

Alice and Sean describe how Hertford has changed in the forty years they have lived here.

Hertford has become a commuter town. Industry has gone too. Addis the brush factory, that went years ago, that would have been one of the biggest employers

Hertford has changed from a commercial town to a leisure town in every aspect basically. it's still a market town but the market is not what it used to be

The market has almost disintegrated now – there's hardly anything

Well, the shopping centre has changed hugely, but that's not unique to Hertford. When we first moved here my only complaint was there wasn't a decent supermarket. I heard they were building a new shopping centre with a Waitrose, so it was brilliant, I was so happy, because that did happen, and I think we had seven shoe shops, loads of butchers, so I never went shopping anywhere, except in Hertford. And of course, Gravesons, the department store, a lovely little department store, bought my work clothes there. And there was a lovely shoe shop on Mill Bridge, particular one was an old fashioned one, shelves and boxes and I'd sit, *"I need a pair of pumps, brown and not too big a heel"* and the ladies would come around with their boxes, yeah, so that's all gone. So, yeah, restaurants, pubs, I'm so glad we still have Albany Radio, I try to buy all of the white goods and things we need there, unless they are a lot more expensive than John Lewis, then I will go to John Lewis. So we lost all of those little speciality shops

My biggest change in Hertford is one word – flats!

Oh yeah there weren't any flats when we came.

When we came there were hardly any flats in Hertford but now the development is massive; the Bluecoats School is flats, up Sele Farm, flats, Hertford North, flats where there used to be a nurses' home, the hospital has gone, flats in there as well, so it's as if the British decided we must live in flats.

One of the other sad things actually is they converted the old Teacher Training College, when it became part of Hatfield Poly, of course they are now flats. And we lost our student population which I think is quite sad.

There were students from Norway, Business Studies.

Yeah we'd bump into them sometimes.

And they'd come back to visit the town, to see where they'd , more money for Hertford.