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Newham Chinese Association

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# Chinese Fortunes Oral History Project

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*Newham Rathbone Market regeneration festival 2020*

紐咸華人協會

《華人的財富》口述歷史項目

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## 01

## Mr WHT 84, arrived from Sai Kung, Hong Kong in the 1960s

In the early 1960s I joined the Royal Hong Kong Police Force. But I felt life as a policeman was rather dull and repetitive. After 5 years in the force I thought it might be better for me to come to the UK. One day, I asked my mother if she was happy for me to come over here.

I worked in South Kensington for two years in a Chinese restaurant with no experience and learnt on the job. At 23, life was a tough challenge and found the restaurant business too hard and pay was not good at £5 a week. I resigned and went to work for the Hilton hotel in Park lane, my temporary waiter position didn't last long and left for a job in Limehouse.

In those days, Limehouse was a busy place. There were dozens of Chinese restaurants along the road where the Church stood, each having probably just two or three tables, serving dinners to eat-in customers. Fights broke-out rather frequently, regardless whether it's day or night. Fights were more likely to break out on Friday and Saturday nights. I was a waiter working there then; you can see a fight breaking out any minute. Sometimes we'd have to defend ourselves with arm wide wood sticks. We'd get involved in the fight as soon as things got nasty. No nonsense! Just fight! Then the police would come; and after some talking, things would get back to normal! OK! They would have cleverly covered this for you in the weekly wage. Anyway, the wages we got were peanuts. You know, the highest wage I got was £7.50 a week!

### 01 | WHT 先生，84 歲，上世紀60年代從香港西貢到英國

一九六零年代初，我加入了皇家香港警隊。但不久之後我開始覺得當警察的生活有點乏味，每天都是做著重複的事情。在警隊工作了五年之後，我便想來英國謀求新機。一天，我徵求我母親的意見。我問她同不同意我去英國，她同意了。這樣，我便到了英國。

起初我在肯辛頓南邊的一家中餐館打工，一共做了兩年。由於沒有經驗，我只能邊做邊學。那時我才二十三歲，以一個孤獨的年輕人來說，生活本身就是一種艱鉅的挑戰。餐館的工作很辛苦，每週的工資也只有 5 英鎊。於是我辭去了這家中式餐館的工作，去帕克巷的希爾頓酒店工作。但我在這家酒店的服務員職位只是暫短的，沒多久我已經離開，並在東倫敦的萊姆豪斯區找到另一份工作。

那時候，萊姆豪斯區還是一個繁忙的地方。位於教堂所在的那條街上，一路就有好幾十家中餐館。不過這些餐館都不大，裡邊大概只有兩三張桌子，只要是為食提供晚餐服務。然而餐館也不太平，不管是白天還是黑夜，常常出現打架爭吵的情況，特別是在星期五晚和星期六晚。那時我在餐館當服務員，隨時目睹打鬥和吵鬧。有時候，我們不得不用手臂寬的木棍來保護自己。每每爭吵解決不了問題時，打鬥就開始，我們也就被捲進其中。說打就打，沒有商量的餘地！隨後警察就出現。經過一番交涉，一切也就恢復正常！就這麼簡單！老闆也會按實情合理地為打工仔補上工資。但不管怎樣，那時候我們拿到的工資非常低。也許你也聽說過，我當時得到的最高工資每週也只有7.50英鎊！





## 02

Mrs KKH 62, arrived from  
Hong Kong in the early the 1980s

I arrived in the 1980s. I was what people called “A bride from another town”, my husband went to Hong Kong to look for a wife. We got married and had a daughter the year after, we lived above my father in law's takeaway for 3 years. Well, let me first of all explain a bit about the hardship I endured in the UK. When we moved out [of the takeaway shop] and later gave birth to my son, an incident happened resulting from an error made by a hospital. I almost died from it.

We didn't know how to fight for our rights. We didn't know how to lodge a complaint. That was how I found myself at a disadvantage. Then, we came home with our son, three years later, my husband did not make it home after an operation for thyroiditis. The operation had some signs of errors made by the hospital. It was caused by negligence. There were hospital staff shortages at that time. After my husband's operation, he was transferred out of the operating theatre, eight hours later he died because he couldn't breathe.

