

Kay Dunham correspondence

Dear Elisabeth,

My husband (Paul Maslin) and I were part of the Lee Green WI group that you took around the prefabs in Brockley and Honor Oak in May this year. I promised you then that I would dig out some photos of my husband's family's time living in a prefab in Berthon Street, Deptford for your website.

The first photo is of Kit and Charlie Phelps (Paul's paternal grandmother and her second husband) holding their first grandchild (Gary Maslin - Paul's cousin). Kit lived in the prefab with her two sons (George and Alan Maslin and originally with her first husband, Arthur Maslin) in a prefab in Berthon Street, possibly as the first occupants, until 1961. When George married Patricia Long in 1963, Kit and Charlie moved out for them and George and Pat then occupied the same prefab until 1968. Paul was born there in 1965. George and Pat appear with Paul in Photo 2 taken on his first birthday in the prefab. Pat always said that the prefab was very cold in winter and there was often ice on the inside of the windows in the mornings. Paul had repeated bouts of pneumonia as a young child and their GP told them that if they did not move out, he was likely to die. As a result, they moved to Crofton Park in 1968.

Photos 4 and 5 were taken in April 1967 and Photo 6 in the snow was taken in November 1967.

Paul's maternal grandmother, Georgina Long, was also living in a different prefab in Berthon Street with her brother Den (possibly from the late 1960s). Georgina appears in the fifth photograph pushing Paul on a little tricycle. She was rehoused to Downham in the early mid-70s, but, until then, Paul and his younger brother David, regularly visited her in Berthon Street.

We really enjoyed the prefab tour as you spoke so beautifully about them. We have also now read your book which we also found fascinating.

Many thanks,

Kay Dunham