

IRAN – MOHAMMED HOSSAINI

This story was collected by the Kirklees Cohesion Team, if you would like to share your story, please contact cohesion@kirklees.gov.uk



Past: what was your childhood like? Adulthood like back in your hometown? can you please tell us about your journey to the UK?

I grew up in Shiraz, Iran and I really enjoyed childhood. I lived with my parents, two brothers and we had a dog called Rex. During summer I would stay with my grandma and my grandad who also lived in Shiraz. I attended an all-boys school from ages 7 – 15.

One of my favourite memories from living in Shiraz was having faloodeh which is a sweet dessert. I used to play ball in the street with my cousins and my neighbours growing up which I really enjoyed.

Shiraz is well known for its weather as it is always sunny. There are lots of historical sights to visit such as Persepolis which was a castle built for the Prince of Persia in 550 BC. There are lots of markets and bazaars in Shiraz which sells items such as Persian rugs, handmade dishes, and jewellery. You may have heard of Shiraz before from the Shiraz wine. This is a red wine that used to be made in Shiraz, but it is now made in Australia.

I came to the UK when I was 15 with my mum and younger brother and we lived in Wakefield. We then moved to Huddersfield a few months later and have lived here ever since.

Present: How did you find Kirklees? What do you like about Kirklees? What food do you enjoy in the UK? What has been the biggest difference that you have noticed between British society and your country?

Since coming to Huddersfield the people here have always been really welcoming and friendly. I really enjoyed trying roast dinner, especially the gravy and Yorkshire puddings. As I have got older, I enjoy going to bars and restaurants in Huddersfield and going shopping in

Leeds and Manchester. I like visiting Iranian restaurants like Apadana in Huddersfield and I have been to a few in Leeds and Manchester. I also like to go to Shisha bars with my friends.

The biggest difference between England and Iran is the language and the cars driving on the other side of the road. Another difference is that in Iran we celebrate the new year during March whereas in England we celebrate on 31st December.

Future: What are your aspirations for the future? What is one thing that each country could learn from the other?

For the future I hope to progress in work, to help other people and to carry on with my passion for the gym and becoming a body builder.

I think one thing we could all learn is how important family is. Moving so far from my family has been difficult and although it has been good to use video call to speak each day to my family each day it is very difficult to not see them in person.