

Diversity Hub



## Young Roots Project



A project for Young People to explore their cultural history and make a permanent record of what they want other people to know about them and their families.

All of the family stories in this document have been taken from the Young Roots Website. They have been written by the young people and detail their unique stories in a way that is relevant to them.

Enjoy!

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On the following pages you will find the text from the web pages from the young people who contributed to the Young Roots website.

### Milli's Story

Introduction to me. Glossary of family names - What I call them! A bit about my family. Photographs of some of my family. My religion. Interesting facts.

Hi! My name's Milli and this is a web page about me, my family and my family history. Let me begin by telling you a bit about myself.....I'm 19 years old and live in Rushey Mead in Leicester. I am currently on a gap year between my A levels and university and I will be starting Leicester uni in October 2006, studying Media and Communications.

I was born in London and lived there until I was two years old. My family then moved to Leicester which is where I have lived ever since. I love Leicester because I know lots of people here and feel welcome!

My hobbies include dancing, writing poetry, shopping, going to the gym and spending time with friends.

My family is very important to me, particularly my mum who I enjoy spending a lot of my time with. I have a really close relationship with my mum and she's like a friend to me! I have strong views about many different issues and enjoy expressing my opinions through writing articles and having discussions.

Glossary of family names- What I call them!

ba- dad's mum

ada- dad's dad

nani- mum's mum

nana- mum's dad

kaka- dad's eldest brother

Kaki- dad's eldest brother's wife

Masi- dad's sister

Masa- dad's sisters husband

Mama- Mum's brother

Mami- Mum's brothers wife



### Michael's Story

My name is Michael Morrey. I am 11 years old and live in Leicester. I like painting, karate and rugby. I have 2 brothers called Danny and Josh and 1 sister called Trinity. My Mum is Michelle and my Dad is John. I also have a step mum called Claire and a step dad called Pete. Our family is large and spread out. Ages in our family go from 2 1/2 to 39.

I was born in Goldolming and then moved to Wigston in Leicester, where we live in an old house. I go to school. my dad is a chef and a karate instructor and my mum is also a codd and does Home call. Our religion is Buddhist. We like doing different hobbies and we speak English.



### Joshua's Story

My name is Joshua Appadoo. I am 11 years old and have a twin sister. I also have a younger brother who is 4 years old, a mum and a dad.

There are 5 of us in our family and we all live in Leicester. I have always lived here in Leicester. We live in an old house. My sister and I go to secondary school and my little brother goes to primary school. My Mum and Dad are Nurses. My hobbies include knitting, chess, and science.

My dad is Mauritian and my Mum is Chinese and other people in my family are a mixture. We all come from different parts of the world and some places I haven't heard of. All of my family is Christian.

I won a Lego challenge once (the first one) and got a medal and certificate. I also attended a summer science scheme



### Charlie's Story

Hi my name is Charlotte (Charlie) Bailey my date of birth is 3/2/95. I have my mum Rebecca, step-dad Darren(de), brother Ashley, step brother Brandon and sister Shannon. The size of my family is huge. They died from 0-100 years.

Here is my family tree...

Grandad (Fred Pole) - born 1931 and Grandma (Joan Pole nee Kenny) - born 1932 RIP 29.11.2005. Their Children:- Les (Lisa) Jayne (Stuart) Jeff (Lesly) Rebecca (De\*)

Their Children's Children:- Stacy Emma (Michael) Louis Charlotte (me!)

Kirsty Richard Ashley, Kristian Darren (Alison) Shannon

Their Children's Children's Children:- Christopher (Darrens), Elise (Darren's)

\*My Step Dad has another child called Brandon, his Mum's name is Sue.



### Blaire's Story

Nan, Agathus was born in Cooks town in 1932 county Tyrone which is in Northern Ireland and Granddad, Paddy was born in Dublin in 1934, they met in the same textile factory. They met in 1956, 1st July and then in 1992 they got divorced. They had 3 lads, Garath, Noel, and Mark. Noel was my Dad, and he was the eldest child. My Dad grew up in Dublin as my granddads family died and they moved into the family home. My Dad was brought up wearing second hand clothes. He was brought up with a lot of superstitions like, don't cross on the stairs, don't put new shoes on the bed, don't put hairbrush on the table, sing before breakfast cry before tea. He did not get on with his brothers when he was little but he gets on with them now. He got on with his mum, but never called her mum he called her hag (As her name was Agathus it was an affectionate nick name) He was well brought

up went to church every Sunday, he would never think to answer his parents back, he would always be back at the right time and he obeyed their rules.

