

Pat: Just Like That! Coming to Hemel

I'm Pat Carey and...we moved here in July....56. We'd been married exactly 11 months when we moved here. And when we think about it how lucky we were to... you know, to get a house when we'd only been married 11 months in those days (laugh).

I was told by a friend that her brother had got a house out here, because he got a job on the buses. I went home and I said to John,

"oooh, Elsie says her brother's got a house out in Hemel Hempstead. She said he's changed his job and with the job they got a house!".

And we were living in one room, actually living in just the one room. And so he applied for a job at Rotax . And he got the job. And we came out here, for an interview. Round about April time it was, and the lady, from the council, she brought us round Warner's End and Chaulden. And she took us up, up into a house, opposite where the old peoples bungalows are now. That was still a field the day we came for an interview, there were cows in that field! She showed us this house, and I was talking to John, and she must have been listening to us.

And I said to... "the rooms aren't very big for a party, are they?", cos they were two small, you know, small rooms!

She must have heard what I was saying, so she said "oh, if you want a big room, you'd better come down ,I'll take you and show you some houses that are just being built".

So she took us to Chaulden. And there was some houses built at the top of the road, so she showed us into the, showed us into one. And of course they've got one long room in these houses. We liked it, so she said "well come down the road with me". And there was a whole block of houses, a whole block, with just, on both sides of the road, but with just the foundations.

And she said, "You can have any one of these!"(laugh). "Except that one on the end! Because that one's already been taken".

So I looked at this block. One side of the road it overlooked the fields, and the other side there it backed on to Warners End Road.

And I said to her, "I'll have that one on the end there, please!". And that was because it was an end house.

And she said, "Right! It's yours".

And then we came up two or three times to, to (laugh) to have a look to see how they were getting on with the building, and we moved in in the.. in July.

So... it...,Just like that!