



從中國到雷汀

From China to Reading



雷汀華人協會 Reading Chinese Association

1950s



1970s



1960s



2010s



Foreword

Reading Chinese Association was set up in March 2013 and we are very lucky to have received funding from Heritage Lottery Fund for this project.

Chinese settlers arrived in England as early as in 19th century. Since then there have been different waves of immigrants in different times. Having just achieved our first Chinese MP in 2015, we would really like to capture stories of Chinese immigrants.

This booklet has involved many people and has captured stories of Chinese people who have made their homes in the Reading area. The stories were produced by volunteers who spent many hours in first identifying members in the Chinese community, then interviewing for 30 minutes to 2 hours. Summaries were produced from the recordings which were edited into stories and translated into Chinese or English accordingly.

We would like to thank all participants who kindly gave us their permissions to share their stories with other people. We would also like to thank all the volunteers for donating their times in making this project possible.

The views and opinions expressed by the story providers are solely of their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association.

雷汀華人協會成立於二零一三年，我們很榮幸獲得文化遺產彩票基金的贊助開展這個項目。

華人移民踏足英國追溯始於十九世紀，其間出現了多次不同年代的移民潮。第一位華人剛於二零一五年成為國會參議員這件事，令我們很想把華人移民的故事收錄下來。

這本小冊子得到很多人的參與，結集了一群定居於雷汀的華人移民的故事。這些故事能夠呈現出來，是一班志願人士付出不計其數的時間追訪華人社區成員，並與他們交談三十分鐘至整兩個小時的成果。摘錄都是從與他們交談的錄音中輯成的故事，並闡釋成中文和英文。

我們感謝所有參與者允許我們將他們的故事與人分享。我們亦多謝全體志願人士付出他們的時間使這個項目成事。

故事提供者表達的意見和觀點純是他們個人的，與本會無關。



二零一五年九月

Message from Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West

February 2015

It was an honour to have been invited to the launch of the Reading Chinese Association two years ago and since then, the group has gone from strength to strength.

Within just a few years it is likely that China will become the largest economy in the world and will be an increasingly important partner for British businesses and for inward investment. I know from my own visit to China, as part of a Parliamentary delegation to encourage trade, that Chinese companies are hungry to do business with Britain. And I know from organising exports seminars for local businesses that there is a strong appetite here too for improving our links with China.

Indeed, the huge investment the Chinese company Huawei are making locally in Reading provides an indication of the benefits that can be made from engaging with China.

The Government has made some significant progress to help improve that engagement and I can proudly say that there is no western country nation more open to Chinese business and Chinese investment than the UK. Since 2010, we have welcomed over £12 billion of major Chinese investments in this country and British exports in China have more than doubled, while the Prime Minister, the Mayor of London and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have all personally made visits to China.

Under this Government we have cut Air Passenger Duty for flights to China, we have simplified the visa rules for Chinese tourists and we have continued to encourage Chinese students to come and study in the UK.

But there is more I believe that we should be doing. The Government should be looking to proactively encourage the teaching in schools of Mandarin and other Chinese languages and we need to expand our airports to create more direct links to major Chinese cities.

And yet, a stronger relationship with China should not just be about the economic gains that can be achieved, as sizeable as they are likely to be. I believe the values of the Chinese community of aspiration, hard-work, entrepreneurship and support for the elderly are values that we can all learn from. And I personally believe that the achievements of the Chinese community in Reading and across the UK are under-celebrated.

That is why this booklet is such an important achievement. Funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, these oral histories are a record of the fantastic contribution made by the Chinese community and the pride the community continues to take in its rich, sophisticated and varied culture. This is absolutely welcome and I look forward to continuing to work with the Reading Chinese Association and to support them in any way I can.



Daguo LI 李大国



My name is LI Daguo. I got the name for myself in primary school, with the approval of my teacher. Daguo means “big country” and I am very proud of that (but I did not know it then). I did have a nickname Daren, meaning “big person”. I was told I was very little when I was born and as the local custom went, by giving such a name, my parents would hope one day I could grow into a tall and strong man, fit to work in the fields (farmland) perhaps, as I was originally from a village in Shandong in North China.

People from other countries do not have much difficulty pronouncing my name, so it did not occur to me to have an English name. But when in Rome, do as the Romans do, so to make life easier for others, I normally write my Pinyin name in the Western order, that is, Daguo Li.

I first came to the UK in 1996, as a Visiting Scholar sponsored by the Chinese Government. When I first arrived in Reading, I did not know anybody. I lived in a rented Edwardian detached house, shared with the owners and their two children (a boy and a girl aged about 10 and 8 respectively) and a couple of other tenants from other parts of the UK and Canada who had jobs in Reading. Later, through the introduction of a former colleague, I started to make friends with other Visiting Scholars and students from Mainland China and Chinese people who had already settled here. I was a lecturer of English at Guangzhou Institute of Foreign Languages before I came to the UK, so I did not have a problem with English. On the contrary, I felt at home since coming to an English-speaking country had always been my dream. I felt Reading was a nice town, so close to London and Heathrow. Everything was new and the environment was stimulating. The first couple of months passed very quickly.

Since government-sponsored Visiting Scholars were not allowed to bring their family initially, homesickness started to kick in after about 3 months of arrival. So I invited my wife to join me half a year later. We were invited to stay with a family with whom we have developed close ties. The stay helped to enrich our life and broaden our perspectives. It was during this academic visit that I suddenly felt I wanted to pursue further studies. With the strong support of my two professors, among the nicest and best known in the Faculty of Education and Community Studies (FECS), I was so lucky as to be awarded an overseas scholarship for a doctorate by the University of Reading. Scholarships for academics from overseas in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences were virtually unheard of then. So you could imagine how I felt at the news – it was like winning a lottery and I was over the moon!

I returned to China at the end of my visit as was expected by the Chinese Government, knowing I would come back again to pursue my doctoral study. My wife and young daughter soon followed as dependents. And Reading has become our home ever since.

During my doctoral study at the FECS of the University of Reading, the postgraduate student community was a truly international one. We had fellow students from all the 6 inhabited continents of the world, so it was a very interesting and useful international experience.

It was also interesting to note in those days that, I, like many other overseas students from China, and other countries, often needed to do part time low-skill jobs in offices and restaurants to support my studies. It was a useful experience since I not only earned some pocket money, but was also able to observe more closely different aspects of British life and society. It was also during my doctoral study that I started to develop short professional development courses for teachers of English from China, who would otherwise have little chance of studying abroad. I was in a privileged position to have the support of my PhD supervisor, who had a strong enterprising spirit and international perspectives and who was among the first to pioneer internationalisation, which is a strong theme in British higher education today. This earlier work laid the foundation for what I do today – professional development for English language teachers from China.

Looking back on my 18 years journey in the UK, my family and I cannot help feeling grateful to the people we were destined to meet and for the opportunities provided by both the UK and China for our development.

我叫李大国。这个名字是我小学时自己起的，当然也经过了老师的同意。大国的字面意思是“很大的国家”，我现在很自豪自己叫这个名字（当然最初起名时并未跟这个意思联系在一起）。我也有个乳名叫大人，意思不言而喻。据家人讲，我刚生下来时比较瘦小，按照当地风俗，反其意而叫之也许是希望我日后能长得高大强壮些，下地干活时有力气。这对于出生在中国北部山东农村的我来说，似乎也不难理解。就我的大名而言，其它国家的人叫起来好像也没什么困难，因此我也没有想到要赶时髦给自己起个英文名字。但入境随俗，我还是决定写拼音名时按照西方习俗名在前，姓在后，即 Daguo Li.

我是1996年来英国的，身份是国家公派访问学者。我初到雷丁时举目无亲。最初租住的房子是一处爱德华时代的老房子，除了房子主人和他们的两个孩子外（男孩约10岁，女孩约8岁），同住的还有在雷丁工作的另外两位房客，一位来自伦敦，一位来自加拿大。后来慢慢认识了中国大陆来的其他一些访问学者、留学生以及已经在当地定居下来的华人。来英国之前我是广州外国语学院的英语讲师，初到时不但没有语言障碍，反倒觉得如鱼得水，因为到英语国家留学一直是我的一个梦想。我觉得雷丁这地方很好，到伦敦和机场都很方便。我觉得一切都是那么新鲜好奇，最初的两三个月就这样不知不觉过去了。当时国家公派访问学者是不能马上带家属的，三个月后便邀请太太来探亲陪读，跟当地一家人同住，跟他们相处得很好，这不仅丰富了我们的生活，也让我们开阔了视野。

在做访问学者期间，我萌发了继续深造的念头。在我的两位指导教授（他们是雷丁大学教育与社区研究学院的国际知名教授，人也特别好）的极力推荐下，我有幸获得了雷丁大学国际博士生奖学金。能够拿到人文社科类博士奖学金当时几乎闻所未闻，可以想象我当时的激动心情，简直像中了六合彩一样！按照中国政府规定，我访学到期按时回国，稍后换了学生身份，一家三口再次回到雷丁，从此便在这儿扎下了根。

