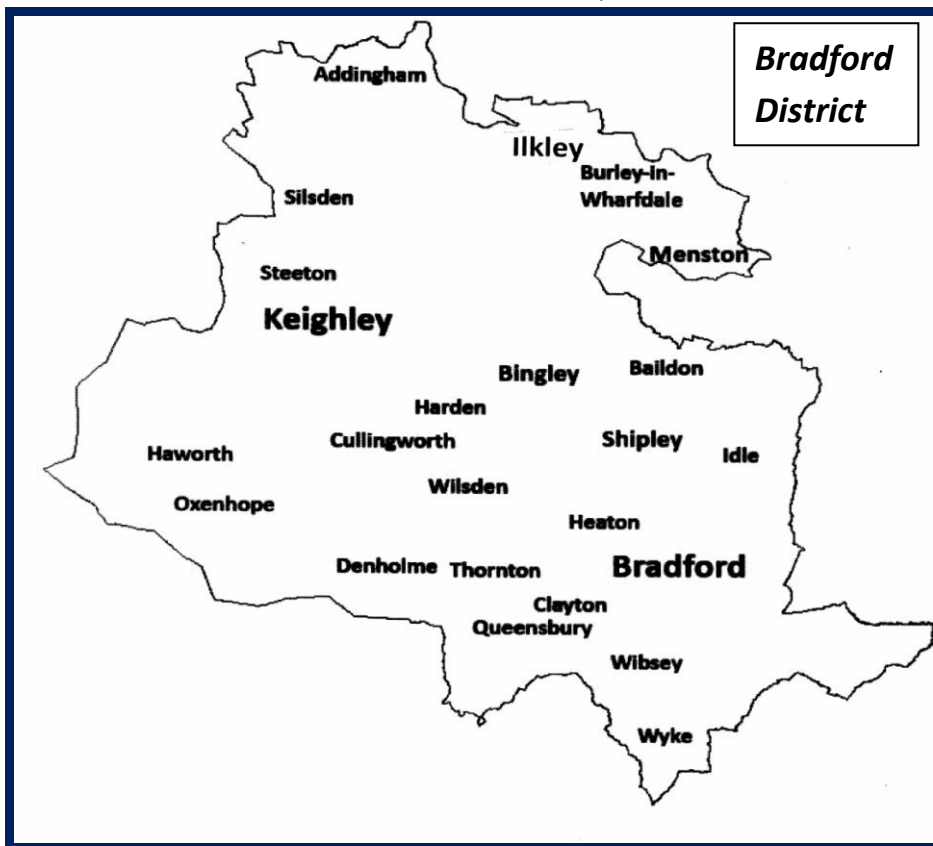


# Living Here

*Residents of the Bradford District from around the world*



# Living Here

## *Residents of the Bradford District from around the world 2019-2020*

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### **Summary**

The purpose of this 'snapshot compilation' is to create a list of the countries represented by the *current* residents of the Bradford District 2019-2020 to celebrate its wonderful cultural diversity (it is not a history of migration to Bradford). A short interview was carried out with an individual from each listed country before the March 2020 Covid-19 lockdown.

A total of 82 countries was found, covering each continent of the world. A few residents have a background from more than one country. There will doubtless be residents from other countries not found. The authors will be pleased to hear of these - we do not claim that it is complete. However, we do believe that this is a unique compilation, both to Bradford and cities elsewhere.

This list aims to encourage and inspire those from within and outside the District to use the information for positive creative endeavours

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Peter Nias and Mollie Somerville

Bradford Autumn 2020

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this compilation is to identify the countries represented by some of the Bradford District's current residents in 2019-20 to celebrate its cultural diversity. It includes a very short illustrative interview, in person, by phone or by email, with a Bradford person whose background is from each listed country. They may be first, second or occasionally third generation descendants.

This is an independent initiative compiled and financed by two Bradford individuals. It was not commissioned by or on behalf of any organisation.

## **Examples from the past**

The present situation is nothing new. Bradford has welcomed people from many areas ever since the industrial town burst on the scene in the early-mid 19th century. During that period people flocked there from the British Isles, from Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and elsewhere. They came in response to the huge demand for mill workers and related employment. In addition, there were refugees from starvation in Ireland and asylum seekers from pogroms in Eastern Europe.

They worked at, and contributed to, many different levels of society :

- Some were leading entrepreneurs who owned mills or associated wool trade businesses. For example, textile merchant Charles Semon came from Germany, and later became Bradford mayor in 1864.
- Others were significant professional people, such as the Fattorini jewellers from Italy who made the FA cup, famously won by Bradford City in 1911.
- There were musicians, like the Delius family formerly from Germany.
- There were Catholic priests from Ireland, a French stockbroker, a masseur from Sweden, a wine merchant from Holland, a wool merchant from Australia.
- There were educationalists like Margaret McMillan from Scotland. There were teachers from Germany.
- There were many thousands of builders, mill workers and domestic servants from Scotland, Ireland, other parts of England, from Germany and elsewhere in continental Europe.

