

FARIDA BEGH

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Interviewer: Intikhab Bashir

Interviewer: I

Respondent: R

00:00 I Tell me your name?

00:01 R Farida Begh.

00:02 I And where were you born?

00:04 R I was born in Bangladesh, Sylhet.

00:07 I What year were you born?

00:08 R 1947 December. Winter Baby.

00:13 I Tell me about your life in Bangladesh.

00:14 R Erm. That was Pakistan, it was really nice, obviously your parents houses, the most beautiful house in the world, so I had a really beautiful childhood.

00:26 I Tell me about your family in Bangladesh.

00:29 R I used to have my extended family like mama's [maternal uncle] family, my cha cha [paternal uncle] family and we have four sisters and brother and my parents.

00:41 I Tell me about your education in Bangladesh.

00:44 R I was in school in Dhaka, I was born in Sylhet but when I was eight months my father, you know he was working in city in Signature 8, he was an accountant, so we have to come and join him. So I went to **[unknown]** Girls School up to class ten and then I was married. I was married very young.

01:12 I When did you come to the United Kingdom?

01:13 R I came in 1965, May the 5th.

01:20 I Was that your decision?

01:22 R Not really because when you are married obviously when your husband is

there, you have to go there, so I came.

01:29 I Tell me about your journey from Bangladesh to the United Kingdom.

01:32 R That was really nice and with the day I travelled it was very cloudy you know, May and April, it was not monsoon before that very strong and big things, you know, so when the plane just was going to start it was very very cloudy and thundery, everybody was worried, anyway it came to England, to Heathrow Airport. Through PIA, that was PI Air at that time.

02:03 I How did you come to live in Birmingham?

02:05 R Because my husband was in Birmingham, so obviously I join him.

02:11 I Tell me about your life in Birmingham.

02:13 R It was really nice, still nice, in Birmingham since oh god, 49 years to this country, so it's really nice. Obviously has its ups and downs and everything isn't it you know.

02:27 I What are your earliest memories of Birmingham?

02:30 R The first memory when I was coming from Heathrow to Birmingham Airport, I was just coming down the escalator and a couple of Asian men was looking at me and pointing and I thought goodness me, even England, these things happening. But I didn't realise that was my husband's colleague, they looking for me because I was the only person wear Shari you see and I was really cross that my first impression, even England look at this, what's going on. So when they just pointing at me I was looking for my husband, he was nowhere there. Ok. So then I realised they were my husband's colleague, they came to pick me up.

03:12 I Can you describe your house?

03:15 R House, I was really shocked to tell you that, that time it was very heavy, big doors, small glass, nothing and I was going in, it feel cloudy, dark, you know my impression was completely different coming to England, the house would be you know amazing. It was a nice house but the big doors, and May it was really cloudy and all this, it was really, I was a bit shocked.

03:44 I What was the address?

03:45 R Number 9 Farm Road, just off Stratford Road.

03:51 I Can you describe the inside of the house?

03:53 R House, it was a big house, two reception, big hall, then dining room kitchen.

Upstairs three bedroom, and a bathroom toilet, attic, there is another. My husband converted the small bedroom to a kitchen for me. House was nice. But going inside the house, obviously it was big door, it was really dark, but the house was very nice, big house.

04:27 I Did you have other people living with you?

04:29 R All my husband's friends and some of the students. Except the living room, every room there's two student or some of the working there, so I was the only female person there.

04:44 I So what were your main day to day activities?

04:49 R Activity? Initially you know first few days I came on Thursday, Friday evening my husband's cousin they all came to see me, and the first impression my husband uncle, he came on Thursday to see me as a newlywed obviously. He told my husband can you come and help at my restaurant? So obviously he'd gone on Friday. My brother-in-law came and he was shocked I'm on my own, so every Saturday and Friday my uncle used to take him to the restaurant to help him and after second week he took me there with him because I didn't feel very happy on my own, was really scared, when you're seventeen years old it was really scary to stay on my own in big house.

