

Arrivals Project

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Migration case study: Sheffield

Age group: KS 3/4 (yr 9-11)

Main curriculum / subject area: Geography (population and migration)

Other curriculum links: Citizenship, History, PSHE

Link to Fundamental British Values: Encouraging mutual tolerance and exploring the importance of civil liberties

Objectives: To explore the patterns of migration into the UK by looking at the case study of the city of Sheffield
To consider why people migrate to the UK

Starter:

Put the students into groups and have them list as many places as possible which they know somebody has come to your local area to live from. These could be international but also national, different parts of the UK. Prizes could be given for the group with the greatest number of different places.

Activity one:

Introduce the Arrivals project and have the students make predictions about where they think people will have come to the UK from during the time of the project and whether they think the places people have come from have changed over time. Explain where and what the West Indies are as they are referred to by a number of the profiles. You may also wish to explain that people prefer to use the term Caribbean now.

For the main task, the students stay in their groups. They need the 'groupwork collection sheet' and the profiles will need to be cut up and distributed around the classroom, you may want to use two sets. The profiles will need to be swapped between the different groups. Each group needs to appoint a leader to organise their group and fill in the collection sheet. Check that they know the meaning of the word *political persecution*. Once they have finished the task they can think about the final questions on the slide as an additional challenge.

Once most groups have finished move to the next slide. Allow them time to complete the extension questions working out which countries the most number of migrants

came from. Then to look for patterns they can complete the questions on the slide, which provide some scaffolding to make it easier to spot patterns in the profiles. They should still work together in groups but could answer the questions in their books.

Once they have completed this task show the answers slide and see how many of the patterns the groups got. The final question about why people come for different reasons from different parts of the world is linked to another lesson in this series on Asylum Seekers. If you do not wish to use this lesson as well, then a brief explanation is, because people from EU countries can migrate to UK (as of Jan 2017) freely whereas those from abroad must either come as highly skilled workers, partners of a UK citizen or asylum seekers fleeing persecution and conflict.

Activity two:

For this activity you need to obtain an outline of the world map and print it on (preferably) A3 paper. This task is probably best done in pairs but could be done as individuals or groups. The idea of the task is to create a map of the world which shows migration patterns into Sheffield. Some ideas have been given about how to do this but it would be better if students could come up with their own ways of displaying the information. This will take more than one lesson to complete and can be used as part of display about the British values of mutual tolerance and respect for civil liberties, showing pride in our diverse heritage.

Plenary:

The plenary encourages students to come up with reasons why Britain should be proud of its diverse heritage. It also considers whether we are living up to this heritage today.

Resources:

- Migration case study: Sheffield PowerPoint
- Groupwork collection sheet
- Arrivals stories: migration profiles

Learning Outcomes:

- The students should be able to explain the patterns of migration to Sheffield and the reasons behind these migrations
- The students would be able to come up with reasons as to why we should be proud of our diverse heritage

Assessment:

Understanding of the patterns of migration and reason for these patterns will be shown in the display work created. Responses to these patterns and what they tell us about the history of Sheffield will be given orally.

Arrivals stories: migration profiles

1945: Tanya Schmoller

I've no idea why my father was in Uruguay. He told me he had to leave Russia for good, but I didn't have the sense to ask him why. Still, I'm the only person in the country to have been at the World Cup final in Montevideo in 1930!

My mother was English so English was spoken at home. In 1945 I was working for the British Council, and over Christmas the BC representative reported that Allen Lane (the founder of Penguin Books) had arrived but he wasn't going to cut short his holiday for him. I did, and while chatting Allen Lane asked what my ambitions were. I wanted to go to the London School of Economics, so he offered me a job at Penguin which meant I could go to night school. Flying was the only means of travel. However, as I was just an ordinary passenger, I got off-loaded at every stop, and it took me 3 months to get to England, staying in exciting places such as Lima and New York.

1947: Justine Brothwell

At the end of the second world war I was a young woman living in the city of Graz in Austria. Life was hard and food was short. The British Army was helping to feed schoolchildren and as my mother was a school caretaker we had close contact with the army cooks. One day a young man called Harold asked me to help him with the cooking - the beginning of our courtship. I went off skiing but he followed me so I knew he was serious! When I came back from skiing Harold got to know my parents better and once he'd had a few schnapps with my father everything was fine. But it was a further two years until we were married. The wedding was in Austria, Harold went back to Sheffield first and I was brought over to join him by the army in 1947.

1948: Marina Lewycka

My parents came from Ukraine. It was a troubled country at a troubled time. By the age of 35 my mother had lived through World War I, the Russian Revolution, the Civil War, two famines, the execution of her father under Stalin, World War II, and deportation into forced labour camps in Germany, where they survived aerial Allied bombing. I was born in a Displaced Persons' camp in Schleswig Holstein in 1946. I have no memories of that early time, but I have got one or two photographs. As I grew up, I can remember that we were treated with great kindness, and a bit of leg-pulling, by our wonderful Yorkshire neighbours, who never once made us feel unwelcome here. I moved to Sheffield in 1985 with my husband, who worked at the National Union of Mineworkers and it has been my home ever since.

