

Documentation of Bharuchi Vahora Community

[Golden Memories]

North West England - Section 2

Imtiaz Patel Varediawala Dip., MSc.



Name: Abdul Ismail Zumla

Father: Haji Ismail Mohammed Zumla (from Halderva, Gujarat)

Mother: Hajiyani Amanbahen Ismail Mohammed Zumla

Born: 1950, Chipata, Zambia

I landed at Heathrow International Airport, London on 16/01/1967 on a very very cold and frosty morning and did not know anyone in the UK.

On the train to Dover I saw some white workers on the railway line and looked on with surprise as I had not witnessed such a scene back in

Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where they gave orders and never did any manual labour work.

Within the first 24 hours of leaving my parents I had caught my first flight, train and saw the sea for the first time!

While studying at Dover College for my 'A' levels I had the continual yearning to see some snow but never saw it for 16 months. When I saw it for the first time, I ran out and looked in wonder.

My first contact with my relatives was during the Easter holidays when I went to stay with my uncle Esamama Rokad in Preston. It was while staying with them that I realised how hard they worked in the mills and how they struggled and coped in spite of the cultural and language barriers. My uncle's family and friends looked after me with so much love that it made me determined to payback my community later on in my life.

After my graduation at Cardiff University-Birmingham, I got married and settled in Blackburn in 1971, the town where I had also spent my holidays with my cousin Janab Adam Patel who is known as Adambhai Fansiwala and also known as Lord Adam Patel of Blackburn in Blackburn at his house. Adambhai taught me a lot about working for and helping the community.

My first pharmacy was on Whalley Range-Blackburn in 1972. Apart from my professional life, I was taking great interest in social and community services. Being the secretary of the Indian Workers Association (IWA-Blackburn) for 3 years between 1975/78 and together with Siraj Patel (Paguthanavi), we successfully managed to introduce halal food in schools and hospitals in Lancashire-England in 1980s. We created an Ethnic

Librarian's post and a section of books in community languages to cater for the different communities in Blackburn Library in the 1980s.

We won a major award on a televised competition called "Flying Start" to start a project for growing Asian vegetables. In 1980 funding was approved to set up the Bangor Street Community Centre where I was the first secretary. I was also secretary of the Brookhouse Labour Party ward and was elected to go to the Labour G.M.C. We successfully campaigned for the introduction of Gujarati and Urdu languages to be taught at high school and for specialist teachers to be brought in at higher salaries. In order to further serve the needs of my community I became the governor of St John's Primary School and Pleckgate Secondary School in Blackburn.

There was a tremendous shortage of primary school spaces in the area and children had to be bussed all the way to Cherry Tree. We found this not to be the right environment for the children's education and took the matter up with the education department at Whitehall. They sent two special officers all the way from London to see me and after consultation with headmasters of three local primary schools, a brand new school was built in the Brookhouse ward. The local councillors were pleased and County Hall Preston looked on with a smile.

Together with the Pakistan Welfare Association, the Kashmiri League and other community organisations in the surrounding towns, we organised a massive demonstration against the atrocities carried out at the Sabra and Shatilla camps in Palestine. Everyone in the demonstration remained silent and around 6000 demonstrators went around Blackburn resembling a funeral procession. It hit the national news!

Our application for the funding of two offices with paid officers to help with enquiries and filling of paperwork at the Bangor Street Community Centre was approved. This centre has become a very popular location for other community development activities within the ward. It has also attracted many youths away from the streets and helped to channel their time and energy in the right direction.

I was also involved in the initial efforts of setting up Tauheedul Islam Girls School where I argued the need to offer both religious and secular education to our girls and to work towards attaining the highest standards and best opportunities for them to excel in.

We moved on from Blackburn to Birmingham in 1990 where we stayed for nearly 20 years and lived a much quieter life in order to catch up with more time for the family and four children. I worked as a pharmacist manager and consultant with various companies and finally I ran a successful business for the last seven years there.

We eventually sold everything and decided to relocate to Leicester. The children began to graduate in their own fields and have all settled down in their own lives. My children including Rehana, Akeela, Ameera and Muhammed Ruwaid are doing well.

I remember my first day at boarding school in 1967 at Dover and having cried all night remembering my family and friends back home and wonder where all these years have passed. I have witnessed a very hard working immigrant community setting up their own homes and families and starting up successful businesses. It is a pride and joy to see most of them own their own homes. They started off by catching buses to owning more than one car for the family. Their time and effort to educate their children

has paid dividends. The most honourable efforts have been in setting up the mosques and educational institutions and is an ever growing effort.

