

Remembering the 1970s

Abdus Shukur



Mr. Shukur was one of the founding members of Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM) in the 70s and was its chairman and secretary. He was very much involved in Brick Lane in the 1970s in relation to the anti-racist movement and was chairman of the Spitalfields Housing and Planning Rights Service (SHAPRS). At the time of the interview Mr. Shukur was a Labour Party councillor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

..... We were involved before the Altab Ali murder, because we really got active and involved in 1974-75. Altab Ali murder held a lot later than that. But that all came to a crescendo in the summer of 78, because that's when Altab Ali was murdered. The community got far more involved in terms of getting together, because there were various organisations doing things, but the Altab Ali murder actually brought all of those elements together.

..... Brick Lane is far more vibrant then it has ever been. If we did nothing, Brick Lane businesses wouldn't have been the way they are.

..... The battle of 78 was very relevant, because it was a turning point for the community, it was a point, which said that, "we are here to stay, we are not going to be going back".