During the mid-20th century, and into the 21st, the city has witnessed continued expansion in the range of country origins of its residents. Some of their stories have been told (as shown in some of the references in appendix 4).

## **The Bradford District : The List of Countries**

This list is alphabetical within each continent. This includes several parts of the UK, not least of course 'Bradford' in its own right, plus other parts of England. There are also a few parts of other countries. There is usually one short or longer interview of a person whose background is of that country. A first name or a pseudonym is used.

Some countries are known to be represented but unfortunately no specific contact has been found to interview. These countries are included at the end of each continent. The authors will be pleased to hear from anyone from those, as well as other countries not mentioned.

UK & Europe  
Asia inc Middle East  
Africa  
Americas  
Australasia & Pacific

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UK**

### **England (Yorkshire, Lancashire, London), Wales, Scotland, & Northern Ireland**

#### **England**

##### **Bradford**

Darren

I was born and brought up in the Heaton area of Bradford in 1967. As far as I know my parents, grandparents and great grandparents were all Bradford people, living in a similar area. Myself and my 2 brothers, 2 sisters and 2 foster sisters all still live in, or close to Bradford. The furthest away is Otley. I stay in Bradford because I've got a job here and I'm committed to the city and like what's happening : the mirror pool, the Alhambra, the Odeon redevelopment. I'm here for the duration.

##### **Lancashire**

Josephine

I grew up in Bolton and then went to university in Newcastle and worked 10 years in London before moving here. I'd had my first daughter (now aged 32) and didn't want her growing up in 'aggression-ville London'. A GP job came up and so we moved to Bradford and joined the practice. I later had a devastating stroke and the network of friends I have has kept me going. I've no plans to leave even though all three of my daughters now live away. The best things about Bradford are the Media Museum, the surrounding countryside and the easy access to getting out.

##### **London**

John

I was born in Surbiton and grew up in South West London in the UK. I came to Bradford in 1974 because I was offered a job and the chance to get a house with a cheap mortgage. I've met other Londoners incidentally but haven't any friends from there living locally. I've stayed in Bradford because of my work and I met and married a local girl.

##### **Wales**

John

I came to Bradford as a teacher in 1968 and stayed at the same school until I retired in 1990. I'd heard about the teaching vacancy from a friend who was a lecturer in Leeds. The teaching was a "Holiday camp" compared to the jobs I'd had in London, Cardiff, Stockton and Manchester. There was nothing special to draw me to Bradford except the salary and the job. People here are very nice, the pupils were and the neighbours who are mostly Muslim are friendly. I used to go fell walking and it was easy to get out of Bradford to go to the Dales. I wouldn't want to move anywhere else at my age (92), Cardiff is too expensive, house prices are sky high, and I've no relatives there now anyway.

**Scotland**

Gavin

Edinburgh was my place of birth and I came to Bradford in 1978 to set up a company here. I've lived here ever since and the best thing about it is the easy access to the Dales and the market towns nearby.

150 years ago the St. Andrew's society was founded in Bradford for people from Scotland. and it still holds 2 main events each year: a Ball and a Supper. Throughout the year there are also events that I participate in too, like organised walks, outings and golf. The membership of the Society is now open to people other than Scots. I've no plans to move anywhere else as long as I'm healthy. I'm quite content.

**Northern Ireland**

Seanin

I was born and brought up in Castle Derg, Co. Tyrone but because of the Catholic Protestant divide the only job I could get as a catholic boy was mending roads. In October 1964 our next door neighbour suggested I go to Bradford where their daughter had got a job as a nurse at St Luke's hospital and said there were plenty of jobs in Bradford. I came over and worked at Grattan and for British Rail before becoming a student teacher in Leeds, commuting by train from Bradford. I got trained as a teacher at college in Manchester and after another job in Leeds got one in Bradford, met my wife to be at the station when both of us were going to Leeds to an Irish club.

In the 70s there were 2 or 3 Irish clubs in Bradford, one was called John Dillon and another Michael Davitt. You got free beer if you sang....and so I did. In 1980 I set up a band called The Wild Geese with an English friend and we're still playing today. Yorkshire people are very friendly and welcoming. Just like at home. The best thing about Bradford is the people. People make the place.

**Europe****Austria**

Gunter

My mother came from Austria to join her parents in the early fifties. She settled here and so I was born and brought up here. I have always said that Bradford is a good place to be. House prices are low and the cost of living is low too. This means we have more money to spend on doing the things we really like. I go mountain biking and can be in the woods on the canal bank within minutes from my home.

