

LIVING IN A PREFAB IN GATLEY AVENUE



This photograph was taken outside 69 Gatley Avenue, West Ewell and shows Patricia Elson, one of Vera's neighbours. Image courtesy of Mrs P. Howard

I lived in a prefabricated house from about 1946-47. It was in Gatley Avenue, West Ewell. It was the first permanent home we had as my father had been in the Royal Navy all his working life.

My Mother was so delighted to at last have a permanent home, as we lived in my Aunt and Uncle's house. It had a lovely kitchen with lots of fitted cupboards, but my mothers pride and joy was the fact that it had a fridge and cooker. We even had room for a table and chairs.

In the front room the windows were all round the corners of two walls making it so light and bright. The fire was just like the ones today! They had two small doors on the front, with small squares made of a heat resistant material, which were transparent. By the time we left they were peeling!

The front door was in the middle of the prefab and the hall was straight through to the back, to a door which was the toilet.

On the right of the toilet door was a bathroom with a bath and hand basin with Hot water! Opposite the bathroom door was a large floor to ceiling cupboard handy for storage. Next to that was the back bedroom in which my sister and I slept. On the right side wall it had several cupboards and a wardrobe and it filled all down the wall.

The front bedroom which was my mother's and father's only had one cupboard in it (As far as I remember).

We had a large front garden, and a huge back garden in which my father grew lots of vegetables. And at the bottom we kept chickens. Lots of neighbours used to bring vegetable waste to feed them and at Xmas time the chickens were killed and were sold to them

We were very happy in the prefab until we moved into a flat in Epsom in approx 1953.

Vera Widdowfield.© 2011