

Multicultural New Towns Heritage Project



Enriching lives through
Arts and Culture



Hilly Edwards

Hilly is originally from Zambia in Africa, when it was called Northern Rhodesia. Hilly's parents were both from London and they moved to Africa after World War II because her father had been a soldier in an African regiment. When living in Africa Hilly lived near the Victoria Falls and she remembers camping across the wilds.

Hilly arrived in Milton Keynes in 1980 and her first impressions were that there were a lot of building sites and a lot of mud! There was not a lot of infrastructure. Almost everybody was an 'incomer'. Milton Keynes was predominantly white and there was not the access to different foods. Her first job in Milton Keynes was working on the census in 1981. She had to talk to everyone in Wolverton and she found it really interesting. It taught her a lot about the history of the place. She found it easier to make friends when she had started full-time employment and still has friends from then. She would not have chosen to live in Milton Keynes because it was not a very big city and not a lot was going on.

Now she thinks Milton Keynes is wonderful, she likes the greenness and she thinks it has everything she needs. Her favourite places are along the canal and the parks. One of her least favourite places is the City Centre. She does not like the fact there are not individual shops. If she could bring anything from Africa it would be the weather and the space because it is a very different kind of terrain to this green, wet country.

