

Transcription

"I believe there was some parts of Ireland where they didn't speak English, and in the pubs you could hear some young men talking in the Irish language, you know, it was their natural way.

[Interviewer: So you think there was some language barriers, for some Irish people?]

Yes, only a small minority, a small minority. But it was very hard ... You see, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, we're all one small place, all in the same place, and the whole world thinks that England and Ireland, we're the same. But, what I've learned over the years, we're not. We speak English, but we speak it differently. We think we're speaking English but we're speaking English OUR way.

Plus, our way of thinking is vastly different to an English way of thinking. Our sense of humour is completely different. And so we don't think on the same lines."

Jemina Sweeney was born in Dunleary, Co. Dublin, in 1946.

Her father first came to England in the early 1960s, returning home to visit every couple of months. The family joined him when Jemina was 14, moving to Kent, where Jemina finished school.

She recalls that people were friendly. There were two Irish girls and one Pakistani girl in her school, and the English pupils found their accents difficult to understand.



Jemina moved to London when she was 18 and recalls the lively Irish social scene in Cricklewood. The Galtymore was known as a place where marriages were made and the culture was very different from the Swinging Sixties of Carnaby Street. Jemina also recalled that some young migrants experienced loneliness, away from their friends and families.