It is very disappointing and sad to see divisions within the community. So much can be achieved with a united effort to build further for the future generation. Efforts in providing platform and training our youths to take up social and community work have been weak but can still be worked on. More work needs to be done to encourage them to take on political positions in order to enhance social, community and political participation.

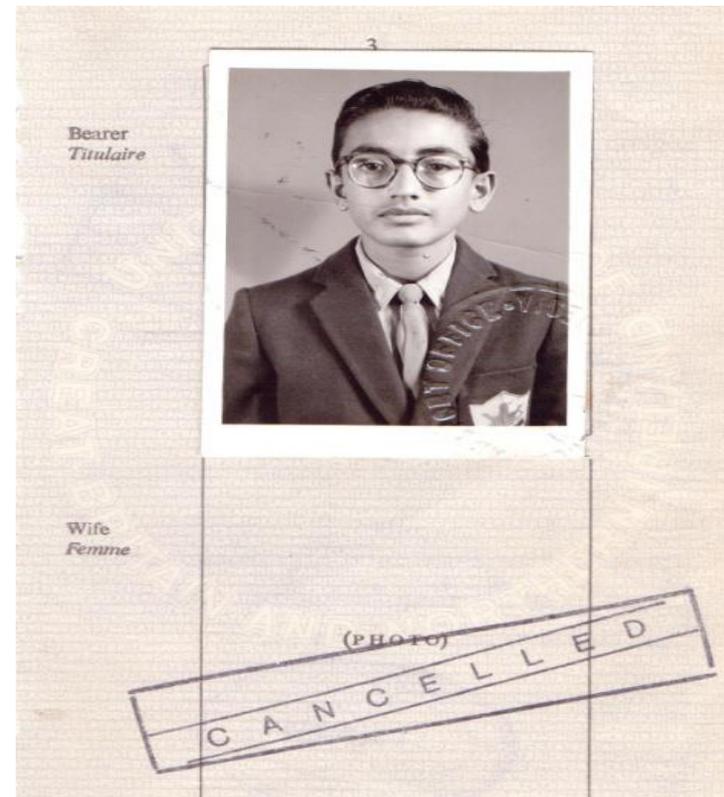
There needs to be more effort to work towards more cooperation and integration with the indigenous communities to strengthen our bonds and make positive contribution as citizens.

There is a lack of social centres to draw the various members of the community together, from the youth to elderly and more events should be held in order to share the wealth of art, culture and traditions that we have brought. There is “so much to do, so little done”.

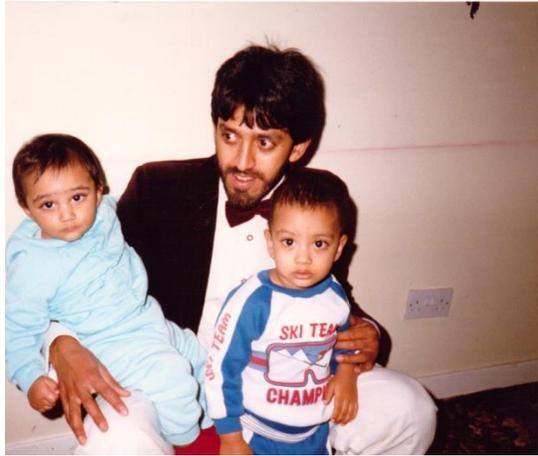
I have been blessed with wonderful parents who worked very hard in the jungles of Africa to give us a good opportunity and sound foundation in life. With a background from village life in India, a British education in Zambia, a religion from the Middle East and having seen life in Africa, my life in Britain has been interesting and would change very little of my past.

I am very thankful for the opportunities offered to me in Britain and hope that I have made some contribution to pay back to the community and to this country at large.

The Country we live in is a country worth dying for.



Abdul I Zumla - 1967



Ibrahim Master with his children Faisal and Javed - 1988

Name: Ibrahimbhai Master Vahaluwala

Father: Janab Musa Master

Mother: Hajiyani Bibiben Musa Master

Born: 1958, Vahalu, Bharuch District, Gujarat, India

My name is Ibrahim Master but I am also known as Ibby Master. I came to England (we used to call it London) in 1966 at a very young age. I came here with my Mother and rest of my family. I think I was about 8 yrs old when I left India.

We travelled from Vahalu to Bharuch and from Bharuch to Mumbai which was known as Bombay to catch our flight from Santacruz International

Airport, as most of the Gujarati people would go to Bombay Airport rather than any other airports like Delhi.

Because I was young I do not remember much about my first experience leaving my village and travelling by an aeroplane, but vaguely it was exciting and a curious journey for me as a young boy. From London Heathrow Airport, we were received by our relatives and we came to Lancaster where my father had already settled. He was working in Lansil Textile Mill in Lancaster. I liked Lancaster as it was a historic town. However, my father decided to move to Blackburn because of his work; on December 25th 1970 we moved to Blackburn. I still remember that it was very cold and that there were a few snowflakes on that day!