在雷丁大学教育与社区研究学院攻读博士期间，我们研究生群体是真正意义上的国际化群体，同学们来自亚洲、北美、南美、澳洲/大洋洲、欧洲和非洲，即地球上但凡有人居住的地方，就有我们的同学。这种国际经历让我受益匪浅。

值得一提的是，就像其他众多留学生一样，我那时也需要业余时间打工，通常是在办公室或餐馆干一些不需要太多技能的零活，来资助学业。这种打工经历也很有意义，因为不仅可以赚些零花钱，而且还可以近距离观察和了解英国社会和生活的不同层面。也是在读博士期间，我开始开发中国中小学教师专业发展短期培训课程，因为这些老师们平时几乎没有出国学习机会。我很幸运，这个计划得到了我导师的支持。当时她在国际化方面可谓独具慧眼，敢为天下先。当然现在的英国，高等教育国际化已是大势所趋，是各高校的战略方向之一。这些早期的工作为我日后所从事的中国英语教师培训工作打下了基础。该中英合作项目直接支持了中国欠发达的西部地区的教育发展。后来在此基础上发展起来的其它一些项目对中国不同地区和不同层次的教师或教育管理人员也提供了很好的机会。自己能够与众多英、中同行对推动该项事业而尽绵薄之力，倍感荣幸。

18年过去，弹指一挥间。回首自己在雷丁大学从访问学者到博士研究生再到一名学者的历程，以及女儿在英国受教育并踏入职场，我和家人对于我们有缘相会的人们，对于中英两国为我们提供的发展机会和空间，内心充满了感激。



Cathy TANG 鄧女士



Looking back, I first moved to Reading because of work. I have lived here for more than 20 years and always find life in Reading comfortable and I am grateful that I have made many friends here. Reading is now home for myself, my husband and my daughter!

I came to England from Hong Kong to study. I studied in the North of England for a few years, then moved to London when I found a job there after graduation. I moved to Reading a year later when my husband found a job in Oxford. The reason we chose Reading is because it is between Oxford and London. When deciding where to live, we prayed to God, and also used the 'Automap' software which led us to Reading.

My husband and I moved to Reading in 1991. We didn't know Reading well and bought a house in Whitley. We were pleasantly surprised as our next door neighbours were very welcoming, and often invited us in for a coffee. Very soon, we built a close rapport. They always helped us and invited us to many activities and we became very good friends.

After living in Whitley for 3 years, we moved to Lower Earley and lived there for 17 years. During that time, I completed a Masters Degree at Reading University, gave birth to my daughter Hannah, and then continued with my teaching job and evangelical Christian's life. In 2011, we moved to Woodley, and have been living happily in this area since.

I am a secondary school teacher and a Head of Department in my school. Work is very mundane; every single day is the same - I mark books, teach lessons and prepare exams. However, when I see my students with their achievements, I feel very rewarded and happy. The advantage of being a teacher is that I get quite a lot of holiday; therefore, I can travel all the time!

Apart from work, I am actively involved in church activities. Every week, I go to Reading Chinese Christian Church for the Sunday Service, where I worship and serve God. Over the years, I thank God for His guidance and provision because He has provided RCCC as my spiritual family.

Occasionally, I also take part in the Chinese Association activities. I do this because I find that the local community's gathering is very important as it can bring Chinese people together. Within the group, people can meet regularly and build up friendships. Because of this, our Chinese Community can hold its place alongside other communities.

Finally, all I want to say is that 'Reading is a wonderful place to live!'

想當年，因工作關係來了雷汀居住，一住就是二十多年了！在這個地方住得很舒服，朋友多，也很有感情，自然地，雷汀就成為「我和丈夫，女兒在英國的家」。

起初我以學生身份從香港來英國讀書。早前在英國北部住了幾年，大學畢業之後在倫敦任教師，不到一年多，就搬到雷汀居住。其實當時我在倫敦教書，丈夫就在牛津工作。選擇雷汀就是因為這個地區是我們夫妻二人工作的中間地。當時除了禱告，也是使用「網上地圖」找到雷汀的。

我和丈夫是從 1991 年搬到雷汀，在 Whitley 住了三年，之後搬到 Lower Earley 住了十七年（1994 年至 2011 年），期間在雷汀大學讀了一個碩士課程，也生了女兒（Hannah），繼續在這個地區教書和做一些福音工作，並於 2011 年遷往 Woodley，一直在這裡安居樂業。

我的職業是一名中學教師，也是一個部門總管。每天就是教書，改簿和準備考試，工作是很刻板式。但是最開心的就是看見學生成長，事業有成，這就是我的回報了！做教師，假期多，因此我可以常常出外旅遊。

除了教書工作，參與教會活動也是我在雷汀生活中的一大部份。不單止每星期天都返雷汀華人基督教會崇拜，在這裡也有事奉工作。感謝神的帶領和恩賜，使我們一家三口在雷汀也有一個屬靈的大家庭！

除了教書和教會的生活，當我有空的時候，我也會參加雷汀華人協會的活動。因為我個人對於華人團體是很重視的。團結就是力量，所以我們一班華人是需要定期的聚會，彼此交誼。就是這樣，我們就可以從不同的種族中脫穎而出。

最後，我要講的就是「雷汀確是一個很理想的居住地方」。



Ronald LEONG 梁雅庭



My name is Ronald Leong. My grandfather came to England in the early 1930's by boat. He first landed in Hull, then moved to Barrow in Furness and opened a laundry. My parents came a few years later to join my grandfather. My grandfather and my parents all came from the Canton Province to England for a better life.

I was born in 1935 in Barrow in Furness. When I was small, I lived in a typical Northern English back to back terrace house. We got on well with our neighbours as there were not many immigrants at that time.

My grandfather moved to Liverpool in 1945 and had a laundry business there. My parents eventually moved to Wolverhampton and had their own laundry. I went to a grammar school in Wolverhampton, and at that time there were no other Chinese children in my school. The only Chinese children I knew were my cousins.

I moved to Reading in 1962 when my parents bought a Chinese restaurant here and the whole family came to work in the restaurant. The restaurant was in Queen Victoria Street in Reading town centre. I remember Reading still had trolley buses when we arrived – they were like trams but with wheels on. I worked there until my parents retired and sold the business in early 1970's. After the family business was sold, I applied and was offered a place to study social work in Chiswick Polytechnic. I then worked as a social worker until I retired in 2000. I remember that at that time, not many Chinese children went to university as the majority of them stayed in their family business. The Chinese students I knew of at that time were mainly sponsored by the Chinese or Hong Kong government.

When Reading Chinese School was first set up, they were looking for people to volunteer and help. I became the Head Teacher in 1978 and served for a few years. During that time most students were mainly from Hakka or Cantonese speaking families.

I served in the RAF for three years and was offered a scholarship by them which I declined. I married my wife in Hong Kong in 1956 and we were introduced by relatives. We have two children. Since I retired, I have been enjoying a quiet life. I played Judo every week until I had my hip operation.

我名叫梁雅庭。在 1930 年代我的祖父乘輪船來到了英國。他先在 Hull 定居，後來搬到 Barrow in Furness 開了一間洗衣店。數年後，我的父母也來到英國與祖父團聚。為了改善生活，他們都從中國廣東省來到英國。

我在 1935 年出生于 Barrow in Furness。年幼時，我們住在一間英國北部典型的排屋，與鄰居們相處融洽，因為當時移民並不多。

我的祖父在 1945 年搬往利物浦開了間洗衣店。我的父母隨後搬了去 Wolverhampton 也開了間洗衣店。我就讀的學校是 Wolverhampton 的文法中學，當時就讀的學校我是僅有的華人子弟，而唯一認識的中國孩子亦只有我的表親。

我們在 1962 年搬來雷汀，我的父母在這裡買了間華人餐館，一家人在餐館工作。這餐館位於市中心的維多利亞女皇街。我記得初到雷汀時還有無軌電車行駛——像電車但有車輪。我在那餐館工作至父母在 1970 年代初退休。家庭生意賣了後，我申請 Chiswick 理工學院讀社會工作科被取錄了。畢業後，我便全職任社工直至 2000 年退休。記得當時入讀大學的華人數量並不多，他們大多從中國大陸來的或是香港政府派來的，其他的華人為著承擔家庭的生意而未能入學。

雷汀的中文學校設立時，他們找義工幫忙。在 1978 年我就成為了中文學校的校長，做了好幾年。當時中文學校的學生大多數來自客家人或廣東人的家庭。

我曾經在英國空軍服務了三年，後來他們給我一個獎學金但我婉拒了。在 1956 年得親戚介紹認識妻子並和她結婚。我們有兩個兒女。自退休後，我一直享受寧靜的退休生活。在接受臀骨手術之前我每週都有打柔道。



Yan LIU 劉彥



I was born in Shanghai in 1958, the era of 'big leap forward'. Like many Chinese, my parents wanted to have a boy, they chose a boy's name LIU Yan as I was the first of my generation. When I was born, they thought actually the boy's name could still be used. My childhood before seven was quite playful and lovely. My father was an Army Officer and only came home twice a year. My mum worked full time and both my brother and I were in boarding nursery and only went home at weekends. No matter how busy my mum was, she always found time to cook some nice foods for us and took us to parks with pretty cloths on Sunday afternoons. I often travelled between Beijing and Shanghai to see my dad. I also spent a lot of time in Shanghai with my grandparents. I had a lot of loving memories then.

