

# Heygatewashome

**Ian Redpath**

**Resident, 1977 – 2007**



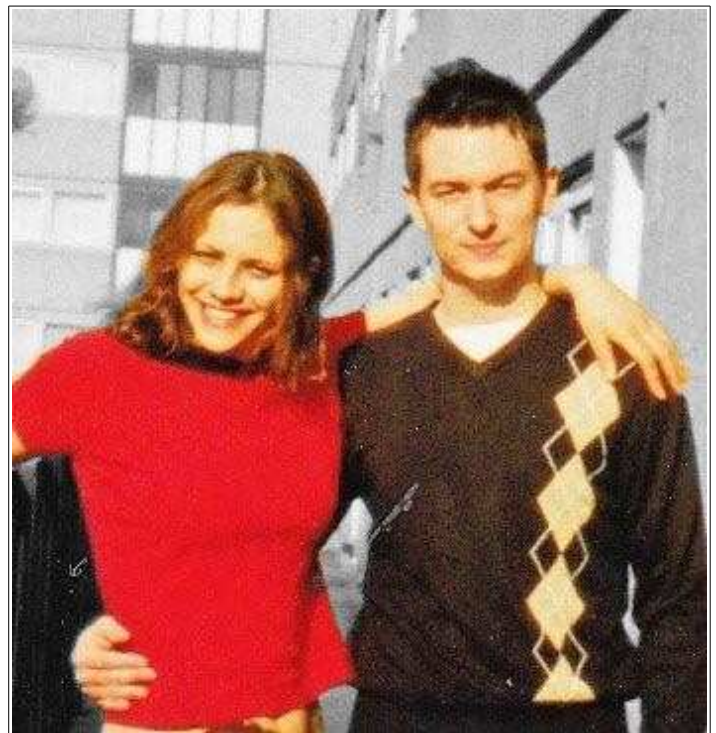
My parents and sister moved onto the Heygate Estate in 1974 and I was born in 1977. The Heygate estate I grew up on was certainly not the estate that Southwark Council would have the outside world believe: one of anti-social elements and stricken with poverty.

I have nothing but happy and fond memories of the estate right up until I had to reluctantly move from it 2007. I went to school locally at Victory junior school and later at Haberdashers Askes. The estate was an oasis of greenery amidst the hurly burly world outside. The estate was serviced by a very active tenants and residents association. There was always something being organised for tenants and residents on the estate: be it a thriving baby club for young mums to socialise, or youth activities, discos and days out to the seaside.

The elderly on the estate benefited from bingo sessions, days out and Christmas lunches and parcels. A caring friendly community made up of all ethnicities. Not an image that the council

would promote but rather get the public at large to believe in an estate as portrayed in the numerous crime films made on the estate.

Southwark Council systematically ran down the estate, and broke up probably one of the strongest and friendliest communities in the borough.



I am really angry at the amount of lies and mistruths that have been put out by various council officials. I hope they are able to live with their conscience. I am angry that tenants and residents have been duped into believing that this regeneration would benefit them. I am happy and proud to have lived for the first 33 years of my life on the estate.