The first impression about Lancaster was cold, snow everywhere, and everything was different. The climate, the environment, people, culture, language and you name it. Nothing was common between Vahalu and Lancaster.

I was too young to remember anything about the 1947 India/Pakistan partition, but I have heard stories and learnt from history that, it was one of the most significant events in South Asian history which has changed the lives of many people.

My initial education was in India, I mean at the village school called The Vahalu Primary School. In Lancaster I went to St Anne's Junior School, and Castle Secondary School. In Blackburn I went to Witton Park High School, Blackburn College, Preston Polytechnic, which is now known as the University of Central Lancashire in short UCLAN, and to Bolton Institute of Technology for further post HND studies.

At the beginning communication was a bit of a problem, but I picked up communication skills very quickly. I can communicate in English, Gujarati (as my mother tongue) and Urdu/Hindi. The environment at that time in terms of encouraging people to learn English at that time was good, especially if you are a new arrival. Everybody, teachers at school, your friends, your neighbours would support you to learn English. I received home tuition from students from a local college.

In 1983, I got married to Sharifa Dahelvi of Tankariya. The marriage ceremony took place in Leicester. I have three sons and two daughters, Suhayle, Javed, Faisal, Razina and Raeesa. My grand children include, Isa, Musa, Mohammed, Aamina, Hawwa and Abdul Rehman. My family lived at Oswald Street then at London Road and now we are living at The Sycamores, Lilford Road, Blackburn.

As part of my HND Engineering course, I worked at GEC for about nine months at Clayton-le-Moors., Accrington. As soon as I finished my studies I became self employed. I opened my own business of petrol service stations.

Apart from developing my own businesses, I have been active with my social, political and community services. I have been in the Voluntary Sector for over 25 years. I have been associating and occupying responsible positions in different community and mainstream organisations. I was General Secretary of the Indian Workers Association (IWA), I was Chair of Ethnic Minority Development Association (EMDA), I was Chair of the Lancashire Council of Mosques (LCM), I am currently the Chair of the Discover Communities, a group involved in promoting community cohesion in Blackburn. I was a Non Executive Director of the Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust, where I served as the Chair to

the Audit Committee and Provider Services. For 13 years I was also a Member of Lancashire Police Authority and served as the Chair of Human Resources Committee. I am fortunate and blessed by Allah to serve Milham Mosque, known as Masjid-e-Al-Hidayah, and Hidayatul-Banat as a Trustee. I also sit on the Board of Governors at Blackburn College.

In 2004 I was appointed as the Deputy Lieutenant by Her Majesty The Queen, as the first Muslim, about which I am very proud. Although it is a ceremonial role in the main, it is still a very important role. In Dec 2012, I was appointed as the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, again a very important appointment which brings with it a big responsibility. For a short time I was a member of the Muslim Council of Britain. As the General Secretary of the IWA, we used to invite the Indian High Commission to host Indian Visa Surgeries at Bangor Street Community Centre, Blackburn. We also invited a number of High Commissioners of India to Blackburn and other dignitaries to raise the profile of our community.

I have worked closely with community leaders like Lord Adam Patel of Blackburn, Jack Straw (Fmr British Home Secretary & Foreign Secretary during Labour Government), Iqbal Sacrani, Yusuf Bhailok, Sir Bill Taylor (Fmr Leader and the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Council), Keith Vaz (MP) and many more.

The community has changed socially, culturally and otherwise. The Indian community compared to when I came here back in 60's, has become more prosperous and financially well off. We have become more active in mainstream activities. We have more representation in professional fields. I take this as a positive sign of community development.

I come from a religious background, hence, I completed my Hafej Course (Memorising Quran-the Holy Book of Muslims). My first Ustad (Teacher) was Hafej Moosa Jangarvi in Lancaster, who coincidentally happened to be my father's student back in India. I completed my Hifz Course with Moulana Ismail Manubari in Blackburn.

In the early days, cricket and football games were a part of our social life. I established the first Asian Football League. I joined London Road Cricket Club, Zumla Cricket Club, Altom Eleven Cricket Club and YMCA Cricket Club and played at East Lancashire and Blackburn Northern. I played in the Sunday School League at Pleasington Cricket ground as well as other Leagues in Lancashire. My friend circle included, Inayat Gani, Adam Vika, Saeed Gotli, Siraj Karbhari, Kamruddin Kothia, Hanif Dashu, Hanif Gurji, Usman Patel, Arif Waghat, Mebs Natha and more recently Faisal Jangaria.

