

LEICESTER VISITOR POST-IT COMMENTS

HEATHER LOMAS TWEET

The Rebuilding Lives exhibition is superb – truthful, engaging, emotive, and full of people celebrating life.

Ugandan Asian experience

Everything my family went through to get here and succeed.
Bless all.

My mum told me stories of her time when she had to flee Uganda. She came with nothing, but re-built her life. The UK is now her home.

My dad was from Uganda.
I was born in Leicester. When I speak to my dad in Gujarati, we still use Swahili words.

Horrendous journey to Entebbe airport. Unwelcome originally in Leicester.
Bad memories.

What Idi Amin did was barbaric but coming to the UK has improved a lot of Asians' lives because us Asians have business in our blood. We like to work hard to make our lives and to live it to the fullest. Asians have brought a lot to Britain. Their colourful culture, traditions and most importantly food.

Horrendous journey to Entebbe airport. Unwelcome originally in Leicester.
Bad memories.

Writing a book – Can we help? Sangeetha email sanboman@yahoo.co.uk

18/09/2022

Amrithal and Komlaben sisters arrived on 18th September 1972 on a cold September.

First plane load to leave Uganda not knowing whether we would reach London. As there were six of us – mum, us, three siblings. Our flight was only advertised up to Athens but, with God's grace – we arrived in London. Our uncle came to pick us up. (N.B. They visited the exhibition on the 50th anniversary of their arrival in England).

I remember the exact day me and my family landed in England.
It was COLD!!
October 1972

Arrived on 18th September on a cold September. First planeload to leave Uganda, not knowing whether we would reach London. As there were six of us. Our flight was only confirmed up to Athens but with God's grace we arrived to London. Our uncle came to pick us up.

We came to England in 1972. It was a whole new world experience. Lucky to have settled in quickly as had family that came before us, but we miss Uganda so much.

I came to Sweden 1972 from Jinja. We could not go to another country. We were stateless and we were a mother, father + 3 children of 3 months, 2 years and 4 years from a country in which my mother was buried. I was in Swedish TV about 1972. I am lucky to be here today.

Shabira Chagan

I was two years old in 1972 so I don't remember anything.

Abdullah

Despite being only two years old when leaving, I am proud that I was born there and wish I could go back to my birthplace.

One day inshallah

Mobina

A big thank you to the UK for accepting us and giving us an opportunity to flourish. Hope we have done you proud.

Our grandparents Rasik and Sanitri came to England in 1970 who was just months old. They worked tirelessly to provide their three children with the best lives they could and gave them endless, loving memories. They now have six grandchildren in Leicester and live a life full of happiness.

My grandad is from Uganda. He is used all of this stuff back in his days in Uganda. Thanks

My dada was a refugee from Uganda.

Frances

Feel connected/ now understand

Thank you for putting on this amazing display.

This has made me feel connected to my dad (who is no longer with us).

It is so encouraging to see how well British Asians have settled and contributed to both Uganda and the UK.

I never really understood what my father went through.

I came to Leicester especially to see this.

I wish I had known all of this years ago.

Brings back an understanding of what my family went through and how strong they were.

Responses to exhibition

Just Wow!

Thank you. This was a very real moment in time. Today took me back to the day I arrived in Leicester from Africa in 1972.

We have enjoyed this wonderful exhibition – and we now understand more about the meaning to Ugandans. People see this and how devastating it must have been in 1972.

This exhibition is fantastic. A lot of thought has gone into this. I came along with my daughter who got to witness first hand how it all happened. So many memories of me and my family. I will cherish this experience for ever. Thank you and the UK for protecting us and making my family feel at home.

Ashok Ganatra + family (from Loughborough)

This exhibition is brilliant – visually and also due to the historical detail – I have learnt a lot. Thank you also for highlighting the negative media at the time – its appalling language + attitudes are still felt in the UK today. ALL should be welcomed in the UK – empathy + inclusion for all.

I feel ashamed of the harsh, unfair treatment received by so many Ugandan Asians when they arrived in the UK and maybe Leicester. So many of the Ugandan Asians were clearly so hard-working, respectful, skilled and civic minded. They deserve praise and respect for the way their community has persevered and contributed so much to the UK economy, culture and society.

As a visiting American, it is such an honour to learn about the history and struggles that the Ugandan Asians experienced. I had no idea how similar refugees and immigrant situations were to those who had the same experience in America.
Haley

Lovely exhibition.

