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Murrayfield Avenue

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49 Murrayfield Avenue
West Heath
Birmingham 31

By modern day standards Murrayfield Avenue wasn't a large estate, it was also in the "country". West Heath at the time was a small village, in fact across the road at the top of the avenue it was mostly fields complete with retired carthorse "Boxer". Close by was West Heath Sanatorium.

The Avenue was just one road, flat at the top and sloping into a circle at the bottom. Only the prefabs either side of the road had vehicle access, the rest were reached by pathways.

We moved into the prefab in 1950 when I was 4 years old. The first thing I remember was my mother's anger at the overflowing metal dustbin left in the front garden and sitting on the top was an empty blue salmon tin with a picture of a woman in a hat with a feather.

I discovered I had my own bedroom for the first time after always sharing a bedroom with my parents (Betty & Doug). Mom was worried I wouldn't settle, but I loved it!

The prefab had 2 bedrooms with wall height metal fitted wardrobes. Off the hall was the sitting room/dining room. In the dining area were cupboards over drawers which were metal and my dad painted them brown and used a paint comb to make them look like wood. The fire in the sitting room was quite small and black, a bit like a modern day wood burner. The kitchen had fitted cupboards on one wall with drawers below. I can't actually remember what the cooker was like but we did have a built in fridge. My dad used to make ice cream - as a special treat! Also off the hall was a three piece bathroom.

We had a very large garden as it was was a corner plot. I don't think my dad ever really got to grips with it, apart from a lawn, path and one attempt to grow "spuds". Probably the main reason was he discovered he had a shed, at last a home for all his woodworking tools and gadgets.

We had only been in the prefab for a short time when one Saturday lunch time the back door flew open and in walked a priest who just sat down at the table and looked at mom. After the initial shock she asked him what he wanted. "I always come here for Saturday lunch once a month". "Not this month you don't" replied mom. "well I'm here now" he said. "We are not catholic and my husband will be home for his lunch anytime now". Without another word he got up and left. We later found out the previous people didn't tell him they were leaving because they didn't want him to know where they were moving to! I remember this so well and years later we still laugh about it.

One Christmas Eve morning my grandad arrived from Yorkshire and brought with him a goose wrapped in newspapers and brown paper, tied up with string. It was hung on the back door by it's feet with a bowl underneath to catch any remaining blood. In the afternoon mom and grandad set to work plucking and gutting. I don't think I have had goose since!

As an only child I invented many games. My favourite for quite a while was "moving into the bathroom". My mom dreaded it. The first time had caused a few problems, firstly a key was in the door and I locked it. Secondly mom needed to use the toilet, how she dealt with that I don't know - but she was quite inventive! After locking myself in I found I couldn't unlock it so it was my turn to bang on the door. Under instructions I managed to open the window and mom climbed in. Thereafter the key was removed from the door! I still played this game putting the eiderdown and pillow into the bath to make a bed, a doll's pram moved in and dolls bathed in the sink. The minute I asked for a jam jar and went into the garden to pick flowers to put on

A regular feature was the rag and bone man with his horse and cart. How many goldfish ended their days in Murrayfield Avenue?!

Another regular in summer was the ice cream man on his bike with an ice box over the front wheel. The choice was cornets or wafers.

For the children living in the circle this was the playground, with marbles, what's the time, golden river and famous initials as well as skipping and scooter races downhill.

An overgrown small field - probably too hilly to build on became an adventure play area complete with a tree to climb hanging over a small brook as well as lots of places to hide. Cowboys and indians as well as hide and seek were played here. Traps were laid by tying tufts of grass together as trips. It was know as "fairyland", I don't think anybody knew why!!

In 1953 it was the coronation. This was celebrated by most of the Avenue and a lot of preparation must have gone into it. It was held at the pavilion in the sports field on Rednal Road.

I don't remember the order of events but I think it all started early afternoon with a children's fancy dress parade (I went as a Victorian paper seller). This was followed by a fathers' fancy dress football match. The moms organised the childrens tea party in the pavilion and I think there were some games and races. After tea we went home until early evening when the flat part of the avenue close to Rednal Road became the dance floor for the grown ups. As it became dark we enjoyed fireworks which was a great surprise. As they ended so did the day!

It was quite sad when the Council decided to pull the prefabs down. People started moving out in 1957, though nobody wanted to go because there was a good community spirit. It had been a safe and happy environment to grow up in.