**Bulgaria & Turkey**

Maria

I came to the UK from Bulgaria with my two sons in December 2016. My brother's wife's mum lives in Bradford so we came straight here. I am of Turkish origin. My older son and I both have jobs and my little boy is at primary school. I like Lister Park, the town centre and the people. The school is good for my son and I'm happy to stay here.

**Czech Republic**

Sarka

I came to Bradford in 2002 having first lived in Belfast for a while before my husband got a job in Bradford and I moved to be with him. Since then we have started a family and are very settled in the city now.

**Denmark**

Olau

I was born in Denmark and came to Bradford in 2003 specifically to do a leadership course at the university and also did Peace Studies. After that I wanted to contribute to 'helping my own doorstep' so I became employed in community relations in the city, which I did for many years. I gradually built up a steady relationship with the city which is my home.

**Estonia**

Paul

I am of Estonian heritage, where my father was born. He came to the UK and Bradford just after the Second World War, in 1947. He worked in the textile mills and stayed, as did I, because so many of his and my friends and community were here.

**France**

Sarah

I come from France originally and moved to UK first to York and then Leeds, before coming to Bradford in 2007. This was not least because it was more affordable to buy a house here. I love Bradford - there are nice people, lots of activities for children and easy access to allotments!

**Germany**

Erika

I've lived in Bradford for a long time now but came from Germany originally. I had met my husband in Samoa. He was English and got a job in Essex so we lived there for a while. I'd never heard of Bradford until he got a job at the College and we moved here with our young family. I found people friendly, retrained and got a job. After my children grew up and my husband died I did think of going back to Essex or even Germany but then I realised that most of my friends were now here, so I'll stay!

**Greece**

Georgiou

I was born and brought up in a small rural village in Northern Greece. Both my parents were born in north East Turkey (An area called Pontos - populated by Greeks since the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC till 1922, when they were expelled by the Turks because they were Christians and came to Greece as refugees).

I came to Leeds to study Linguistics at the University in 1960. Received my MA in 1963, returned to Greece to do my national service and came back to Leeds in 1965 for PhD studies. Got married and started work as a teacher in Bradford. In 1970 bought a house in Bradford and have lived here ever since.

I don't know of any Greek organised community in Bradford, but there is a large well established Greek Community in Harehills in Leeds, with a Greek Orthodox Church, Saturday Greek School, clubs and committees organising various social functions. The community comprises mainly of Greek Cypriots and Greeks but there are several English and other nationals as members and friends.

**Hungary**

Attila

Yes, my name really is Attila! I came to Bradford in 1957 in a couple of coachloads of other young Hungarian men, after having been in a temporary camp in the Midlands. Whilst in that camp I chose to come to Bradford, as opposed to another place in UK, because I heard there was a local Hungarian football team. I stayed for job reasons, married an English lady and made our home in the city.

**Ireland, Republic of**

Sarah

I come from Dublin and it was in 1978 that I eventually settled in Bradford. I got a job as a librarian at Bradford University and moved here after living in Leeds. I've been in the area, with my husband, ever since.

I like lots of things about the area. I love the countryside, the friendly people, the scenery, the interesting things to do, and there's good transport to get to other towns and cities. I intend to stay here for the foreseeable future.

I've never been involved in any Irish clubs or societies, though I know there's been a few. There are Irish music groups that sometimes come and play in Saltaire for example.

**Italy**

Maria

I came from a small village near Napoli on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1961. I had a 4 year contract to work in the UK and was in Essex for 3 months and then transferred to Bradford. I worked at Thornton View Hospital and looked after elderly people. I had no experience and learnt everything on the job, including English. I'm still learning. Once my husband and I had our daughter we decided that the UK would be our home. To be honest I've never really liked Bradford but I have friends and family here.

**Latvia**

Solveiga

I came to Bradford in 2014 primarily for work reasons. I've stayed because I like a sense of adventure, and I have made friends here of many nationalities.

**Lithuania**

Paul

My father came to Bradford from Lithuania via London in 1955. He came to Bradford because he knew of a friend who was already here and also because he heard that there was a Lithuanian priest and church here too, and that was important to him. He stayed because of the job he got and because of raising a family here.

**Poland**

Maria

I came from Wrocław in Poland to Nottingham in 1960 to visit my brother. There was nothing for me in Poland and I met my future husband. He came from Bradford so I moved here. I still go to the Polish club in Edmund Street and meet up with other Polish people. I like the people in Bradford. They're marvellous. The city's not so good in the last 10 or 15 years though. My children were brought up here so I'll stay of course. What more could I want?

**Slovakia**

Denisa

I came to the UK first to Leeds in 1998 when I married my Welsh husband. I am a teacher of art. We moved to Bradford in about 2002 particularly because it was easier to buy a family house here than in Leeds. With my family here Bradford feels very much like home, and I have work here.

