

60

YEARS

ZEBRA HOUSING ASSOCIATION

[Wood] the enclosed. ... No one has a greater admiration for your continued battling under the Capricorn flag in Africa, but the unhappy fact is that if this trust is to move into the next round and continue its work this end, the name will remain a great handicap to us. I only hope that our acceptance of this is not going to be a disappointment."¹² He drafted a similar but longer letter to Laurens van der Post and David.

"They called the new hostel Jerome House, after the saint shown as a man of learning seated in his study in Africa, often plus a grateful lion."

"The somewhat seedy atmosphere in some ways helped to make the house more of a home, particularly for the large number of children who had the run of the long corridors and badly lit staircases."

"A breakdown of the residents listed 34 different countries from Australia to Zambia"

"The cheapest place to stay in London is at a place called Jerome House... This fantastic, huge house will surpass anything you've imagined in your wildest dreams. It costs about 75 cents a night to stay in this Dickens like abode. Hundreds of international intellectuals from places like Afghanistan, Tanganyika, India, Pakistan and even France and England call Jerome House home".

The BBC week's good cause by the Bishop of Coventry to Stimulated by the bishop's enthusiasm and inspired by the success of Zebra and Impala Houses in London, a house for overseas students was opened in Coventry. Continuing to be concerned about students outside London, in 1968 a large house in Miles Road, Bristol, was bought with substantial help from Carruthers, who insisted that it be owned by the Zebra Trust to avoid adding to the growing number of companies under the Zebra umbrella.

An OSWEP grant helped to make seven flats and ground floor accommodation for the warden. Zebra House, Bristol, as it was known, was managed by a local committee with Nigel Boosey as chairman. It was a valuable asset for students at the university, but the small number of units eventually made it uneconomic under National Housing Corporation guidelines for maintenance and administration. Finally, and with regret, in 1995 the trust decided that the house should be sold. The proceeds from the sale were



Zebra Housing is an unusual, indeed unique organisation.

We are a “not for profit” Housing Association and we only house international post grad students and their dependents. All our surpluses are re-invested in our housing.

We are particularly family friendly.

We have amazing properties, in wonderful central London locations.



We charge “affordable rents” in that they are sub-market – typically 10%-20% lower than their market equivalent.

We are run by a voluntary, unpaid Board, whose motivation is to provide good quality, safe housing to foreign students and their families. Two ex-residents are members of the Board.



We run a social programme of varied events, so that residents can really understand what London is about. We subsidise this programme, to make events affordable for our residents.



We are the proud custodians of our lovely buildings and an organisation which has been working with international students for 60 years.





But we are not standing still; in the last five years we built and acquired 26 new flats. We plan to provide more housing and we want it to continue to add to the architectural heritage of London.





Zebra Welcome meeting 1950's

1950s

To understand Zebra, one needs to look at our history.

Zebra was formed in the late 1950s, by Londoners returning to the city after years of living and working in Africa. As those countries achieved independence, the returning expats wished to retain their connection with the continent they loved and provide opportunities for young Africans to live and study in London, taking back their experiences of the UK, and the university educations they had benefited from, to their home countries.

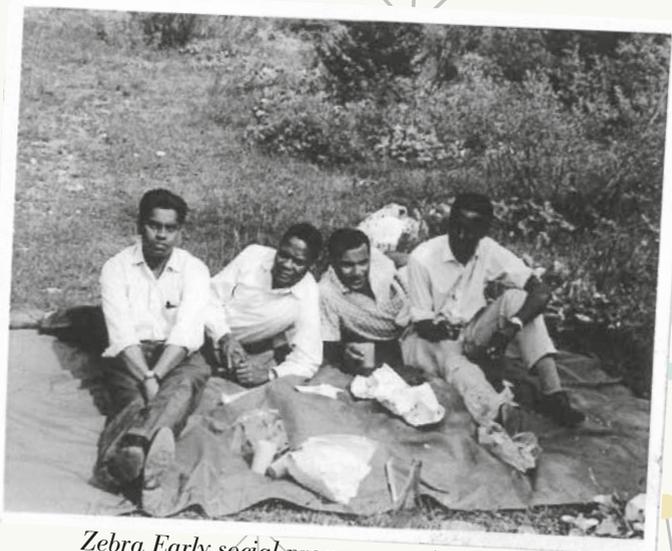


Zebra Students meeting 1950s



Jeannine Bartosik President of Zebra Housing Association 1950s

London was a natural destination for many young African students at the time, but housing was an issue that needed to be addressed in order that they might flourish here. The expat group, back in their home city, found and purchased a number of properties to achieve their aims, and so Zebra began.....