1948: Maria Olschefsky

The 'Blue Danube' scheme to recruit girls to work in British factories was a big adventure for me. After the war there was nothing but cleaning jobs in the tiny Austrian village of Ebental. So I signed up to come to Britain enthusiastically, although my Austrian mother and Russian father were not best pleased. The Ministry of Labour insisted we were unattached, not pregnant and in perfect health - we were very thoroughly examined!

1949: Jan Kot/Danuta Reah

My father, Jan Kot, was born in Baranovichi in western Belarus. He studied engineering at Warsaw University, but at the start of WWII, joined the Polish cavalry and fought Stalin's invading Red Army. He was taken prisoner but escaped, crossing Europe and coming to the UK to join the Polish Free Forces where he became a paratrooper. Having opposed Stalin, he was not able to return to Poland after the war. He studied at the Polish School of Architecture at Liverpool University where he trained as an architect, and met his future wife, Margaret Woodcock. He came to Sheffield in 1949 to join the City Architect's Department. He eventually became City Architect, and was responsible for many school and college buildings, and most notably, the Wedding Cake registry office, and the 'egg box' Town Hall extension, both sadly lost to redevelopment. He loved his adopted country, but always remained a Pole at heart.

1952: Tony Brock

I came to this country from Dublin at just 25 yrs of age having met and married a young lady from Stocksbridge. My first job was at Sammy Fox's Steelworks in their melting shop. I will never forget the shock of walking in there and seeing for the first time the flying sparks and molten steel being poured out of the furnace! Even the floor was scorching hot so exchanging my shoes for clogs was a necessity as was the thick wooden shirt which regularly became stuck to my back at the end of each shift. It was all a dramatic change from being a happy little postman cycling around in the fresh air in Dublin, the city by the sea!

1955: Thomas Hezekiah Goode

I was born in the village of St. Catherines in Jamaica in 1932. I was one of the early wave of West Indian immigrants chasing the dream of a better life. In the former colonies the British government were advertising heavily to attract migrants to work in the nationalised industries. I worked in the steel industry for many years. We were made welcome by some people but life could be difficult in those early years. There was plenty of work but quality accommodation was difficult to find. There were still signs in the windows of rented properties reading 'No dogs, Irish or Niggers'. British women who fell for our exotic charms faced as much prejudice as we did. My wife was spat on in the street for her acquaintance with me.

1955: Jean Bentley

I was born in Jamaica in the parish of St Mary, the sixth of eleven children. Dad had a smallholding that produced all the fruits and foods grown on the island, plus animals. I went to school until the age of 17, to O level grade.

I came to England in January 1955 to my aunt in Keighley. I applied to the local hospital and was accepted for nurse training in the February. I completed SRN in three years and did Midwifery Parts 1&2. I returned to work at the hospital in Keighley and stayed for eight years, after which I left to train as a health visitor. I met and married a Yorkshire man in 1970 and we had a son in 1973. We came to Sheffield in 1976 and my husband worked at the Polytechnic.

1956: Josylin Allen

I arrived in Sheffield in September 1956 and was directed to Fitzalan Square. A gentleman asked my friend and I if we were looking for work and sent us on a tramcar to Brightside where we were asked to start working that same day. We explained that we wanted to work but had no accommodation in Sheffield; he told us there were few places to find lodgings. We tried Page Hall and Burngreave to no avail and were about to return to Birmingham when we finally found lodgings in Crookesmoor. I then secured employment with the Transport Department as a conductor. At first I knew no-one but I settled in Sheffield and became the co-founder of the West Indian Association. This was the start of what has now become SADACCA, the Sheffield and District Afro-Caribbean Association.

1958: Mohammed Younis

My grandfather came before World War Two, my father came in 1952 and I arrived from Pakistan as an 11 year old in 1958. I only attended Owler Lane Secondary school (now Fir Vale) for three and a half years, then trained as a skilled machinist in the engineering industry. In 1967 I joined the council's Youth Service and in time completed my education, attending the Universities of Durham, Manchester and Bradford, achieving an MA in International Politics and Security Studies at the latter.

1959: Peter Butler

I was born in Dublin, but only lived there until I was five. My father's new job caused us to move. It was a very cold December day when I first saw Sheffield. There was no central heating in the house we had rented, but the landlord had assured my father that coal fires would be lit for us. After a long journey, our family of 5 arrived to find that this had not been done. My father had some harsh things to say to the landlord when he arrived on the scene.

1961: Ghulam Nabi

In the years following the partition of Pakistan from India there was little industry and employment in Azad Kashmir. At that time the UK needed labour from Commonwealth countries so I came to Sheffield to find work and a better life. Many people, like myself, came from Azad Kashmir, which is still disputed by Pakistan and India. Kashmir is 90% Muslim and so as families arrived a thriving Kashmiri Muslim community was established in Sheffield.

1962: Clinton McKoy

I came to Sheffield in 1962 to join my father who lived on Chesterfield Road. I went to Meersbrook Bank Primary School and then onto Newfield Secondary School for boys. I attended church and joined the Boy Scouts. Maybe due to my size I was bullied and faced racism. I did not recognise it as racism at the time; I just knew that I felt uncomfortable in the environment.