The start of Cultural Revolution changed my life because grandpa was a Guomindang's General who died in 1939. My grandma (my father's mum) and my uncles and auntie were unjustifiably labelled rightist in 1967. My grandma's house was searched day and night. One day on my way to a swimming pool, a Red Guard stopped me and told I was no longer allowed to wear my beautiful pink hair clips and my dress anymore. From that day, I realised I was different and had to work extra hard.

The Cultural Revolution ended in 1976; the university entrance exam was resumed at the end of 1977. I was very lucky and got into Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics and met my husband, Li He, there. We graduated in 1982 and married in 1984. I worked as an Assistant Professor and then a Lecturer there before joining my husband to study in Cambridge in 1989. We both were very fortunate to have obtained the Ph.D studentships from Royals Royce and European Automobiles Research Foundation. The most enjoyable time in Cambridge was to travel abroad for conferences; the most difficult time was when my daughter was 6 months old my husband moved to Durham University as a lecturer and I was writing up while looking after my daughter on my own. The happiest time at Cambridge was my graduation day when my 19 months daughter walked to me with a bunch of flowers my husband bought.

I moved to Durham to join my husband in 1995. I worked in Siemens as a Principal Engineer in Newcastle for nearly 14 years. My job was to design turbines and later become a project engineer. It was huge achievement when turbines I designed went to generate electricity successful. In 2009 I joined my husband in Oxford this time.

My life with Chinese Education started in 2002. I was involved in re-setting up Durham Chinese School and later elected as the Headteacher of Durham Chinese School. Since then every Sunday I have been working in Chinese teaching in Durham then in Reading. We love Reading where it is very convenient for travel and shopping. My passion for working in teaching Chinese eventually become my main job when I relocated to the south, from a Siemens' principal design engineer to a Chinese teacher at Oxford High School.

Music has been a major part of our family life. When Li worked as a re-educated farmer during the Cultural Revolution time, he spent all his first year's income on a violin and self-taught himself to play it. Later he played at our university's orchestra. My daughter plays piano, my son plays violin.

Luckily we were members of Durham Young Musicians when they were young, which, organised by music teachers and parents, provides a platform for children to perform in public regularly.

Later, as my son played for National Children's Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra, we followed him to almost all the major concerts in UK. Now our birthday presents are often concert tickets.

Like other Chinese abroad, sometimes we couldn't tell where my home is. Although we have some very good English friends, we find it difficult to fit in, and feel homesick sometime. As our children are grow-up, we now visit our elderly parents as often as we can, and travel and enjoy beautiful mountains and rivers in China.

我出生在大跃进年代。42 天大，和妈妈从上海回到了北京。我的童年生活还是很快乐的，主要因为我看不出父母亲担忧的事。我父亲是军人，每年只回家度假两次。母亲平时上班，我和弟弟上全托幼儿园，周六晚妈妈才接我们回家。周日无论多忙，妈妈总是给我们做好吃的，给我们穿上漂亮的衣服，带我们去公园玩。我非常幸运，小时候常常在北京与上海两地穿梭，看望我的外婆、姨妈们和姑妈，与我的表姐妹表兄弟们一起玩耍。

1966 年开始的文化大革命改变了我的生活，因为我已故的爷爷曾是国民党将军，奶奶、叔叔和姑姑都是右派，他们常常被揪出来批斗，抄家。记得有一天在去游泳池的路上，一个红卫兵拦住我说，小姑娘，以后再也不能戴粉丝发卡，穿漂亮的连衣裙了。从那时起我便开始知道我的出身不好，要夹着尾巴做人。

但我还是很幸运的，1976 年文革结束，1977 年底中国恢复了高考，我考上了北京航空航天大学。在那儿结识了我未来的丈夫，何力。我们 1982 年毕业，1984 年结婚，我在北航任教七年。1989 年 4 月我获得了欧洲工业界奖学金来剑桥攻读工程博士，与夫君团聚。刚来时，英语交流感到很吃力，尽管从上大学时开始学英语。因为 70 年代中国缺中学英文教师，所以我中学学的是俄语。记得刚到剑桥的前三个月，我每天看无数遍电视新闻，买报纸读后，再看电视，提高听说能力。在剑桥最得意的事便是去国外开学术会议兼并旅游，我们去过许多国家；最艰难的时候应该说是我们女儿 6 个月的时候，我先生去了 Durham 任教，我一个人在剑桥边带女儿边写毕业论文，多亏一些朋友们常来帮忙。我的 GP 也给我出过主意，她说如果孩子有点发烧，你可以早上给她吃一勺退烧药，然后送去幼儿园，这样可以给你 3-4 个小时的时间。坦白地说，我曾经用过几次这招儿；最幸福激动的时刻是 1994 年在我的博士毕业典礼上，我 18 个月的女儿捧着一束她爸爸买的鲜花向我走来。

之后我搬到了 Durham，一家人团聚了。我在 Newcastle 的西门子公司上班，参与设计了一些叶轮机和项目管理工作。每当一台机组试运行成功后，心中的成就感是满满的。从 2002 年 1 月起，我在 Durham 参与了重建中文学校的工作，并于同年夏天开始担任校长。从那儿以后，学期中的每个星期天不管阴晴，不管风雨，我都在中文学校度过，与中文教育便接下了不解的渊源，深深地爱上了这项义务工作，特别是看到孩子们能读中文写汉字，那份成就感满得都溢出来了！所有的付出都值得！慢慢地这个义工竟变成了我的本行。2009 年我再次随夫君南迁，我也彻底地来了个大转行，从西门子工程师变成了牛津女子中学的中文老师！

除了在中文学校做义工外，我们家的业余生活就是音乐了。何力当年上山下乡时，自学拉小提琴。可能是这个缘故，两个孩子都喜欢音乐。Durham 有个音乐老师与家长合办的 Durham Young Musicians 协会，每 6 周孩子们可以在 DYM 的小型音乐会上演出，我也成了 DYM 的义工。后来，儿子在国家少儿乐团和国家青年乐团拉琴，我们也跟着走遍了英国几乎所有的大音乐厅。现在孩子大了，我们的生日礼物常常会是音乐会票。

和许多中国人一样，我们有时会说不出哪儿是我们的家。虽然有一些很好的英国朋友，但总是感觉融不进这个社会，思乡之情依然。现在孩子们大了，我俩常常回家，多看看年迈的双亲，多逛逛那里的山山水水。



Vicky CHAN 陳女士



My name is Vicky; I have been in the United Kingdom for over 15 years. I count myself fortunate to have been able to come to the UK after the TianAnMen Square Event, as the Chinese authorities tightened the regulations for issuing visas to civilians travelling to Western countries.

Life was not easy for me in the beginning after I came to Britain. I was alone with poor English and no formal qualifications. But I was determined to break through the traditional path of working in catering which the older Chinese generation usually followed. I worked hard and studied hard, and eventually I graduated from university with a computer science bachelor's degree and became a software developer.

However, life was still tough as I had to juggle between a full time job and looking after my two young children. I gave up my work with good prospects and became a full time mother, and I never regret doing so. The time I spent with my children was important and joyful. As my children grew older and became more independent, I went back to work as a part-time insurance adviser and I also undertook a very rewarding job as an English/Mandarin and English/Cantonese interpreter. I love being an interpreter as I can help and make contributions back to my own society.

I moved from the North of England to Berkshire two years ago. Berkshire is a lovely place with lots of woodland, and the weather is warmer than the North. As I expected before I came over, there are lots of new immigrants in the South of England, especially near London. People are nice and friendly; in particular, my neighbours are warm-hearted and helpful. My family and I are settling down well here and my children are enjoying their new life in Berkshire. I am now working for a logistics company, and I relish this job as it is challenging.

我名叫 Vicky。在英國居住已經超過 15 年了。自天安門事件後，中國政府收緊前往西方國家的旅遊簽證，可以來英國算是幸運。

初來英國時生活並不容易。我自己一人，英語又差，又沒有正式的學歷資格。但我決心打破上一輩在飲食行業工作的傳統。我努力工作兼讀書，結果從一間大學畢業獲得電腦科學學士學位，然後成為電腦軟件業工作者。但生活仍很艱苦，因為我有份全職工作，同時又要照顧兩個年幼孩童。後來我選擇放棄有前景的工作而專心做全職母親，從沒因此後悔。與孩子們相處那段時間很重要並充滿歡樂。直至孩子們漸漸成長，能夠照顧自己時，我重返工作行列，找到一份保險顧問兼職，同時又做一份薪酬頗高的工作---英語/漢語及英語/粵語傳譯員。這份工可讓我回報社會。

兩年前我從英國北方搬來 Berkshire 郡。這郡最可愛的地方，是山林遍野，氣候又比北方和暖。正如我未搬下來所預測，南英倫有很多新移民，尤其在倫敦附近。遇到的人都很和藹可親及友善，特別在我居住那區，鄰居們都待人親切，樂意相助。我們一家人已安頓下來，而我的孩子們也喜歡在這裡生活。現今我在一間物流公司工作，待遇不錯；而具挑戰性。

Kwok Tai Cathay CHAN 陳國泰



I was born in Hong Kong, and later emigrated to the UK in the 1990s as I was facing retirement. During my years in Hong Kong where I was raised, after finishing university education in 1965, I commenced my working life that would span 38 years. My professional career started as a Secondary School teacher, as well as a Social Welfare Officer before finally settling into a long administrative career at the University of Hong Kong where I served as Human Resources Director of the School of Professional and Continuing Education before my retirement.