I was new to the UK, I didn't know any English. I had no relatives or friends here. What else I can do? The only place I might get some help was the Chinese community centre in Chinatown. Staff there gave me a lot of help, translating things for me, advising me on welfare benefits and so on. Subsequently I became a volunteer as a receptionist.

I continued to learn, to update my knowledge. I got to know many new friends. Without being involved in the setting up of the Newham Chinese Association and working as a volunteer for the Chinatown Chinese Community Centre, I wouldn't have been able to meet so many new friends, many of whom are still in contact to date. Without them, I wouldn't have a single friend. Since I came to the UK, I think for me the biggest achievement is that I was involved in setting up the [Newham] Chinese Association. And also, I've got two lovely children.

## 02 | KKH 女士 62 歲，一九八十年代初由香港到英國

我是1980年代到英國的。我就是大家所講的所謂“過埠新娘”。當時老公去香港物色對象，通過介紹人找到了我。我們結婚一年後生了一個女兒。初到英國時，我們在公公的外賣店樓上面住了三年。首先我解釋一下我在英國忍受的艱辛：那年，我們搬離外賣店後，我去醫院生下我的兒子。但在接生時因醫院方面的失誤發生了事故，我差點兒因此丟了性命。

當時我們不知道如何爭取我們的權利，不知道如何去投訴。我突然發現自己處於劣勢的困境中。我們就這樣抱著兒子回家了。三年後，我丈夫因甲狀腺炎又去醫院做手術，但手術後他最終沒有回家來。手術過程中顯示醫院方面的某些過失，而這些過失是由疏忽造成的，因為當時醫院人手不足。手術後我丈夫被轉離手術室，八小時後他就因不能呼吸而死亡。

而初來報到的我，不會英語，四周沒有親戚和朋友。我能做什麼呢？我唯一能做的是去找唐人街的華人社區中心幫助我處理。的確，那裡的工作人員給了我很多幫助，她們為我作翻譯，為我提供福利方面的信息，等等等等。後來，我成為該中心的義工，並擔任接待員工作。

後來我繼續堅持學習，充實我的知識，並且在這個過程中認識了很多新朋友。倘若不是曾經參與成了紐咸華人協會(NCA)和在唐人街的華人社區中心做義工，我不可能結識這麼多朋友，其中的許多人至今仍然和我保持著聯繫。沒有他們，我可能連一個朋友都沒有。到英國這些年，對我來說，我的最大的收穫就是參與了成立了紐咸華人協會(NCA)的工作。同時，我還養育了兩個可愛的孩子。





## 03

Mrs WWS 70 from  
Mainland China in 1982

I grew up in Guangzhou City. During the period of the Shangshan Xiaxiang Movement (go to the countryside) proposed by Mao Zedong, I was sent to the countryside after middle school. Later in the 1970s, we crossed the border illegally to Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, I got married then came to the UK as a bride. Living condition in those days was very poor [in China] so we had to leave; but having left there, things hadn't changed much either. I married someone who at that time was working in the UK. I had not known him previously. I was introduced to him by others. There was no true feeling of love. I married him just because I wanted to make a living. I wanted to come to the UK to make a living.

I asked myself: How on earth could I get myself into this strange situation? The surroundings were so unfamiliar to me. I looked out the window, watching birds flying in the sky, cars passing by. After a while, I thought I shouldn't stay like this all the time, I'd do something about it. But then, I didn't speak English. We found a [takeaway] shop and started our business; the family lived on the shop's upper floor. Even so hardship continued through our working life. There were lots of things we did not know how to deal with, and money was a problem, too. We had to borrow money. We borrowed all the money needed for the business.

I think the air here is fresh. It feels very comfortable here. The surrounding can make you happy. When I was still in China, though, I felt pressured. There was this mental kind of pressure. Because of the things up there; because you can't talk about the things you want to talk about; you can't do this or do that... There was this kind of invisible pressure. But here, you won't have such feelings. You have more freedom here.

