



Denise Thompson, Lichfield

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**25/7/16**

**Avoncroft Museum of Historic Buildings**

**Interview with Denise Thompson**

**Interviewed by Elisabeth Blanchet**

**Transcribed by Solange Gulizzi, February 2017**

*Elisabeth Blanchet: So, Denise, can you tell me where you were born?*

**Denise Thompson:** I was born in Weston Road, in Lichfield, and my memories of prefabs are more to do with my mum than me because I was born in Weston Road and I believe it was a prefabricated house and it was because of the shortage of housing at the time that my mum was moved into--my mum and dad and me and my two brothers--were moved into a prefab. I was a baby at the time so I don't know, I can't remember much about it, obviously, but we moved out when I was two. But I do know that my mum absolutely loved it and she used to go on about it when I was little and she used to talk about being able to clean it very quickly and it was nice and spacious and they had a really communal garden at the back. At the rear of the houses is where all the community used to meet and have a cup of tea and their children used to play and she could hang her washing out on the lines. It was a real community feeling; that was the impression I got from my mum. And when it came the council and said they got to move out, they really weren't happy the residents and they wanted to stay. So she always talks about her love of prefabricated houses and how wonderful it was. A love for that kind of lifestyle and the layout of the houses.

I am looking at this house and I cannot believe how big they are. But then I was thinking maybe she is talking about something like a caravan, but this is a lot bigger than I anticipated. I just thought I come along here today and have a look for myself to see what she was talking about all those years ago. I was born in the early 60s so, you know. So that is when my memories obviously date back to. So it's nice to actually see a place like this when it comes alive, and it's great because lots of people



[www.prefabmuseum.uk](http://www.prefabmuseum.uk)

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have lots of different memories about prefabs dating back well before mine; so it's nice to come and  
meet people.