lucky enough to be among the earliest council tenants.

Half of the 24-page publication consists of comic strips drawn by Bristol artist Tony Forbes, who grew up on the Southmead estate. The other half comprises text, drawings and historic photos, many from Bristol Archives and the *Bristol Post's* collection.

The comic was researched and written by author and local historian Eugene Byrne, who is also editor of the *Post's Bristol Times* section every Tuesday.

Eugene said: "Our aim was to entertain and inform youngsters about the remarkable story of something most people take for granted - decent

housing.

"Tony has done a fantastic job in telling the tale from the viewpoint of an ordinary Bristol family. He's made it humorous, but also often very moving, too.

"But it's not just for children. We hope it will be accessible to people of all ages. Housing is an important issue, and one that has become very urgent once more."

The comic is part of the wider 'Homes for Heroes 100' programme of community projects, public events and new publications marking the centenary, and is supported by Bristol City Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

It is coordinated by Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (BCDP). Partners running individual projects include Sea Mills 100, Local Learning, Knowle West Media Centre and the Architecture Centre.

Andrew Kelly, Director of BCDP said: "When we first began planning the celebration of the Addison Act, we knew we wanted to find engaging ways with which to share this fascinating but often overlooked aspect of our city's

heritage.

"We hope people enjoy reading this publication and that they learn something new. We also hope it encourages people to share their own memories of living on council estates."

Copies are available from Bristol's libraries and the Bristol Tourist Information Centre on Harbourside. There will also be copies available at the Sea Mills Museum (the phone box under Addison's Oak), Bristol Cathedral and the reception area of City Hall and other locations.

There will be some copies available at some venues over the Bristol Open Doors weekend in September and from Watershed during the Festival of the Future City in October.

For more information and updates, see <https://www.ideasfestival.co.uk/themes/homes-for-heroes-100/> and look for the #HomesForHeroes100 hashtag on Twitter.



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