This was the start of massive changes at West Heath, Murrayfield Avenue and the fields around were replaced by Birmingham overspill estates.

Children I remember:

Christine Fenemore (Betty and Doug) No 49
Marilyn, Denise and Aileen Dovey (Alice and Jack)
Carol and Mandy Stanford
Bernice, Peter and David Stone
Carol, Linda and Christopher Rainbow
John Evans
Jennifer White
Linda Watson
Jean Franklin
Margaret Hetherington
Robert Chadburn
John Dallow
Rita Lee
The Molloy's





5 attachments



**C:\Users\Mal\Pictures\AAA PREFABS1. View from the circle
Murrayfield Avenue looking toward The Fordrough..jpg**
64K



**C:\Users\Mal\Pictures\AAA PREFABS2. Denise & Aileen on our path
prefabs in the background.jpg**
80K



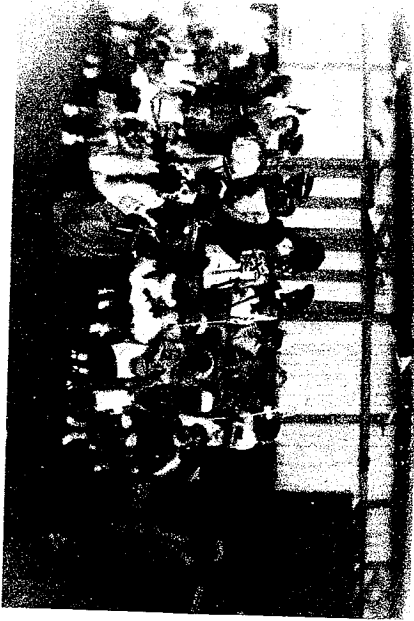
C:\Users\Mal\Pictures\AAA PREFABS3. Dad outside front step of prefab.jpg
256K



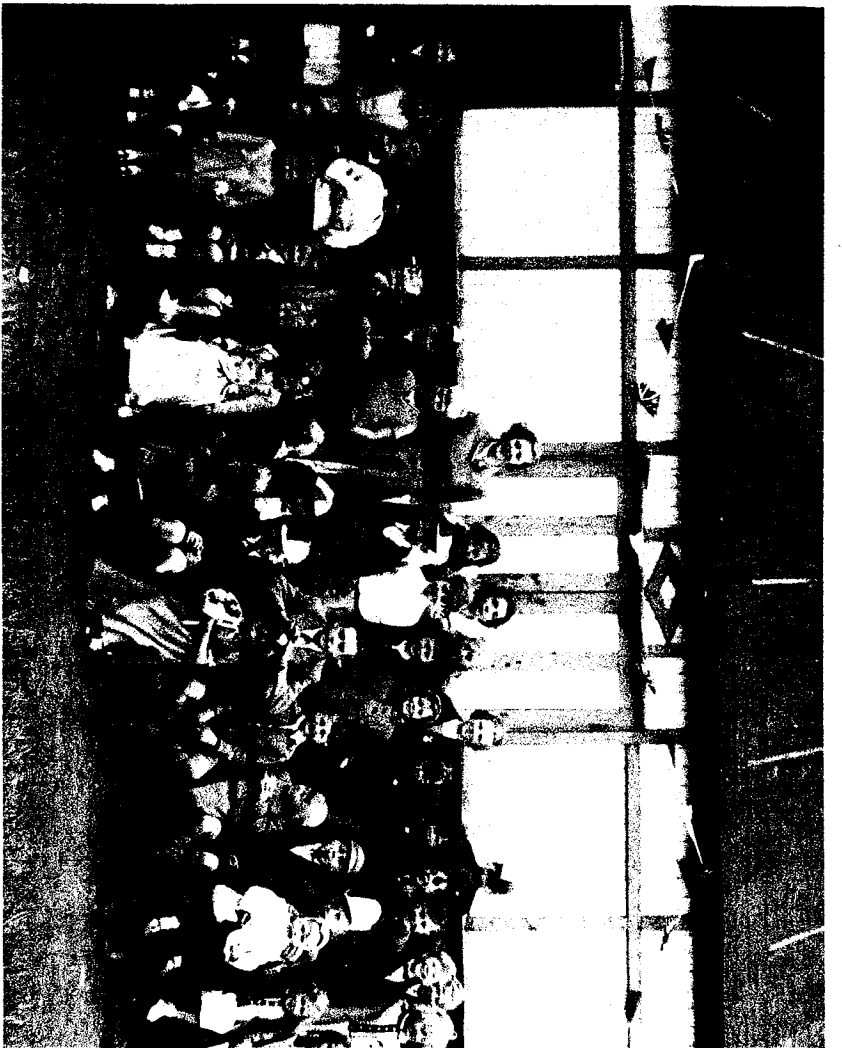
**C:\Users\Mal\Pictures\AAA PREFABS4. Chris Fenemore, Marilyn & Denise outside
front of prefab under living room window..jpg**
63K