During the early 1990s, whilst taking a sabbatical, I worked and lived in London for about 5 months volunteering as a social worker in the Department of Social Welfare in China Town. I also taught Chinese in the Sunday School. This planted a seed, that would later develop into the idea of sending my daughter to the UK to study at a boarding

school. As my daughter started to settle in the UK, and later progressed on to university, there was also the event of transfer to sovereignty over Hong Kong from the UK to China during 1997 that partly prompted me to emigrate to the UK with my family, and settle down in Reading. Coincidentally, having contact with friends from Hong Kong who had already emigrated to Reading during this period, greatly eased the process and helped to form a close community of friends.

My house in Caversham is located in a woodland in the outskirts of Reading city centre, not too far away from the River Thames. The suburban lifestyle, which is a far cry from the hustle and bustle in Hong Kong, was a welcome change. The sheer amount of greenery and fresh air available in Reading contributed greatly to the quality of my family's life. It has also allowed me to be fit and healthy well into my 70s.

The group of houses is managed by a committee of management; I was appointed as the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator looking after the security of these houses. This enables me to have frequent contact and communication with my neighbours. As I share a similar background to my middle-class professional neighbours, we have quickly managed to find common ground enabling my family to integrate and settle with ease and happiness.

I am a keen sportsman and took part in marathon, cross harbour swimming, walkathon, athletics, football and other sporting activities in my younger days in Hong Kong. I am now a keen supporter of the Reading Football Club. Since my retirement in 2003, I have continuously followed my life-long passion for travelling and adventures and have visited about 100 countries. Most recently, my wife and I have spent our time more on cruises to destinations around the world, including continental Europe as well as South American countries, and continue to add on countries to visit, including the Middle East.

Reading has given me a taste for British life, as my relationship with my English neighbours and friends deepens. As the future unfolds, I will continue to proactively introduce our Chinese culture and heritage to my English friends, as they have done with theirs.

我在香港出生，在 1990 年代移民來英國，當時因為快將退休。在香港長大的我，1965 年大學畢業後，一直無間工作了 38 年。初期任職中學教師，也做過社會福利官，最後在香港大學持續做行政工作，退休前之職位為大學專業進修學院之人力資源總監。

在 1990 年初，趁休假期我在倫敦居住了五個月，其間在唐人街社會福利署任義務社工，並在週日的中文學校任教。這樣就播下了種子，後來孕育成一個送女兒來英國寄宿學校讀書的構思。

我的女兒開始在英國安定下來，然後入大學進修。1997 年香港回歸中國，驅使我一家人移民來英國，繼而在雷汀定居。由於早已和從香港移民定居在雷汀的朋友聯絡，故此移民的過程容易得多了，並且有助我們結交了一個親密圈子的朋友們。

我的住所在 Caversham，在雷汀以北一個樹林外圍，頗近泰晤士河。這種郊區生活與香港的繁囂城市有天淵之別，是我們喜歡的轉變。雷汀充滿綠色草木，空氣又清新，極為增添我們的家庭生活情趣。也讓我康健地踏入 70 多歲的年紀。

居住範圍內住宅由一委員會管理。我受任為鄰居互助會聯絡人，負責這些房子的安全事宜。這給我機會經常與鄰居接觸和溝通。因為我的背景和職業與我的鄰居中產專業人士相似，所以我們很快找到共通點交流，以致我們一家容易融入及快樂地安頓下來。

我是個運動愛好者，年輕時在香港參加過馬拉松賽跑、渡海港游泳、勁步、田徑、足球及其他運動賽事。現在我是雷汀足球隊的忠實球迷。自 2003 年退休後，我繼續長年已來的興趣，就是旅遊探險，已經去過約有 100 個國家。近年我和妻子很多時坐郵輪環遊世界各地，去過歐陸，南美等多個國家，亦會計劃遊歷其他國家，包括中東。

雷汀給了我體驗英國式生活，因此為我和英國人鄰居和朋友的友誼加深和了解。展望將來，我會繼續積極地將我們中國文化和傳統介紹給英國朋友，就如他們將英國的文化傳統介紹給我一樣。



Donna MA 馬玉屏



I worked as a police interpreter for almost 17 years in Hong Kong before leaving for Holland in 1993. I left Hong Kong because my husband had a job offer in Holland and also it was nearing 1997 when the sovereignty of Hong Kong was to be returned to China: with the uncertainties, we wanted to leave.

When we first arrived in Holland, like many other new immigrants, we had no friends and couldn't understand the language. Although many Dutch

people speak English, I decided to learn Dutch as I wanted to integrate more into the local community.

We lived in Holland for six years, then moved to England. We settled in Kent, because of my husband's job. When we arrived in Kent, I worked briefly as a cleaner, and then as a flyer distributor. At that time, I wanted to learn something new and decided to take up a secretarial course. After the course, I worked as a secretary for a month but decided that teaching was more suitable for me. I eventually completed a Certificate in Education and became a qualified ESOL Teacher, Mandarin Teacher and IT Tutor.

In 2005 my husband left me. I was heartbroken, but with the support of friends from church, I spent a year on my own in Kent. I then went to China and taught for three years in the Department of Translation and Interpretation at Shandong University. At the time, I wanted to return to the UK as my daughter was undertaking her medical training at Royal Berkshire Hospital. I decided to come to Reading as I wanted to be close to my children.

When I arrived in 2010, I first spent some time looking for a suitable church for myself and then started volunteering. I volunteered in a school and as an interpreter for Chinese people. While volunteering at the school, I obtained a teaching job as an ESOL tutor, which I have continued until now. I immediately liked Reading when I arrived. I remember it was summer, most days were bright and sunny and I spent a lot of time exploring the town. I love the history of Reading, and the church I go to is very multi-cultural and I felt welcome.

Looking back at my life in Hong Kong, it was just ordinary. My father was a policeman and I had a very ordinary childhood. After I got married, my husband and I both had good jobs; however, because of the 1997 sovereignty handover, we felt it would be better for our children to go overseas. I still stand by our decision as the education systems in western countries, both Holland and England, encourage free thinking and creativity. I insist is that my children continue to learn Chinese in order to remember their roots.

The biggest thing to have happened to me is that I have changed from being Catholic to a Christian. The church that I attend organises activities for students and trainee teachers from China, making the students feel they have friends; it also helps them ease their homesickness.

My wish is that both the local Chinese church and the Chinese Association can obtain more funding, and organise more activities for Chinese people here. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind Chinese immigrants that whatever problems you may face, you can overcome them, and there are always ways to solve them and people to help. Do not give up.

我在香港警局當了差不多 17 年的翻譯員；由於丈夫得到一份在荷蘭的工作，加上 1997 年香港主權快要回歸中國，前景不明朗，我們覺得要離開了，故在 1993 年移居荷蘭。

我們初到達荷蘭時，像很多其他的新移民一樣，沒有朋友，又不懂當地語言。雖然很多荷蘭人懂英語，但我仍決意學荷語，因為我希望能更多的融入社區。我學了 3 年，而覺得本身懂英語大有幫助。我們在荷蘭居住了六年，跟著移居英國。起初我們在根德郡的 Orpington 落腳，住在那兒也因為丈夫的工作。一住就住了約 10 年之久。我們在根德郡定居時，我做過清潔工人，也派過傳單；期間亦上了一個秘書課程，但當了一個月秘書覺得並不適合，覺得教書比較適合我。我便完成了一個教育文憑課程，成了合資格的外國學生英語教師(ESOL)，普通話教師及電腦科技導師。

我的丈夫在 2005 年與我分開。當時我很傷心，但得到教會裏的朋友們支持，我一個人住在根德過了一年。跟著我去了中國做英語教師，做了 3 年。我要回英國那時，我的女兒正在 Royal Berkshire 醫院接受醫學訓練。為了接近我的兒女們我選擇來雷汀居住。

我在 2010 年來雷汀。在雷汀第一年，我花時間找適合自己的教會並開始做義工。我曾在一間學校做義工，又替中國人做過傳譯。在學校做義工時我找到一份外國學生英語導師的工作，一直在那處做到現在。來到了雷汀便愛上這地方。記得那時是夏天，多數的日子都天氣晴朗。為了認識這地方，我花很多時間在市內走。我喜歡雷汀的歷史，所參加的教會有多種國籍的人，使我覺得很受歡迎。