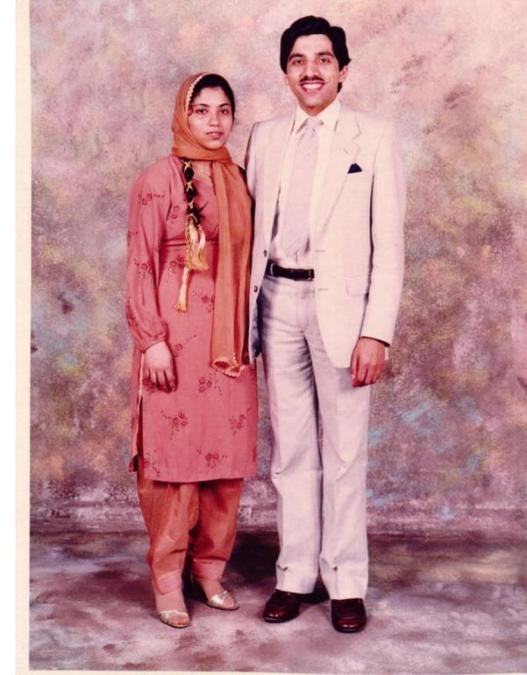
I have visited my village Vahalu four times. Village life, childhood memories still bring joy and happiness to me. My mother used to give me turmeric and milk if I had a cough or sore throat as a herbal remedy.



**Ibby Master with his Cricket Team mates
Alexandra Meadows Cricket Ground – 1996**



**Ibby Master with his Cricket Team mates
Darwen Cricket Club - 1978**



Mr and Mrs Yousuf and Almas Bhailok -1984

Name: Yousuf Mohamed Ibrahim Bhailok

Father: Haji Mohamed Ibrahim Bhailok

Mother: Hajiyani Bibiben Mohamed Ibrahim Bhailok

Born: Sept 23rd 1956, Karmad – Village, Dist – Bharuch, Gujarat

My name is Yousuf Mohamed Ibrahim Bhailok, but most people know me as Yousuf Bhailok Prestonwala. I was born in 1956 in a village called

Karmad in Bharuch district in India. Karmad is a village in the tehsil of Jambusar in the Bharuch District of Gujarat-India. Small village but very well educated, many families, including youths have settled around the world. The village reflects a multifaith population and everybody lives in harmony and peace respecting each other. My village Karmad is not only a beautiful village as you enter in the village there is a big pond (we call it talav) in the entrance of the village surrounded by mango trees, farms, agriculture land etc but has an interesting history and has produced many philanthropic personalities over these years, including my Grandfather Haji Janab Adambhai Bhailok well known for his community, social and political involvement and contribution in those days where these leaders have had very limited resources to achieve some of the most challenging tasks.

My nursery education, for just a few weeks, at the boys Kumarsara in the village at Karmad. I was only five years old but distinctly remember that my teacher used to say that, "Oh, Yousuf you will be going to London (people knew the UK as London) soon." When I used to see an aeroplane in the sky, I used to get excited and at that age I started dreaming about my home away from home. Childhood in Karmad and living with a very big extended family taught me some valuable lessons right from the beginning. Humble childhood, but my parents, my Grandparents, other senior members of the family, and especially my Mother laid the sound foundation and provided me with unconditional love and a great sense of security. However, I believe, parents can only give good advice or put us on the right path, but the final forming of a person's character lies in our own hands.

The moment I was waiting for so anxiously finally arrived. My Dad already left India to come to England in late 1958. He was one of the very early

arrivals. He has too a very fascinating story to share with us as to how these old boys made it to where there are now with almost nothing. They demonstrated tremendous determination, perseverance, faith in themselves and faith in Allah (God). Just incredible journeys. We all should especially the young generation value and respect them for their sacrifices and laying the right foundation for prosperity for us. I still remember, leaving India at the age of five, a very painful experience. Time to say good bye to my Grandparents, my other family members, friends was painful, not knowing when and if I am ever going to see them again. Being an emotional person my heart was full of excitement for the new horizon and sad for leaving my homeland. Especially, I was very sad leaving my domestic pets, chicken and a goat. I also used to sleep with my Grandmother Hajiyani Amanben Adam Bhailok as a child, and oh boy, this was the hardest time to say goodbye to my Grandmother with whom I was very close.

