

Greetings from Carolyn, daughter of Sheila (Sheila's funeral was earlier in 2020)

Dear Keith,

Mum would have so loved to have joined another Open Day - she always had such lovely memories of the Children's home. It's amazing, and I know from my job with fostering, when you say Children's Home, some people without that experience or understanding can say "Oh dear!" ...but actually in truth, you can be that first loving experience of a family and experience of true love.

I don't know if I ever said that when Mum, Hazel, Brian and Ray came to the home there were also two babies. Sadly, because they were under 5, they were unable to come to the home with their siblings. They were adopted. Contact was lost until 2004, and then Veronica (the youngest baby) traced Ray...once she located Ray, and soon she was in contact with all four. Although adopted to a different family to Geoffrey, Veronica had been in contact with him since teenage times. So all six reunited when Veronica contacted Ray.

When William, the children's father died in the early 80's, mum, being the eldest was given his papers. In them was an adoption certificate. It turns out that when the 4 children came to the home, their mother was pregnant with another child! At birth, that little girl was adopted and never knew she had any siblings.

I started looking on Mum's behalf, and eventually in 2014, I gained contact with Lesley! Wow! It was like the programme *Long Lost Families*... Mum was 81 and Lesley was 69 and they met for the first time. After that we had a get together and five of the seven siblings met....box of tissues time or what!!!!

All my love to all,

Stay safe

Carolyn