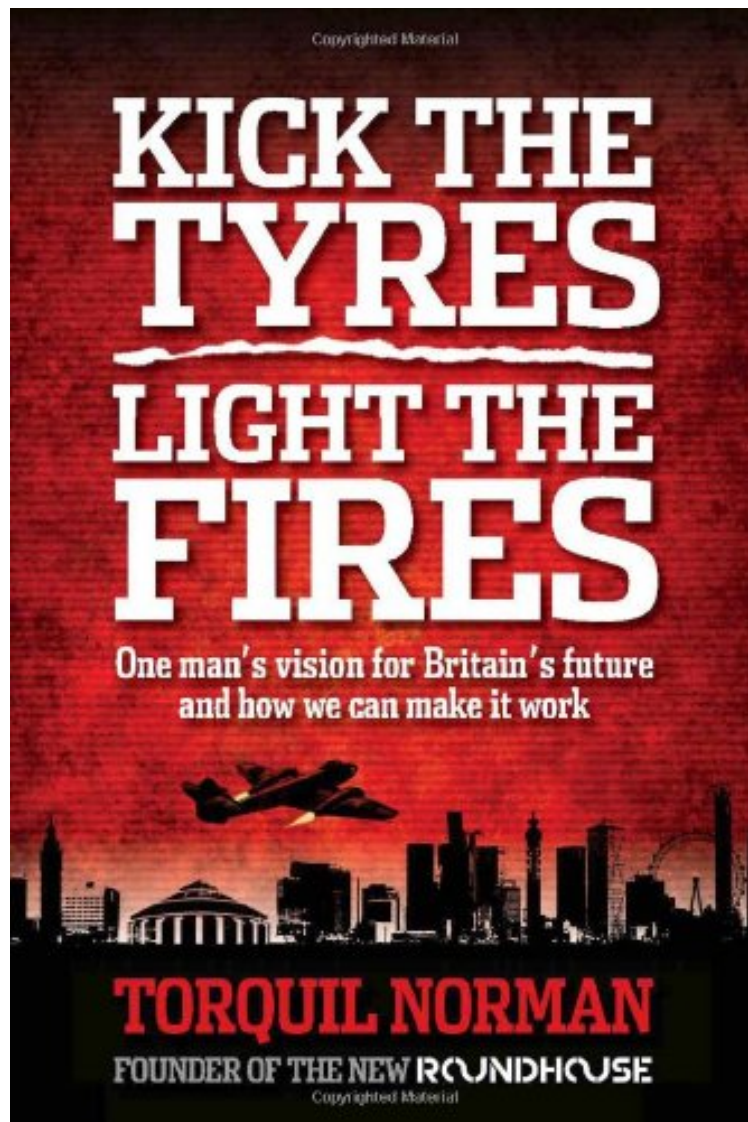


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## **Kick the Tyres, Light the Fires: One Man's Vision for Britain's Future and How We Can Make it Work**

*Sir Torquil Norman*

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**Sir Torquil Norman : Kick the Tyres, Light the Fires: One Man's Vision for Britain's Future and How We Can Make it Work** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kick the Tyres, Light the Fires: One Man's Vision for Britain's Future and How We Can Make it Work:

On 1st June 2006 a grade II listed north London landmark reopened following extensive refurbishment. The rebirth of the Roundhouse was the culmination of more than a decade's hard work, led by philanthropist Torquil Norman. The transformation was nothing short of remarkable, and whilst the Roundhouse's artistic plans include circuses, music festivals, large scale theatre, multimedia festivals, installations, talks and screenings it is the organisation's focus on young people that makes it a leader. The Roundhouse places young people at its heart, involving them at every level from membership of the Board of Directors to generating marketing campaigns. 'Kick the tyres, light the fires' is the story of Torquil Norman's extraordinary life, leading up to the acquisition and launch of the Roundhouse, as well as a series of reflections on how the welfare state, taxation and prison systems can be reformed to give disadvantaged young people a fighting chance of success.

About the Author Sir Torquil Norman, Old Etonian, graduate of Harvard and Cambridge, and self-made toymaker millionaire, is a businessman, aircraft enthusiast, and arts philanthropist. He bought the derelict Roundhouse arts venue for GBP3 million in 1996 "as an impulse buy". As founder and chairman of the Roundhouse Trust he then raised GBP27 million from public and private sources, including almost GBP4 million more of his own personal funds, to restore the crumbling Victorian former railway repair shed. Sir Torquil, who had previously received a CBE, stepped down as chairman of the Roundhouse Trust in 2007, and was knighted the same year for his "services to the arts and to disadvantaged young people".