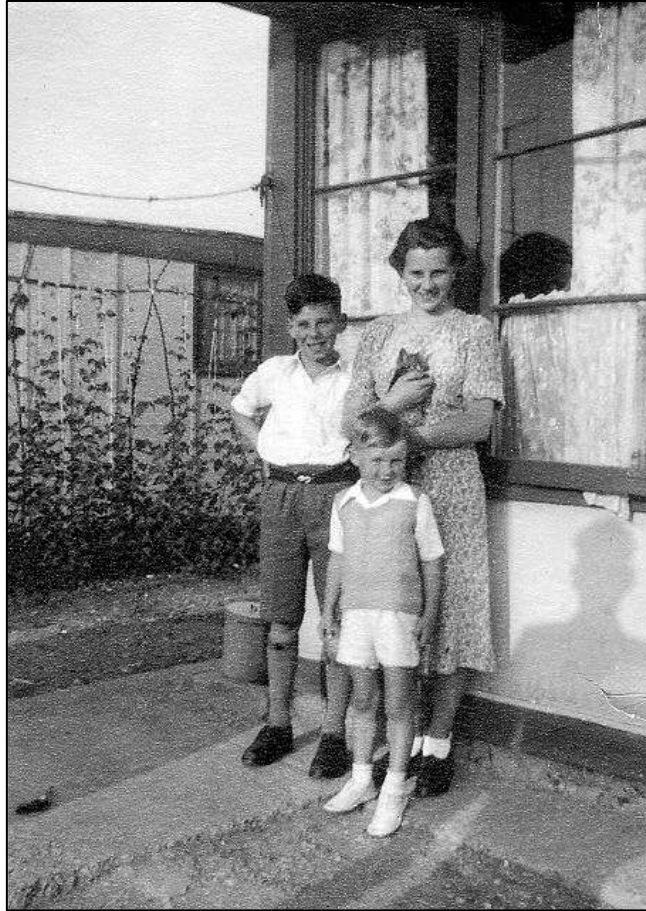


Prefabs – Memories from Canada



*Alex Willox is the young lad in front.
This picture was taken in the back garden of 44 Gadesden Road*

I have been advised by my friends in the UK that your society is gathering information about the "Prefabs" erected on Gadesden/Shawford Road after the war as part of the T.M.P. Temporary Housing Programme; perhaps not so temporary?

I was a child of that wonderful collective. My name is Alex Willox son of Catherine and Donald Willox of 44, Gadesden Road.

The prefabs erected on Gadesden and Shawford Road were very different from those erected in other areas close by such as Gately avenue. The information I have is they were direct American Imports, known as "U.S.A Imported" cheaper, smaller almost half the price of other prefab types. In fact one such example of an 'imported American prefab' was exhibited at the Tate Gallery in 1946!!

Although apparently cheaper the 'U.S. Import's' very practical design was more than adequate; remembered as a child of course! I recall an excellent light aspect in all areas of the dwelling owing to the large windows. All rooms situated off a central living area with a fireplace. Large hall for the ever present pram! gas cooker, wash boiler and even included in the package was a garden shed (Unused Anderson Shelters). And the icing on the cake being a detached unit it was surrounded by a

large garden. My father had the ever present vegetable patch and a lawn to relax on in the summer. What more could a family desire? Maybe a permanent home!

It was such a calm world in West Ewell in the 50's and the local geography of Gadesden road was heaven sent for a child; large green out front and just down the road a large wooded green oasis with the River Hogsmill. Although they were cheap and cheerful, for us it was home.

Alex Willox, Montreal, Canada. © 2011

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