

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

<b>Date of interview</b>	
<b>Location of interview</b>	Tiverton
<b>Name of interviewee</b>	'Mac' Mudabbir Ahmed
<b>Name of interviewer</b>	Lizzie Mee
<b>Length of interview</b>	00:25:29
<b>File format, storage format</b>	WAV, hosted on Soundcloud. Digital copy obtainable from DDE.

**Tags:**

Bangladesh ; London ; Food ; Community ; Language ; Religion ; Tradition ; Family ; Sports ; First Generation Story ; Tiverton ;

**Interviewee's wishes regarding use of interview**

None.

**Interviewer's notes / any issues on recording**

The recording starts with a few seconds of unidentified noise, and ends with the same.

**Linked objects/photographs.**

**Key themes and topics covered in the interview**

Theme / topic	Timecode on recording
Life in Bangladesh and London	[00:00:00 - 00:02:13]
Moving to Tiverton	[00:02:13 - 00:02:51]
First experience of the UK	[00:02:51 - 00:04:09]
Differences between London and Tiverton	[00:04:09 - 00:05:55] & [00:14:43 - 00:16:07]
Faith and Celebrations	[00:05:55 - 00:07:12] & [00:09:12 - 00:11:44]
Family	[00:07:12 - 00:09:12]
Cooking and Running The Nawab Restaurant	[00:11:44 - 00:13:36] & [00:14:43 - 00:21:30]
Languages	[00:13:36 - 00:14:43]
Hopes for the future	[00:21:30 - 00:24:14]

**Interview highlights**

"I closed the restaurant and I went back home, but I was still cooking because some of my friends is a key worker, a carer and stuff. So they have big carer houses like in London that they work for, so I used to make them food." [00:17:38]

"now I need to offer something to people" [00:20:07]

### **Interview summary**

First, Mac talks about his childhood in Bangladesh and how his family came to England, settling first in London. He discusses what his life was like in London, where he lived near Canary Wharf for twenty years before moving to Tiverton to start a business.

Next, Mac talks about his negative experience of police in Bangladesh and compares it with a positive encounter with police in the UK.

Mac then compares his life in London with his life in Tiverton – how living in Devon is more relaxed and more friendly than living in London, and how Tiverton people have welcomed him to the community.

Mac goes on to talk about being a Muslim, and how that influences his life and his behaviours. He says that Islam encourages him to be kind and thoughtful to others. He talks about how this also ties into the fact that his mother was a kind and caring person. He talks about his family's celebration of Eid, and how they also celebrate at Christmas time.

Mac then talks about the importance of cooking in his life, and how he has developed his cooking skills through the years and continues to do so.

Next, Mac discusses the impact of the Covid pandemic on his restaurant; how he had to close during lockdown for the safety of his staff and the community; and how he offered his cooking skills to support the efforts of frontline care workers while he was living in London during the lockdown.

He then talks about how he developed his language skills (Mac speaks four languages). He also discusses his interest in sports and how that has been impacted by the time constraints of running his restaurant.

Mac next discusses the financial difficulties he has observed in Tiverton's population during the pandemic, and talks about his efforts to offer support to people in need in the community. He talks in particular about how his Facebook page has enabled him to reach out to people who are suffering.

Finally, Mac talks about his hopes and plans for the future, and his desire to do more to help people in the community who are struggling to cope with financial hardship, such as the homeless.

Nicola Belluomo

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