**Spain**

Maria

I went to Spain when I was 9 and spent 14 years there with my family. In 1998 I got a job in Shipley and found somewhere to live in Bradford that was convenient. I really like Heaton, the area I live in. I like everything about Bradford: the people, transport, the location of being near other cities too. If I wanted to speak in Spanish to other people I could go to the Spanish Circle. I'd like to live in Bradford long-term. There would have to be a "force majeure" to get me to move.

**Ukraine**

Teresa

Both sets of my grandparents came to the UK from Ukraine via Germany after WW2, as displaced persons. My grandparents had a tough time and dreamt of going home but were not able to do so. My father was born and brought up in Bradford and met my mother at a dance at a Ukrainian club. I grew up in two different traditions - Ukrainian and British. I liked the special food, religious family traditions, especially at Christmas and Easter. I like Bradford because the people are friendly here and I enjoy meeting people of different faiths, backgrounds and nationalities. Also there is still a Ukrainian Community here so I can maintain that link to my background. Also I like the coat of arms of Bradford 'Labor omnia vincit'. I learnt it in Primary school and have always remembered it. I've no plans to move away at present. Bradford has good transport connections to other places and good local buses too. It won't flood here with all the hills!

*Known to be present but not located to interview : Albania, Romania*

## **Asia & Middle East**

### **Afghanistan**

Maryam

I came to Bradford in 2003, it was the first place in the UK I came to. I've lived here ever since. I met my husband and married and we have 3 children now. My eldest has started secondary school. We will stay in Bradford at least until they have all left school. If they go to Uni in another city we may move there.

I think the best thing about Bradford is the diversity of people. I feel very comfortable here and have friends from different communities

### **Bangladesh**

Amria

My parents came to Bradford from Bangladesh in the 1950's for work. I was born in Bradford and have stayed here although some of my siblings have moved away. I stayed because of the sense of community.

### **Bhutan**

Kumar

I came as a refugee from Bhutan to Bradford in 2012. I'm settled here and am a member of a church community. My family is here. There is a small community of people from Bhutan and we sometimes meet together. I like the hills of Bradford. And the people are ok.

### **China**

Tiao

I came here from China in 2016 to join my wife and child. I have many friends in Bradford. I like it here. There are many Chinese people here too. I don't know if I will stay in Bradford or not.

### **China - Hong Kong**

Ann

I'd visited London and Birmingham for work and holidays before coming to Bradford to settle here in 2011. My husband lives here and we're staying for family reasons. I don't know anyone else from Hong Kong. I like Bradford because it's small. It's compact. There's no need to go far to get whatever you need. We'll probably stay here but it depends on my husband really.

### **Myanmar**

Win

I come from Rangoon in Myanmar and arrived in Bradford for work in 2018. My job involves quite a bit of travelling and I'll stay in Bradford as long as it's convenient for the job. There were a few students from Myanmar I met last year but I think they've all gone back there now. Otherwise I don't think there's anyone else.

### **India - Kutch, & Uganda & Kenya**

Jay

My parents and grandparents originally came from Kutch in western India, which is where I regard as my place of heritage. They later moved to Uganda and then to Kenya before coming to the UK, where I was born. I have lived in Bradford since 1995 to which I came for university studying and then for employment reasons. I've stayed here because of family and work. I haven't come across anyone else in Bradford originally from Indian Kutch.

### **India - Punjab, & Kenya**

Mussarat

I was born in a small town in the Punjab but when I was 4 we moved to Nairobi in Kenya because of Partition. I got married in Nairobi and had two children there. My marriage didn't work out and so I decided to come to the UK with my children. I



joined my sister in Bradford in 1970. My children could already speak English because they'd used it at school in Nairobi and they settled into school quickly.

After a year I got a job in a sewing factory and went to English classes on a Saturday morning. I was made redundant twice but always worked in sewing factories, ending up at Seymour shirts. I like Bradford where I live because everything I need is near. I'm not well now but I can get out every day. Local shops have everything I need and my neighbours are very friendly and helpful. Why would I want to move? The people are the best thing.

**Iran**

Nayar

I came to Bradford in 2015 as an asylum seeker from Iran. When I moved from a hostel I was given a house to live in Bradford. I like it here because there is a mixture of cultures and generations. It's easier to fit in. It's not as big as Leeds or Manchester. I don't know my future, it will depend on college or work.

**Iraq**

Aido

I've been in Bradford for more than 5 years now. I came straight here. At first I didn't like it here because I had no friends and everything was strange and different. I've settled now and have made many friends. People are friendly and they listen to you. Now I'm studying and volunteering in lots of different places. I love the mixture of people, the different languages, cultures and religions. I'm not sure about the future but my friends are here and I feel in the community.

**Japan**

Yoko

I originally came to London with my then husband who was from Poland. We had come in 2007 because we wanted to live in an English speaking country. I came to Bradford in 2017. My current partner is from Bradford and his family is here. Bradford is a lot cheaper than London; the environment is better and people nicer. The rent is cheaper too. We have a small child now and we have support from the wider family. The best thing about Bradford is its people. They smile at you in the street!