We flew by MEA – Middle Eastern Airline. June 23rd, 1962 I arrived in the UK with my Mother, Sister Hasina and Auntie Jubeda, wife of my Uncle Babukaka Prestonwala. Even at the age of only five, I managed to get a Suit made for me because I was going to London. I was very curious from beginning, hence, found the air journey fascinating and enjoyable. We boarded our plane from the Santacruz International Airport, Bombay (now known as Mumbai) to London Heathrow International Airport. I found both international airports very small, in fact just a building with a very little furniture, no terminals. It was only in 1956 passenger flights started from these airports anyway. However, Ladies in our group were fascinated by the carpet they saw at Heathrow Airport and literally they removed their shoes thinking they do not want to dirty the carpet. Older generation very naive and innocent generation. I remember as a boy, my

first impression of the British culture that they had high standards, good manners and good practices.

On my arrival at the Heathrow airport, I asked my Mother, “How would I recognise my Dad?” My Mother using all her wisdom replied, “You do not have to worry Son, Your father will recognise you!” I was the first one to leave the airport shed, because I just could not wait to meet my Father...could not wait see London...the place we have heard so much about. And there is my Father, I remember him as a young man, very handsome, dressed immaculately well, suit and tie with a British Hat, like a proper English Gentleman. My father saw my younger sister Hasina for the first time at the airport, she was born a few months after he had left India! He picked me and my sister up and gave us a big hug. My uncle Babukaka and other family members also came to receive us at the airport. We travelled in a big Green Thames Ford van to Preston. No motorway at that time, so we took local roads and Dad and uncle kept on following their manual Tom-tom, what I mean is notes for direction. It took us 10hrs to get to Preston from London.

My Father bought two properties in 1960 at 8/9, Guy’s Rows, were in the town centre, just off Church Street, Preston. At no 8, we lived in the two bedroom house, as a family and in no 9 single bachelors, family and friends lived. He bought these through private mortgage for a few hundred pounds. I was just too excited with everything. I was astonished to see a black & white TV in our house. Everybody used to have radio in those days and listened to All India Radio Delhi programme. This was the only form of entertainment available and they could afford to have in those days. But it was fun.

Once we all got settled and after that initial excitement, time to move on with realities. Two months later in 1962, I was enrolled in the Parish Church Primary School. My Head Teacher was Miss Dorothy Williams, the teacher, the mentor and my guide, who played a very important role not only in my student life but in my life generally because she nurtured my leadership characteristics and as a result of this training I became successful in my personal and professional life. Mr Buck was the only male teacher in the school. I was the first Asian student at that time. Everybody, the white students, the teachers and the other school staff were very curious to know anything and everything about India. I could not speak fluent English but in a matter of a short time I learned to speak and write the English language like other students, in fact it may not be an exaggeration, but even better than my counterpart, because as a student I was very hungry to learn something new every day, and of course learning the English language was close to my heart. Wherever you go if you want to become successful, than you must learn the language, culture, about the people and society you live in and should know the history of that respective place or a country.

During my student years at the Parish Church School under the leadership of Miss Dorothy Williams I learnt valuable virtues like discipline, manners, balance, concentration, respecting each other regardless of race, culture and other backgrounds. I was looked after so well and everybody made me so special. I also developed an interest in reading lots of books. After a few days my Father came to my school and said, “Miss Williams, I want Yousuf to become a doctor, so please train him well.” In those days most of the Asian parents wanted their children to become a doctor for whatever reason. Life is so short and usually Asian parents often want

their children to fulfil their own unfulfilled dreams. At the age of 10 I passed my 11+ exam with flying colours.

One of the fondest memories I would like to share is a story of the typewriter. There was a Bullock Typewriter in our school and I was in love with this machine. I wanted it so badly. Miss Williams somehow felt my sentiment so during one of the raffle draws she made sure that I won that typewriter and I did. A good teacher knows her pupil very well and realised the potential in me. Would you believe, I used that typewriter till I was 25yrs old and I have typed many many important personal and business correspondence by using this typewriter. I also participated in the school choir. I was a good singer. I also used to go and pull the bells of the Church and sometime nicked money from the donation box out of innocence. Later on I donated £1000 to the Church to relive my guilt. This is where I also learnt the Ten Commandments and realised the importance of other faiths and importance of multifaith dialogue.

There was no Madrasa (evening school for Islamic teaching) at that time so Moulana Ali used to come to our house to teach us necessary Islamic knowledge.

In 1967 my Father being an entrepreneur, decided to leave the job and start his own business. He opened Lancashire's first Asian Halal Cafe called "Shalimar". My Mother, not only a good mother when it comes to our sound upbringing but she is a good cook. She used to make all types of Indian, particularly, Gujarati dishes, helping my Dad with his business. I used to be their helper serving customers with warm-fresh chapatti-Dal Gost & chawal (Indian Gujarati style meat curry with rice), chicken curry, Gujarati pakodas. Indian tea etc. He closed down the cafe and opened a grocery shop business in 1968. My Father bought a car in 1965 Green

Thanes, car registration number SCK 420. And he used to take us to nearby picnic locations. We had more fun in that old car with the least facilities and luxury than my own Rolls Royce now. I remember my father celebrating my brother Mustaq's first birthday and invited almost everybody to attend a grand birthday party. So to say celebration of life has always been a part of the Bhailok's life. I picked up my business skills and instinct from my Father working hard to develop his business.