## 03 | WWS 女士70歲 原籍廣州1982年由香港來到英國

我在廣州市長大。中學畢業後，為響應毛澤東提倡的“上山下鄉運動”，我離開廣州到農村去。後來，到了一九七零代後期，我和另外幾個人一起非法越境到香港。我在香港結婚，然後又以新娘的身份來到英國。在中國那陣，我們的生活條件很差(在中國)，所以我們不得不離開；但離開了之後，我的環境也沒有太大變化。我嫁給了當時在英國工作的一名華人。之前我並不認識他，是別人介紹我們認識的。我們之間沒有真正的愛情。我嫁給他只是因為生計。我想來英國謀生。

初到英國時，我常常問自己：到底為了什麼我來英國，讓自己陷入這樣的困境？我周圍的一切都是那麼陌生。我望著窗外，看著鳥兒在天上飛，汽車在街上駛過，心裡很苦悶。又過了一段時間，我想我不能這樣下去，我應該做點什麼。但我又不會說英語，怎麼辦？後來我們找到了一個店鋪，開始做外賣。我們一家人住在外賣店的樓上。即使如此，我們的工作生活仍然存在著困難。有很多事情我們不知道如何去處理，缺錢也是一個問題。我們不得不借錢。我們做生意所需的本錢都是借來的。

我覺得英國的空氣很新鮮；在這裡我感覺很舒服。周圍的環境讓你感到開心。然而，當我還在中國時，我常常感到壓力很大。我感到一種心理上的壓力。在那裡有些話題你不能談；那裡有這樣那樣的不方便。你感到有一種無形的壓力。但在這裡，你不會有這種感覺。你在這裡有更多的自由。





那一年的他们和她们





## 04

Mrs H C 85, arrived from  
Haiphong, Vietnam in 1980

I was born, went to school and grew up in Haiphong, Vietnam; later I got married. I was a primary school teacher in Haiphong. Then in 1980, [Vietnamese Government] drove the ethnic Chinese people out of the country. In 1979 I was in Hong Kong. Later in 1980 I came to the UK.

I have been involved in volunteering activities in community centres [when I was younger]. I tried my best to help others who needed support. I did what I could do to help. I have been a refugee myself. I know what the experience of being a refugee is like. Because I have gone through such hardships myself. It's a horrible experience. When in a boat travelling in the rough sea, you never know where you may end up. You may end up in the stomach of a big shark. So, you'd be lucky to have survived the journey and get your life back.

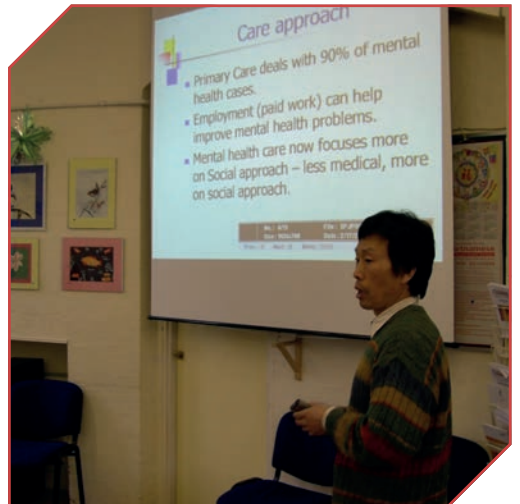
Although our life Vietnam was not terribly hard, had we stayed in Vietnam, our children would not have been able to see the Western world, the life style, the scientific advancement and so on in the West. The culture, life style, the science etc. these are all advanced and progressing. Now I have brought my children here, they are able to see the advanced civilization in the West, the society, the welfare, the culture, politics, and so on and so forth. There are lots of big things that they are seeing but would not have been able to see and learn had we stayed in Vietnam. This is how I feel. How could you see and experience all these had we still stayed in Vietnam? Where would you learn all these things? A basic survival existence of two meals a day would have been the most desirable hope [had we stayed in Vietnam]. Whereas in the West, everything is progressing, everything is on the move.