The first youth club for Caribbean young people was set up near Oxford Street in Crookesmoor. Faced with racism and a culture that did not understand me, Crookesmoor was a place of comfort and safety, where I could meet friends, socialise and be myself. The youth club provided me with a range of experiences; visits to other cities to help with school work and sporting activities where I could have fun. The youth club co-existed with the West Indian Association that occupied the hut next door.

1963: Naveed Khan

Before the partition of India and Pakistan my father served as a driving instructor in the British Army, a career which ended when a learner driver caused an accident in which his leg was crushed. He then set up a business selling animal feed to farmers but decided to take up his right of residency in the UK and came to Sheffield in 1959, first working in the Edgar Allen steel foundry. In 1963 he decided to bring his family to England. Well, most of it. At the age of 13 I was sent to a boarding school for army officers' sons but I ran away to join my mother and two brothers in Rawalpindi (Pakistan), enabling us all to come to Sheffield together! At the age of 15 I proudly took up my first job in the UK making bricks at Allen St Brickyard for the grand sum of £12 per week!

1964: Haji Nazir

I was born in 1931 into a middle class military family in what was to become Pakistan. My father was a British Indian officer who fought for Britain in both world wars.

I trained as a teacher and was a Deputy Head until I migrated to the UK. As part of the first influx to Sheffield from Pakistan, I was one of the few who spoke Punjabi, Urdu and English, so whilst working for Sheffield Transport Department I spent many hours voluntarily interpreting at schools, hospitals and other agencies to enable people to play a full part in British society. This led on to a lifetime of service to the community as an advice worker, a Sheffield City Councillor and a member of many forums such as Sheffield Campaign Against Racism.

1966: Lynn Bent

I came to England in 1966 at the age of 15 years from Jamaica, with my mother, brother and sister to join my father who had been living in Sheffield since 1962. A week after arriving in Sheffield I started my first job with a cutlery firm and worked with them for three years whilst studying English and Maths at evening classes. I then started working as an Auxiliary Nurse at Nether Edge Hospital, moving to Weston Park Hospital and apart from taking a five year break to have my children I remained there until I retired.

1967: Claudette McKoy

I arrived in Sheffield in 1967 on a misty, grey, damp September day. It was a very scary time for me leaving the only family I had ever known to join parents I had no memory of and siblings I had never met. My father had left me at two years old to find employment in the UK and at three years of age my mother left me with my grandmother to join my father.

Nether Edge holds special memories for me. It was the first area I lived in Sheffield and where I spent my early years. Coming from bright sunny Jamaica I thought Sheffield was ugly but I have learnt to appreciate its beauty since then.

1968: Leni Solinger

Paradise Square was the scene of enormous Chartist demonstrations in the 1830's. So it seemed an appropriate place to be pictured holding one of the posters created by the France 1968 movement. I arrived in the UK from the USA just before May 1968. It was a very exciting time to arrive. Being left wing in America was a lonely thing; here there was so much happening. The anti-Vietnam war movement was huge. I became active in many campaigns and in my union. Originally I planned to stay for 1 year. Now almost 50 years later I am still here and still fighting for justice and equality, although the fight is getting harder and harder.

1968: Joseph Durham

I came to the UK from Malaysia with my parents in 1968 following the outbreak of ethnic conflict which spelt an uncertain future. In the bosom of my family here I completed my education and went on to a fulfilling career in psychiatric nursing till I retired in the 1990s. The years prior to retirement were boom years for Britain and like most working people I shared in the prosperity of a growing economy. Since retirement I continue to contribute to the community through the voluntary sector.

1969: Mohammed Nasir Ahmed

My father fought for the British Army in the First World War, when he was injured and treated in London, and in Italy and Burma during the Second World War. He came to England by invitation in the early 1960s (from Pakistan) and I joined him later with my mother, brother and sister. When we landed at Heathrow the fog, snow and extreme cold were beyond my experience.

1970: Rukhsar Khan

When I was seven we came to England from a small village in Pakistan to join my father who was working in Sheffield's steel works.

1971: Marion Tylecote

I was born in South Africa and spent my earliest years there and in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) and in Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia), eventually leaving Zimbabwe to study Fine Art in Durban, South Africa. It was whilst a student that I became involved in politics opposing the apartheid regime. I had detested the racism of these countries from my early teens, when I first became aware of apartheid's many injustices. As it became increasingly difficult to live with the tension and difficulties that arose as an opponent of the system there, I decided to move to Britain the land of my ancestors (some of whom had emigrated to South Africa in 1806). In Sheffield, I joined a group opposed to apartheid and deeply appreciated living in a country which allowed me new freedoms.

1972: Dipti Aistrop

When Asian families were evicted from Uganda by Idi Amin in 1972, my family were granted asylum in the UK. I remember being an excited young teenager not knowing what to expect! October was quite cold when we arrived and I remember the kindness of people who had set up volunteers through WRVS with a role for befriending new arrivals as well as supplying families with warm clothing. One of our new 'family friends' invited me to her home for Christmas and thus I had my first experience of a traditional festive family celebration, quite different to my experiences of Diwali.