05:44 I Describe a typical day in your life.

05:49 R A typical day. Some days was a good day, some was obviously bad. Typical day when I was to get up in the morning, I'm just very upset and on my own, everybody gone and such a big house, so I used to get up, for my husband to make breakfast. After he left I used to go to bed and you know I don't know what to do really because he wouldn't let me cook because he said it's too early for you, we just newly came into this country. So typical day I used to be very unhappy, I was waiting for my parents' letter or my friends' letter, I hadn't had any letter for a week, I used to cry a lot, you know waiting for a letter. There's no telephone call, nothing, it's only the letter so if I have a letter from Bangladesh from anybody, my friend, my auntie, uncle, from my parents, that was really nice to have. But my husband was really supportive, he used to come lunchtime and we would have lunch together and he used to take me out and he said you stay in the town and just look round and just learn yourself what to do. He said meet me there five o'clock and then we will go somewhere and come home. So that's how initially I used to spend my time and in September he put me into an adult education centre to learn English because I had just left school, seventeen they wouldn't take me to school because my age was over. So September I used to go every day to English class, that was Lee Mason School, College in, near Five Ways, I don't know if it's still there or not, yea. So from our house I used to walk from through Stratford Road to Walford Road, take the bus, and just the number 8

bus used to take me there, so that was my, start my routine, slowly slowly you know. Little bits.

07:50 I Tell me about the friends that you had.

07:53 R That time I didn't have any friends only my husband's friend's wife but she was about six seven years older than me, so she was my friend and one of English girl used to work with my husband, her name is Maureen, she was very, very supportive so she used to come and take me here, there. Opposite there was some I think student, a Pakistani student, and the lady. Sometimes she used to come to me, you know, if you need anything, any help. But before that one day I was walking from the shop probably about five minutes' walk from my house the shop, two gentlemen at the grocery shop, there is a knitting and wool shop and there's another shop, I can't remember, so I used bring the knitting things, just I realise somebody is following me just two Asian men. Actually they not following me, they going to their house. I was so scared, I just run into the shop. I said "*two mans are following me and I'm really scared.*" The lady says "*come on stay with me for a minute we will see.*" And she said which two gentlemen, these two gentlemen they following me, and so we can see them and they going to their house and then I realise they're not following me, they're just going to their house. At that time at your age and you don't know how to speak English. I couldn't speak English at that time, slowly slowly little bit you know. So I was really scared. So you don't know what's going on, you're new to the country, you don't know anything, especially if you don't speak the language that's another big problem.

09:40 I Describe Farm Road to me.

09:44 R Farm Road was a very famous road I can tell, especially my house no 9 Farm Road, people realise, that people can recognise that house. If you ask anybody in Bangladesh they will know which one is Farm Road because people used to come, like the students used to come there and just like if you step on the ladder, you sitting on the ladder, people used to climb. So people used to come there, they have their education, they used to go to some business here, there, and it's still there. So it was a very famous house. My husband was really good to support people. I helped obviously. So whoever used to come to do studies, they use to stay with me, stay with my house my family, so that was very nice house and Stratford Road is only three minutes' walk, three minutes' walk from the bus stop there is two bus, no 34, I can't remember, I only know if no 34 is still running, a few of the buses used to run and they go every ten minutes and night buses was every hour, sometimes used to come from cinema hall, eleven o'clock, twelve o'clock, it's no problem you can walk round, doesn't matter what time of the night you know two o'clock, you have no issue.

11:04 I What are your earliest memories of the Stratford Road?