My Dad got expelled from school, at 13 years old, selling cigarettes. He just then started going off the rails at 16 he was in prison for a year. He then moved to London because he felt that he had disappointed his Mum and Dad. He then went into Prison again for 7 years. He then got out when he was 24 - he had loads of kids and left them all. He started doing drugs and getting into criminal activity, for the next ten years he was in and out of prison for various things. Then he met my Mum Steph and they stayed together for 4 years, he left the week before I was born and I did not see him for ten years. Now he is still into criminal activity, but he is getting to know his kids. He is now 55. It's all right getting to know him but he is not reliable. I have 13 brothers and 2 sisters from me Dad's side ranging from 31 years old to 7 months old and I am in contact with all of them.

My Nan and Granddad still lives in Ireland they have disowned my Dad so I don't get to see them, very much. Both my uncles live in Leicester, and I see them both, when my Dad brings me to see them. Both my uncles are twins their wife's live in Ireland with my Nan and Granddad, and my uncles work over here for Microsoft.

Both Grandma and Granddad were practising Roman Catholics.

My mam, was born in Kettering on 8th February 1967, My Gran was born in Cooktown in Northern Ireland in Cookstown, she was Roman Catholic. She was a machinists, she meet my Granddad who was born in Market Harborough, he was in the air force and meet Gran at a tea dance . They got married on the 12th January 1954, however she died 23rd September 1992. I was just coming up for a year old. When my Gran and Granddad met she came back to Market Harborough with him, and then from Market Harborough they moved to Leicester because of Granddads work, he worked at Walkers and my Gran still worked in Market Harborough 3 nights a week at a hospital, she was a nurse.

They had 4 kids Mark, Patrick, Geraldine, and Steph. Mark died when he was 4 months old, Patrick was born with a disability down syndrome, and had to be put into a residential home .He died shortly after my Gran, as he could not cope as she was not there. My auntie Gerry, had two kids ,Emma and Michelle, she has now got new partner and recently had a civil ceremony. My Mum has 3 kids me 15, Robyn 9, Curtis 6, I was born in London in Tooting, Robyn and Curtis was born in Leicester. We moved back from London because my Gran died and I have lived all over Leicester, in old Council houses.

I do not go to school because I don't like working in a school environment, dead daunting I don't fit in, and people seem to take offence. My Mum is a volunteer and does all different types of jobs, she has volunteered for Leicester Mediation, she has worked at Fern Mentoring, she is my Granddads full time carer and is thinking of joining the police force. She is single never been married, my brother and sister both have the same Dad, but he is not in their lives.

I am a Roman Catholic and attend Church St Patrick's church every Sunday, out of the 7 sacraments I have received 4, the reason I attend church is that it sets the week off good, It is just part of my life and routine all my family go my Mum, brothers and sisters go, and my Granddad even though he is not Roman Catholic.

I have a traditional Sunday dinner very Sunday, its beef, pork or lamb two veg and mash potatoes and roast potatoes, home made Yorkshire puddings gravy and a home made

cake for afterwards. My mum cooks it and granddad comes. I don't like it though as I don't like meat and veg.

My hobbies are shopping, listening to music, reading, dancing.  
I class myself as white Irish; I like the fact that I have something different about my heritage.

My achievements are that I have overcome difficulties, I have also done alternative things to school I took GSE's two years early and passed.

I don't like being the same as every one else, because it's boring.

I want to have my own business and I want loads of kids, and I will bring them up well. By the time I am 16 I want to be off my anti depressants and at 40 I want to have my own business, own my own bar. I am not sure about having a partner.



### Shaun's Story

My name is Shaun Weston Sanderson. I am 14 years old. I live in Leicester and go to LAB at Diversity Hub.

My Great grand parents are:- Herbert Weston, born 14th June 1900 and Margaret Weston (nee Moulds), born 7th June 1901

My other Great Grand Parents are:- Frank Perkins, born 18th January 1912 and Alice Perkins (nee Cooper), born 3rd June 1907

My Grand Parents are:- Derek Weston, born 24th May 1931 and Doreen Weston (nee Perkins), born 12th September 1940

My Parents are:- Carole Weston, born 14th August 1966 and Derek Sanderson, born 21st July 1959



### Cameron's Page

My name's Cameron, I'm 10 years old and I have a massive family that's spread all over the world. My family spreads from England all the way to Australia I have 3 stepbrothers and that's it.

