

Sean and Alice recall moving to Hertford and what they have loved about the town.

In the summer of 1980, we moved to Hertford. Sean got a job in Cheshunt, and I got a job in Hitchin, so we looked at various places, commuting distance to both, went to Hatfield and weren't terribly impressed, came here on the Saturday, and it was lovely, it was buzzing and I said, *"Oh God, this looks nice!"*

I taught at Finchley Grammar School, Boys Grammar School, and then up the road of course, you had Barnet which was Hertfordshire, Potters Bar. I had been out to Essendon for a drink so I knew the green uplands of Hertfordshire beyond London, so I was reasonably familiar.

From Finchley Central up to Barnet, and then we digressed towards Reading and Burnham, then the job got me back here, so Hertford. My parents lived in Barnet, it always pulls you a little bit, when I applied for jobs in the south-east basically, the deputy headship came up at Cheshunt and that's why I came here.

Although we had a four bedroom detached house in Reading, all we could afford here were smaller houses, so when we first moved in we managed to rent a house through the Education Authority, which in fact turned out to be a godsend because that meant we had time to look around and eventually found the house in Bengoe that we still live in. The house we bought, it was small but it had a large garden. We still live there, I'm so glad we moved to Bengoe.

Because I was working for the first six years or the first five years we lived elsewhere, before Astrid was born, we didn't really actually get to know people until our daughter was born, having babies always helps, yeah

I used to be a member of the tennis club in the '80s, I also stood for the Labour Party in Sele.

And then also, we get loads of people coming from Germany, having studied in Germany for a year, sort of made friends we're still in contact with. And they think it's great where we live because we are in walking distance of everywhere, and yet we are in spitting distance from open countryside

The Germans, many Germans that come here, they love Hertford as well, the Norwegians love Hertford, so it's not just us, you know! They also like going to the pub at £3 a pint! A bit cheaper than Norway!

One improvement since we moved here, they've opened up the canals so now we can cycle all the way down to London if we choose to, which we have done.

This place is fantastic for running, all the runs I can do.

I think during Lockdown, living around here, we were lucky, there were so many places we could walk, we didn't have to walk in the same places.

Another good thing about Hertford it does have good schools, primary and secondary schools. When we moved here, we had one boy who was going to start secondary school

and another one who was going into year four. The boys both went to Richard Hale and they are both doctors, so they did ok!

Good schools, good leisure facilities, things for kids to do I think. The skating park on Hartham Common is good. The new playground is brilliant for the little children. It's really good, for little children, I think Hertford is a very good place to bring up children because, you know, it's safe and there are lots of activities for kids whether you're sporty inclined, whether you're more arty, there are things for children to do.