11:08 R I came from town I remember, and my husband's friend, who I first remember, you know, he said from there, first I went into in town, from there you can go home. You find your own house and this is the key and go into the house. So obviously they get off about two stop beforehand, so I said ok I will show you how to go there. So obviously I run, and, the key you have to put the wrong way round isn't it? I didn't realise that and he was testing me. I just tried to open the door and first thing 'oh my god, he's going to make me a fool'. Somebody's in the house, I knock and he came and he said "from now on you will always put the key right way". That was a big test. He was testing me, I was telling him no I know everything, I'm a very assertive person, but he was testing me I said "*look I can do it, you do not have to show me how to do it.*" So that's another big memory for me.

12:08 I Can you describe Stratford Road for me?

12:10 R Very quiet road at that time, I used to go to the chemist, there was a chemist just opposite finish of Farm Road, just opposite there's a chemist and a post office, so I used to go to the post office to send a letter obviously by the airmail and these things and you know these two shops and there's a bank, and for me if you go from Farm Road it's right hand side there's no shop, there's a Smiths Coach Station, that's it and nothing else, only the houses and the left hand side is the post office and chemist and the bank, that's it. And all the way to Camp Hill I don't think there any shop, the houses and all these things. If you go that way through Sparkhill there's houses, only the building on the right is Social Services building that I don't know, that time what was there. But up to Sparkhill there's nothing. My husband and his friends use to go to the bath, public bath, I never been there anyway. So, there's a park quite far at Sparkhill, on the left hand side there's a cinema hall, I can't remember the name, that we used to go every Friday to see a film and you passed through the Walford Road that's the cinema, and passed through there's another cinema called the Piccadilly. It's still there I think as a community centre now. So that was our regular basis to see a film every Friday or Saturday. Nothing else there. Later on they opened a Saree shop, very few Saree shop, only one or two small shops in Ladypool Road, not in Stratford Road. There's a bank I used to go on a regular basis, Habib Bank, to send money, because my brother-in-law was studying in Dhaka so I have to send money, these are the only things I remember. Nothing else.

14:08 R Very few people you can see Asian. I'm talking about 64, very very few. Our road this is only opposite, there's a Pakistani family and a few students used to live, and I think another Indian. My neighbour was an Irish lady, she'd got about seven children. Yeah. So I learned from her how to clean the road, you know your footpath and she used to do that, so I slowly slowly I learn everything from her. . I didn't say anything, I used to look and she used to do all the cleaning. Yeah. Another amazing thing, you know the ice cream people used to come with the making noise, and I used to run to the window, what's

that noise? And people are running? So looking at them, and everyday I see something is there, they've got something in their hand and I didn't realise this was called an ice-cream and I can't tell anybody, people might think you were a fool, and that was really amazing. One day my husband, and I said look the car is coming with the noise, making a noise and kids are running and they got something in their hand. So obviously this is Farm Road, not Stratford Road. So he said you want something, it's an ice-cream. These are the small things for me you see because I was very young, childish, very young. But very famous Road, Stratford Road is a very famous road at that time, very famous.

15:34 I Tell me about the people that you remember.

15:37 R Erm my neighbour was really good, really good and when I had my daughter after two years, she showed me how to look after the baby and all this. Opposite there was a lady, I told you, a Pakistani lady, she came and she said *"I see every day whoever comes you give the baby, don't do that because she will be spoilt. If she sleep don't pick her up."* So these are things you learn them, you know how to be a mother and knitting lady she was very helpful, some of the things I don't know how to do, knitting, she used to help me and the grocery shop, John and Fran they are still with us. Every weekend you know, they used to take us with their caravan and with their friends, you know, we used to spend weekends with them and still they are very very close family, very close family.

16:37 I Tell me about your family.

