

# New maisonettes 1940s

**Peggy Deuten née Axford** (at right in adjacent photo) lived in a council house in Woodcock Lane opposite the fields where the maisonettes were built.

*“The maisonettes for workers at Hoffmann’s and Sperry’s grew like mushrooms. I went to school one day and there was a field opposite. When I came home at lunchtime the houses were half up!”*



*Yvonne with her dog Rex at 23D Doverow Avenue.*

**Yvonne Bennet née May** moved to 23D Doverow Avenue with her family in 1942. Yvonne’s mother worked for Sperry’s and was offered this new accommodation in order to continue working there.

Yvonne was very impressed with their new flat - it had a coal fire in the living room and a gas fire in the bedroom. There was a gas cooker and water heater. The bathroom was their greatest joy with a flush lavatory and a bath!

They had good neighbours from many parts of the country. Some returned to their homes after the war but many stayed on, contributing to the doubling of the population between 1931 and 1951.

**Maxine Winstone née Millman** and her family moved from their home in Devon to Copner Close.

*“In 1943, my dad, Bert Millman, was drafted to work at Sperry’s making equipment for aircraft. Mum took one look at the maisonettes and said “Oh my God, we’ve come to military barracks!” That was Copner Close. We didn’t want to leave Devon and I hated it at first.*

*We never had more than a 3-bedroomed flat so it was a good job we were all girls – eight sisters all together! It was fun and you always had someone to play with. The maisonettes were clean and tidy then, not like they became later on.*

*I can remember how we could all play outside – we didn’t have to worry about cars. Everybody had a pushbike. We used to go and meet Dad from work sometimes. At turning out time there were about 2000 bikes coming up Oldends Lane!*

*I lived at Copner Close until I got married in 1959. Shortly after that Mum and Dad moved to a 4-bedroomed house at Midland Road on the Park Estate. A lot of people went home after the war but families like us stayed on.”*



*Maxine with her dog at Copner Close.*



*Sisters Diana and Deborah Millman at Copner Close c1960.*



*Maxine Winstone 2015*



*Bert and Kathleen Millman at their home in Midland Road.*