## 04 | H C 女士85歲，1980年從越南海防來到英國

我在越南海防市出生、讀書和長大。後來我那裡成家。在海防時我是一名小學教師。1980年前後，越南政府將華人驅逐出境，我們於1979年去到香港。1980年後期，我來到了英國。

稍早前我曾參與社區中心的志願工作。我盡我所能幫助需人。我自己曾經是難民，我親身體驗過難民經歷，深知難民的疾苦。那可是一次可怕的經歷。當你坐在一條小船在波濤洶湧的大海中航行時，你永遠不知道自己的命運會是怎樣。說不定你會葬身魚肚。所以說，能活下來就是不幸之中的大幸了。能保住生命比什麼都更重要。

雖然在越南時我們的生活並不是特別艱苦，但如果今天我們還留在越南，我們的孩子就無法看到西方的世界、生活方式、科學進步等等。西方文化、生活方式、科學發展等等都是先進並不停發展的。如今，我能把我的孩子們帶到這裡來，讓他們看到西方先進的文明、西方的社會、福利、文化、政治面貌等等。他們因此增長了見識、學習了新的知識。反而，假如我們留在越南，我們的孩子們就無法看到這些東西和學到這麼多。這就是我的感受。如果我們還留在越南，他們怎麼能看到和體驗這一切？他們會在這裡學習所有這些東西？在越南，求一天兩頓飯就是將是最奢侈的希望。但在西方，一切都在進步，一切都在向前發展中。





## 05

Mr JL arrived from  
Hong Kong in 1974

I was employed by Chinese Information and Advice Centre (CIAC) based in Chinatown as a community development worker. The strategy of the CIAC community development is to develop local Chinese organisations, so that they can respond to local needs and take part in local affairs and serve the Chinese community in the local area. And we, before Newham, have set up the Haringey Chinese Centre, Islington Chinese Centre, and the London Health Resource Centre.

I started when I was a student in 1976. I was at the time an overseas student. We were self-financed. You don't get grants. I worked in a big restaurant in Chinatown as a waiter on weekends, and I was in touch with the waiters, waitresses and chefs. The 1970s was a decade when a lot of Chinese immigrants came to the UK. These were predominantly male members of the family who came to work to earn money to send home to support their wife and children at home. For many of them, the intention was that when the situation improved they'd return to Hong Kong or their territory.

When they had problems about housing, services, education, dealing with authority, they'd come all the way to Chinatown to see us at CIAC and as said, the focal point for people to come together is nothing special but rather it was because the desperation that people faced everyday. They had problems needed to address but didn't know how. With this service, people come and share their information and you prove yourself that you are able to advise, assist and give guidance that is helpful for them in addressing the problems. Then you see the usefulness of a body.

## 05 | JL 先生 五十多歲，1974 年從香港來到英國

初到英國時我受僱於位於唐人街的資訊諮詢中心 (CIAC)，擔任社區發展工作。這個中心主要是發展各地的華人基層機構，為當地華人提供幫助和服務。在紐咸華人社區中心(NCA)之前，我們已經先後成立了夏零基華人中心、依斯靈頓華人中心和倫敦健康資源中心。

一九七六年，我還是學生的時候，就開始做些義工來幫助倫敦的華人。當時我還是留學生。但那時的留學生都是自費的，無法領取獎學金。所以每逢週末我都在唐人街的一家較大的中式餐廳做服務員，以便賺點錢來維持生計。我們這些服務員同廚師和廚房裡的其他人員有密切的接觸。一九七十年代華人移民到英國來的很多，他們大都數是家庭中的男性成員，來英國打工賺錢以便寄錢回家幫助養家糊口。對他們來說，只要將來攢夠錢，環境好轉時，他們便返回自己的家園。