16:39 R My family here I have my daughter born in 1967 and more or less after three years of my marriage, and she was very precious obviously, and when she was growing up, you know we eat halal food, there were very few shops there's very little halal, you know we eat halal food, there was very little shops, one shop was just off Stratford Road called Long Street, and it was a fairly small shop. I remember one day I went, I didn't realise I was pregnant then so it was really winter time, I was putting coat and boots and everything. I went to the shop, the heating and everything and I just fainted. When I just opened my eyes, the shopkeeper was saying "babu ane wali hai?" [Is there a baby coming?] That's the question she asked me and I didn't realise I was pregnant, so that's another good memory. I went to the doctor and have a test and I was pregnant, it was a really good memory, I was only 19 when I had my daughter. And when I had my daughter when she two, went to Bangladesh for a year, came back and I started to work in opposite our house there was a big clinic Farm Road Clinic, that was a health centre and so I used to take my daughter and slowly slowly all of the Pakistani ladies used to come, no Bangladeshi that was Pakistan anyway, and they use to say can you help me with what the lady is saying, because we grew up in Pakistan, Eastern Pakistan we use to have language class, you know, Urdu, so I can speak Urdu a little bit so I said ok I will help.

That's why I started little bit of my job as a volunteer interpreter. So I did voluntary job for five years with the health authority and they offered me a job that time, but I had my son after seven years, so I said I can't take job easily with baby, because that was a full time job. They said because you worked for five years we are not going to advertise that job, you can have that job. I refused the job obviously, so I said if you need me I can do voluntary. Slowly slowly they start to pay me a little bit of that but they used to pick me up from home, so that's how and cooking and food because that shop I used to get the grocery like meat. There's no fish the Bangladesh dishes, I used to go to Bullring market to get some fish like salmon, prawn, herring fish. Those are the fish I used to cook, no Bangaldeshi [shop] only halal shop, I used to go there. And John and Fran, they used to have a vegetable shop, so the vegetables from there. So I never cook English food for the children, I always try to give, because school they used to have English food, so I always used to try and cook my own curry.

19:34 I Tell me about memories you have of the children.

19:38 R When I had my daughter obviously it was my first child, she was very precious you know with the family and she was the first born of my husband side and my side, he was the eldest and I was the eldest of the family, which was very nice. She was very nice girl to seven years she was really helpful, very pretty girl. Then I had my son obviously after seven years and they were very good, they had good education. My husband always say I am a very strict mother. He always mentioned you are a very strict mother, but very friendly with my children, always friendly, very friendly with my children. So these are the good things, both of them are very educated, my daughter become chartered accountant, my son finishes his degree as a, I think he did management. So both of them doing quite well and my daughter had two children, my grandson is at Oxford University, he's doing commercial quite well and her daughter is fifteen. And my son's two children, his wife is a school teacher, Golden Hillock not far from Warwick Road or Stratford Road and he's got two daughter, one is eight, one is four.

20:57 I How long did you live on Farm Road?

20:59 R I lived there for eleven years, that was really good memory. Oh the other thing I forgot, when I came, I was telling my husband I don't like this house, I have to paint. So because the wallpaper everywhere and I said I do the paint. He was out, I bought the paint, I told you I was very sort of outgoing girl, bought the paint, get on the ladder, I started to paint and those electric board, I didn't realise I tried to wipe it with the damp cloth. I had a shock twice, third I had a fall from that ladder, nobody in the house and then I realised. When he came I said look at these things. So I changed my whole house with the painting on my own and he realised this girl is not going to

stop so he help me. And the other memory is you know, you have to for the bath and shower, you have to heat the coal fire and from there the water used to be, so that was really hard, so cold at time you know, snow up to here and we had the immersion heater when my son was born, so more or less after ten years.

22:11 R So I moved to this house 1976, the reason to move because those house they due to demolish or re-modernising because the lease was finished and I said no I have to move because my daughter she need a good school, especially girls school because we can't afford to have private school. So there was a good girl school. But she passed the grammar school Camp Hill. So I spend eleven years with a good memory of that you know Farm Road. Farm Road opened by Princess Margaret, so we thought we just same road, come and dress and go, by that time both of us went downstairs, the whole street was blocked, that was a very good memory, it was a big health centre. The surgery just very small, just on the corner of Farm Road. It's a big development, very very big development. If you go through, the road is changed, completely changed.