From 1967 to 1972 I was a student at the Ashton Ribble Secondary School. This is where I met one of my best friends Yunus Kasamdi who became a famous cricketer and played for Lancashire County. Mr Colonel Sanderson was in charge of our school. By this time I became very competitive and was promoted to a higher stream class. My academic performance got better and better. During fasting time, the teachers and the other students used to look after us so well by giving us blankets and hot water bag. It was the respect they showed towards my religious belief and kind thoughts touched my heart. In secondary school I was taught the importance of perseverance, patience, and endurance. This was the important phase of my life where Mr Sanderson and other teachers were cultivating academic and personality development qualities in me.

From 1972 to 1975 I joined The Preston Sixth Form College. I won The Mayer's prize which is very prestigious for any student for my commendable performance. I passed 11 O levels. With the prize money I opened my first bank account with Midland Bank which became the HSBC Bank later on. Another interesting thing happened. I had to take a science subject. Do you remember, my father's wish for me is to become a doctor. I struggled with these subjects because my natural inclination was with commerce, history and English. My father had to go to India during

this time, and I changed it to my subject of interest which was commerce and business studies.

While studying I started working part time for "On Call Ltd" was a doctors out of hours deputising service, first ever to start in Preston. I was about 16yrs old earning 40p an hour. This was a good lesson. In fact, during 1976 I applied for a few jobs in the Civil Service Commission for an Executive Post, succeeded but I felt that working for someone is not for me. I started appreciating earning money the hard and honest way and it helped me to understand the sacrifice and hard work carried out by my father and other old boys to lay a good foundation for the coming generation.

While completing my study at the Preston Sixth Form College, I learnt that education is not necessarily a qualification for making one's life successful, nor for safeguarding one's own interests; it is really a qualification for a fuller life, a life of thought for oneself and of consideration for others.

After successfully completing my college, I joined Preston Polytechnic undertaking my legal studies course which is now known as UCLAN-University of Central Lancashire. It was in 1982, few months after I married to Almas, that I attended Manchester Business School, did a New Entrepreneurs Programme and I completed my B.A Hons. in Law and Business studies from Manchester University. By the time I completed my graduation, I learnt that a successful person must harmonize his/her thoughts, speech, focus and action.

In 1982 I got married to my wonderful lady Almas Abdullah Chunia Jolly Manubarwala. My good lady is born in Karachi-Pakistan. She was the first

Muslim lady to have qualified from the National Engineering Department, which is equivalent to Oxford University. She is the first Muslim Helicopter pilot flying a helicopter for 10 yrs for recreational purposes. We have been living in a joint family for more than 30 yrs. We are proud parents of three sons and one daughter. All my children had the best education as it goes without saying that education brings empowerment and freedom. Adam is in charge of my property business married to Zainub I Thagiya. He was the youngest Chairman of the Tory Association. My daughter Salma has a degree in Law married to Irfan. My Son In Law Irfan is of Pakistani origin, born in Blackburn. All my children born in Preston. Faisal married to Lamisa Haroon Fansiwala and both are Doctors. Ahmad is studying Property, Finance and Risk Assessment. My Grandchildren includes Jemimah, Fatima and Zahra.

Myself and my wife Almas believe that we must make our children proud of their Islamic heritage, we should maintain our traditional values but equally be open minded in our approach and outlook. We should let the kids, go on their own journeys in life, guide and nurture them, but let them choose their own careers, their own goals and let them aspire to whatever is their call and vocation. The reason for happy married life is equality and respect.

My childhood friends are Yunus Kasamdi Valanwala, Yusuf Mitha Kanthariawala, and Abdul Samad Taylor.

I saved £500.00 while I was working and bought a property at 18Avenham Terrace and sold it for £3000.00. Then I bought another property in 1 Avenham Terrace, after conversion to 4 flats, and sold it to £90,000. In 1978 I heard that the Polytechnic wants to expand their operation and they have a vision to develop this institution from 5000 student to 25,000

students offering more than 20 courses attracting some foreign students. By this time my business instinct had grabbed me and I started focusing on this particular business. I applied for a loan and bought a factory for £50,000. After the renovation I sold this factory for 1 million pounds and I made my first million at the age of 27 for which I and my family members are very proud of.

