

# Vietnamese Boat People – *Extra*

by Phyllis Farnham

*Following the article by John Pointon on the Vietnamese Boat People on Thorney Island in the late 1970s, published in the 2017 bulletin, reader and long-time supporter Phyllis Farnham wrote to the EM&HT Hon. Sec. Dorothy Bone. The article stimulated more memories and we are grateful to Phyllis for permission to publish her letter.*

Thank you for the Museum magazine. It is always of interest to me, especially this month's article about the 'Boat People'. I remember them well. And especially their contribution to the monthly 'Craft Fair' in Emsworth.

They did not sit about waiting for help, they got on and did things for themselves. One of which was to introduce us all to their cooking; we all fell for their tasty 'chicken spring rolls'. Of course, nowadays, one can buy them at any supermarket, but they were new to us then, and became very sought after. We stall holders began arriving at the market earlier and earlier in order to make sure of our lunch.

Another accomplishment of the 'Boat People' was making the padded jackets of their native land – again, very popular nowadays, but strange to us then. I remember they cost about £15 which was



*Basil and  
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quite a lot of money then but (the jackets) proved to be very warm and cosy.

I believe Helen Barnard was instrumental in helping them get started. I know she asked for donations of sewing machines.

We all had great admiration for these 'Boat People' who landed on our shores with nothing having been turned out of their country. But they soon put their talents to work.

There must be other people in the village still who remember them.....

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