23:15 I Tell me about different kinds of work that you've done.

23:19 R My main job I started with just interpreting I told you as just the volunteer and then I had a call from the Bangladesh high commissioner they said there's a job going on as a community worker and they are looking for a person who can speak Bengali, Silaty and English. By the time I had you know, good English and all these things and they are looking for and the first question I said I'm not good because I don't have the certificate holder. Anyway after the interview I got the job so I started as a community worker in Aston. That was initially called St James Language Project. Then after a few years with St James, something else came up, so I left there in 1988 to Birmingham City Council Social Services Department as an interpreter because I had to do work with the Bangladesh community. So at that time they established the department interpreting section, just first time through City Council so then employed as a Bengali interpreter. So I worked there til twenty two years, the same post and I took retirement, early retirement I took about five years ago 2008 because my husband took retirement and he's on his own, the kids, his mum, so I took retirement and since then we just everywhere running round both of us. Yeah it's very hard when we learn driving. When I came to this country my husband said *"you know learn driving."* I said *"no I can't do that because I just came here and if my father-in-law realise oh she went to England and straight away she's learning driving and all these thing. Forget it."*

25:06 R And then when I start my husband went to Bangladesh, my father is very ill, I saw a guy in front of my house and my daughter is taking two buses to school, I'm going to work with four buses, I said no. I applied for the licence, this came within three days and there's a white gentleman, first day he said *"I*

can't see you, you can't wear sari." I said *"I'm not going to change my sari, I'll learn in this.* He said *"no, I said I'm not going to change it"*. So obviously I had to change my sari. Second day the car touched a little bit of the kerb, do you know what he said? *"What you trying to do kill me? You will never pass driving."* I said *"I will pass my driving, maybe not from you but I'm going to pass it."* So after a few lessons with my husband, because he was a very quiet sort of person so I learned from him. The test I passed after second, third one, because I tried to do everything fast, everything rushing, rushing. Just because of that but I had my licence. The same person was the fastest and the final one he said *"how far do you have to come to us"* and I say you know *"I have to take four buses"*. He said *"you don't have to do anything like that now you got licence, so that was amazing you know"*. I don't know, people say you can do your degree and all this things, you are not that happy. Well when you have a driving licence in your hand, that's amazing isn't it.

26:29 R So I learnt quite a few things hard way but I didn't have any qualification, I did so many courses like English courses, I did housing, I did benefit I did community work course, I have a certificate of mental health, I had a certificate of counselling. So I did bits and pieces like everywhere but I don't have like a proper certificate at home but I have quite a few things here. The main thing if you want to do something you can. That's it isn't it. But still as a strict mother and a grandmother I'm still here, that's why the kids, strict don't mean you're just putting on one corner, you need to be fair, otherwise very difficult everything. There's one big event, I have been invited to Buckingham Palace, because if you work in the community, so in 1980 I think I went to Buckingham Palace, the garden party. That was really something you know. Now people can go because it's open door. And the other thing my friend, Kashina she's my very close friend, school friend so obviously she becoming Prime Minister so last time I went to see her at Parliament. Obviously she came and she said *"My nickname is Aloo and the school friend is always always with you"* In university and you know we used to go to college, that's different.

28:04 R School life is completely different isn't it. You can do whatever you want so that was really, and the other thing I went not last year, year before my friend had a get together, all my school friend after fifty years. I got quite a few photo of that. It was amazing amazing hearing life story you know after fifty years you can see your friends and they are still same. They got children, married, some of them are divorced, some of them are widowed and all these things. It's really nice things. These are the good memories, very good memories, but I don't think all of us stay in Bangladesh, without my children because this is my family and I can't just take them and just go. I go every year, but unfortunately my son-in-law he passed away, since then I couldn't go. Otherwise usually we go every year and couple of holidays, so these are the things we are doing at the moment. More or less you secure your life, you can plan, so this is the plan. And then another call came from the person who took interview with us when I started work in **(unknown)** house. Her

name is Anita Bhalla and her husband is Ranjit Sondhi. So many people know them, I know them quite well now. She rang me and she said *"Farida I put your name down as a BBC presenter."* I said *"What how could you do that?"* She said *"We're looking for a person who can speak Bengali, English, Silaty and who knows about the community, you are the perfect person."*