那時，每當在餐館打工的華人遇到難題時，不論是住房、服務、教育的難題，或是要同地方官場打交道的難題，他們都會到唐人街的資訊諮詢中心來找我們幫助。如上所述，他們來唐人街找我們幫助主要是因為在其他地方沒有人可以幫助。他們面臨困境，自己又不能處理，需要有人幫助。所以通過為這些人服務，分享他們的信息，我們從中體驗到自己價值。我們為他們提供建議、協助和指導，幫助他們解決問題。我們從中看到我們的華人基層機構的功能和用處。





## 06

## Mrs MF 72, arrived from Malaysia in 1974

I was born in Penang, Malaysia. At 20 years old I came over here in 1974 as a nurse. I was already an auxiliary nurse in a private hospital in Malaysia, we had very good training there, so when I came over it wasn't so daunting for me. I came to East London, my training has always been in East London, and I stayed in East London.

I went back as an agency nurse at St Andrews Hospital and within a year, they got me back as a staff nurse, and then I got my Sister's job, first post. I didn't like the same one specific area of nursing so I branched from medical, chest, then geriatrics, then from geriatrics, I went to district nurse training, became district nurse for eight years. And after that, I did my course in palliative care, I didn't want to go into palliative care, although I did the course.

When I first came and saw East London at St. Andrews, I came out Bromley-by-Bow station, walked down the pathway, I thought, my god, is London like this, all drab and old, really old?

I've always lived in East London. We were living in the nurses' home until I finished my training, because I met my husband through - mum. She was a patient in the ward, so it was her that you know pulled us together.

Yeah, one bedroom. And then when I had my second son, we got a flat. Second one was a maisonette, also in Bow, yeah. It was only after that, after my second son, eighteen months later- when he was eighteen months, we bought our own house in Newham. I was involved in the Chinese community in the late-80s, early 90s. I was also the chair of the Newham Chinese community centre (NCA) for a few years, and then I came out of it.

## 06 | MF 女士 72歲，1974 年從馬來西亞來到英國

我出生在馬來西亞檳城。一九七四年，20 歲的我來到英國做護士。在馬來西亞的時候，我已經就在一家私立醫院裡做輔助護士，我們在那裡接受了很好的培訓，所以當我到英國時，我並不感到過份擔心和害怕。到英國後我在東倫敦落戶，我的醫學訓練也一直都在東倫敦，這些年我始終在東倫敦工作和生活。

後來我回到聖安德魯斯醫院擔任代理護士，一年後，我升為正式護士，接著又升任為護士長。這是第一個正式的升職。但我不滿足與喜歡護理裡的單一領域，我想讓自己多學其他技能。於是我學習了其他分支的護理：胸部方面的、老年病學的，然後從老年病學我有去參加了地區護士培訓，因而成為一名地區護士，而且一個做了八年的地區護士。在那之後，我又完成了緩和病痛治療的一個課程。不過，雖然我完成了這門課程，但我並沒有在這個部門工作的打算。

記得當年我初到東倫敦時，我來到聖安德魯斯，看見眼前的一切。我從波路里白包(Bromley-by-Bow)車站出來，沿著小路走，我想，天哪，原來倫敦是這樣的嗎？既單調乏味又陳舊。真的有點破落。我一直住在東倫敦。在我完成培訓之前，我們一直住在護士宿舍。我在醫院認識了我的丈夫。他的母親是我看護的病房裡的病人；是她把我們拉到了一起。

之前我們全家只有一間臥室，真的。生第二個兒子時，我們開始住進公寓樓房。接著第二次搬家又搬進一棟大樓裡，地點也是在堡區(Bow)。生我們的第二個兒子十八個月之後，我們才在紐咸區了自己的房子。上世紀 80 年代末至 90 年代初，我參與了華人社區。有好幾年我還擔任了紐咸華人協會(NCA)的主席。但後來我離開了。





## 07

Mr SBF 71, arrived from  
Hong Kong in 1967

I have been in London since 1967. I came to be trained as a mental health nurse in Chartham, Kent. It was just before my 19th birthday that I arrived here. It was one of the very big mental hospitals of the day.