1974: Sandra Potesta

I have always been very interested in English literature, so when I graduated in Classics and Italian literature from Rome University and was offered a lecturing post in Cambridge, I was delighted! We packed our stuff, got in our Fiat 500 and drove all the way from Rome to England. What an adventure!

My second son was born in Cambridge, and the boys are still arguing as to whether being born in Rome is more 'chic' than being born in Cambridge. In 1974 I was appointed Principal Lecturer in Modern Languages at Sheffield City Polytechnic. I found that, yes, Sheffield has seven hills, like Rome, but the similarities stop there! But I liked Sheffield. I found it a friendly place, with excellent schools and beautiful parks.

I wanted to help the city develop its international links, so I was very happy to run one of the first European Joint Study Programmes, linking Sheffield City Polytechnic to Universities in Europe. I was also very happy to be Joint Chair of the European Universities Committee that developed the ERASMUS project.

1975: Pedro Fuentes

I remember being six years old, at home in Valparaíso, reading 'Made in Sheffield' on my mother's cutlery. In my early-twenties, as die designer for a Santiago engineering company I recommended special steel for my designs: Atlas Steel made by Firth Brown, Sheffield.

In my mid-twenties, as a political prisoner in one of Pinochet's concentration camps in the north of Chile, I received an envelope marked 'UK Embassy'. A visa to live in the UK! I later discovered that my sister and my future wife had risked their lives to get me a visa from the Embassy. Once in the UK I learned that the visa was also a result of pressure on the British government by the Chile Solidarity Campaign and Trade Union movement.

Once in Sheffield, my first job was as a 'slinger' at Firth Brown. I was later promoted to utility man which involved slinging, crane driving and managing special steel gas furnaces.

In my sixties I was a teacher and organiser of classes for refugees from all over the world.

1976: Ana Maria Gonzalez

In 1973 a violent and repressive military coup took place in my country, Chile. Thousands of people were tortured, others killed and more than 3,000 disappeared. Many members of my family were put in prison and tortured. In 1976 the repression was stronger than ever. My father, in home detention at the time, advised me to leave the country and I was able to come to the UK. A fund from the World University Service enabled me to continue my studies at the University of London. I could not travel back to Chile for 9 years, as I would risk being imprisoned. In the meantime my father had died and I could not go to his funeral.

1977: Isilda Lang

I arrived in Sheffield on a misty, grey, damp April day in 1977. It was a very scary time for me leaving Chile, the only place I had ever known. As a refugee escaping political persecution it was terrible to suffer torture, fear and nightmares of persecution. Being displaced from the place you were born is not easy, because you have to readjust to everything, to practically be reborn. The language was the hardest thing to learn - it took me five years to have the confidence to speak English.

1978: Araya Redda

I came from Ethiopia in pursuit of post graduate studies and as political turmoil engulfed my country I stayed permanently.

I enjoyed my youth and was privileged to be present with a special award by the Emperor Haile Selassie. But the country was ready for change and I was part of the peasant and student uprising that deposed the Emperor, only to be replaced by a ruthless military junta that terrorised the nation. I experienced what was known as 'the Red Terror' where the entire generation of intelligentsia and students was subjected to mass inquisitions, murder, arrest or forced exile. My exit through a scholarship was one of the lucky ones.

1979: Mohammed Amin

Both of my grandfathers and my father were in the British Army. After independence I was in the Pakistan Army. My uncle had come to Sheffield with his family after independence and when I left the Pakistan Army I came to visit. A marriage was arranged for me here and so I settled in Sheffield, falling in love and bringing up two children, whilst owning a grocery store and then driving a taxi.

1980: Danielle Barbereau

Born in Nantes (France), I came to the UK after studying English and Interpreting at the University of Angers. Living here was a life-long dream fuelled by avid readings of Jane Eyre. Now, as a keen hillwalker, I can explore Bronte country in Yorkshire and Derbyshire.

1981: Cher Kheng Lee

I came to the UK from Malaysia to continue my early education in various cities in Yorkshire. Arriving in Sheffield in 1981 as a graduate for my first job in Castleton, commuting to and from Sheffield daily by coach, I also travelled to Leeds by coach to learn and to re-program software for the company. It was an exciting time, a big adventure.

1982: Abtisam Mohamed

I came to the UK from the Yemen with my mother and eldest sister to join my father. He had been here since 1972 working in the steel industry with his father and uncles who had arrived 10 years earlier. I'm now a solicitor and community activist, working in the voluntary and community sector campaigning for the needs of disadvantaged areas and advocating for the rights of the most vulnerable in society. As a result of this work I was selected as an Olympic torchbearer and nominated for a Woman of the Year award.

1983: Annie Anthony-Mays

I was born in Singapore of South Indian parents from Kerala. My parents had 11 children, myself and my twin-sister being the youngest of the 11. In 1983 I married a British Citizen and emigrated to Sheffield. Initially, Sheffield seemed dull, grey, grim and cold. I started to paint my wallpaper to cheer myself up and ever since then never stop painting.