29:32 R So already she published my name and everything without asking me and she give me about four or five days to take the decision. My daughter, you know at that time if you go to BBC and *"your daughter is not married and people might think oh mum is working in the BBC"*, that was tough and a bit concerning so I asked my auntie, she said *"go ahead, if you don't, somebody will go."* And I asked my daughter and son-in-law, they just newly married and they said fine. So I said ok Anita I can come and join you thank you. It was really amazing, very scary going to you know microphone talking to the fast interviewers, the high commissioners and all of this, it was amazing. I worked there twelve years and I left that job 2000, millennium, because that time it was my son getting married, my house's extension and they asking for this and that. Full time job, I couldn't cope with everything, I said look enough is enough can you just stop, so I left. And when they closing they call me again with the closing up day.

30:38 R And I worked with West Mercia Police quite closely. I did quite a few video for them like annual report through the main head offices in Worcester isn't it, yeah, round there. So I did about seven years media for them, just my voice in there and that was really good. Then I worked with probation, I worked with police, I worked with immigration, you just name it, through social services coming to work, I did with everything, quite a few. Since I retire I still do sometimes they call me to go and do some visits, so if I'm free I can do that. I enjoyed my work, I did altogether thirty two years job. But full time I started when my son was fourteen. My first priority is my children, my family. If you went to work, if your house is not you know looked after properly it's no good, especially if you are a community worker in social services, your house. So my priorities are my children. So that's why maybe why most of them are doing quite well.

31:55 I Tell me about any people that you worked with that stick out in your memory.

32:02 R Quite a few people, well first of all my community work job, my colleague plus, she was quite a good friend, she used to come and learn Bengali from me. Another person called Amnat, she was very famous at that time, she was a school teacher and the other thing I used to go regular basis, at that time they used to have a language session when the people used to come from abroad and the kids over eleven they can't go to secondary school straight away so there is a language centre. When they proper up to standard, you know, they used to go to the main stream school. So I used to go there on a regular basis to help, for one of the colleague, she was really good. And when

I joined the social services department, my colleagues are very young, I have quite a few names if you want to know. Strict Sasuma, Sasuma means mother-in-law (laughs). And they used to call me BBC glamorous granny. I'm always glamorous. So quite a few names, and my colleagues and I still have contact with them. I've got quite a few name you know they used to call me.

33:19 I Going back to Stratford Road, do you still visit Stratford Road?

33:24 R Yea but it's changed. First of all if you go there, when they drive I think some drivers have no manner at all. I'm sorry about that. You know they have no manner when they sit in the driving seat they think that this is their own property, especially, I'm sorry to tell it like that, and I'm not sexist, it's the mens. You see because I drive, since thirty years maybe more than that, but I used to work in my office, they moved everywhere. Ladypool Road, you can't get through. Mini roundabout they are talking, what sort of nonsense you know. Nobody's there to stop them, even Stratford Road, you know, if you come through from any side road like Long Street, this is the park, they're talking, you've can't pass though. As a female drive it's very dangerous for you. If you say something so, but these are the things you know I don't like. There is lots of shops, they have, you know, I don't know honestly what to say. It's changed. In a good way people are doing good business but they need to learn some manners I think, I'm sorry to say that. I'm not very sort of you know, because first of all we need to tell somebody, this is not your own property when you go to the road. Sometimes people think this is their own property. So if you go through the other side of Stratford Road, like Sparkhill, that side, it's a nightmare again. I totally avoid that if I want to go to anywhere that way I usually go through shortcut, because my visits used to have through Solihull, the other side is Rubery Hospital to Ravenside Clinic and the other side Sutton Coldfield, I always take short cut and my husband says how do you know all these streets? Because of this you know, nightmare drivers. Even the Coventry Road if you go there. Stratford Road is really worse now through driving and Farm Road they did one way street as well, you can't go through this way at all. I think Smiths Coach Station is still there. We used to go lots of places from there, my first holiday was Weston-Supermare that was really nice. So we went so many places from that Smiths Coach Station. And again John and Fran they used to take us everywhere, every weekend just like. They were very good. You can call them just like a family member.

