



What happened in Barking and Dagenham at the end of WW1?

Dear Mother,

I hope that you are well. This week has been one that Mabel and I will never forget. We have finally moved to the new Becontree Estate and it feels like a dream come true. Words can not describe the excitement we all felt as we stepped into our new home. This cosy little house feels like a castle compared to our old cramped quarters in East London.

As we unpacked our belongings, I couldn't help but marvel at the cleanliness and orderliness of the estate. The houses are neatly lined, surrounded by well-maintained gardens. It's a far cry from the dirty and overcrowded streets we used to call home. The Tenant Handbook, which we received upon arrival, outlines a set of rules that we are expected to follow. It emphasises the importance of cleanliness, maintaining the house, and being considerate of our neighbours. It even says our washing can only be hung in the back garden! It feels like a fresh start, and I'm determined to make the most of it.

You'll be pleased to know there is even a garden competition! All of the residents can take part to see who can cultivate the most beautiful garden. I can't wait to get my hands dirty and transform our little patch of land into a colourful oasis. The thought of blooming flowers, lush greenery, and the sweet scent of nature fills me with excitement and anticipation.

Since I was a little girl, you'll know that I've always dreamed of my own garden. In our previous home, there was barely any space for us to stretch our legs, but here, we have a chance to create something beautiful, something that reflects our personality and brings joy to everyone who passes by. I've already started planning, sketching out flowerbeds, and envisioning the vibrant colours.

As I look out of the window, I can see children playing in the streets, laughter echoes through the neighbourhood. It's heartwarming to witness this sense of community and belonging. I can already imagine the friendships that will be forged and the memories that will be created in this vibrant and welcoming environment. It really is like living in a modern utopia!

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. I am grateful for the clean air, the spaciousness, and the chance to build a life filled with hope, surrounded by beauty. I can't wait to see how our garden blossoms and how this wonderful community grows together.

Mabel hopes grandma can visit soon!

Until then, all our love,

Laura and Mabel x





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Imagine you have been given the opportunity to move to the Becontree Estate from a small, cramped one bed flat in East London after the war.

Write a letter to a loved one to describe the experience of moving. You should tell them about your new home and describe what it is like. You might even try convincing them to consider the move.

Dear

All my love,



Teacher's Pet



Historic England



Barking and Dagenham



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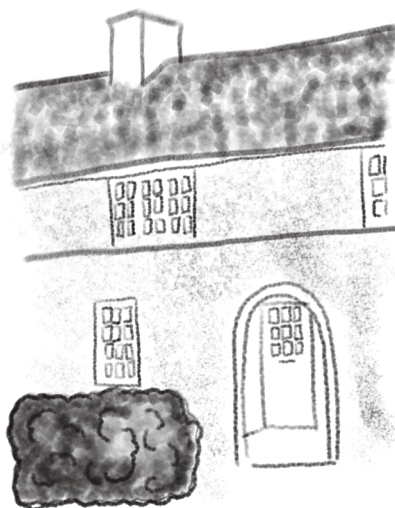
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Teacher's Pet



Historic England



Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.