My grandparents (Nana, Dada and Nani) all came from Uganda. It is lovely to see the history of where and how they came to the UK, even though I never got to meet my grandad and Nana.

Riyen (aged 6)

Visited with my Dad, Mum and Nani on 21/08/2022

Wonderful exhibition! Brings back memories good and bad.

Would like to add that a bit more appreciation for the host community who did a lot for us to get assimilated and accepted.

Thanks to the big heart of the majority of British people.

We have enjoyed this wonderful exhibition – and we now understand more about the meaning to Ugandan Asian people – all this was and how devastating it must have been in 1972.

J & J Hazeldene

There is something admirable about the Asian community who came to Britain without a single penny or status.

Their determination, tenacity and hard work are examples that we must learn.

Why I'm proud of Leicester.

On a corner near here, the Orthodox Synagogue, a Muslim cultural centre and a fundamentalist Christian church all coexist within 100 yards.

Exhibition's relevance to all East African Asians – Kenya, Tanzania.

Thank you for doing this.

There has been a massive void for all these years as I was 6 years old when my parents had to flee Uganda. They were the owners of the PILLAI Secondary Schools all around Uganda.

I love this exhibition.

Our father Nazir Ellahi Mughal came from Mosaka (?), Uganda. He loved that place. What an emotional exhibition.

Great to see what happens when faced with such horrific life events and see the positives too.

Love from Fareena + Shabeena xxx

My parents came over from Uganda and talk about their life. I was only six years old but the exhibition has been very emotional. The struggles they and others experienced but still have that positivity is amazing. Also supporting their children to succeed.

Memories brought back by this wonderful exhibition remembering the stories told by my family and friends.

Thank you UK

Thank you Leicester.

An amazing and insightful exhibition.

Thank you so much for making the time and effort to do this.

Make this a permanent exhibition on the Golden Mile?

(Comments added by others – BRILLIANT, good idea)

Amazing journey.

Should take this exhibition to London, Bristol, other parts of UK.

Thank you for putting so much effort in arranging, organising and displaying such wonderful memories of yesteryears.

Make it a permanent exhibition.

Best wishes from Rajesh, Panna, Rajani & family.

They have been through a lot at a young age.

Traumatic

Alfie

My name is Yassir and this place has shown me a lot.

It has taught me to be grateful in life.

Responses to Ugandan Asians from local people

I was 14 in 1972 at school in Highfields. We were asked if we would go and talk to the newly arrived refugees from Uganda – to speak English to them – to make them feel welcome. I went every day after school for months – first to St Peter's church hall and then to other community spaces and finally to people's homes.

The experience transformed my life and I believe made me the person I am. I experienced and loved 'difference'. I understood difference. I enjoyed the warmth of a community in adversity. I ate food I'd never tasted before. I was humbled – and happy. I have never forgotten those lessons.

I helped in the DHSS benefits centre in the Coop Hall. It was one of the most meaningful of moments in my career. To see so much misery and fear among innocent people.

Their response was amazing. They just got on with life, starting businesses and getting into other ways of life. I am full of admiration for their achievements.

When I was a pupil at Stokes Wood Primary School on Blakett Avenue, I remember a girl called Mayruti Patel who joined the school along with others. I wonder what happened to her?

I was Tracey Smith.

In the early 80s I taught a lovely lady Diwaliben Pattrii (?) English. She and her family were good to me.

Ruth Needhurst

Comments on contemporary refugees

I left Uganda as a refugee with my parents and sisters. We left in 1972. We went to India. We came to the UK as 'economic' migrants. I am a solicitor. I work with refugees. Seeing this exhibition is a strong reminder of facing a hostile environment.

My message:

REFUGEES WELCOME

Chelsea, age 27

Everyone has a right to live safely.

Those who seek asylum in Britain are seeking safety. If they are of good morals and respects, we should help them.

If they are willing to work, we should help.

They are fleeing from death.

Would we not ask the same if we were fleeing?

Evie aged 8

I feel very sorry for the refugees and I want them to have a home.

Kind parents too.

We are all human and we have much more in common than we have different.

Peace and love to all.

Macmillan Family 10/9/22

Suella Braverman should come and see this wonderful exhibition and hang her head in shame.

These different communities add so much to our country.

Shame on you Suella Braverman.

I feel so bad and sorry for refugees around the world.

I am a Tibetan refugee.
Please don't forget Tibetan refugees in the UK.

People who are racist do not understand what other races go through.