I know one other Japanese person here but there's no community association. I think there may be (an association) in Leeds. I'll stay in Bradford because I like it here. I'm settled and have made good friends, There are good playgroups and parks near where I live. It's good for my child.

**Pakistan - Azad Kashmir**

Abeda

I was born and brought up in the Mirpur region of Azad Kashmir in a town called Dudiah. I came to Bradford 50 years ago to get married and my daughter was born 9 months later. I like living in Bradford because there are lots of people from my community living here. I can speak my own language to them and there are shops that sell everything I need. There's no reason for me to move.

**Pakistan**

Miriam

I came to the UK in 1985 to join my husband who was already here. We've lived in Bradford all the time except for a year and a half when we went to Southampton. In 1986-7. I was glad to come back to Bradford. I like Bradford because there are lots of Asian people here. There are classes and groups I can go to. There's an exercise class too. I like the city centre for shopping.

My husband wants us to move to Manchester where my son lives and my husband's relatives live. I don't want to go because my daughter is here and my two deceased daughters are buried here.

**Palestine**

Ghassan

I came to Bradford in 2019 because of the war in Palestine. I like Bradford particularly because of the cheaper housing and cost of living.

**Philippines**

Lisa

My parents came from the Philippines in 2000 but I was born here. They came to work for the NHS and have stayed since. Bradford is very quiet. That's why they like it but I want to study abroad somewhere. There's no clubs for those from the Philippines but there are lots of functions and events when everyone meets up.

**Russian Federation**

Ana

I came to Bradford in 1997 to study for an interpreting and translating degree for International Business degree at the University. I met my husband here and we started a family.

**Syria & Armenia**

Rozalin

My grandparents family were Armenian but left because of the genocide and went to Syria, where my parents and myself were born. We had to leave Syria in 2014 because of the war and came to the UK as refugees. So my family have had to move twice in two generations because of conflict. There is a larger Armenian community in Manchester where I would like to be, but it is good in Bradford. As well as English I can speak Armenian and Arabic, and feel both Syrian and Armenian.

**Turkey - Kurdistan**

Kevin

I came alone to the UK in 2015 and lived originally in Sheffield and then moved to Bradford in 2019. I have a few Kurdish friends here and have made other friends too. Life here is easy and it's cheap for rent, shopping....everything. The best thing is the people. I'll stay here though there are some things that are bad like bad driving and litter in the streets. People are sometimes rude too.

**Vietnam**

Quang

I came to the Bradford District from Vietnam in 2006 and created a business. I've stayed because I've been able to have successfully established my business.

**Yemen**

Mona

My grandfather was born in Yemen and worked as a mechanic for the British army when there was the base in Aden. He came to Bradford in the 1950's. He was the first Arab in Bradford to be in the military. My parents were born here although I was born abroad but now live in the city. My family and I have very much made their lives here.

*Known to be present but not located to interview :*

**Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Thailand**

## **Africa**

### **Burundi**

Mabel

I came to Bradford in 2019 to join my husband.

### **Cameroun**

Lydia

I came to the UK via Spain but once in the UK I came straight to Bradford in July 2019. I like the social life and my children go to good schools. I have 5 children but the smallest is only 2 years old. The schools are only 10 minutes walk away. I like the feeling of community in Bradford and hope I can get a job here. I have good neighbours. We respect each other. Bradford is good for families. There's all sorts of free things for children to do. I'll stay here because of the children.

### **Democratic Republic of Congo** Furaha

I was born in Rwanda but lived as a child in the Democratic Republic of Congo before coming, as a young person, with my parents to Bradford in the early 2000's. I call myself British-Congolese. After having studied here I now work in the city. There is a significant Congolese community living and working here, meeting together on social occasions and also by exchanging news online.

### **Egypt**

Akram

I came to Bradford in 2016 to study. When I finished that I was and am employed locally. I like the mixture in the city and have built a relationship with kind people here.

### **Eritrea**

Mehrep

After coming at first to London as an asylum seeker, I came to Bradford in 2002 where I have lived since. I really like the mix of different cultures in the city. I am happy here although if it becomes peaceful in Eritrea I would like to return.

### **Ethiopia**

Sosena

I was born in Ethiopia and first came to Bradford in 1986, coming to marry a Yorkshireman. I've stayed here because of the welcoming Yorkshire people and the wonderful countryside.

### **Guinea**

Kerefella

I came to Bradford in 2005 having first come to the UK to Birmingham. It was through a friend that I moved to Bradford. I have stayed because I've more good friends in the city since then.

### **Sierra Leone**

George

I originally came from Sierra Leone to study in Bradford. After that I left to do training in Nottingham and then had a job in London. Then in 2000 I had the opportunity for a posting to Bradford. Since I had been in the city before and liked it I chose to come back and have been here ever since. I've stayed not least because people around where I am have been so kind.

