

## VICTOR TOWER, BLOOMSBURY STREET, NECHELLS (AREA 1)

### GRAHAM LENG-WARD

---

Victor Tower is a 20 storey council tower block in the Nechells area of Birmingham situated on Bloomsbury Street. It is the tallest and final tower block in Nechells/Duddeston built by Wimpey in 1969. The flats are numbered 1 to 117, but missing out number 13. It and three other towers are clustered around the rather attractive Bloomsbury Park. If I was a kid living in a Birmingham tower block I would love to live next to this park, beautifully laid out for youngsters to run about and have fun.

I was attracted to this tower by what appears from a distance, especially in the early morning sun, to be a twenty storey high figure of a man on the south face of the tower.

The other three towers in the group stand out in contrast with the white and metallic dark grey makeover they were given in the late 1990s. The last photograph shows these four towers viewed over the top of the current HS2 works. So any future HS2 passengers will become quite familiar with Victor.

This has turned out to be an unintended double landmark as in Bloomsbury Park amongst the trees in front of Victor Tower you will find the Lancaster Car Monument by Tim Tolkien. A beautiful open-air sculpture of the Stanhope Phaeton or Lanchester motor car, the first British 4-wheeled petrol car, designed in Birmingham. Tim Tolkien is a British sculptor and the great-nephew of J.R.R. Tolkien.

---

© Graham Leng-Ward

31st December 2023