

Rebuilding Lives: 50 Years of Ugandan Asians

Launch Event: 6th July 2022

LAUNCH EVENT Visitor comments

Sir Peter Soulsby: City Mayor

An amazing exhibition .. a dramatic story .. they were not the first, nor were they the last, to make their home in Leicester. They were making modern Leicester. They brought gifts, talents, ambitions and were a tremendous gift for all of us .. it's important to remember.

Dr Nick Kotecha OBE

This project (exhibition) will help to protect this story.

Ranjan Saujani: Project Co ordinator

We wanted to record people's lived histories .. we are Ugandan by birth .. we are India by origin - Bangladeshi, Pakistani - but fifty years on we are proud citizens of Leicester. Leicester is home.

Nisha Popat: Project Lead

.. this project relates to living history .. the social history of the city connects people and creates a sense of place - it is ALL our story of this great city - stories of strength, resilience, success. Once a refugee, always a refugee. This is the last opportunity to collect this story first hand as well as being very relevant in today's world. We want to share that, and the effect that refugees can have ..

Graham Black: Exhibition Curator

.. this is a moving experience - it's re telling the story for new generations - to explore in depth - and to come to conclusions.

Joanna Jones: Head of Arts & Museums, Leicester City Council

.. the generosity of our local communities .. this is very emotional, capturing stories .. they have helped Leicester to be what it is today - businesses, charities, family traditions ..

Reverend Saju Muthalaly: Bishop of Loughborough

.. it's very inspiring - the creativity, and the desire to pass on the story - it is a celebration as well as a marking of sadness and lament - homelessness, witnessing violence - this can affect community and the human body for generations - racism and its human impact and effect ..

Professor Sir Kent Woods: President Elect, Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society 2017 – 18

.. very impressed by the turn out - captured a lot of interest - really impressed especially as it (the exhibition) is based on oral history and community collecting and personal stories .. very impressive result. It's a very unusual demographic in Leicester - it's a credit to both incomers and original residents. Racism, resistance never seemed to take root - it was a political hot potato - I was living in Birmingham at the time (in the 1970s) where there was a different experience.

Rebecca Vials: Acting Arts Manager, Leicester City Council

I really like the hanging fabrics that you can see as you come in, I really like the graphics.

Linda Harding: Engagement Officer, Leicester City Council

I found it really moving to see photos of the National Front march because I was on a counter demonstration at the time at the age of 15! It was much bigger .. but police were protecting the NF. It was the start of me being a radical .. with the '72 March for Chile, it fired up my sense of injustice.

Phil Hackett: Resources Manager, Leicester City Council

*I love it .. this has transformed the room. I've never noticed the columns before .. the colours .. !!
I love the way it's an exhibition but it also feels like home ..*

Bernard Ryan: Professor of Migration Law, University of Leicester

.. I'm fascinated by the passports. We're hoping to organise an event - we'll be inviting the public - not only the students.

From members of the community / visitors to the exhibition

It's all worked out - it's great to see all this ..

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Thanks - fantastic work - the story, and the skill ..

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It's really very important - it keeps the story going ..

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It's amazing to see how all the stories have been brought together here - this is the social history - the struggles and the positives ..

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It really shows how people care, that the story is being told 50 years on. (3rd generation young man)

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It's a very good idea - it's brought back all the memories - good times, bad times - we settled in - there was support from Leicester - it was not as bad as was expected - family brought us here - after spending time at an army camp near Lincoln. (Pankaj Popat)

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I thought the museum's service worked really hard.

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One of the best exhibitions I've ever seen .. it touches my heart - memory lane - pictures, photos, cameras, purses .. touches my heart - what's been achieved is second to none! Whatever has been spent on it, it will pay off double. People are saying they'll come back with friends and family.

The WOW factor! What an amazing thing - colourful!

WOW! WOW!

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Twenty times value for money! Three generations were here tonight .. will bring families and friends.

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Leicester City of Sanctuary event: 13th July 2022

A visit led by Linda Harding, Engagement Officer, Leicester City Council which introduced people, many learning English, from Iraq, Iran, Albania, Eritrea, Afganistan to the museum and exhibition.

Visitor comments

Leicester City of Sanctuary group leader:

It's nice .. I've been many years in the UK, Leicester two months, but I didn't know this story ..

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It's superb, isn't it?!

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I like it, my favorite part is the dinosaurs, and the whale vertebrate!

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Question: Do you think in ten maybe twenty years time we could do an exhibition of your story?

Answer: Yes, I think it's a good idea .. we have many Kurds in the UK, in Leicester, London

..

It brings a lump to my throat .. (exhibition visitor who came from Uganda to the UK, aged 7).

..

I'll definitely be bringing my friends and family members here .. (ditto ..).

..

One of the interactives prompted a discussion among the group about being a refugee in different parts of the world - USA, Europe - eg whether legacy of Nazism impacted attitudes in Germany.