回想香港的生活，真是平凡。父親是個警員，我的童年平平無奇。結婚後，我和丈夫都有好工作，但因為 1997 年香港主權回歸，我們覺得孩子們到外國去前景比較好，因為不論是荷蘭或是英國，它們的教育都是鼓勵自由思想和創作，所以我們便移居外國，我覺得當時的決定是對的。我一直堅持要兒女們做的，就是繼續學中文，好讓他們不要忘記自己的根；若日後想回港，也給他們多個選擇。

對我來說，由一名天主教徒而變成為基督徒是我最大的變更。作為一個基督徒，將耶穌的愛傳揚給他人，及盡可能在任何時刻去幫助別人。我參加的教會為學生和來英國受訓的中國教師舉辦了些活動。有了這些活動，學生們不但有機會交朋友，覺得有人主動關心，也幫助他們減輕思鄉情懷。

我的願望是雷汀的華人教會和華人會都能獲得多些資助，及為本地華人舉辦多些活動。我亦想用這個機會提醒華人移民們，不論你面對什麼困難，困難必能克服；所有事情也有解決的方法，必定有人肯幫助你們，所以任何事情也不要放棄。



Kar Ann CHEW 周家安



In 1996 I came to Guildford, UK for an undergraduate degree course at the University of Surrey. I soon fell in love with this country. After obtaining my first degree, I pursued a PhD in mobile telecommunications at the same university, where I was subsequently offered a job. In 2004 I left academia to work for British Telecom and then for Vodafone in 2008. Over these years, I grew from a university boy into a family man and eventually decided to live in the UK.

My family and I relocated from Ipswich to Reading when I joined Vodafone. We first tenanted in Lower Earley and then moved to Earley in 2009. Though my employment was based in Newbury, my wife's 'strong preference' led to the decision to live in Reading. It was a wise choice. We have found Earley a very pleasant area – with a diverse community, friendly neighbourhood and good facilities. As my job requirements changed, I had to travel to London and Newbury regularly and Reading provided excellent transport links to both locations. In 2015, I started working at Huawei, a Chinese telecom equipment vendor who moved their UK head office from Basingstoke to Reading in 2012. Now travelling to work is even easier for me, though I find the traffic jam around M4 Junction 10 a daily nuisance.

The upgrade in Junction 10, completed in 2010, was the biggest development I have experienced personally in Reading, as I lived through years of congestion during the construction although unfortunately the congestion is still as bad today. Other changes I have witnessed in my short history in Earley and Reading include the development of the new Maiden Erlegh School (opening in 2015), the saddening closure of Maiden Over Pub in 2014, and the controversial revision of Maiden Erlegh catchment area in 2013.

I have a deep appreciation of the UK - its culture and values, its legacy and modern society; people's civic awareness. I am particularly grateful for the full scholarship for my PhD and the opportunities available to me throughout the last 19 years. Growing up in a developing country where the democratic systems are far from mature, I also treasure the freedom and democratic system in the UK.

I consider the UK as my permanent home and I am always proud of my tri-identity as Chinese, Malaysian and British. I am a Malaysian Chinese with ancestry roots in Fujian Province in China. Like most of the overseas Chinese, my ancestors left tumultuous China in the last century to seek a better life. Unfortunately, despite being a citizen for a generation and assimilated into Malaysian society, the Chinese community is still being suppressed by the incumbent: politically, economically and culturally. This has motivated many Malaysian Chinese to move abroad, again in seek of a better life. I believe I am simply continuing the journey of my ancestors, only now further away and with a different skill set, reflecting the globalisation of the modern world.

我于1996年来到英国 Guildford 的 Surrey 大学念本科，很快爱上了这个国家；念完本科后，在同一所大学继续深造後取得了移动通信博士学位，也在這大学的通信研究院获得了在英国的第一份工作；离开学术界后，分别在2004和2008年加入英国电信（British Telecom）和沃达丰（Vodafone）。刚到英国时举目无亲，但这几年中，我从一个学生成长为一个有家室的人，并最终决定定居英国。

加入沃达丰后，我們一家从 Ipswich 搬到雷丁的 Lower Earley，起初是租房子，後來在2009年买了房子。那时在 Newbury 上班，选择雷丁主要是因为太太比较喜歡雷丁，后来生活体验证明那是一个明智的选择。Lower Earley 环境宜人，居民多元化，睦邻友好，设施良好。因工作需要得经常到伦敦上班，从雷丁到伦敦和 Newbury 交通都非常方便。2015年加入一家中国电信供应商-华为。华为的英国总部早在2012年从 Basingstoke 迁移到雷丁，所以现在上班就更方便了，虽然我还是要得经过每天早上堵车的 M4 十号出口一带。

在雷丁居住不太久，2010年竣工的 M4 十号出口改建是我目睹雷丁近年的重大发展，因为在改建过程中我每天都经历交通拥堵（遗憾的是翻新后交通依旧很糟糕）；另外2013年 Maiden Erlegh 富争议性的收生制度调整，及該處學校正在2015從新翻新、還有居民们惋惜 Maiden Over 酒吧在2014年关闭等。

我极为欣赏英国，包括她的文化与价值观、传统与现代社会、公民意识等等；並感謝英国政府給我博士学位奖学金和过去19年来的各种机遇。由于生长在一个民主制度还远未成熟的國家，我特别珍惜英国的自由天空和民主制度。

现以英国为家的我，能有中华、马来和英国的三重身份引以为豪。我和父母都是马来西亚土生土长的华侨，祖籍中国福建。和许多海外华侨相似，我的祖先因當時的动荡而离开中国，到海外谋生，寻求更好的生活。尽管已经是几代的公民，马来西亚华侨仍然受到政治、经济和文化等各方面的压迫，这促使许多马来西亚华侨為了美好的生活而移居外国。其实我是在延续祖先们的旅程，只是凭借不同的技能，而且走得更远。这也是现代世界全球一体化的体现。



May Lo 鄭薇



I have been living in the UK for more than half a century now. In my long life of 91 years, I have seen good and bad times, but on the whole I am contented with my lot, grateful with what I have received and willing to give back what I can to society. I rate personal health, happiness and integrity much more highly than wealth, fame and beauty; I believe in the power of knowledge, the pursuit of which has enriched and empowered me to face life with confidence and courage and to help others that are less fortunate than myself.

I was gratified to see the formation of Reading Chinese Association. It was instrumental in bringing together Chinese people of all ages to relax, entertain and do things together. We attempt to do singing, physical exercises and learn a new skill or language in the weekly gatherings. As we play and learn together, we have created a bond of friendship amongst ourselves and a strong sense of belonging to the Association.

I have learned to live by the motto: *where there is a will, there is a way*. And I think I have benefitted greatly from it.

日曆一頁一頁的撕去，今天我才驚覺踏入英國超過半個世紀，而我在這風燭殘年，垂垂老矣，會是一無是處嗎？不，活一天都有一天做人的責任，上天賦予我的，我會與人分享，發揮自己的餘熱，回饋社會，積極的人生，理想的抱負，是要不斷的尋找，宇宙之大，許多事物使你智識豐富，使你人生美麗，予人方便，自己方便，正確的人生觀那怕是一百歲，這樣活著才有意義。

生活在英國，早在六十年代，走在路上的洋人，手拿食物，邊走邊吃，縱使穿戴華麗，也都儀態盡失，看著也別扭，畢竟中國是禮儀之邦，華洋習俗，有所不同。

時代的巨輪，不斷推進，轉瞬潮流改變，民族開放，時移世易，在今天看來，也就不感覺得異相了，見怪不怪啦！

想當年，在生活的鞭撻之下，胼手胝足，埋頭苦幹，日出而作，日入而息，為口奔馳，但求溫飽，日求兩餐，夜求一宿，雖是一個小小的蝸居，若能遮風擋雨，總勝露宿街頭，費長房不也是住在一隻葫蘆裏面嗎？我心滿意足，從未想過要發達，發達不一定是好事，如果發達而不立品，會使人狂妄、囂張、輕率、過分自信，一旦失敗其情更慘，我還是選擇無災無難到公卿，任何人都應該希冀得到個人能力以外的物質享受，虛名與財富，只是一時之幻影，今日能使你快樂，明日可能成為詛咒，所以我認為發達遠不及健康重要，而能長存永恆不變的，只有品德。

踏足社會，看盡人生百態。人與人之間，有鬥爭、有排斥、有猜忌、有攻擊、有陰謀、有貪婪，有人把血汗錢都放到賭枱上，想發達，有人營營役役，馳騁商場、縱橫四海，在人生的走馬燈上打轉，求名求利，到頭來失去健康。且看亞歷山大，他的財富擁有半個地球，到頭來他葬身之地，就只得那麼幾呎。任他為王為霸，終歸黃土下，富貴如浮雲，銅山且作冰化，紅顏原是肉骷髏，試問美人何價，勞碌年年，只為他人作嫁，浮生若夢，看破些兒吧！