### **Nigeria**

Fayat

I come from London and am of Nigerian background. I speak Yoruba as well as English and came to Bradford to finish my Masters in Leeds in 2017. Bradford is calmer than Leeds and is not so frenetic. I chose to live in Bradford because I don't like the big city. I'm not sure of the future but I've found a church community here and am happy.

**Gambia**

Fatoungie

I came to Bradford in 2015 and have been here ever since. I like to join in with people at social events, like BIASAN on a Thursday evening. I've only been coming here for the last 4 or 5 months but it's really good. I've only met one other person from Gambia in Bradford. I think I might move to Manchester because it's a more lively place and easier to get a job there.

**Kenya**

Sarah

I came to Bradford in 2001 to study at the university. I later started to work in Bradford and then in Leeds. I now have a family and will be remaining here.

**Malawi**

Sarah

I came to Bradford 15 years ago. I'd never lived anywhere else in the UK. Bradford welcomes refugees from all over and everyone is helpful. People say "Hi" to you. I've been welcomed in church. I like that there are people of many different backgrounds here. I don't know where I'll be in the future. Maybe I'll travel to visit other places and then decide.

**Mauritius**

Khateejah

I was born in Mauritius, an island in the Indian Ocean, and came to the UK when I was 17, living in London for some years. I then came to Bradford and married here and brought up my family. We have stayed here because we've put down our roots, are part of the local community and very much like it. We also like the diverse population of the District.

**Morocco**

Chaymae

I came to be with my born in Bradford partner in 2016. As a Muslim I find it is a very welcoming and a safe city.

**Somalia**

Hawo

I came to Bradford in 2015, having first left Somalia for Kenya as a refugee. I like it in Bradford, with my children.

**South Africa**

Letsatsi

Coming from South Africa to Keighley was an experience. My parents had come here to work in the health and public services when I was a toddler. I then went through primary and secondary school and have now graduated from university. I still live in the District.

**South Sudan**

James

I was born in what is now South Sudan and came to Bradford in 2018 as a refugee. I like it very much in Bradford and would like to stay.

**Sudan**

Gabreel

I was born in Sudan and came to Bradford in 2014 initially as a refugee. I have stayed because of the sense of community, especially but not only as amongst the Sudanese community.

**Tunisia**

Haneim

Myself and my husband came to Bradford from Tunisia in 2016 when he came for employment in the District. We've stayed because housing is relatively cheap.

**Uganda**

Chris

I'm originally from Uganda but I came via Kenya in 2015. I finally got to Manchester airport in July 2019 and came straight to Bradford. I really like it here because it's quiet and not overpopulated like Leeds. Housing here is good and cheap too. I'd like to stay here but I'm finding it difficult to get a job and both the course I'm doing and the voluntary work are in Leeds. Maybe I'll get a job in Leeds and travel from here.

**Zimbabwe**

Ria

I came to Bradford in April 1991. I had left Zimbabwe two years before and had worked for a Christian missionary society in Pakistan and was then given the opportunity to either come to Bradford or go to Chicago. I chose Bradford and have been here ever since. It's the longest time I've ever stayed anywhere. I like the diversity of people best of all. I'm not too sure about the future but think I'll probably stick around here.

*Known to be present but not located to interview* : **Ghana, Senegal, Algeria**

**Americas****Brazil**

Isabela

I came to Bradford in 1997 but had been in Leeds prior to that. I was a lecturer in Portuguese. I came to Bradford to help my sister and brother in law with childcare for their son as they were both working. I was studying for a dissertation. I then went to Swansea for 7 years and set up a department of Portuguese at the university there. After that I would have gone home to Brazil but decided to stay here to care for my sister; it would be cruel to leave her now. I love Bradford. It has the best park in the country. I know every tree in Lister park and have taken photos of all the different seasons over the years. I love the history of Bradford and when I hear people criticising it I tell them to read about the history then they'll love it. There are a few families and individuals from Brazil in Bradford but we're not in touch.

**Canada**

Judy

I first came to Bradford in 1987. My husband was originally from Bingley, and had emigrated to Canada where we met and married. He developed very serious heart problems and wanted to come back to Bradford to be near his family. He passed away in 2000.

I've stayed here because I love Yorkshire- it's a beautiful county and I have felt welcomed and at home. More importantly, my son who has a learning disability was able to access special education and has done very well here including theatre at Mind the Gap Theatre Company. I have travelled more here in the UK than I ever did or probably would have back home. I was able to work with carers and get involved in helping with support groups both in running them and now taking part. I have made a home here and plan to remain. I enjoy working in our local community and within our church - St Michael's and All Angels - they've become my family.

