



## Claudia Bullough's Oral History

Claudia Bullough moved to Shropshire in 1993 with her English husband and her two sons. Here Claudia talks about the first time she moved into her neighbourhood in Shrewsbury.

"When I first came to England I knew very little English, and so it was difficult to settle in and make friends. My husband, Paul encouraged me to practice whatever little English I knew, he'd say 'Keep talking, get used to speaking and people will find a way of understanding you'.

When we first came to Shrewsbury, Paul wrote out a script so I could introduce myself to the neighbours. I remember taking my two young boys and knocking on my neighbour's door. I literally read my script word for word; 'Good morning I am Claudia, I am your new neighbour and these are my sons Andrew and Stephen'. I think they must have felt a little overawed at first but they soon warmed to me and invited me over to tea the next day. Of course I did not realise 'tea' is an evening meal, so it came as quite a surprise when I got there!"