**C:\Users\Mal\Pictures\AAA PREFABS5. Marilyn and Denise with Aileen in the pram
outside the front of our prefab..jpg**
75K



CORONATION AT WEST HEATH RECREATION GROUNDS PAVILION IN REDVALE ROAD



BIRMINGHAM, NORTHFIELD CONSTITUENCY—POLLING DISTRICT SY (519)—NORTHFIELD WARD

LILLEY LANE—cont.

551	Hill, Francis A.	15
552	Hill, Alice M.	15
553	Ferriday, Donald R.	17
554	Ferriday, Eleanor	17
555	Brookes, John—J	19
556	Brookes, Dorothy	19
557	Brookes, David J.	19
558	Curtis, John E.—J	21
559	Curtis, Vera F.	21
560	Cannon, James A. J. Y.—J	23
561	Cannon, Joyce D.	23
562	Chambers, Edgar R.	25
563	Chambers, Daisy W.	25
564	Chambers, Derek	25
565	Meguyer, William F.	27
566	Meguyer, Phyllis M.	27
567	Y—Tallis, Mary E.	27
568	Davenport, Frank	29
569	Davenport, Margaret H.	29
570	Davenport, Roy	29
571	Male, Lizzie	31
572	Thornton, George A.	31
573	Thornton, Beatrice M.	31
574	Sansome, John R.	33
575	Sansome, Alice M.	33
576	Gardener, Harry M.	54
577	Gardener, Joyce E.	54
578	Bushell, Ronald	54
579	Bushell, Ethel J.	54
580	Ward, Richard G. D.	52
581	Ward, Jessie C.	52
582	Ward, Jane	52
583	Ford, Cyril	50
584	Ford, Elsie M.	50
585	Whitworth, Rosina J.	48
586	Richards, Howell P.	48
587	Coley, Harry	46
588	Coley, Lily I.	46
589	Smith, Constance	44
590	Moore, William	42
591	Moore, Hannah M.	42
592	Moore, Mary J.	42
593	Turner, Alice M. A.	40
594	Heritage, Richard	38
595	Heritage, Ellen	38
596	Barbour, Margaret	38
597	Davies, John	36
598	Davies, Marion A.	36
599	Robinson, Arthur E.	34
600	Robinson, Florence J.	34
601	Charles, Peter A.	32
602	Charles, Audrey	32
603	Powell, Arthur J.	30
604	Powell, Ethel	30
605	Powell, Arthur W. M.	30
606	Cottrell, Leslie W.	28
607	Cottrell, Gertrude W.	28
608	Bracey, Frank	24
609	Bracey, Marion P.	24
610	Dunnichiff, James H.	22
611	Preston, John H.	18
612	Preston, Dorothy K.	18
613	Parkes, Samuel	16
614	Bartlett, Edith	12
615	Hughes, Carrie	12
616	Hodges, Reginald C.	10
617	Hodges, Elsie G.	10
618	Hodges, Michael C.	10
619	Goddard, Frederick	8
620	Goddard, Louie	8
621	Taylor, Joseph	2
622	Taylor, Mary R.	2
623	Taylor, John P.	2

LONGBRIDGE LANE

625	Bryan, William	408
626	Bryan, Margaret	408
627	Murphy, Mary	408
628	Dudley, Winifred M.	406
629	Baxter, Robert	404
630	Baxter, Lilian D.	404
631	Theakes, Leslie W.	402
632	Theakes, Lilian V.	402
633	Bush, Frederick W. J.	398
634	Bush, Kathleen V.	398
635	Burness, William N.	396
636	Burness, Nelly M.	396
637	Russell, William	394
638	Russell, Margaret	394
639	Russell, Margaret, Jun.	394
640	Palmer, Charles E.	384
641	Palmer, Florence M.	384
642	Hodgess, Denis B.	378
643	Hodgess, Marjorie K.	378
THE COTTAGE		
644	Lee, Samuel	
645	Lee, Margaret P.	
646	Orton, Phyllis M.	
647	Pardoe, John	
648	Pardoe, Clara	
FERN BANK FARM		
649	Morris, Jeffrey G.	
650	Morris, Marjory L.	