1984: Zameer Khan

My family lived in rural Kashmir. A beautiful place, but little work. There was a shortage of labour in the UK so Pakistanis were invited to come to the UK. Big strapping guys from rural Kashmir were thought to be particularly suitable for heavy manual labour jobs such as the steel mills! So my father came in 1968 and worked for a steel plating company in Slough. In 1984 I came to join him with my mother and three siblings. After a week in Slough I was packed off to visit an aunty in Sheffield. I liked Sheffield, because it was green and hilly like Kashmir. So I stayed and went to school here and a year later the rest of the family joined me.

1985: Adam Yusuf

I initially came to the UK in 1985 to stay with my uncle and study. After the first 2 years of my education, the war in Somalia broke out; the situation was deteriorating and getting worse by the day and I couldn't return to my homeland and families. I chose to seek sanctuary and settle here in the UK.

1987: Aroose Uppal

When I was a child in Uganda my father owned a bike business and the family lived a comfortable life. Until Idi Amin came to power. All Ugandan Asians were given three months to leave the country. We left on the last plane to Pakistan and became stateless as we did not have passports. A year later my grandmother, who lived in the UK, became ill and my father tried to bring us to the UK. We travelled through Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and finally Austria, where we were accepted as refugees. We lived in a refugee camp for two years. My father applied to live in England but was rejected; Sweden agreed to take us.

As the first migrants to the small town of Trollhättan virtually everything we did made the local newspaper! I started formal education aged 11, progressing to university. Every summer we came to England to visit family and I eventually settled here.

1988: Ahmed Shaheen

I was raised in a beautiful valley of Kashmir, but left to complete my education, graduating in Lahore, then completing a Business Diploma at the Sorbonne in Paris. My first job was on the Champs-Élysées. Some of my family were already in Sheffield and on a visit in 1982 I met my future wife; in 1984 I returned to marry the love of my life.

1989: Patrick Meleady

I came to Manchester from Dublin in 1967 as a child of 2 with my mother and siblings to live with our Grandparents. My Grandfather, whilst being very much Irish, was also supportive of British traditions as he had been a serving soldier. This was vital for our sense of belonging as we experienced racist abuse and attacks for being Irish in the days of 'No Black's, No Dogs and No Irish'.

I became familiar with Sheffield through supporting my sisters in the 1980s when they were heavily involved in social justice struggles including the miners and steel workers strikes. Since arriving here to live and work in 1989 I have always been involved in issues of community safety and cohesion.

1990: Lee Choo

I was raised the daughter of hard working Chinese parents who ran a watch repair shop near the capital of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. An English convent education in this former British colony gave me an understanding and empathy with British culture and eventually brought me to London as an enthusiastic 19 year old to study Optometry. At university I became especially interested in contact lenses and got involved in activities such as rowing and Scottish country dancing! Sheffield and my thriving optometry practice on Sharrowvale have provided me with a really rewarding life and career since arriving here in 1990. The cooler climate is great and makes my outdoor activities - nowadays cycling and tennis - more enjoyable.

1991: Maya Moudnani

I grew up in a family that travelled constantly between France and West/North Africa for work reasons. I left home at 16, running away from family, and worked as a volunteer in various Western African countries, some at war, some not.

Wanting to take a break from the harsh reality of war's devastation, I accepted an invitation from the British Consulate to teach in Northern Ireland where I lived for a few years but then came to Cambridge to further my work experience. In Cambridge, I fell and followed love all the way to Sheffield!

1992: Eva Kaltenthaler

I am originally from the USA and met my English husband in Malawi, where I worked as a public health volunteer. We came to Sheffield with our two young daughters in 1992. Before that we had also lived in Zimbabwe and Botswana. Since arriving here we have also had twin daughters. All the girls are grown up now but come home frequently. I also now have a young grandson. We still love to visit Africa.

1993: Abdi-Aziz Suleiman

I came with my mother to Sheffield in 1993, having been born in Somalia during the civil war 3 years earlier. I loved Broomhall but growing up was a daily challenge. Every road sign, instruction manual and bureaucratic letter was another mystery for us to solve as a team. We did homework together as we both needed to know what it was that the British called a tufaax (apple); or how to share amazement at the occasional Hilaac iyo onkod (Lightning and Thunder). We even put up with the casual racism that came our way together. I guess we thought it was to be expected, though I slowly began to realise that racism, no matter how casual, was like a grenade thrown at the foundations of your carefully constructed confidence. I went on to study at the University of Sheffield, become President of the Students' Union in Sheffield, work at the University of Sheffield and become a school governor at my old secondary school (Silverdale). So you'd be correct to say much of who I am is the product of this city.

1994: Adam Funk

I arrived from the USA in 1993 when I got married; in 1994, Jo and I moved to Sheffield. We've lived in the same place most of the time since then. One thing that still seems strange to me, although I'm used to it, is the way people sometimes talk the city down --- they say things like 'Why would you want to live here?' I guess they don't notice all the things I appreciate here.

