



# Migration and Diversity in Okehampton in the 1970s and 1980s

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## Note to readers:

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The Okehampton Times reported on the following stories about diverse, global, or multicultural connections or residents in Okehampton in the 1970s and 1980s.

15<sup>th</sup> October 1976: (page 12) Spanish landlord (Jose Galan-Huertas) takes over Seven Stars at South Tawton

29<sup>th</sup> October 1976: (page 1) Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko visits The George, Hatherleigh.

25<sup>th</sup> March 1977: (page 1) South African Gary Van Dyke uses Pine Valley Wildlife Park to train mercenaries in preparation for a raid on Angola oil wells.

23<sup>rd</sup> September (page 1), 2<sup>nd</sup> December (page 1), 9<sup>th</sup> December 1977 (page 24): American Mormons kidnap case- Joyce McKinney et al.

11<sup>th</sup> August 1978: Arab sheik R.A.A. Rahman given permission to open craft warehouse.

16<sup>th</sup> February 1979: German/ Spanish couple give up 'rich' lifestyle in Holland to settle in Hatherleigh and establish kennels.

16<sup>th</sup> March 1979: (p1) First mention of Vietnamese refugees in West Devon. (a bit vague)

20<sup>th</sup> April 1979: (page 1) Ancient farmhouse (mentioned in Domesday Book) sold to German buyer. Comments from local estate agent about increased interest in Devon farmland from EU countries.

19<sup>th</sup> October 1979: German author and wife prosecuted for growing cannabis at Higher Halstock Cottage.

3<sup>rd</sup> July 1981: First mention of ethnic food. Advertisement for 'Old Chippy' takeaway.

25<sup>th</sup> September 1981: (page 4) Belgian starts riding school in South Zeal.

17<sup>th</sup> June 1983: (page 8) Italian family take over Tally Ho, Hatherleigh. Gianni & Anna Maria Scoz with daughters Laura (19), Stephanie (17) and Christina (13). (Gianni instigated the annual New Year dip in 1987).

### **Vietnamese boat people:**

16<sup>th</sup> March 1979: (page 1) First mention of Vietnamese refugees in Devon. Reassurance that local homeless people would not be affected if refugees came.

19<sup>th</sup> September 1980:(page 1) Okehampton Town Council consider offering three houses at Giblands to Vietnamese refugees.



26<sup>th</sup> September 1980:(page 1) Council back in principle settling Vietnamese families in Okehampton and called for public meeting. Some opposition at public meeting.Discussion about support that would be required for the three families.

10<sup>th</sup> October 1980: (page 1) A second public meeting called. Feedback from Vicar of Lifton that Vietnamese refugees living in Launceston had settled in well.

19<sup>th</sup> December 1980: (page 3) First six houses built at Giblands allocated to local people. Three had been intended for Vietnamese boat people but there would be 'slight delay with refugees'. Now expected that they would be allocated houses in Feb.1981. A local support group collecting household goods and raising funds for the refugees.

30<sup>th</sup> January 1981: (page1) Three families of Vietnamese boat people due to arrive soon.

6<sup>th</sup> March 1981: (page 3) Boat People Settle Down. Three families comprising 16 people housed at Giblands. Children start school. First house – Choi Xuan Hoa and wife Phung Vi Hung ( Cambodian, both in late 40s) with 5 children aged 8-18. Second house – Choi Thien Thi, wife Chung Thi Tam (Cambodian, both in early 20s) with 3 children. Third house – Huynh Su Muoi (North Vietnamese 35 year old woman), her widowed mother, her 13 year old brother and 11 year old niece.