I opened my own Property Investment Company called Acebench Ltd. The 1980s was the turning point for Britain so as for many Asians because the textile industries started declining. I consider a blessing in disguise. Why? A lot of Asian people started thinking about opening of their own business. I became very aggressive in my business and started investing in surplus properties. At a later stage my brothers Mustaq, Ayyub and others also joined. As the eldest it was my responsibility to guide and support other family members to become successful in their respective lives. With the blessing of Allah, Duaas (prayers) from parents, good wishes from well wishers, hard work, dedication, the business I started with £500 turned into a multimillion pound worth property business. It expanded from a local to a national level as well.

Apart from my business, Father always reminded me about community services and services for humanity. As a result of a decline in textile industries, a lot of Asians were out of work. I teamed up with Louise Ellmand-Chair of the Lancashire County Council, Adambhai now known as Lord Patel of Blackburn, we opened "Lancashire Enterprise Ltd", the first of its kind in the UK, public & private sector working together which provided training and job opportunity to many Asians. In 1980/81 I facilitated to set up the "Preston Muslim Forum" to develop Muslim community development projects.

Along with Lord Adambhai Patel, Mr Rafiq Malik and others, we set up Lancashire Council of Mosques as an umbrella organisation for the mosques. Through my team as Chair of Lancashire Council Mosques (LCM), I recommended many for Magistrates position, as it is important for Muslims to participate and contribute in all respective fields. I was one of the founding members and also Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), post the Rushdie affair. I have been a member of the Union of Muslim Organisation. I enjoyed working with Dr Pasa while I was at UMO. I have been working with the Lancashire Constabulary for over 25yrs in a different capacity. From 1984 to 1994 I served as a Chair and Secretary of Jamia Masjid.

I was one of the pioneers to set up "Housing Association". I initiated a Scheme in the Education sector so that members of the BME community, particularly Muslims can develop their careers in the teaching profession. In 1992 I initiated a project called "Muslim Education Development Project" in partnership with LCM. I work with number of local, national and global charities, including Muslim AID. I am a trustee of the Bharuch Hospital. I was governor and chairman of Frenchwood County Primary School and adviser to many educational institutions.

I was one of the founder members of the "Bharuchi Vahora Association". One of the pioneers to set up First Darool Ulum "Aljamatul Islamia Darululum of Lancashire – Higher Islamic College and Centre for Islamic Knowledge". I have been the Vice Chair of Preston and West Lancashire racial Equality Council.

In collaboration with other like minded people and institutions, I have organised and hosted seminars, conferences and academic/intellectuals gatherings, including a seminar on "How to Improve Madrasa and Islamic

Teaching for our younger generation, Moon Sighting Committee asking scientists, Islamic Scholars, Community representative to come to a consensus regarding the Eid Celebration.

“I believe we must participate in the mainstream of British society at all levels, local and national. Our task is to work constructively and positively for change within. Muslim community is a part of British society now. Let’s make our mark.” I took my Mother and Father to the Queens Garden Party, just to make a point that Asians believe in inclusive society and our values are still important. And it was my way of saying thank you to my Mother for what she has done for our family.

I am a member of the OCI – Organisation of Islamic Countries an organisation with the membership of over 25 Muslim countries. In 2001, pre Iraq, when I attended OIC International Conference as observer status for the MCB, I said, “The time has come when the Islamic World and leadership will have to unite and will have to play a critical role in this global political crisis. All Islamic scholars, academics, government functionaries, Imams, business community and Islamic intellectuals will have to come to gather to protect the future of Muslim Ummah. Time to recognise to live with dignity or to lose our dignity.” I am proud to say that when myself and my wife attended this conference, we were lucky to have visited The Holy Kaba from inside along with other dignitaries.

In just over 50 years living in the UK, now we have 5 generations of the Bhailok family in the UK. From our beautiful Karmad village, our boys and girls are in all professions, medicine, legal, business and our new generation is also active and connected with public and civic life. I am very thankful to Allah (God) that he has been very kind to us.

Sadly my Grandfather, Janab Haji Adam Bhailok, well known and respected community stalwart, to whom we owe our surname “Bhailok”, died on June 24th 1966! Wished he had seen all this progress, success and happy family of his because he is the one who laid the seed of honesty, sincerity in us and he sacrificed his life for us and for the community. My Grandmother Hajiyani Aman joined us in 1968. The role of women in our family and in Vahora society in general is very important which is never mentioned anywhere. My Grandmother, My Mother, My wife, my daughter, my daughter in Laws, they have played an important role in what we have achieved as a family. The Gujarati ladies are the most loyal, hardworking and caring women, they are our best assets and these ladies are behind the success of Vahora men. Not seen or heard, but keep us all going all the time with their unconditional love and care. We started in the UK with a small family, now nearly 200 of us have settled in the UK. Alhamdulillah! (by Allah’s Grace).