也有很虔誠的信徒，風雨不改上教堂，愛心滿溢，靈魂潔淨，生活正常，彼此關懷，導人向善。

要想過著風調雨順的日子，就得發揮自己的修為，調整思想的理念，潔身自愛，為了防範周邊的醜惡，不被污染，只好築起銅牆鐵壁，兵來將擋，水來土掩，把生活中不如意的洪流堵住，不讓氾濫。

我也有過山窮水盡的日子，情況不足為外人道，暗自慨嘆此生坎坷，歲月蹉跎，當其時，荷葉已無擎雨蓋，殘菊只剩傲霜枝。

可是，人生的苦事，樂事，都只是一段日子，不會一直維持下去的，世間上有幾許人是一輩子都春風得意無憾事的呢？難題隨時隨刻找上門來，且看你如何去克服與努力吧了。

可喜可賀的是，近年成立了華人協會，男女老少，歡聚一堂，唱唱歌，練練武，強身健體，有娛樂，有學術交流，內容豐富，委員會們關懷備至，會員們守望相助，氣氛融洽，像個大家庭，很有歸屬感。

歲月無情，光陰荏苒，今天的我已經虛度了九十一個春秋，馬齒徒增，不知道繼續走下去會是個怎麼樣，既然上天賦予我生命，就得積極面對，以樂觀的態度，冷靜地去面對起落興衰，儘管有時會遇上苦澀，又何妨苦中作樂呢！生老病死，是人生必經階段，自古名人將相，誰又會鬥得過似水流年，只要留得五湖明月在，不愁無處下金鈎。

Kenneth YIP MBE 葉國雄



I was born in 1935. I received my secondary education in Hong Kong and had further advancement both in the Army and Civil Service. I received educational, professional and technical training in the UK and overseas, including a management course in a Scottish university.

I was a Sergeant instructor in the Royal Army Educational Corps in 1956, then promoted to Warrant Officer in charge of an Education Centre attached to a Gurkha Infantry Brigade Group for six years until I left the service. I was recommended for commission but barred by age limit at the time. I decided to buy myself out from the Army and to join the Overseas Crown Service.

I entered the Hong Kong Immigration Service in 1965. I was keen to enforce discipline, improve training and reform organisational methods. As a training officer and later a commander of a training unit, I trained up many able officers for the service's long term development. I introduced,

organised and developed the Immigration Officers' Mess to enhance esprit de corps.

During six years as commander of the Airport Division, I trained and reorganised 630 officers and rank and file to form a strong first line of civil defence to prevent intrusion and penetration of doubtful visitors and forged document-holders over the border. The result was successful and praised by many beneficial countries. Some even sent their officers to attend our courses to learn more from us..

I was appointed as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours of 1988. I was presented with a 'Sword of Honour' by my officer corps in the same year.

On my retirement in 1990, I settled down in a Reading suburb with my wife Susan and two children. We assimilated easily with the local community as our life style was not much different. My son and daughter who received secondary education until Master's degree are both working in London. My children and I were local gun club members.

When the Reading Chinese Association formed in 2012, my wife and I became keen members and got to know more Chinese people in the area. We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary with RCA members in Reading and with our children and friends in London in September 2014.

我於 1935 年出生，在香港接受中學教育，在軍部及民事服務期間繼續深造，接受英國及海外學術，專業及技術培訓，並在一蘇格蘭大學完成人事管理課程。

1956 年我是陸軍教育部的一名上仕教官，後來晉升為準尉，主管教育中心，隸屬 Gurkha 步兵旅團六年直至退役，我曾被推薦為委仕軍官，但被年齡所限，決定從軍中贖身，改投皇家海外服務。

1965 年加入香港人民入境事務處，我熱心於執行紀律，加強訓練及改進組織方法，作為教官及後來的訓練隊長，我訓練了許多有為官員，作為入境處的長遠發展，引入組織與擴展入境處長官會所，從而增強團隊精神與歸屬感。

作為機場指揮官六年，我訓練及重組 630 名官員和員佐使其成為堅強的民防第一線，以防止嫌疑旅客及假證件份子的闖關與滲透，效果是成功的，得到許多受益國家的讚賞，有些還派官員到來實習，後來都有所成就。

1988 年元旦授勳，我獲授 MBE 勳銜，同年入境處長官團賜與我「名譽之劍」。

1990 年退休，我與太太及兒女在雷汀近郊定居，我們很容易融入當地社會，由於我們的生活方式沒有大差別，我的兒女由中學到獲得碩士學位現在倫敦工作，父子們曾是本地槍會會員。

自從 2013 年雷汀華人協會成立以來，我們夫婦成了熱心的會員，認識了不少本地華人，2014 年 9 月華人協會為我們舉行 50 週年結婚紀念會，及後與兒女和朋友在倫敦慶祝。



Fuk Hei MA 馬福喜



My name is Fuk-Hei Ma. I am 64 years old and I was born in Hong Kong. I came to England in 1976 and first settled near Gosport and worked in my cousin's restaurant. I worked in the kitchen and shared a room with a few others above the restaurant. The reason I came to England was to join my other relatives who were already in the catering business in England and I came to look for a better living.

I stayed in my cousin's restaurant for six months, moved to work in Wimbledon, then to various places including Hazelmere and Basingstoke. I met my wife and got married in London in 1980.

We moved to Mortimer, which is just outside Reading, in 1992 to start our own take-away shop. I love the area. Compared with where we were before, Mortimer is very near Reading town centre with lots of shops and good transportation, and also many Chinese people.

Before coming to England, my family were fishermen and lived in a boathouse. My grandfather had a small boat which he used to transport people to and from little islands; it was then transferred to my father. When it was passed to me, I changed to a bigger one and started fishing for a living. We went out to sea to fish and each trip was over a month and a half. All the family, plus about 11 employees all went in the same boat. As we were at sea most of the time, we didn't have the chance to go to school. In my life, I probably attended an equivalent of one academic year of schooling. My youngest sister is the only child who had the chance to go to school and complete primary school. After she completed her primary schooling, I came to England, and my parents died shortly after I left. As there was no one to look after her, I applied for her to join me in England; she stayed for a few years, and then went back to Hong Kong where she got married and settled.

My family mainly lived in the boat. The first house we lived in was around 1974 when the Hong Kong government started to build the Man Yee Reservoir and needed the area where we normally barged our boat; in return we were given a house. After moving to the house, I gave up my fishing occupation, and did various jobs including working on building sites. I eventually decided to come and try my luck in England. I am pleased that I came to England, as I now have a good life. Britain has a very good education system which all my children have benefited from. The welfare system in England is also very good, and people are generally very nice.

I am very proud of my family. I can only read or write a little but my business is doing okay. I have a good wife; she is very hard working and has been taking care of the children very well. We have been married since 1980 and have 3 children together. I remember when my first child was born; she carried the baby on her back and worked in the kitchen. It was such a hard life then, but she never complained. My children are all doing well and I really appreciate my wife's support.

We have our day off on Sunday and usually travel to Croydon to meet up with other folks from our area. The Leung Shui Wan Chinese Association was set up in Croydon in 1997 and organises various activities for everyone which we also like to take part in. When other people need my help, I am always very willing to do so whenever possible. I would like to be able to continue to contribute to the society within my capability.



我名叫馬福喜，今年 64 歲，在香港出生。1976 年來到英國，在 Gosport 附近居住，當時在表親餐館的廚房內工作，與其他同事共住在餐館樓上的一間房。來英是為了與親戚團聚，也為了尋求更美好的生活。

我在表親的餐館做了六個月，然後轉工去 Wimbledon 做，跟著又轉去其他地方工作，包括 Hazelmere 和 Basingstoke。隨後認識太太，1980 年在倫敦結婚。1992 年，我們搬到雷汀鄰近的 Mortimer，開始做自己的外賣店生意。我喜歡這區。比起以前住的地區，Mortimer 很近雷汀市中心，那裡有很多商店，交通又好，又有很多華人。

來英國前，我家三代都是漁民，住在漁船上。我的祖父用漁船接載乘客往來近海的小島，後來這漁船由我父親繼承了。漁船繼承給我後，我轉買一隻較大的漁船開始捕魚為生。每次出海捕魚需時個半月，而且全家人和其他十一位員工一同出海作業。因為我們大多數時間在海上，所以沒有機會入學校讀書，故此我祇有一年級學歷。我的幼妹是家裡唯一可以完成小學畢業的孩子，她讀完小學後我便來了英國，而我的父母在我離開香港後很快去世了。因為沒有人照顧她，我便申請她來英國跟我會合。但她留了幾年便回香港，跟著在香港結婚和定居了。

1974 年，政府開始建萬宜水庫，需要收購我們艇家停泊的海港，我們獲分配了第一間房屋。既然有了房屋，我不用打魚為生，便做了各種不同的工作，最後我決定來英國試試自己的運氣。

我很高興自己來了英國，如今我的生活美好。英國有很好的教育系統，所以我的孩子們都受惠。英國的福利制度也很好，而一般的人都非常友善。

雖然我讀寫能力有限，但我的生意做得不錯。自 1980 年結婚後，我們育有三個孩子。我的太太不但勤勞工作，照顧孩子們也無微不至。記得第一個孩子出生後，她背著孩子在廚房工作。那時真的很辛苦，但她從沒有抱怨過。我們的孩子都各有成就，全賴妻子的支持，所以我以自己的家庭為榮。

我們通常在星期日休息，多是開車往 Croydon 與其他同鄉聚首。糧船灣旅歐同鄉會就是 1997 年在 Croydon 成立的，為大家舉辦不同的活動，我們也參與。若其他人有困難，我也會盡己所能去幫忙，盡自己一分力繼續貢獻社會。



Wai Leung TSANG 曾偉良



My name is Wai-Leung Tsang and I was born in Hong Kong. I had a happy childhood in a village in HK. I finished secondary school 3rd year before coming to UK. My father came to the UK in the 1950s. Then my mum, my brother and sisters came in 1960. I came to join them in 1978 as a teenager. My father came to seek a better life.