1995: Sabine Vanacker and David Kelly

Two 'accidental emigrants': David from Dublin, Ireland and Sabine from Oostende, Belgium. We met whilst completing postgraduate degrees 'abroad' at Hull University. We discovered Sheffield when David was offered a position with John Brown and decided to settle here 'for a while', appropriately halfway between Ireland and Belgium and on the railway line to Hull, where Sabine now works as a University Lecturer. We both miss the sea, but love Sheffield, its friendly communities, hills, trees and parks. We chose the station as our Sheffield location, the start of many emotional family visits, arrivals and returns home. We reckon that Sheffield has worked its magic ... it appears we've actually emigrated!

1996: Danny Piermattei

Little did I know as a teenager growing up in Pesaro on the Adriatic coast that taking a job as a barman for the summer would lead me to Sheffield, the home of the girl I was to marry. That was twenty-five years ago and after twenty years living in Stannington I am proud to call this green and hilly part of Yorkshire my home. To my friends and family in Italy I am a "Yorkshireman"; here in Sheffield I am the Italian.

My job in social care has taken me into many people's homes and I have had the pleasure of meeting remarkable individuals who told me of heroic moments during the Second World War and the years that followed. My voluntary work in Stannington and the Bradfield parish, helping to preserve the natural environment, gives me strong ties to a place where I have always been made welcome.

1997: Manuch

I was a book publisher in Iran. The business had had nine partners and I was chosen as the director as I was the only one who hadn't been imprisoned, either before or after the Iranian revolution. We were a well known publisher but we were not liked by the authorities. Two of the partners were killed by the authorities. We all would have left the country but I was the only one who had the opportunity to do so. My wife was a lecturer in a university in Tehran and she had an offer from the University of Sheffield to do a Ph.D. so we came in Sheffield in 1997.

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1998: Magali Fleurot

I studied English and Modern Languages to understand the words of my favourite artists and ended up in Sheffield as part of my university studies. South Yorkshire was a wonderful shock to the system: the "You alright love?", "Ay up sweetheart", the amazing countryside, the freedom to be who you are without being judged and most importantly - the people. Nowhere else have I come across such welcoming and kind people. My bus journeys are always full of nattering, I never feel like I am bothering someone by asking for the time or smiling!

If you are lost, do not be surprised if people not only explain in great detail how to get to your destination but often they will offer you a lift! People often ask me, why have you left France, the food, the climate, and the glamour for Sheffield? Well come and spend time here and you too will feel part of it.

1999: Seiko Kinoshita

After my BA, I worked as a textile designer and CAD operator in Japan, but I always wanted to be an artist. A scholarship from the Japanese Rotary club enabled me to do an MA in Textile Design at Nottingham Trent University, along with help from my Rotarian host in Derby. I chose to come to the UK because I preferred British textile artists' works compared to other countries. On completing my MA I applied for, and was selected, for the Starter Studio Programme at Yorkshire Artspace, Sheffield. I have my studio at Yorkshire Artspace ever since and have had many art commissions including the 'Blue Bird' installation at Sheffield Central Library.

2000: Wanlin Steele

I trained as a dancer in my native China from the age of ten. Dance was not my choice - it somehow came into my life and chose me. I was admitted to the Department of Classical Chinese Dance Performance at the prestigious Beijing Dance Academy. After graduation I became a professional dancer, teacher and choreographer; I toured China and performed on national television. I arrived in Sheffield in December 2000 with my husband David, and spent most of my time with our two sons while they were growing up. The art of Chinese dance remained a part of me, and I've always wanted to share it with people in Sheffield and the UK. I started teaching and performing again and, in 2012, Wanlin Dance School was born.

2000: Keitumetsi Motlogwa

I came from Zimbabwe to study nursing, where I found a friendly welcoming community, a thriving cycling scene, an exciting music hub and ended up as an electrician. For a slice of home I've spent the last few years as part of Sounds of Southern Africa, a musical project that aims to be an educational and cultural exchange that links schools and the general public in Yorkshire and Bulawayo to help give an understanding of how others live.

2001: Liz Crowther

Reading books by English writers was an inherent part of my Australian childhood. I adored the tiny books and illustrations of Beatrice Potter and devoured books about ponies and boarding schools. Each month my mother bought me 'June And School Friend' and I silently slipped into England.

In my teenage years Jane Eyre and Lorne Doone, along with my brother's Beatles, Rolling Stones and Van Morrison records, must have been subliminal messages, leading me to the UK! So when I had the opportunity to experience the real thing in 2001 as a teacher of English, I knew it would be a life changing experience. I remember driving to school in 2001, thinking, 'Wow! I am in Sheffield, England! How amazing is that?'

2002: Renata Gargala

I grew up in Poland during the Communist era, when travel outside Poland was not permitted. As a child I dreamt of travelling to different and exciting places. When I was 16 the Berlin Wall fell and I felt as if the world was opening up for me. At 17 I began to travel throughout Europe, exploring different cultures and learning different languages.

On one of my journeys, to Greece, I met my future husband travelling overland by bicycle. We shared a passion for travel and adventure and together decided that we would live in England.

