



My Life in Shropshire (extracts)

Read about the real life experiences of different people who have moved to Shropshire. Decide if they had a positive experience or a negative experience here. Explain your answers.

Extract one



Takeshi Kawai on holiday in Japan

Takeshi Kawai was born in Osaka, Japan in 1954 and moved to Shropshire in 1978 to start his own business.

"I still have contact with my friends in Japan and sometimes I realise how greatly my life has changed. Perhaps if I had been working in Japan I would have been working for a large business and travelling to the city on a busy, packed train. But now my life is very different and much more relaxed. It is the ideal place to be, with lots of nature around."

Extract Two

Sufu Amir came to Wellington in 1965 to join his uncle, who had been living and working in Shropshire. Sufu now works in Oswestry with his family and runs his own business.

"I worked in an Indian restaurant in Shrewsbury at a time when there were not many about. I remember one night, a few other waiters and I were physically picked up and taken outside of the restaurant as if to say 'This is our place and you do not belong here'. It was not unusual to have abuse in those days."



Extract three



The village school in Tilstock

Krystyna Tomczak first experienced life in an English School here.

Krystyna Tomczak was born in Italy and came to Shropshire when she was only a few months old, in 1946.

"When we came to England, few Polish people could speak English because they had not come here by choice, but because of circumstance. My parents had been forced to leave their home in Poland because of the German and Russian occupation.

Luckily I picked up English quickly and so I did very well in school. I remember once in class, my British-born friend asked me how to spell an English word and my teacher hit the roof. 'How dare you ask the Polish girl how to spell English words' she said, 'you should be ashamed of yourself.'"

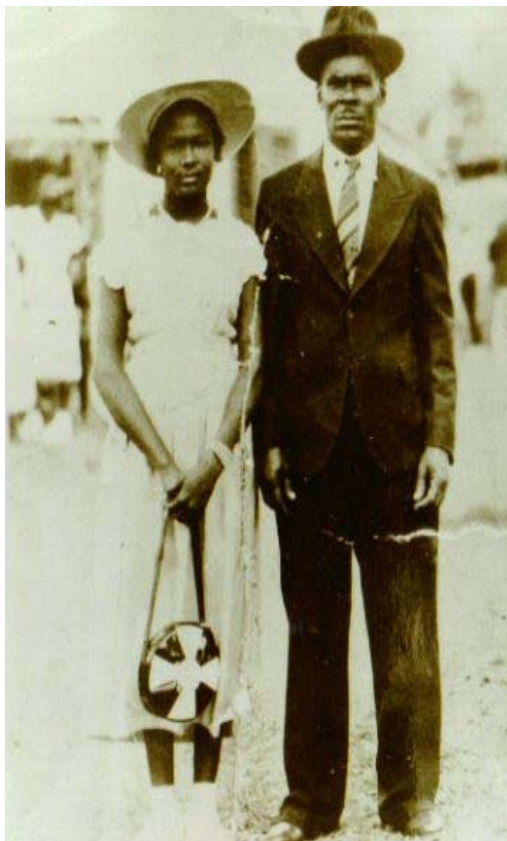


Extract Four

Alicia Randall was born in Chile in 1934, and has travelled and lived in Germany with her English husband, who was then a member of the Naval Royal Air Force Institute. Alicia moved to Shrewsbury in 1969.

"Before I came to live in Shropshire, I heard that Shropshire people are snobby and unfriendly, but I personally did not find that. The first day I came here I had three well-wisher cards and a plant on the doorstep, which was wonderful!"

Extract Five



Eulin Drummond came to Hadley from Jamaica in 1962. Here Eulin talks about her experience of buying her new home.

"We were one of the first black families in the area and in those days black people could not get housing the way they can today. It was awful, finding a house for sale and being turned away or, worse still, not having the door opened at all. We were luckier than most, because we met a friendly English couple, who wanted to help us settle down. They suggested if we saw a house we liked, they would buy it and sell it back to us."

Eulin Drummond and her father in 1961