My father arrived at Liverpool by ship and he worked there for the initial few years. Then I came, and my family ran a Chinese restaurant near Birmingham. When I left Hong Kong for England, I brought with me mainly clothes and food.

When I first arrived, I spoke some English. It was a hard time at school for the first few years. I lived in the attic of a house where a restaurant was downstairs. The attic was freezing cold in winter and boiling hot in summer. I had some school friends who were all very friendly and nice to me, but we

could not establish deeper friendships because of communication problems. I lost touch with all of them a few years after I left Birmingham.

I came to Reading in 1983 to study at the University of Reading. Reading was a small town; rather rundown. I spent most of my time on the campus, so the town itself did not mean much to me. I like the cool weather here!

My first job was working in my father's restaurant as a waiter and helping out in the kitchen at the weekends. My first full time job after graduation was working for British Aerospace as a systems engineer.

I became a Christian while at school, thanks to my school friends who introduced Jesus to me. Looking back, this was the best decision I ever made in my life. I attended the Reading Chinese Christian Fellowship (RCCF) when I was a student at Reading University. The RCCF has grown and evolved and became the Reading Chinese Christian Church.

我名叫曾偉良，在香港出生。我在香港一條鄉村渡過了快樂的童年，讀至中學三年級就來英國。我的父親在 1950 年代來英國，然後我的母親帶同長兄和姊姊們在 1960 年來英定居。

我長大至青少年才在 1978 年來英國。我的父親是為了尋求更美好的生活來英國的。他乘輪船抵達利物蒲，之後停留那裏做了幾年工。直至我來後，家人便在伯明翰附近開了一間華人餐館。我來英國時只帶了些衣服和食物，這些東西早已消失了。

我初到時只會說一點英語，所以最初幾年學校生活比較困難。那時我居住在餐館樓上的閣樓，冬天很寒冷，夏天卻非常酷熱的。我在學校有些朋友，他們對我很友善，但因溝通問題彼此間未能建立深厚的友誼。離開伯明翰幾年後我和他們失去了聯繫。

我在 1983 年來雷汀大學讀書。我剛到時只覺得雷汀是一個頗沒落的小鎮，當時大部份時間也在大學校園渡過，所以我對這小鎮沒有什麼印象。

我喜歡這裏清涼的氣候。我第一份工是週末在父親的餐館當侍應，或在廚房裏幫忙。大學畢業後第一份全職工作是在英國宇航公司任系統工程師。

我讀書時成為了基督徒，感謝學校的朋友介紹耶穌給我認識。回看過去，這是我一生作出最好的決定。我在雷汀大學讀書時參加雷汀華人基督徒團契。這華人團契不斷發展，成為現在的雷汀華人基督教會了。

Wai On LEUNG 梁偉安



I came to the UK and studied at Tunbridge Wells in Kent in 1984. Three years later, after completing my studies, I worked as an apprentice in a hair salon. I recall life was not easy at the time as my weekly wage was only £57. I worked several nights at a nearby Chinese restaurant as well, in order to make ends meet. Life was much better when working in the restaurant as the owner provided meals, bed and also a decent wage to staff; therefore three years later I decided to work at a restaurant.

After finding a good location and affordable premises in Reading town centre to start my own restaurant, I moved here in 2001. Though running a restaurant was difficult, it was easier than now. The exchange rate of the pound against other currencies was relatively high and attracted a lot of Malaysians to work in the UK without a work permit; restaurants could often avoid government inspection of illegal workers; therefore restaurant owners were relatively able to recruit staff. However, in the last few years due to the weak exchange rate of the pound against other currencies, fewer Malaysians want to work in the UK; the government has stepped up the arrest of illegal workers and competition for business has been growing everyday as a lot of different types of restaurants have been opened locally.

In the past, customers were mostly local people, people from Guangdong and Hong Kong. In recent years due to the increased number of overseas students from China and also Chinese companies such as Huawei which have been set up in Reading, customers from mainland China increased a lot. It is a bit difficult to serve customers from mainland China because of the need to communicate in Mandarin.

Since living in Reading, I have made a lot of good friends with some customers who come regularly and live in the local community.

The most memorable thing for me was selling the business. Despite the hard work in starting the business from scratch and business had been growing steadily, the difficulty in recruiting enough staff made it really difficult to run a restaurant. Though selling the business was hard and heart-breaking, I had to face the reality and sell it.

In order to balance busy working life and family life, I take a day off each week, as a "Family Day". My two children were born and raised in England. Both of them can communicate with the family in Cantonese, but they need to work harder when reading and writing in Chinese. They are now integrated into British society; their personalities and lifestyle are the same as British children and most of their friends are British, so both of them will remain in the UK when they grow up.

I now stay in the UK, but when my children grow up, I will spend the summer in the UK and winter in Hong Kong. Although it is cold in the UK, the living conditions are good as it is spacious; and interactions amongst people are relatively free. Racial discrimination has been improved. I believe the Reading Chinese Association plays a very important and helpful role in our community.

我於1984年從香港來到Tunbridge Wells, Kent 讀書，三年後畢業。回想當時在一家髮廊做學徒，工資並不多，生活頗為拮据，所以找上一份兼職，晚上在髮廊附近的一家中國餐館工作，多賺一點工資應付生活開支。由於餐館提供膳食和住宿之外，工資也算不錯，生活相對比當髮廊學徒穩定，所以大概兩三年後，我就決定轉行從事餐館工作一直到現在。

我在2001年搬遷到雷汀來居住，心想大展拳腳，發展自己的生意。經過一段時間四周找尋，終於在雷汀中心地區找到了一處合適而價錢亦相對合理的鋪位。當時經營餐館雖然困難，但比起現在還算容易一些。由於當時英鎊對其他貨幣換率比較高，有很多馬來西亞人士喜歡到英國工作；加上無證的工人都能僥倖避開政府的巡查，所以在招聘人手方面都較現在容易得多。但現時英鎊對其他貨幣換率偏低，來英國謀生的馬來西亞人已不復當年，政府亦加強了捉拿非法勞工，對餐館老闆而言，亦不敢冒犯被罰錢而聘用黑工。加上區內各式各樣的餐館相繼林立，惡性競爭下，客源攤薄，故經營餐館比以往困難得多。

光顧的客人大多來自附近的社區，客源穩定，而且以熟客居多。所以，在雷汀這十多年間，認識了不少朋友，他們大多由茶客變成好朋友。以前的顧客除了是外國人、廣東人和香港人，近十年間則多了來自中國內地的留學生，亦由於如華為這類中國公司在雷汀設廠，所以帶來不少內地人客；在接待他們時都會有些困難，因需要以普通話溝通；而且他們的禮貌多少都給接待增添困難。

我最難忘的一件事，是賣掉手上這盤生意。由零開始，這盤生意在我手上經多年努力漸見成績，已上軌道，無奈人手短缺、經營愈加困難，雖然心裏著實依依不捨，但從現實著眼亦只好選擇把它賣掉一途。

其實經營餐館並不易，工作時間長，與家人相處的時間亦不多；但每逢星期三或四會放假一天，與家人一起外出逛街、吃飯，共聚天倫，這天便是我們的「家庭日」。我的兩名孩子都是在英國土生土長，都能以廣東話與家人溝通，但在中文閱讀和書寫方面未算稱心，還需多下功夫。他們現在已融入英國社會，性格和生活方式跟英國人模樣，往來的朋友亦多是英國人。

我十分關心雷汀社區的華人，對「雷汀華人會」的參與既盡心亦盡力。現時我會留在英國住，當孩子成長後，會在香港和英國兩邊往來。英國雖然寒冷，但地方大、空氣和居住環境都好，而且人與人之間空間多。以前讀書時因種族歧視經常被欺凌，但現時情況大有改善。孩子已融入英國社會，亦已被接受是英國人；同輩都覺得他們都是英國人，只是膚色有不同吧，所以他們長大後大多會留在英國發展。



Victor CHEUNG 張兆昇



My parents were from Hebei in China. My grandfather was a script writer, my father was a doctor and I am very proud of him. During the early 1940s in China, there were bandits in some areas. One day they came looking for my father and it was then my parents decided to move out of Hebei! They first went to Tianjin, then to Shandong, Chongqing, Guangdong and Macau.

After the war, my father ended up in Guangdong. On visiting Hong Kong, he decided to settle there. The rest of the family joined him and at the time, the airline charged them by their weight and my family paid in gold!