2003: Souleymane Bah

After escaping political persecution in Guinea, I came to the UK in 2003 to seek asylum. Although I was dispatched by the Home Office to Sheffield, I soon began to feel that it was my home. Throughout the long and difficult period before I was granted leave to remain in the UK my favourite place to hangout was the Winter Garden. I was never disturbed or asked to leave. I particularly liked to sit next to the bamboo and think about my Grandma. I had always helped her cut bamboo to repair her house or make her fence. When city workers came to have their break in the Garden they helped me think positively about my future and gave me the ambition to have an education. Sheffield is now my home for life.

2004: Dale Le Fevre

I was living in the woods in my dream house in Mendocino, California, where I thought I would spend the rest of my life. My wife, who was from Sheffield, wanted to return for valid reasons. Still, I was devastated at the prospect of starting over again. Being self-employed teaching cooperative New Games, it's hard to establish in a new place. However, I wanted the marriage and family so, reluctantly, I chose to cross the big pond. Ironically, we split up a year later, but by then I had made friends and found I liked living in Sheffield with its cultural advantages, such as SOSA XA!, the Southern African choir I sing in. You wouldn't find that in Mendocino! And with the Peak District only 20 minutes from my doorstep, I had the countryside too. So I stayed.

2005: Habib Josefi

The day I was told that I could come and live in England was the happiest of my life - for it meant that I would no longer be forced to move from country to country in search of sanctuary. My family had been forced to flee from Afghanistan to Iran three times as regimes changed and foreigners intervened in the country. When the Taliban took over, I was forced to flee yet again. I was a teenager at the time and had no formal education.

2006: Magdalena Garpel

My husband Adam and I were running a successful business with a partner in Bielsko-Biala when we decided to leave Poland. We wanted to learn another language and meet new people - a new adventure. Adam came first and got a job at The Druid's Inn in Birchover as the owner was looking for staff from Poland. I joined him six months later and after a spell in Rowsley in a shared house with other Poles we ended up both working at Thyme Cafe in Broomhill where Adam was Head Chef in 2006. Our daughter was born in 2012 and she loves to go to Forge Dam to feed the ducks and hurtle down the slide.

2007: Ales Pokuta and Maria Pokutova

Racism is worse in Slovakia than in England, so it's hard for Roma people to find work and provide for their children. I first came to Sheffield with my parents and family from the small village of Žehra in Slovakia in 2007. We couldn't speak English when we first arrived and that made it hard to find jobs here. In 2010 I went back to Slovakia for six months but then I came again in 2011 and haven't been back since. Maria came here in 2013; we met here.

2007: Chaithra Chinnaraj

I came from Bangalore in southern India, arriving in Sheffield on a pleasant sunny day in June 2007. It's been my home ever since. Lots of things have changed since 2007, new building and new developments, but the people remain warm and friendly, which is one of the things I love most about Sheffield.

I was married as a very young girl, but it is here that I have learnt about life and grown into a confident young woman. I am looking forward to the rest of my life in Sheffield and the experiences it brings in the future.

2008: Mamen Vicente

I left my home city of Alicante for Ibiza in 1999. Whilst there my wanderlust kicked in and as I wanted to improve my English I decided to spend some time in the UK. A friend recommended Edinburgh, describing it as a beautiful city steeped in culture. I made the decision to travel to Scotland, but the travel bug remained and I have since travelled extensively through Europe and South America.

When I first came to Sheffield to visit my partner I was still living in Edinburgh. I was immediately drawn to the city and was well aware of its vibrant musical heritage as much of my youth was spent listening to its bands. My journey has come full circle, I arrived in Sheffield in 2008 and now consider it my home.

2009: Rodrigo Edema

I came a long way and through a difficult time. Uganda has become a very hostile battle ground to those in the opposition political group; I came to Sheffield on a no choice basis. I escaped persecution and survived the United Kingdom asylum system with resilience and good humour in my search for safety.

As the Project Coordinator of City of Sanctuary Sheffield, I work in partnership with agencies across the Yorkshire and Humberside region to enable asylum seekers and refugees to achieve their full potential and develop their skills towards independent living. My role includes liaising with medical clinics, sign-posting and awareness raising in schools, colleges, universities and the community. I recruit a team of refugees and asylum seeking volunteers who seek to inform the mainstream community by sharing personal stories and understanding of the reasons why people are forced to flee their homes and seek sanctuary here.

2011: Pierre Ngunda Kabaya

In May 2004 I called MONUSCO, the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and they escorted me over the border to Rwanda. My brother had been killed by the government in a conflict with rebels in our region of South Kivu, and I was scared that I would be next. I spent 3 months in a transit camp then seven years in Kibweye refugee camp where I met my wife. In October 2010 the UK Border Agency came to the camp and selected 72 out of 20,000 people to come to the UK. In January 2011 we arrived in the UK and were helped to resettle by the Refugee Council's Gateway programme.