I was a stateless person, so I left with my family from China to Hong Kong at the back end of 1949. We were not Hong Kong citizens and we were not the People Republic of China citizens, we were stateless and we lived in a shanty town for a long time, from 1949 until the shanty town burned down in 1963. Then we lived in a cardboard shelter in a disused football field, until the Hong Kong government resettled us in one of those resettlement blocks, there was no running water and electricity. In the shanty town there is absolutely no facilities, no sanitary stuff, no electricity, no water, no law and order, and so on.

I left school when I was 17. Growing up in a tenement block in Hong Kong, I was the first one in the whole estate to leave for England so it was quite a big deal when I left.

Leaving for England was very good way of getting financial independence. My father died the same year when I left. He had been ill for some time. I still have a sister and two brothers, none of them finished secondary school, they all worked to support mum. So that was hard. I had no chance of getting into any further education in Hong Kong because competition was very high, so the nursing route was a very good way to come, in those days England was very, very keen to recruit workers from the Commonwealth or the colonies.

## 07 | SBF 先生 71 歲 1967 年從香港來到英國

自 1967 年以來我就一直在倫敦。起初我是來肯特郡查瑟姆接受心理健康護士的培訓。我來英國那年正好在我 19 歲生日之前。我所在的那個醫院的是當時最大的精神病院之一。

原本我是一個無國籍的人。我和我的家人在 1949 年底從中國大陸來到香港，但我們不是香港公民，也不是中華人民共和國公民，我們是無國籍人士。很長一段時間裡，我們就住在香港的木屋區。我們從 1949 年到 1963 年一直住在木屋區，直至那年木屋被燒毀。然後我們又搬進一個廢棄足球場的硬紙板屋區，直至香港政府把我們安置到安置區中。但沒有自來水和電。貧民區完全沒有什麼像樣的設施。沒有衛生用品，沒有電，沒有水，而且治安極差。

我 17 歲就輟學了。在香港的一個這樣的居民區長大，我能到英國來，也是整個居民樓區的第一個。所以，我前往英國的消息，當時在我們的住宅區也算是一件大事。

去英國也是我獲得經濟獨立的一個好途徑。我離港的那年，我父親去世了。他已經病了一段時間。我還有一個姐姐和兩個兄弟，但他們都沒有讀完中學，中途就去替人打工來護養媽媽。所以我們的環境還是很難的。在香港我不會有繼續深造的機會，因為那裡入學的競爭非常激烈。所以做護理是一個很好的選擇，而且，當時英國極為註重在英聯邦地區和殖民地招聘工人。



## 08

Ms LWH 60, arrived from  
Hong Kong in 1974

I was born in 1961 in Hong Kong. I came (to the UK) when I was about twelve and a half in 1974. My parents came first and then me and my siblings joined them, a year or so after.

I was brought up in the new territories where English is hardly ever spoken, I couldn't speak a word of English so at twelve it's actually very tough. I still remember the things that I had learnt about the UK before I came: was that they eat sweet rice, now I know it's rice pudding, I thought how do you eat rice sweet? So, I came, and it was really tough because I couldn't speak a word of English. I wasn't a very bright student as it was, let's put it, I wasn't a very keen student, even back in Hong Kong. So not being able to understand a word at all about what's going on in school was very difficult.

I didn't have any friends, but luckily in those days, because we couldn't afford to rent a place of our own so we just rented a room in a house with many Chinese families who live in the house; so to a certain extent we weren't so isolated. But in those days, there were only five Chinese students in the school [that I attended].

My parents were quite keen on our education, I remember the first summer holiday I was sent away to a summer school for English. My parents did quite a lot to help and support me. I think I'm the most difficult one among the four children, my two other sisters who are younger picked up English pretty easily, and my older sister was in secondary school already in Hong Kong, she already had a basic level of English. The only thing I can say was my name, in the beginning I actually carried a piece of paper saying my name, and I got bullied for it.

