

Naran



Photo courtesy of Naran Patel. Copyright Ton-yr-Ywen Primary.

Naran is 67 years old (2015).

"I was born in India, when I was two years of age I went to Kenya so I lived most of my life in Kenya, and I came here in 1971". Naran came when he was 26 years old. He lived in Grangetown. His sister had arrived 7 or 8 months before him.

Naran remembers finding Cardiff weather to be very cold in comparison.

Naran is a Hindu who visits the temple to worship: "I go there every day". He helped to set up the Shree Swaminarayan Temple in Grangetown

"My one sister is here, the other two sisters are in India, my brother is also here. My parents retired in India but they passed away."

"There were three families in a house, so we were sharing all these things so I said 'mum why are we here? Can we go home please?' she said 'this is your home now'."

"Kenya got its independence, it became a country of its own. The government says I can't stay there because I had a British passport. I was a British citizen. I was a teacher there, so they said all the teachers have to become citizens if not they've got to leave this country".

Naran says how there were more job opportunities in Britain compared to Kenya.

"I was a teacher in Kenya, when I came here I did not like teaching, so I said I will change my profession, so I became an inspector of taxes."

Naran visits India every year for about three or four weeks, as he is retired, he can now spare the time.

Naran speaks four languages and was already able to speak English before he came to Britain. He could speak Swahili, Hindi and Gujarati.