In the Congo and the camp I didn't know my future - will I live for tomorrow? Here in the UK I feel free, I can sleep easy and my children go to school. Next year I will be a British citizen and I will be able to get a student loan and return to University. I had the grace to come from the refugee camp to England and I must grasp the opportunity.

2012: Haji Dodola

As a young Oromo child in Ethiopia I looked after goats and sheep. I started my education at the age of 8 and progressed through to Addis Ababa University to study chemistry. During my second year the 2005 Ethiopian General election was held, the results of which were corrupt and undemocratic. Many students protested and were arrested. I was detained for 18 days and warned not to demonstrate again. Over the summer break all Oromo students were warned not to demonstrate. When I returned for the third year there were government informers amongst the students and I was arrested again. At the University my name and those of 90 others were posted on a board stating that we could not continue our studies.

I left for Kenya and my story was reported to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. For 6 years I lived in Kakuma refugee camp where snakes, scorpions and malaria were an ever present danger. I trained as a lab assistant and worked for the UN International Rescue Committee. I met my wife in the camp and our two oldest children were born there.

2013: Elena and Steve Trust

I grew up in Turin, Italy, but spent some time in London in the early 1990s before returning home. I then got a job with ATI Metals in Switzerland where I met my Cornish husband Steve. When the Swiss branch of the business was sold and subsequently closed we thought Steve would be transferred to the US but at the last minute he was relocated to Sheffield. We knew nothing about Sheffield before we got here but everyone has been so helpful to us - we really do love the people here!

2013: Malaka Mohammed Shwaikh

In 2013 I was given a fee waiver to study for a Masters in Global Politics and Law at Sheffield University. Travelling here from Gaza/Palestine was not easy. I experienced humiliation and discrimination many times when I tried to cross the border from Gaza, finally arriving in Sheffield feeling traumatised. It took me some time to start engaging with the community around me, but since those early days I have spoken in almost 62 conferences throughout Europe to raise awareness of the situation in Palestine and Yaffa, my homeland. Studying in Sheffield has helped me to address the international community effectively. Last year I was elected the Sheffield University Student's Union education officer for 2014-2015 with the highest number of votes in the history of the Union.

2014: Rawan Dardok and Ahmed Maani

Ahmed and I met 7 years ago at University in Nablus; I was in the science department and he was studying engineering. He then studied for a Master's degree at Edinburgh University, and when he was offered a job in Sheffield he asked me to join him. It was a very hard decision, as it meant leaving my lonely mother and my ill brother behind in Palestine, a country where going back home safe is all that people wish for. I made the decision to move to Sheffield in September 2014 and I have met wonderful people who made me feel at home. I love how warm, welcoming, kind and accepting Sheffield is. We are both very happy and grateful for the new hopeful life we are enjoying.

2015: Tareq Al-Khaleeli

Before the war I felt at peace in Iraq. Everything changed after the war; danger from bombs and snipers was everywhere, there was no work, everyone was tense and anxious. In 2006 my family left for Damascus in Syria. I first wrote to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2007 to ask to if we could become refugees in a safe country. We waited nine years for something to happen. During this time the civil war started in Syria, my Iraqi passport expired and as a result I had to walk to the authorities every day for 6 months.

Finally, in 2015, I was interviewed online by British immigration officials and given a visa to come to the UK. The day before we were due to leave for England we were stopped at a checkpoint - but allowed to go when they saw our UK visas.

2016: Dyah Setyana Noor

I came to Sheffield to study for a Master's degree at Sheffield Hallam University. It didn't take long for me to fall in love with this lovely city, especially the fresh air and scenery that surrounds it, although I struggled when talking to local people with a different accent to the English I've learned. I lived in Manchester before but I found Sheffield more comfortable place to live. Despite the wave of hate crime following the Brexit referendum, I haven't experienced or seen racial discrimination first hand. People I meet are warm and welcoming.

Taking masters study means a lot to me. As a single mother of three who is not young anymore, I believe it's never too late to learn something new. I want to show women in my country, Indonesia, that there's always a way to pursue their dreams and they can do anything they put their mind to.

Group work Collection Sheet

Name	Date	Country	Reason
Tanya			
Justine			
Marina			
Maria			
Jan			
Tony			
Thomas			
Jean			
Josylin			
Mohammed Y			
Peter			
Ghulam			
Clinton			
Naveed			
Haji			
Lynn			
Claudette			
Leni			
Joseph			
Mohammed N A			
Rukhsar			
Marion			
Dipti			
Sandra			
Pedro			
Ana Maria			
Isilda			
Araya			
Mohammed A			
Danielle			
Cher			
Abtisam			
Annie			
Zameer			
Adam Y			

Aroose			
Ahmed			
Patrick			
Lee			
Maya			
Eva			
Abdi-Aziz			
Adam F			
Sabine			
David			
Danny			
Manuch			
Angga			
Magali			
Seiko			
Wanlin			
Keitumetsi			
Liz			
Renata			
Souleymane			
Dale			
Habib			
Magdalena			
Ales			
Chaithra			
Mamen			
Rodrigo			
Pierre			
Haji			
Elena			
Malaka			
Rawan and Ahmed			
Tareq			
Dynah			