I have many aunties and uncles. My grandpa from my dad's side lived through the war and is still alive; he was evacuated to England now he still lives in Holland. The oldest now in my family is from my dad's side. We call him Opa [grandpa in Dutch]. My dad from my mum's side is not alive but he was in the navy for the British.

Both of my grandparents a from my mums side are dead and my grandmother from my dads side are dead. But there is my stepbrother and his mum's side. I don't know much about them but I know his grand parents are still alive and that he is 9. My farthest cousin

lives in Australia but I don't know his name. Many of my cousins I don't their names like the 2 cousins in Israel.

Most of my family are Jews but my mum's side is mostly Christian.



#### Jonathan's Story

My name is Jonathan Morson. I have black hair and nice clothes. In my family I have my Mum and Dad and my Brother. Also my Nanna and Grandma.

The size of our family is quite small. 4 people live in Leicester. My Mum is 43, my dad is 51 my brother is 19, my Nanna is 75 and my grandma is 79.

My Great Great Granddad was from Morocco and Spain. He was from a tribe called morse.. My mum's family are from Southern Ireland and county Mayo. We now live in Woodgate, in an old house. We don't have a religion. I like playong football and going to school. My heritage includes English, Irish and Portuguese.



#### David's Story

My name is David Thornber. I am 21 years old and a student at Leicester University. I live in Leicester with my Mum Jacquie. I have a big extended family with my Nan Pat (my mum's mum) and lots of uncles, aunts, cousins.

We have English, Irish, Scottish and Italian heritage in our family but most of the family (recently) either comes from Leicester or Barnoldswick in Lancashire (although my Grandad always said it was in Yorkshire...)

Family surnames include Robotham, Thornber, Swain, Upton, Kershaw, Johnstone. My Great Great Grandfather had a shop in Belvoir Street in Leicester called Robotham's - it sold toys and all sorts of things for babies and children. My Great Great Uncle invented the collapsible pram - but unfortunately it collapsed when you didn't want it to...

Medicine, nursing, transport (lorries and coaches etc.), clock making, farming, trains and retail have been trades/careers followed in my family through the years. My Mum's Dad owned his own taxi firm. My Mum is an Office Manager now and has worked in all sorts of jobs, including the Airforce. My uncles are surveyors, glaziers and builders and my aunts work in nursing, sales and retail. My degree course is in studying genetics, but I don't know yet what career I will follow. I have thought of being a science teacher but, if I do o.k. with the degree I might like to continue studying for a doctorate



#### Joel's Story

My name is Joel Cummins. I do St John's Ambulance and I used to play football but now I don't. My family includes my Mum, Brother, Grandma, Aunty, Uncles and Brother.

My family is quite small. Some live in Leicester but come from Australia. I am 12 1/2 years old. My Mum is 38 and my brother is 19. I was born in Leicester Royal Infirmary and now live on the Saffron Lane Estate. For some time we lived in Braunstone. We have lived in Leicester all of my life. Our house is old. I go to Lancaster boys school. My ethnicity is half Irish.



#### Muhammad's Story

I am 12 years old. I have 2 brothers, a sister and my mum and dad. My name is Muhammad Bhawoodin. My Mum and Dad are from Africa and the rest of us are from Leicester. We have lived in the same old house in Woodgate for ages. We moved here because we wanted to. The house has 3 bedrooms and we all live together.

I am 12 years old. My brothers are 14 and 16 and my sister is 20. I go to secondary school. Dad is an electrician and owns his own business and Mum is a teacher. Our ethnicity is Indian. My hobbies include kiting, football, basketball, cooking and reading.



#### Becky's Story

My name is Rebecca and I am 17 years old. I was born in Bournemouth in the summer of 1989. My main interests at the moment are art and textiles, I generally prefer being creative to being academic. I hope to eventually go to university to study an art based topic although I am not sure what area I want to go into right now.

I got involved in the Young Roots project because I was interested in finding out more about my family and where my family came from. And I wanted to share some of the stories that I have been told about my family and the events that they have lived through.

The main people that I consider as family are; my brother, my sister, my mum, and myself, however my extended family is quite big. I have two sets of grandparents although on my mums side there is only my grandma as my mums dad passed away many years ago. Most of my relatives live around England although my family originates from quite a few countries around the world.

