

# Refugees from Egypt 1956-59

## Suez Crisis

By the late 1950s most of the workers had found new accommodation. In 1956, after the Suez Crisis, British citizens and those with British passports, who were living in Egypt were given 10 days to leave the country. Most of the families who came to Bridgend Hostel were of Maltese origin.

## Robbie Bonello



*"There were several hundred of us with British passports, who had to leave Egypt.*

*My father, Spiridon Bonello, had died in 1948. My mother Mary, my brother John, and me Robinson, plus my uncle, aunt and 7 cousins left Alexandria by ship. When we arrived in England we were taken to Yorkshire.*

*In 1957 my cousins decided to emigrate to Australia and Canada, and in October 1957 we were moved to the Bridgend Hostel. We lived there until we got a house in Leonard Stanley in 1958.*

*John and I went to work at the Brushworks factory in Upper Mills, then I worked in the foundry at Lister's, Hoffmann's, Cape Asbestos and Fenworth. My brother John was the manager of Merrywalks Shopping Centre in Stroud for several years."*

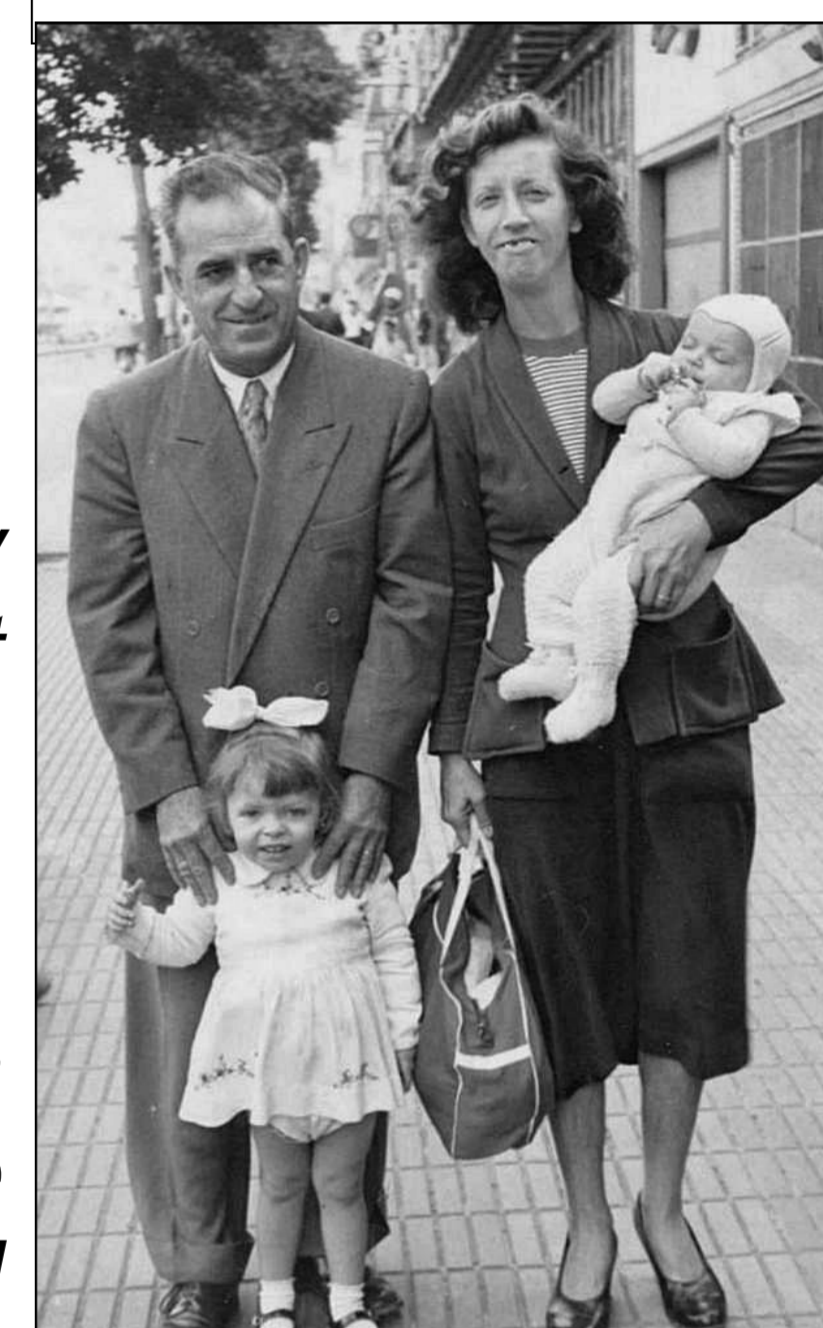
## Nora Abela

*"My husband John and our two young daughters were arrested by Egyptian policemen. Within a month we were told we must leave Egypt and we would be taken to England because my husband, being Maltese, had a British Passport that included me and the children.*

*We were in Bridgend Hostel for about 18 months before being found a house in Brimscombe where we stayed for about 6 months. Then the council offered us a house in Midland Road in Stonehouse where we lived for many years before moving to the flats just off Park Road. I still live there, on my own since my husband died."*



*Mary Bonello  
at Leonard Stanley*



*The Abela family  
before being sent out of Egypt.*



In 1956, 5 year old **Vilma Cini** came with her Maltese parents, Yolanda and Camelo, and lived in the hostel for a short time before moving to Quietways. Vilma still lives and works in the area.

Vilma is the girl with the big bow in her hair right of centre.

The man in the centre is the mayor of Cheltenham, Charles Irving, with Josephine Abela and Joe Spiteri.