**Chile**

Antonia

I am from Chile, and my paternal grandparents were from Spain. I came to the UK and to Bradford in 1974 following the political problems in Chile after the coup d'etat. My husband was a socialist and they were being imprisoned, tortured and killed. We stayed in the city because we were welcomed. Then her son needed a lot of hospital care as a child and they got excellent care at St Lukes.

**Columbia**

Gloria

I came to the UK and to Bradford some 10 years ago, mainly to marry my husband. I have stayed because I like it here.

**Dominica**

Lavinia

My parents came to the UK in the early 50's and sent for me and my sister. We'd been with our grandparents. I was 26 before I went back for a visit. I've always lived and worked in Bradford. I've been very involved in the Felix Credit Union, the first to be set up in Bradford. I've been a nurse at the BRI amongst other things and am now retired. I'm still busy as a volunteer. I've visited other cities in the UK but I think Bradford is a friendly place and I'll stay here.

**Guyana**

Rebecca

I come from Guyana (which used to be called British Guinea) in the 1960s. Originally I was in South Yorkshire but came to Bradford for training and got a job. I've stayed here ever since. I've travelled around but this is my base. I like the friendliness of the people and the diversity. I feel welcome and at home. I'm getting on with life here. There are a few other people from Guyana here and we sometimes meet up.

**Jamaica**

Eric

I came to Derby from Jamaica at the beginning of 1962 and worked there for 9 months. I then went to a wedding in Bradford in September of that year and I found the atmosphere here so different. People seemed loving and caring. I went back to Derby and the following week I moved to Bradford and have been here ever since. My family are all here and I've stayed because the people are more friendly than in any other place.

As things go I'll stay here in the future but also spend more time in Jamaica.

**Nevis & St Kitts Carribean** Sean

I was born in Bradford. Both my parents came here for work from Nevis. My mother was a nurse and my father worked in engineering. My dad eventually went to the USA but all the rest of my family are here. We are Bradfordians. My friends are all here. This is "God's own country". The community is very good.

**USA**

Polly

I was born and brought up in the USA in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. I came to Bradford in 1991 for work. There are a few other Americans I've come across here but I wouldn't say there was a community. I've stayed in Bradford because I've made the best friends I've ever had here, and got married here too.

*Known to be present but not located to interview* : **Peru, Venezuela**

**Australasia & Pacific**

*Known to be present but not located to interview* : **Australia, New Zealand**

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End of the list of countries.

## **Outline map of the Bradford District**

The interviews were from people across the District (not limited to the place-names shown)..



### **Appendix 1 : Some potential users of the list, both within Bradford and elsewhere**

It is hoped that this work can be used in a wide variety of places and by many people. For example:

- Current and future Lord Mayors may wish to use and promote this list.
- Schools may well be interested in project work.
- This may encourage more stories to be written and spoken by young and old alike.
- Creative writing through poetry and short stories could be inspired.
- Talks to local history groups and 'present day' groups/clubs and societies.
- Plays and videos - there is great opportunity for playwrights and actors.
- BcB radio, Sunrise Radio and other local and regional radio/TV.

## **Appendix 2 : Research Methodology, and acknowledgements**

This particular survey approach has not been used anywhere else to the authors' knowledge. The 2011 census is of limited help, and is increasingly out of date. As there are no accessible lists for this information it has been compiled by asking as many people as possible. Inevitably the list is not comprehensive. The authors will be keen to hear of any omissions. The list represents the situation in 2019-2020.

For the listing, the categories used are defined by country, or sometimes by a region within a country. To be included, either the Bradford resident, their parents, or occasionally grandparents, should have come from that country (or countries). They may be longstanding residents or be relatively recent. One, or sometimes two, people from each country or region have been interviewed, notwithstanding the size of the population in the District. Only a first name or a pseudonym is used. There are also some countries which are known to be represented but no specific person could be found to be interviewed. The latter are listed under the appropriate continent.

Students here just for the duration of their course are not included.

This does not cover languages. There are many more languages than countries of origin in Bradford. Nor does it cover religion or faith.

A '*multiple contacts research technique*' was used. This entailed asking and interviewing a range of people with contacts and knowledge in different fields and in different parts of the District. Then those people were asked for *their* contacts - who they might know originating from other countries. Whilst this did not guarantee complete coverage it did help to meet the requirements. A note explaining the purpose of the interview was made available to each person interviewed (in appendix 3).

*Incidentally, it would also be interesting to research the opposite perspective. Namely those countries to which former Bradford residents have moved. The combined result would reflect 'The world in Bradford' and 'Bradford across the world'.*

### **Acknowledgements :**

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## **Appendix 3 : Questionnaire and explanatory letter**

### **Questionnaire**

Introduce by saying: The aim is to find out how many countries and regions across the world are represented by people currently living in the Bradford District. Surprisingly, no one has yet made such a list, not for Bradford, nor for other cities either.

