

**Transcript of interview with Eishrat Sultana**

**Track 1** – I’ve lived here all my life, I practically came to England when I was 5 months, so from birth I should say. I class myself as really being born here, 5 months is nothing.

**Track 2** - I’ve lived on Russell Street when I first came, I stayed there, Dad bought a house and then a couple of years later, Dad bought a house on Cromwell Road, and then ever since then, once I was married, I bought a house a couple of doors away and here I am, since then still living on Cromwell Road

**Track 3** – First of all, I can remember communities being together, black communities, Pakistanis. I can remember really really well the time when we had the carnivals and it sticks in my mind because it was a happy time, we were growing up. We didn’t have any toys, we didn’t have anything else, but just these memories now, we had a big sort of float and they were decorated and different people from different communities used to sit on there and they used to drive around the street and it was such a happy time, everyone was together and everyone used to look forward to this. And I associate myself being happy then with this carnival because we all waited for it, we had the steel drums, steel bands, the drummers were playing those, and we were just really really happy.

**Track 4** – And we had this old, the Marcus Garvey building and obviously that was demolished, and then when the Iqbal Centre went there and at the back we had Hobsons, it was like a youth club there and everybody, I keep saying this but it was just a nice time, I can remember my brothers going, my sisters, you know everybody, I think my brothers spent a lot of time going to Hobsons and playing there as well

**Track 7 -** No at that time. I think that was the time when we were growing up and we were the first, is it second generation? (Ferzana: You were the second generation) Yes we were the second generation and at that time, our parents, coming from Pakistan, it was very difficult for them to adjust and working was not even going to be something Mum and Dad considered straight away. So we had to go through the secondary and then our parents would have considered working and in my case that did happen, I didn’t unfortunately with my parents, they didn’t have an education in Pakistan, Dad came over as soon as he was old enough to, Mum joined him with myself and my older sister but at that time, (Ferzana: When did your dad come over?) I think in 1962 Dad came over, so it was quite a, Dad came thinking, I think a lot of the Pakistani community thought, when their fathers came over that they were going to earn and take the money back and settle down there but that’s not what happened.

**Track 8 - Ferzana: So what happened then? They ended up settling here?**

They did yes. Because obviously it was difficult because they thought, this is going to be our life here now and it took them quite a while because I think, Dad came in 1962, around that time and Mum joined him in 1970 I think, but going back, I think at that time when I had gone into secondary (school), we had moved into the new school, the Ken Stimpson School it was called, the secondary school, it was difficult because we didn’t have any education from our parents, our parents weren’t encouraging, we were just assumed, we just assumed we were going to get married at 16, and even when we went to school the staff were telling us, ‘you’re only going to get married at 16’ and we had no encouragement to study or think about ourselves. But when we turned 16, it was time to get a job, but by then, we didn’t have any education.

**Track 9 - Ferzana: So that’s probably one of the biggest changes in our community where, if you think now, young people, the age you were then, are they encouraged to study now and are they supported?**

Yes because my own daughter has gone to university, and my children, obviously she has just completed her Masters, so it is. And had we been encouraged at that time, it would have been a different story but no, Mum and Dad they were too busy, Dad was too busy trying to earn money and look after the extended family in Pakistan which was his responsibility and Mum was just looking after the family at home. (Ferzana: Did your mum do anything? Did she work?) No, no she didn’t, she was just cooking and cleaning really and she used to sew clothes as well, she was sewing away, she used to sew our clothes and I remember Mum saying, and this was a long time ago, I don’t know if anybody else who’s my mum’s age would agree or would think this is what happened but, I remember mum saying that when she was busy with the housework she would just put the milk bottle in our mouths, put the cushion under and let us drink

**Track 10 -** Ferzana: How many of you was there?

Eishrat: There were 8 of us.

Ferzana: So it was a busy household?

Eishrat: It was a busy household, we never really saw Dad because Dad did nights, he used to go at 5.30pm on his bike and used to come back at 6/6.30 in the morning so we never go to really spend any time with him. Because at that moment in time, it was about earning money and supporting the family back home and himself and us. So he has a lot of responsibilities and  then I remember he took, Dad took my Uncle, his younger brother, to Pakistan, he sent him to hajj and he went and got him married so that was another responsibility that Dad had and obviously we weren’t really part of the picture because Dad was too busy.

**Track 11 -** This is my home, my heart is here because I’ve grown up here, but unfortunately I don’t think my children see it as home because a lot of changes have happened and the area has become really run down now, unfortunately. I won’t move anywhere because this is home, my house is here, I’m not happy to sell up or anything. But the area has really gone downhill, the memories are still there but unfortunately (Ferzana: When you say downhill, what do you mean?) Well there’s, as I said people have moved away, they’ve put their houses on rent, people that have moved in, there seems to be trouble sometimes, there’s a lot of alcohol about, in the streets, you’ve got people drinking alcohol who are on their own, males on their own sitting around drinking, that’s why I’m saying I wouldn’t let my grandchildren or my son, who is 8, go out and play because you don’t know what’s going on.

Ferzana: But despite this, you still think this is home?

Yes of course it is, and it always will be, I don’t think I would ever want to move