

Cardiff Migration Stories



Miss Morton

My dad is Derek Morton. He was born in St Kitts in the Caribbean. He is now 65. My mum was born in Cardiff. My mum is 63. I was born in Cardiff in Grangetown.

My dad brought photos over with him. He travelled by plane. He came over with his mum and his 2 brothers. But my Nan didn't like it because it was too cold, so decided to go back. My dad stayed.

My dad was 18 when he came over. The food is something we have a lot of from the Caribbean. I really like the chicken-spicy jerk chicken and rice and peas is my favourite.

My dad came over to have better opportunities and work. He was one of 9 brothers and sisters. The rest stayed behind. A lot of them moved to other places-America, Canada and other places in The Caribbean.

The big difference is the weather. I've been to The Caribbean, but I prefer to live in Cardiff. It's my home-apart from the weather. Our religion is Christian.

My dad was a welder, making gates and fences. I don't know what he did before he came over.

My mum worked in an office when she met my dad.

When I was 5 or 6 I went to The Caribbean for Christmas. It wasn't cold, it was very hot. I've been there once more since then.

My dad's house was a bungalow-only 3 bedrooms for lots of children. It's not made out of bricks like our houses.

He's lived here longer than he did in the Caribbean, but he has a strong Caribbean accent still.

His favourite food is fish-salt fish with rice. We eat rice with everything!

In some parts of the Caribbean, they do speak a different language, but they also speak English. They call his English Pidgeon English for example, he doesn't pronounce the h in 'th', so he might say 'tree' instead of three.

In the Caribbean there is a big carnival, and now in Cardiff, because there are many Caribbean people here, we have a big carnival in Cardiff.

We don't wear any special clothes from the Caribbean.

I still have quite a bit of family in The Caribbean.

Interview Derek Morton. I lived down the docks when I first came here. It took 2 days to get here. We had to stop over in Barbados on the way. We thought Cardiff would be wet, cloudy and damp! When I first came to Cardiff and saw all the houses with smoke coming out of the chimneys, I thought that they were factories!

It was a big change to come here-it was cold! The Caribbean is hot and beautiful. I prefer St Kitts because it is hot, but I've got my loving family here of course!