The interviews/discussions (face-to-face, or phone or email) are under five minutes, using all or some of the following topics :

1. Where are you or your family (inc parents) originally from?
2. When did you or family first come to Bradford?
3. What specifically brought you to Bradford?
4. What do you like about Bradford
5. Why have you stayed and are you likely to stay?
6. Do you know of specific clubs or centres where those of your heritage can meet?
7. First name or a pseudonym?
8. Know of others in Bradford from 'nearby' countries?
9. Offer copy of explanatory letter

### **Explanatory letter offered to respondents**

Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed.

**The aim of this project** is to find out how many countries and regions across the world are represented by people currently living in the Bradford District. Surprisingly, no one has yet made such a list, not for Bradford, nor for other cities either. (the 2011 census has very limited information, covering birth country and ethnicity).

**No names are needed** - it is anonymous and confidential. Just a first name or a pseudonym. It is not a count of people. We'll only be talking with one or two from each country or region of origin in the world, no matter how many or few are in Bradford. We're also asking how people came to be in the District, whether they have come recently or whether they've been here for generations. We want to be as comprehensive as possible, although we realise that the list of places will change over time.

**This is being done by just two of us - both Bradfordians** - because we want to fill a gap in Bradford's knowledge. No one's asked us to do it. We are not a company and no personal information whatsoever will be given to anyone else. It's not for the Council - they are not part of it nor are paying for it. It's purely on our own initiative to make a positive contribution to the city and district.

**We hope this information will help everyone to know more about the area.**

For example, schools, youth clubs and adult groups could get ideas to write their own stories and plays.

We aim to finish the list by mid 2020. Then a free copy of the list of countries /regions will be available by email, from either of us, to anyone who requests it.

Thank you.

peternias@aol.com      m.somerville@phonecoop.coop

## **Appendix 4 : References**

These selected references, press cuttings, exhibitions, plays and media programmes offer background information on the topic. Each of these sections are in ascending date order.

### **a) Talks, exhibitions, press cuttings, plays & films :**

(T&A : Bradford Telegraph & Argus newspaper)

*Bradford's Diverse Cultures exhibition : 'Above the Noise'* held at Bradford's National Science & Media Museum 2019 : T&A 25.3.19

*Ode to Bradford* exhibition Jenna Greenwood 2019 T&A 30.3.19

*Bradford Diversity call for videos* : Bradford UNESCO City of Film T&A 10.4.19

*Visions of Bradford* : a play by Katie Turner-Halliday performed at Kala Sangam 10.5.19 and reported T&A 10.5.19

*What does national identity mean these days?* Public talk by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, held in Bradford Cathedral 20.5.19

*The Lost Portraits of Bradford* : BBCTV 4 film Hidden History : Shanaz Gulzar & Tim Smith Mon 28th Oct 9pm 2019

*One in six in district born abroad* : T&A 5.12.19

*Bradford split on immigration* T&A 7.12.19

*Over 300 refugees resettled in district* T&A 11.12.19

*Visit of William & Kate, Duke & Duchess of Cambridge, to Bradford* T&A 16.1.20

*Humans of Bradford : Spotlight falls on city's untold life stories* T&A 29.1.20

### **b) Books & data references:**

*Bradford in Figures* : 1981 census : Bradford Council 1984

*Destination Bradford : a Century of Immigration* : Bradford Heritage Recording Unit 1987

*1987 Schools Language Survey : Bradford MDC* 1987

*The Bradford Book : The Indispensable Guide to England's Bounced-Back City* 1990 esp pp 99-104 on multicultural Bradford

*Here to Stay : Bradford's South Asian Communities* : Bradford Heritage Recording Unit 1994

*The Struggle for Racial Justice : The Story of Bradford 1950-2002* : Ramindar Singh 2002

*A Home from Home : from immigrant boy to English man* : George Alagiah : 2006 chap 4 re Bradford & multiculturalism esp pp 144-245

*Our Stories Our Lives* : Wahida Shaffi (ed) 2009 on Bradford

*Sleepwalking to Segregation : Challenging myths about race and migration* : Nissa Finney & Ludi Simpson : 2009

*2011 census* : Office of National Statistics [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

*Manningham : people through the mill : past and present* : Peter Nias & Mollie Somerville 2013

*Little Germany : a History of Bradford's Germans* : Susan Duxbury-Neumann 2015

*Bradford's newcomers in 2018* : statistics overview : [www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk](http://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk)

*Countries of birth of Bradford District current population in 2018* : Estimates from Office of National Statistics [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk)

[www.bradford.cityofsanctuary.org](http://www.bradford.cityofsanctuary.org)

c) Other general references :

*The Future of Multi-Ethnic Britain* : The Runnymede Trust : Parekh Report : 2000

*London : the world in one city* : The Guardian G2 : maps based on 2001 census 21.01.05

*Identity & Violence* : Amartya Sen 2006

*The Road to Somewhere* : David Goodhart 2017

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