## 08 | LWH 女士，60 歲，1974 年從香港到英國

我1961年在香港出生。一九七四年在約十二歲半的時候，我來到（英國）。我的父母比我們先到英國，大約一年之後我和我姐妹們才來和他們團聚。

我是在新界長大的，那裡幾乎沒有人講英語，所以我一句英語也不會說。作為一個十二歲的女孩，初來英國時困難特別多。我還記得來英國，我聽別說，那邊的人吃飯和我們不一樣：人家是吃糯米飯的！當然，現在我才知道人家指的是甜品。但那時我老是想，怎麼老是吃糯米飯啊？所以，到了這邊，又不會英語，真的很艱難。而且，我在學校的成績並不太好，我不算是個非常聰明的學生。或者說，我不是一個非常敏銳的學生，之前在香港也是一樣。因此，在班裡聽課，但又一個字都聽不懂，其困難可想而知了。

那時後我身邊也沒有什麼朋友。但幸運的是，由於租不起自己獨住的住所，我們要在了一棟屋裡租了一房間，而這棟屋裡又住著好幾家華人家庭。我們因而有機會同屋內的華人接觸，在某種程度上我們並不過分孤立。而在我的學校，那時也只有五個華人學生。

我的父母對我們的教育很注重。我記得第一個暑假我就被送到了暑期英文補習班。父母為我的教育做了很多幫助和支持。我認為我是四個孩子中最棘手的一個，另外兩個比我小的妹妹英語學得還不錯，姐姐在香港已經上中學了，有了基本的英語知識。而我，我唯一能說的就是我的名字。剛來時，我總是隨身帶著一張紙，上面寫著我的名字。為此，我也經常被別人笑話和欺負。





## 09

## Mr YKY, 56, arrived from Hong Kong in 1988

I was born in Hong Kong's countryside. I came from a poor family so I had to find work after finishing Middle School in order to support my parents. In 1988, at the age of 24, I immigrated to the UK. It was my first time travelling by aeroplane. I entered the UK with a Work Permit. My first job was working in a Chinese restaurant in Gravesend, Kent.

I remember, at first, when the restaurant was closed, I'd always have to buy a meal from McDonalds; and for every meal, I'd always eat a hamburger, plus a soft drink. Once my boss came in and saw me eating a hamburger, he commented: "Wow... You are addicted to hamburgers!" I said: "No. Not really". He said: "But I see fastfood wrappings in the bin all the time". I explained that I wasn't particularly fond of fastfood and that it was because my English was too poor to order anything else. I couldn't read a restaurant menu in English, but somehow I was able to say "Hem-Berg-Gar" at a McDonald shop.

Gradually, my English improved. I became more confident with my English. Some years later I got a job as an assistant chef for an international hotel based in Gatwick Airport, where I met new friends of different nationalities and acquired new skills. Later I got my hands on a small business in east London. Over the years I have been involved in a number of charitable organizations, helping people in need.

### 09 | YKY 先生，56 歲，1988 年從香港來到英國

我出生在香港的鄉村。過去我家境比較貧寒，中學畢業後我就去打工幫助養家活口。一九八八年我 24 歲時，移民來到英國。那是我第一次乘搭飛機。我是持有工作許可證進入英國的。我的第一份工作是在肯特郡格雷夫森德的一家中餐館打工。

我還記得，起初，每當餐廳關門時，我總是要去麥當勞買東西來吃，而且每次都是吃一個漢堡包，另外再加一杯橙汁。有一次，我正在吃漢堡包時，碰巧被我餐館的老闆看見了，他說：“哇，你吃漢堡包上癮了！”我說：“不。我並不太想吃漢堡包”。他說：“那怎麼我總在垃圾箱裡看到快餐包裝紙袋？”我解釋說，其實我不願意吃這類食物，但因為我的英語不好，我不敢點其他食物。而且我又看不懂英文餐牌，我只能吃漢堡包了。起碼，我講“Hem-Berg-Gar”人家聽得懂。

後來，我的英語漸漸進步了，我的信心也提高了。幾年之後，我在吉域機場的一家國際酒店找到一份助理廚師的工作。在那裡，我結識不同國籍的朋友，學了新的技能。再後來，我在東倫敦開了一家小店。這些年來，我參與很多慈善組織的義務工作，為有需要的人提供幫助。

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