Grandparents, my Dadi (Father’s Mother) Hajiyani Aman and Nana (My Mother’s Father) Janab Haji Ahmed Suleman Salya are buried here in Preston! My three Foy’s (My mother’s sisters) also passed away here in Preston. We live and die here! This is now our homeland. We belong now to Preston. Our roots are in Karmad-village, but home sweet home is here! Gone is the myth of return. We are true Prestonians. We have seen celebration of three Preston Guilds, which happen every 20 years, 1972, 1992 and 2012.

From a horse and cart in the Karmad village, to now a Rolls Royce and helicopters, through Allah’s (God’s) grace, parents blessings. Here we are. We are so connected not only to Preston but every single town, of the UK including Blackburn due to our social, community and family network. In

1985, I purchased Oak House, which is still our family home, some 30 years later.

Sookoon (piece of mind) comes from giving, sharing and caring, my lovely mother taught us that spirit of hard work and endeavour. Father used to say, “money you lose, you lose something, however, name you lose, you lose everything!” So integrity and izzat (reputation)!

British society is a very fair and honest society. We must respect the society where we live. Society in general in the 60s was very caring, supportive and full of love. Gradually these values are disappearing. The “Pioneers” have worked very hard, they have set up high religious, social, and moral standards. We should keep up with these high standards. Their loyalty to their family, loyalty for back home and equally to this country is second to none. Let’s not forget them. When I go to the Cemetery, I think, these pioneers have gone but they have left a legacy behind them. The younger generation of the Bharuchi Vahora community is drifting away from these values and traditions including the Gujarati language. They must try to learn and appreciate the Gujarati language otherwise they will be disconnected from their heritage, civilisation and roots.

We are truly loyal to this country. This country UK is a fair a fair society. This country provides opportunity for all, this has been my personal experience. I love this country. We too contribute to a wider society.

I like reading books on economics, politics, philosophy, and autobiography. I read the Quran regularly with Tafseer (meanings). It is important to study, to understand the meanings and messages of the Holy Quran and Hadith (Life of The Holy Prophet Muhammad).

The Bhailok family motto is, “All For One and One For All”. My motto in life is, “Without Fear and No Favours”.

*“Hum Rahen Yan na Rahen Kal
Kal Yadd Ayenge Ye Pal
Ye Pyar Ke Pal, Yeh Yadon Ke Pal”*



**Yousuf Bhailok with his family in his suit as a boy at Bombay Airport –
1962**



MEA Airticket – Yousuf Bhailok – 1962



Yousuf Bhailok and Family – 2013

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION OR REVACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX
 CERTIFICAT INTERNATIONAL DE VACCINATION OU DE REVACCINATION CONTRE LA VARIOLE

This is to certify that *Yousuf Bhailok* (name) born *1958* (date of birth) sex *M* (sex) whose signature follows (signature) has on the date indicated been vaccinated or revaccinated against Smallpox, a été vacciné(e) ou revacciné(e) contre la variole à la date indiquée.

Date	Show by "X" Whether: Indiquer par "X" s'il s'agit de:	Signature and Professional status of vaccinator Signature et qualité professionnelle du vaccinateur	Approved Stamp Cachet d'authentification	
1a	Primary vaccination performed Primo-vaccination effectuée		1a	1b
	1b Read as successful Primo-vaccination réussie			
<i>5/12/62</i>	2 Revaccination	<i>M. S. Rendicich</i> VACCINATOR BROACH CITY		
	3 Revaccination		<i>M. S. Rendicich</i> Health Officer, & Supt. of Vaccination, Broach Borough Municipality	
	4 Revaccination			
	5 Revaccination			
	6 Revaccination			
	7 Revaccination			

The validity of this certificate shall extend for a period of three years, beginning eight days after the date of a successful primary vaccination or, in the event of a revaccination, on the date of that revaccination. The approval stamp mentioned above must be in a form prescribed by the health administration of the territory in which the vaccination is performed.
 La validité de ce certificat couvre une période de trois ans commençant huit jours après la date de la primo-vaccination effectuée avec succès (ou en cas, dans le cas d'une revaccination, le jour de cette revaccination). Le cachet d'authentification doit être conforme au modèle prescrit par l'administration sanitaire du territoire où la vaccination est effectuée.
 Toute correction ou rature sur le certificat ou l'omission d'une quelconque des mentions qu'il comporte peut affecter sa validité.

International Certificate of Vaccination – 1962



Costa Fortuna