MURRAYFIELD AVENUE

651	Hanks, George W.	9
652	Hanks, Annie E.	9
653	Bromwich, Harry S.	11
654	Bromwich, Henrietta R.	11
655	Young, Charles	15
656	Young, Doris R.	15
657	Hoskins, James	17
658	Hoskins, Pearl	17
659	Mason, Joseph	19
660	Mason, Alice	19
661	Collins, George A. E.	21
662	Collins, Gladys M.	21
663	Arkell, Bert F.	25
664	Arkell, Catherine L.	25
665	Henman, William R.	27
666	Henman, Elizabeth	27
667	O'Hara, David D.	29
668	O'Hara, Margaret E.	29
669	Smith, Frederick J.	31
670	Smith, Olive	31
671	Neale, Thomas W.	33
672	Neale, Blodwin M.	33
673	Roberts, Charles H.	35
674	Roberts, Gwendoline M.	35
675	Mason, William F.	37
676	Mason, Ellen L.	37
677	Grantham, Sidney J.	39
678	Grantham, Joyce M.	39
679	Stone, Leslie G.	41
680	Stone, Miriam M.	41
681	Dovey, Jack	43
682	Dovey, Alice M.	43
683	Rainbow, William	45
684	Rainbow, Olive	45
685	Evans, Florence V.	47
686	Evans, Jean E.	47
687	Fenemore, Douglas V. A.	49
688	Fenemore, Elizabeth B.	49
689	Hetherington, George V.	51
690	Hetherington, Hilda M.	51
691	Bain, Isobel C.	53

MURRAYFIELD AVENUE—cont.

693	Jenkinson, Doris E.	55
694	Wright, Frederick	57
695	Wright, Edith	57
696	Vincent, Raymond C.	59
697	Vincent, Josephine	59
698	Owen, James	61
699	Owen, Beatrice M.	61
700	Chadburn, Ronald A.	63
701	Chadburn, Joan	63
702	Dwyer, John	65
703	Dwyer, Muriel G.	65
704	Eden, George H.	67
705	Eden, Maud A. M.	67
706	Harrison, Leonard E.	69
707	Harrison, Florence J.	69
708	Harrison, Geoffrey A.	69
709	Wellings, Thomas W.	54
710	Wellings, Hilda M.	54
711	Moseley, Claude A.	52
712	Moseley, Gwendoline G.	52
713	Allen, Florence	50
714	S—Jones, Sidney G.	48
715	Jones, Joan K.	48
716	Hussey, John E.	46
717	Hussey, Lily	46
718	Dallow, John R.	44
719	Dallow, Alice	44
720	Brookes, Lawrence	42
721	Brookes, Irene	42
722	Wood, Horace	40
723	Wood, Constance	40
724	Gardener, William A.	38
725	Gardener, Louise	38
726	Powell, Charles V.	36
727	Powell, Winifred	36
728	White, Earle H.	34
729	White, Dorothy	34
730	Watts, Margaret A.	32
731	Smith, Walter	30
732	Smith, Elvira	30
733	Wood, Reginald A.	28
734	Wood, Margaret B.	28
735	Watson, James W.	26
736	Watson, Dorothy E.	26
737	Norris, George F.	24
738	Norris, Rose A.	24
739	Crutchley, Arthur	22
740	Crutchley, Margaret	22
741	Whittle, Frederick E.	20
742	Whittle, Alice H.	20
743	Roberts, Charles	18
744	Roberts, Mary J.	18
745	Ellis, George A.	16
746	Ellis, Rose G.	16
747	Calcombe, William H.	14
748	Calcombe, Edith W.	14
749	Hamlington, Phillip H.	12
750	Hemming, Albert E.	10
751	Hemming, Lilian M.	10
752	Gay, David J.	8
753	Gay, Marion	8
754	Griffiths, Walter J.	8
755	Jordan, Frederick A.	6
756	Jordan, Doris H.	6
757	Jordan, Aline M.	6
758	Ansell, Albert J.	4
759	Ansell, Edith R.	4

REDNAL ROAD

760	Matthews, Harry	470
761	Matthews, Ioan M.	470