I have four cousins that I have met, I think I have more but I have never met them. I also know of one aunty on my dad's side and one aunty and three uncles on my mum's side as my mum was one of five children in her family. My mums' fathers' brothers wife 'aunty Ellen' is still alive and travels all around the world to visit her children. Her husband passed away a few years ago. They lived in Singapore in a really big house, as they were fairly wealthy. Aunty Ellen still lives in Singapore as far as I am aware although I have never met her either. I have heard a lot of stories from my mum about times when her family went to visit them in their big house, My mum said it had big marble pillars at the entrance and that her and her brothers and sister used to worry about touching anything in the house in case they damaged it. I hope to one day meet her as I don't know very much about her side of the family.

I am not sure of all the ages of my family. In my close family my brother is 11, my sister is 20, I am 17, and my mum is in her 40s.

My grand parents on my dad's side are in their early 70s as far as I am aware. And my grandma on my mum's side is in her late 70s possibly early 80s but I couldn't say exactly. My cousins are all of a similar age to me and my brother and sister.

Most of my extended family lives in England at the moment, but that has not always been the case. My brother and sister and I have always lived in England but not Leicester. My sister and I were born in Bournemouth. We lived there for quite a long time until I was about three or four. When we move to Wales. We moved around a lot in Wales renting houses and I went to quite a lot of different infant schools as well. My sister ended up changing schools more than me as she had already started school when we left Bournemouth. We eventually moved back to Bournemouth, to the same house. We had rented out to students in the time that we had been in Wales. We only stayed in Bournemouth for a few months when we moved and came to Leicester. My brother was born in Leicester in 1995.

My mum wasn't born in England. She grew up in Singapore, and moved to England when she was 13. Her parents weren't from Singapore either, her mother was born in Borneo and her father was born in India, however, as he passed away when my mum was nine, I don't know very much about his past, or family background. One thing, which has made us wonder if he was perhaps mixed race as well, is the fact that his surname is French. I know that my grandma's parents were also mixed race. I know that one of her parents was Dutch and her other parent was part Dutch and part Sri-Lankan. Which is quite confusing as it means that me and my brother and sister are part Sri-Lankan, part Dutch and part Indian, half English and possibly part French.

My grandma and grandpa lived through the 2nd WW in Singapore. They were put in a concentration camp in the middle of the Malaysian jungle. And left there for a very long time, it was possibly a year but I can't be certain. My grandma's parents were taken there as well, but they both died during the war.



### Sally's Story

Hello my name is Sally Leanne Briars I am 12 years old and I was born on Wednesday 1st of February 1994 at the Leicester General hospital at around 4 am. I weighed around 5lb I was a small baby like a tiny doll I was supposed to be born later but I was born a few days premature.

My Mum is called Gillian Angela Biggs (name before marriage) and my Dad is called Paul Phillip Briars. My Mum was born on the 21st of November 1961 and my Dad was born on the 11th of March 1960. My Mum has a big family she has a lot of sisters and did have 1 brother but he died at the beginning of his adulthood before he could live his life. Her brother's name was Ian Biggs my mum's sisters names are (alphabetical) Marlyn, Pamela (aka Pam) and Susan (aka Sue) and she has other sisters but I don't know the others. My dad has 1 brother and sister his brother is called Steven (aka Steve) and his sister is called Jackie. My Mum and Dad married in 1989 a few days after my dad's birthday. I have 1 sister and no brothers my sister is called Katie Louise Briars she was born at the same hospital as me but at an earlier time on August the 5th 1991.



### *About Myself*

My name is Ganesh Vagharia. I'm 13 years old. I love aircrafts and watching wrestling WWE and ECW.

### *About My Family*

In my family there are four people, me, my sister, my father and my mother.

### *My relatives*

My family is quite big, my mum has 4 sisters and 1 brother. My dad has two brothers and one sister. I've got a granddad (my dad's dad) and I've got a grandma (my mums mum). My cousins' names are Janki, Jiten, Ram, Hetal, Deven, Dilpesh, Pritesh, Akshay, Manali, Hemanshu, Mithul, Akash and Ankit.

### *Age of my family members*

I'm 13, my sister's 17, my mum's 36 and my dad is 43.

### *Birth Place*

All the members in my family are born in India except my dad's two brothers and his sister they were born in Africa. We used to live in India but then we moved to Leicester when I was two years old and when my sister was seven. We have been living in Leicester for over 10 years.

