

IN HER SHOES PAMELA'S

IN HER SHOES

BY BLOWN FUSE ©

VERBATIM STORIES FROM THE WOMXN OF THURROCK

PAMELA

I was born and bred in a former British colony, a country in Southern Africa called Zimbabwe. The name Zimbabwe represents a contracted form of “dzimba dzemabwe”, a Zezuru dialect which means “profound house of stone.”

I had the privilege of living in the capital city where the environment was modern and there were more opportunities of education and employment which enabled me to travel to the United Kingdom to further my education.

I settled in a small town called Grays in the South East of England after I completed my studies. I wanted to reside in a small, multicultural town where there were opportunities to interact with the community as well as engage in various traditional and cultural activities.

I knew that these activities would help me maintain a relationship and link with my roots. One of the places that played a major role in my life in Thurrock was the church. A church where there was a congregation of people who spoke different dialects but there was a sense of unity and support.

This gave me the confidence to approach other organisations in Thurrock that celebrated culture like the Thurrock International Celebration of Culture, where I could participate in various cultural and arts activities as well as experience the captivating diverse culture of Thurrock.

IN PAMMELLA'S SHOES

The opportunity to be in contact with a diverse community and engage in a broad range of cultural projects, gave me a sense of pride in who I am and where I came from. I was no longer embarrassed about telling people that when I grew up, I didn't have some of the luxuries that most of the children have in England.

This confidence was also built up by seeing the various families in Thurrock that live a happy and content life that is not filled with the luxuries in this world. I had the experience of seeing and speaking to families in Thurrock who could not afford to educate their children or could not afford 3 meals a day but they expressed that Thurrock community was always there to lend a helping hand.

This made me appreciate what my parents were able to provide for me: a roof over my head despite the fact that it was not an upmarket house and clothes that were outdated according to the more wealthy people in the community. This also helped me to be content with what I have been blessed with and to offer a hand of help to those in need. Thurrock has kept the torch of love burning despite the negative environment and animosity in the world. This encourages me to show compassion and to be considerate to all.

IN HER SHOES

IS GRACIOUSLY SUPPORTED BY VSDF, THURROCK CVS & THURROCK COUNCIL.

RESEARCH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY CONTRIBUTION FROM **SUSAN YATES, THE THURROCK LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, BATA HERITAGE CENTRE, TILBURY ON THE THAMES TRUST & THURROCK MUSEUM.**

WITH THANKS TO ALL ACTORS WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME AND VOICES IN ORDER TO BRING THESE STORIES TO LIFE.

CURATION, EDITING AND DRAMATISATION BY **BLOWN FUSE** ©



**THURROCK
COUNCIL**