

TELLING OUR STORIES, FINDING OUR ROOTS ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

Date of interview	
Location of interview	Museum of Mid Devon Life, Tiverton
Name of interviewee	Kumari Northam
Name of interviewer	Sue Stevens & Wendy Nichols
Length of interview	00:10:44
File format, storage format	WAV, hosted on Soundcloud. Digital copy obtainable from DDE.

Tags:

Sri Lanka ; Hong Kong ; First Generation Story ; Community ; Food ; Tiverton ;

Interviewee's wishes regarding use of interview

None.

Interviewer's notes / any issues on recording

The recording of Kumari's interview is blank until 00:01:35.

There are various noises around the microphone between [00:01:35 - 00:01:53], and loud cracking noises under the speech beginning at 00:07:56.

The recording was cut short at 00:10:44.

Linked objects/photographs.

Key themes and topics covered in the interview

Theme / topic	Timecode on recording
Introduction	[00:02:07 - 00:02:51]
Coming to Tiverton from Hong Kong	[00:02:51 - 00:04:58]
Starting a Business	[00:04:58 - 00:05:50]
People in the UK	[00:05:50 - 00:07:05]
Ceylon Curry House - The Business, Cooking Processes, and Traditional Sri Lankan Food	[00:07:30 - 00:10:33]

Interview highlights

"people are very friendly. Very nice. Like the first time see me even they very humble, big thing for me I'm very proud about this UK people" [00:05:50 - 00:07:05].

Interview summary

Born in Sri Lanka, and after a period spent in Hong Kong, Kumari and her family have now settled in the UK. She runs a mobile catering business in Tiverton, catering to local events and customers.

The recording of Kumari's interview is blank until 00:01:53.

At this point, Kumari introduces herself [00:02:07 - 00:02:38], and gives some background to what she believes to be the meaning of her name [00:02:28 - 00:02:51].

Kumari then goes on to talk briefly about her move from Sri Lanka to Hong Kong, where she met her husband [00:02:51 - 00:03:48]. She then outlines her family's decision to move to the UK, which featured, among other reasons, the affordability of schooling in comparison to that available to them in Hong Kong ("3000 pound for the three of them. For one month, we need to pay 3000 pounds.") [00:03:48 - 00:04:58].

Here, Kumari outlines her journey to starting a business once she had settled in Devon, including attending English classes and obtaining a British passport, and acknowledging the support she was given by her husband [00:04:58 - 00:05:50]. She then talks about the general acceptance of the people she has encountered since moving to the UK, noting that "people are very friendly. Very nice. Like the first time see me even they very humble, big thing for me I'm very proud about this UK people" [00:05:50 - 00:07:05].

Following this, Kumari goes into more detail about her business - Ceylon Curry House - which she began in 2011 [00:07:30 - 00:10:33]. Within this, she details the places she visits regularly with the mobile side of the business [00:07:56 - 00:08:55] her cooking process (preparing in her home kitchen, then cooking in an outdoor oven) [00:08:55 - 00:09:40], and some of their most popular dishes [00:09:40 - 00:10:33], including a traditional Sri Lankan kotthu roti.

The interview ends at 00:10:44.