### *Education*

I currently go to Rushey Mead Secondary School and my sister goes to Gateway Sixth Form College. My dad has educated until year 10 and my mum has educated until year 7. My favourite subjects are D.T and Science.

### *Jobs*

My dad goes to work in a hosiery factory he does 1st press and 2nd press. My sister wants to be a Pharmacist or a health and social care worker.

### *Religion*

The religion of all the members in my family is Hinduism.

### *Hobbies*

My hobbies are going on the computer (games), Television, and Basketball, Modifying my radio control wooden aircraft.

### *Ethnicity*

The ethnicity of my family and me is Indian.

### *Challenges*

The challenges that my family had to face was when my father was young my father's mother passed away and also similar thing happened to my mother's father who also passed away when my mother was in her teens.



### Young Roots Project - Rashamita Vagharia

My name is Rashamita S Vagharia but my Family calls me Rashmi. I am 17 years old and my date of is 25/02/1989.

In my family there are 4 people - my dad (sandip), my mum (kaushalya), my brother (Ganesh) and me. I also have a granddad his name is Girdharlal Premji.

My father has 2 brothers and they are called Mukesh and Bharat and also has 1 sister called Rekha. My mother has 4 sisters and they are called Anshu, jyoti, Nilam and Sangita (nickname – tammu) and my mum has one brother and his name is Bharat (nickname – bhikhu).

My father's family originates from Africa, Kenya in Nairobi. My father's father, mother, 2 brother and sister were born in Nairobi in Africa, Kenya.

My family is quite big because I have a lot relative and cousins. My cousin sisters' names are Hetal, Manali and Jenny. My cousin brothers' name are Jiten, Devan, Ram, Dilpesh, Pritesh, Akshay, Ankit, Akash, Hemanshu and Mithul.

Me and my brother were born in India, Gujarat in a place called Mithapur. My Father was also born in India, Gujarat in a place called Maleta. My Mother was born in India, Gujarat in Rajkot (a big city).

I've been living in India for 7 years and then I came to Leicester (Belgrave) and I have been living here for about 10 years now. We came to live in Leicester because my parents wanted me and my brother to have good education and so we can have a bright future ahead of us.

I am currently studying at Gateway College and I am in the second year of college. The subjects that I am studying are A2 Biology, A2 Chemistry and AS Use of Maths. I really enjoy studying these subjects because I love doing practical in the chemistry lab and finding out how medicines are made and how reactions occur. I also like studying Use Of Maths because I am fascinated at how I can use maths into real life situation like for example in making architectural building or making houses.

My father works in a hosiery (clothes) factory, this work involves doing 1st and 2nd press. My mum is a housewife and is unemployed.

The cultural heritage of my family is Hinduism. The Ethnicity of my family and me is Indian

My favourite hobbies are to do cooking – helping my mum, doing natural picturesque art work and I also love playing golf and tennis.

The challenges that my family had to face was when my father was young my father's mother passed away and also similar thing happen to my mother's father who also passed away but at that time my mum was in her teens. This happened a long time ago even before I was born so I don't know about it as much.



### Callum's Story

My name is Callum Spilsbury. I am 13 years old (22nd March 2007) and I like umpiring hockey games. My family comes from Leicester, Wellingborough, Gillrose, Melton Mowbray and Long Clawson. I was born and have always lived in leicester. We live in Old Braunstone Town. Our family does not have a religion, and our ethnicity is white English.



### Mikey's Story

My name is Mikey Cartwright I am 14 years old and I come from Leicester. I really like to play cricket and football. My best thing is to come to Diversity Hub and help other people. I have got 2 sister's which are a pain in the bum. One's 12 and one's 9 - they are called Krystal and Angel. I have got a nana and a granddad which I love to bit's - I go and see them every two week's.

I've got a mum and a dad and I see my mum every two week's, with my nana, when she turn's up. My dad I see about every month. I love them both and they both have gone through hard day's recently so i've got a quite big family with 2 foster carer's called Caroline and Michael and I love them both even though they don't think I do.

My Grandma is 59 going on a 100.

I was born in Leicester City Royal Infirmary. My nana's house is really old like her (nana told me to put this not me) so this is all about me.

I have moved around a lot the last 10 years and I don't want to move again because I love them so much. My family have not always lived in Leicester, but my nana was born in Loughborough.