Zebra Early social programme picnic 1950's



Peter Comyns and African Zebra Students 1960s



Peter Comyns Zebra Students in Africa 1960s

It is said that the name of the organisation was suggested by a Zulu Chieftain who pointed out that it didn't matter whether a Zebra was speared in a black, brown or white area of their body – the effect was the same. It's a good metaphor and describes our absolute commitment to equality and social justice.

The 60s and 70s'

Later, some houses were given to Zebra by another group of ex-pat Brits who had lived in Malaysia and Singapore, and who had done much the same as the original Zebra founders in providing housing for people from these countries who were studying in London.



Zebra Social programme 1960's





Jerome Fancy Dress party 1995

1990s



Steve DJing, Jerome Christmas Party 1994



Jeannine Bartosik President ZHA and Gordon Stevens Chairman 1990s



Princess Margaret Patron of Zebra Housing at opening of Jeannine House Common Room 1990s



By the 1970s we were housing students from all over the world and the opportunity arose for Zebra to get some government funding, so we became a housing association. We are no longer eligible for government grants, but the historic funding means we remain a housing association, overseen by the Regulator of Social Housing.



I am very grateful to ZHA for the opportunity they offer to foreign students who come to study in London. The Association has enabled me to study and live in Central London thus giving more time to concentrate on my studies rather spending hours travelling to and from college.

**Resident of Sentosa House
(2009)**

The prospect of having a first baby far from home is daunting, but moving into a Zebra property has helped immeasurably. From the time I was accepted as a resident, I have felt supported by Zebra staff in preparing my flat for baby, I've begun to feel a part of the house's community, and have enjoyed the wonderful neighbourhood that this property allows me to live in. Living with other PhD students, especially those with children, seems like to be a perfect setting for balancing family life and studies.

**Resident of Impala House
(2014)**



Last year Zebra housed a total of 80 new residents from 38 countries and 5 continents. We are a truly international organisation. The scope and imagination of the organisation goes a long way beyond that of our founders. But our core values remain much the same. We have now housed and supported thousands of overseas students and their dependents over many years.





We remain committed to Zebra's core values and we are determined to build upon our original founders impressive legacy.





Social Programme Trip London Eye 2010



Social programme trip to a football match at Crystal Palace FC in 2012





invested by the trust although it was some years before a tentative policy was developed on how the income was to be spent.

Lewis and the Cheval Place team did not allow themselves to be distracted by ventures out of London. When a rambling old hotel

We have lived in Zebra's flats for almost five years now while completing our master and then our PhD programmes. In our current flat we especially enjoy our lovely garden where we can meet our neighbours, and sometimes even have a barbecue to celebrate special occasions. We are also happy with the events Zebra organises to meet other tenants, and take advantage of London cultural activities. But above all, we really appreciate the concern Zebra staff shows in making our stay as pleasant as it could be.

Resident of Anson Road (2015)

The staff are warm and friendly and it immediately feels like home. Zebra is a housing association that really cares about its tenants, not anything like most private landlords. Thank you so much.

Resident of Jerome House (2016)

We met at the university when we were Masters degree students. At that time we were living in private accommodation. We had so many issues with housing, due to poor conditions and lack of health and safety inspections. The ceiling of one of our houses even collapsed once! We literally were living for half a year without a part of the ceiling. One of the best things to live in Zebra Housing is the sense of security regarding housing conditions and health and safety. These are very valuable aspects, especially in London.

The second aspect we would like to remark on is the central location of the apartments. We would have never had the opportunity to live in central London if it weren't for Zebra Housing. Living at Jeannine House offers a wide range of attractions and cultural activities. Since our baby was born in September 2016, we especially enjoy Regents Park, Hampstead Heath and Primrose Hill. Zebra Housing is making these locations more inclusive neighbourhoods. This is also very important for us as we are committed to social justice at various levels.

Finally, Zebra Housing is formed by a warm international community of students. Doing a PhD can be a very isolating process. Having a close network is crucial, especially in the absence of relatives, friends and a wider social fabric.

Resident of Jeannine House (2018)

promptly put down the deposit. The house was to be found. They called the name of the saint shown as a man of learning seated in his study in Africa, often plus grateful lion.

The somewhat seedy atmosphere in some ways helped to make the house more of a home, particularly for the large number of children who had the run of the long corridors and badly lit