35:52 R But we had a very hard time because with its my husband's income we used to send money to Bangladesh, eventually my two brother-in-law came from Bangladesh. So all the students were gone, I had about four brother-in-law with me in Farm Road and his two cousins. When I had my son there were seven of them were there and I used to cook for them, do cleaning and everything and I used to work in Cadburys, oh I forgot about Cadbury's as well (laughs). I did work in Cadburys because I was so depressed that time, I need to do something and I had my daughter, she used to go to school,

whole day I have free and so one of the University, lots of people used to come from Bangladesh to do PhD and one of their wife was my very close friend, grew up in Bangladesh same school, and she said go there, the job is there, so there is no interview, the only thing is to show how to push the trolley this and that, that's it. So I worked there about eight months but then I become pregnant. So that's another job in the factory, again you can see peoples view and their mentality, is completely different, completely different than if you work in an office classes, completely different.

37:07 R So I had various sort of work, field work to factory, to BBC. So many things. This is just like a memory to me and Stratford Road is always remember because is so close from my house to the bus stop, only two minutes run. I remember when I was having my daughter, I had labour pain, my husband run to the postal, I have no phone in my house, so he run to the corner shop to make a call for the ambulance, so that was amazing that time, no phone. Nowadays you know everyone got carpet, these, that. We used to have lino so cleaning was really really hard. I remember when I went to Bangladesh and my mum was looking my hand. She said what happened to your hand, all these things like at home. I used to broom all these things. So these are some of the good memories, bad memories, I start my life here with my husband so this is my home more or less. Farm Road was my house, my memory.

38:05 R Like you ask me the typical day of my day, if I was really upset I used to look through the window. Still I do that, still if I feel upset about my family, my mother died, my father died, mother in law died, everybody, my only brothers and sisters because I don't have anybody here, only my husband's side, so my children. Recently my niece and nephew came. My sisters are coming every year so I've really good memory because my husband was very supportive, he was really really as a husband, he was really good. Maybe that is why I don't have any, because I learn hard way with so many things. When you're driving as well. Life was, Stratford Road is completely change. If I see it through my eyes, it's changed, there's no corner shop now, there's a big shops and these and that and part of them are Somalian booked. From if you come through you know Stratford Road, from Farm Road to the right hand side. If you come through from Farm Road to left hand side, there's houses. Right hand side, from right hand side is start of Somalian, somebody once said, my son, said this is Somalia not Small Heath. So it start from right hand side, after the Smiths Station all the shops are Arabian as well. I'm not sure of stereotype. I'm not sure that's Somalian or Arabian, but Arabian people are a bit, you know I can tell their colours and I think most of them are Somalian with the restaurants, the shops, everything up to the roundabout and from there again Coventry Road from the beginning, the end side as well. So Stratford Road has changed.

39:53 R I don't think anybody can walk night time, late night you know. Nowadays

people don't take bus, everybody have a car. If you go in front of everybody's house, two, three cars. I used to walk from my house to bottom of the road, Bristol Road, I used to take four buses to go to Aston, that was my every day shift, now people get into the car straight to the work you know. We had a very hard time. That's why I always tell my children. I know you're a bit stressed, nowadays job is very stressful, but their life is completely different than ours, the time we spent our life was really, you can say struggling, through moneywise, through everything. Happy life if you want to make your life happy.