

# 5, Lindway Court

**Lindway Court was built in 1975, the estate comprises of 4, 3 storey blocks of 6, flats, built around a tarmac quadrangle.**

The term court is used to describe a grouping of houses or living spaces around a courtyard area. This style of collective housing used to include shared washing and privy facilities in the yard. During the Industrial Revolution courts were areas of extreme poverty with as many as 30 people recorded sharing one room and ‘hot bedding’, which meant people slept in beds in shifts. Lindway Court is built around the traditional notion of a shared central space however in the twenty first century this is not a social space, it is used to park cars.

There is a public right of way across the car park which was established prior to 1880 when the land was part of the estates of Ivy Cottage, to the south of Conybeare Road, and Clive Hall to the north. By 1901 the area was becoming increasingly urbanised with the building of terraced houses stretching down to Cowbridge Road East. In response to the building programme ground was sold off from the estates of Clive Hall and Ivy Cottage. Housing was built to meet the demand of industry, workers were moving in from the surrounding rural areas and needed cheap places to live. The land where Lindway Court now stands was made into allotments so that the people moving into these houses – primarily docks and factory workers, could grow food. At this point in time the land was privately owned. The provision of allotments was seen as part of keeping the workforce healthy.

The Dig For Britain Campaign and the post war food shortages meant that allotments across the country were vital for a family’s survival. The baby boom generation, Thatcherism, the arrival of super markets and a shift to consumer culture, conspired against allotments across the U.K. Local councils, who took on the administration and ownership of allotments as ‘common land’, sold them for private development. The building of Lindway Court was symptomatic of this wider cultural shift.

The architectural style of the flats was also firmly rooted in this new modern life. The tower block, inspired by modernist philosophy and visionary architects such as Le Corbusier, began to influence architects and shape the urban environment. The foundations of modernist architecture were, ultimately, inspired by ideas such as light, space and the beauty that lay in simplicity and functionality. It was also rooted in utopian principals that suggested everybody should have access to spacious functional living and that modern approaches to design would lead to the formation of new social networks, new ways of living, new cities. These idealist notions were interpreted in various ways, resulting, in the worst case, in the ghettoisation of some marginal communities. Ultimately, by the 1970’s modernist architecture was interpreted as a money saving way of re-housing problem groups. Therefore within the city’s built environment, Lindway Court can be seen as a primary example of modernist architecture, built as housing for the masses; the working people of the city.

You are standing in an approximation of 5 Lindway Court. This is the top floor, right hand flat, situated in the first block. To access the flat the inhabitants enter a door to the east of the block, walk up 3 flights of stairs and reach an interior front door secured by a Yale lock and a Chubb lock.

The shared hallway space is a functional design that would, latterly, be perceived as urban. This hallway is the collective responsibility of the flat owners who share the cost of lighting, painting and general upkeep, the tenants are also responsible for the buildings exterior. The land the Court is built on is owned by Coffin Development. They lease the land to each of the flats tenants at the cost of £15 per year. The lease holders also organise buildings insurance and the upkeep of the land.

## Hallway:

The area you are now standing in is the hallway of 5 Lindway Court. As you can see from the image the hallway area is compact. There is a parquet floor which is also in the bedroom and under the carpet in the living room. Parquet flooring was developed in the 1600’s and used to create mosaic and other designs on the floors of grand properties. It wasn’t until the 1930’s when concrete floors and strong adhesives were developed that tongue and groove wood flooring was mass-produced and made available to a wider public. In 1970 Anatoli Efros founded Parquet By Dian which mass produced high quality, affordable parquet flooring. At the time he was the head of the department of the Ukrainian Woodworking Ministry, producing wooden components for construction.

In the hallway there are two built-in cupboards. The first cupboard was designed to store coats and shoes, this is on the right hand wall opposite the front door. The second cupboard has three levels and contains the hot water tank which is electrically heated. Water comes in from the mains on the ground floor and fills a plastic tank on the top shelf, it filters down into a copper tank via a pipe, this tank heats up to provide hot water to the kitchen and bathroom. The water levels are checked using a system of ballcocks. The power is set to come on for thirty minutes each day via a timer on an ordinary electrical switch, the copper tank is insulated and the water remains hot throughout the day. This cupboard is warm and is also used to air clothes and store sheets and towels.

There are two doorways to the left of the hallway. The first leads to the bedroom- you can see that area to your immediate left; the second doorway leads to the living room which is the area you can see just in front of you on the left. To the right of the entrance there is a short corridor that leads to the bathroom. On the left hand wall of this corridor there is a thermostat for the heating system. There is one of these thermostats in each room. The heating system is under-floor, there is an electrical flex placed in the floor in each room which heats up gradually over night. During the day the flex gives off heat until the room reaches the temperature set on the thermostat. The heating works on the economy 7 setting which means it powers up over night when it is cheaper. The control panel for the heating system is in a wooden box above the front door.



## The Bathroom:

The bathroom measures 3.90m x 1.05m. In the bathroom there is a bath and an electric shower. There is also a toilet and sink unit. The water is supplied by Dwr Cymru (trans. Welsh Water). The room is half tiled for protection against water and splashes, in a top floor flat it is important that water doesn’t leak through to floors below. The top half of the walls are painted using a gloss paint. This paint is good in areas where there is condensation. There is a world map on the south facing wall. Under the map is a wicker shelf unit, left by the previous owner, this is used to store various sundry bathroom items such as soap, makeup and moisturiser. On the top shelf there is a plant which was bought in 2002 from Homebase. In the leaves of the plant is a pink fake flower bought in a Chinese supermarket in Paris in February 2005.

The window is double glazed with frosted glass, it is west facing and catches the morning sun. On the window sill there is a ceramic glazed pot bought in Morelia, Mexico in 2005, a small plastic buffalo bought in a jumble sale in Bristol in December 2004 and some lucky stones, or hag stones, collected on the south coast of England, (various dates). There is also a ceramic soap dish and toothbrush holder bought from Habitat in 2006.