I was born in Hong Kong in 1957 and had a happy childhood. When I was small, I was very naughty – my main interest was fighting with other children! We always went up to the mountain near where we lived, running wild, playing with whatever we found – including dead snakes. Life was so different then!

I came to England in September 1974 to attend boarding school in Kent. When I arrived at the airport I couldn't communicate with the immigration officers. They only granted me one month to stay in the UK instead of the whole academic year, which the school had to rectify! I was at boarding school for 3 years, then moved to a college in Potters Bar, then to Hatfield Polytechnic to complete a Computer Science diploma. I met my first employer at the College – he had a restaurant in Beaconsfield and I started working there at weekends.

After completing the diploma, I went on to study a course in Hotel and Catering Management and continued with my part-time job in Beaconsfield, which I enjoyed and learned a lot from. After completing the course, I stayed in Hong Kong for six months, then returned to the UK. Soon after, I joined my friend from Beaconsfield and worked in the restaurant full time.

In 1987, another friend asked if I would like to open a restaurant with him. I agreed and we eventually found a place in Crowthorne. The property was a corner shop with Post Office, which we turned into a Chinese restaurant in 1988. We ran the restaurant together until 1999.

When my father died in 1994, my mother and sister came to join me in England. I had to look after them as they couldn't speak English. My sister was diabetic and my father had looked after her until he died. My sister's illness worsened after his death and she had kidney failure. For two years after her kidney transplant, I took her from Crowthorne to Oxford to the Renal Unit every morning. It was then I decided to give up my job and become her carer.

My mother died in 2003, my sister in 2008. After their deaths, I did various jobs, including volunteering at a friend's kindergarten in a remote part of China in 2008, around the time of the Beijing Olympics. After that I didn't do much and just enjoyed life. I enjoy playing sports, especially cricket, and am proud of my achievements.

I now work part-time at my brother's studio and volunteer for two organisations. I like living in Berkshire as it is very central with a good transport network. I get on well with my neighbours and I am a member of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

我名叫張兆昇，我記得很多有關父母的故事。我的父母來自中國河北。我的祖父是寫劇本的，父親是位醫生，我亦以他為榮。在中國 1940 年代初期，有些地區很多山賊，有一天他們四出找我的父親，於是父母決定搬離湖北。起初他們遷往天津，然後去山東，重慶，廣東及澳門。戰後父親和一位朋友去了廣東。他們去香港探訪時，父親就決定在此定居。其餘家人便由重慶去香港與他會合。母親告訴我當他們坐飛機由重慶去廣東時，航空公司按乘客重量收費，而他們用黃金付款。他們此旅途事故繁多，最後終於抵達廣東，然後過境進入香港。

我 1957 年在香港出生。在香港出生的我，一直有快樂的童年。年少時我很頑皮，最大的興趣是與其他兒童打架；也常與其他小朋友到附近的山頭玩耍，癡瘋地四處跑，找到什麼便拿來玩一番——包括死了的蛇。那時的生活真不像如今！

1974 年 9 月我來到英國，在根德郡的一所寄宿學校就讀。記得抵達機場時，與移民官溝通不到，故此他們只給我一個月的入境簽證，而不是寄宿學校核准的整個學年。我在這學校讀了三年，然後轉往 Potter Bar 的一所書院，隨後轉往 Hatfield 理工學院修讀電腦文憑課程。在學院讀書時認識了我的第一位顧主，周末在他 Beaconfield 的餐館工作。讀完文憑課程後，不知自己要做什麼，於是繼續進修，在 Letchworth 學院選讀了酒店及飲食管理課程；我一邊讀書，周末就在 Beaconsfield 的餐館工作。開始時只在餐樓幫忙，之後就到廚房工作。我很享受這份工及學了很多東西。完成了酒店及飲食管理課程後，我申請在香港文華酒店做訓練生，但不成功。在香港逗留了六個月後便返回英國，回來不久，便應邀到朋友在 Beaconsfield 的餐館，開始我的全職工作。

1987 年，我的一位朋友問我，是否有興趣和他合伙辦一間餐館？我答允了，之後便一起找物業，結果在 Crowthorne 找到合適的鋪位，它原本是間商店兼郵局；1988 年我們完成了裝修，將這商店變成一間中國餐館。我們一起經營這餐館直至 1999 年。父親在 1994 年離世，之後母親和姊姊來英國和我團聚。因為她們不懂英語，我需要照顧她們。我姊姊患了糖尿病，一直以來都由父親照顧，直至他去世後，姊姊的病情每況愈下，甚至腎臟衰竭；換了腎後那兩年，我需要每早開車載她從 Crowthorne 到牛津的腎科中心。那時我決定了放棄工作照顧她。

母親和姊姊分別在 2003 及 2008 年去世；自她們離去後，我做了些不同性質的義工，包括協助一位朋友，他在 2008 年北京奧運期間在中國落後地區開辦了一所幼稚園。之後，享受人生；我也喜歡運動，尤其是板球，我亦為這方面的成就而感到驕傲。現在我有一份兼職，是在弟弟的工作室幫忙，其他時候在兩個機構做義工。我喜歡在柏斯郡 (Berkshire) 居住，因為這地區是交通中心樞紐。我與鄰居們相處融洽，是鄰舍互助會裏一位委員。



Stephen Tse 謝鎮強



My name is Stephen Tse, I was born in Hong Kong in 1954. I came to England with my elder sister to join my father in 1967. My father came to England in 1958, first working for relatives, then opened his own restaurants. When he opened his second restaurant in 1968 in Potters Bar, he bought a house nearby. In the same year my mother and young sister came to join us.

I was 13 years old when I left Hong Kong, having just completed primary school education; English proficiency was poor. With the freedom of choosing the subjects I liked and help from teachers, I made great progress in my studies. Maths and science were my favourite subjects; hence I read Maths at Imperial College.

The most unforgettable event in the past forty years was the night after moving into a new house. It was a very cold night in winter; the central heating was very basic and we needed to get a piece of coal from outside to get the heating

system running. Not knowing that the chimney was blocked, the whole family suffered from the toxic smoke. We all became groggy; my sisters and I were nearly unconscious. When my uncle visited us the next morning, dad could only hobble to open the door. On smelling the strong smell, uncle immediately opened all the windows and doors, rang the police and called an ambulance to take us to hospital.

In 1975, the first SeeWoo Store opened in Chinatown, London. I was still studying at university. I was particularly interested in computer studies; at the time the PC was not as popular as it is now. I applied my computer knowledge in writing programs and software to help run the company's daily operation. I still do so now. I focus on software development while my son focuses on hardware. I like using computers because I get satisfaction from applying my knowledge in solving problems.

The SeeWoo Store in Greenwich was managed and run by myself for more than a decade. In order to tailor make a perfectly complete computer system for the company, I worked in all departments and got an in-depth understanding of all the requirements. I take the greatest satisfaction in the stock control system, which I created and couldn't be found on the market. Over 3 decades have gone by. I hope the system will continue to be used by the company.

When my father retired in 2002, he handed over the whole business to me. I recall the first time I set foot in Reading : I was accompanied by my son and I cheered him on at a swimming competition that day. I saw that Reading was the first large town west of London where there was no oriental store selling goods from China. So in 2005 the SeeWoo (Reading) store was opened for business.

I am an easily content type of person. I don't need to worry about my sons as they help me take care of the business and are independent. I am now enjoying a carefree retirement, playing golf or going on cruises with my wife. Though I drive between London and Reading every day, I do enjoy the ride on the motorway at off peak hours. I have grown accustomed to living in the UK and as my sons have grown up here, they may not adapt to the quick pace of life in Hong Kong, therefore, I don't think we will move back to Hong Kong.

我是謝鎮強，生於1954年。1967年隨同爸爸、姐姐來到英國。早於1958爸爸已來到這裡謀生，在一間親戚開設的餐館裡工作。幾年之後，爸爸與親友合夥在Ilford, Essex開了第一間餐館。繼之爸爸於1968年在Potters Bar, Hertfordshire開了他第二間的餐館，還在餐館附近的社區買下屋子，讓媽媽和妹妹同年來英國與我們團聚。

我離開香港那年只得13歲，小學畢業，英文水平低。全賴英國讀書制度自由，和得到老師悉心的幫助，我的英文有很大的進步。誠然我對數理科較為專注，所以考進Imperial College 大學時選修了數學科。

在英國這四十多年，印象最深刻要算是第一次搬新屋。當時正值寒冬，那天晚上很冷，家裡的暖爐十分簡陋，是點煤的那一種，要添加燃料時還需跑到屋外拿取。怎料煙囪是密封的，不知不覺中全家就吸進了煤煙毒氣，變得迷迷糊糊。姐妹各人年幼，體質還弱，受毒煙影響後似覺不醒人事。第二天早上幸好叔叔來探望，爸爸還能支撐著身體蹣跚地應門。叔叔才進門已聞到濃烈的煤氣，迅即把門戶全都打開，然後報警叫喚救護車，趕快把我們送到醫院去。

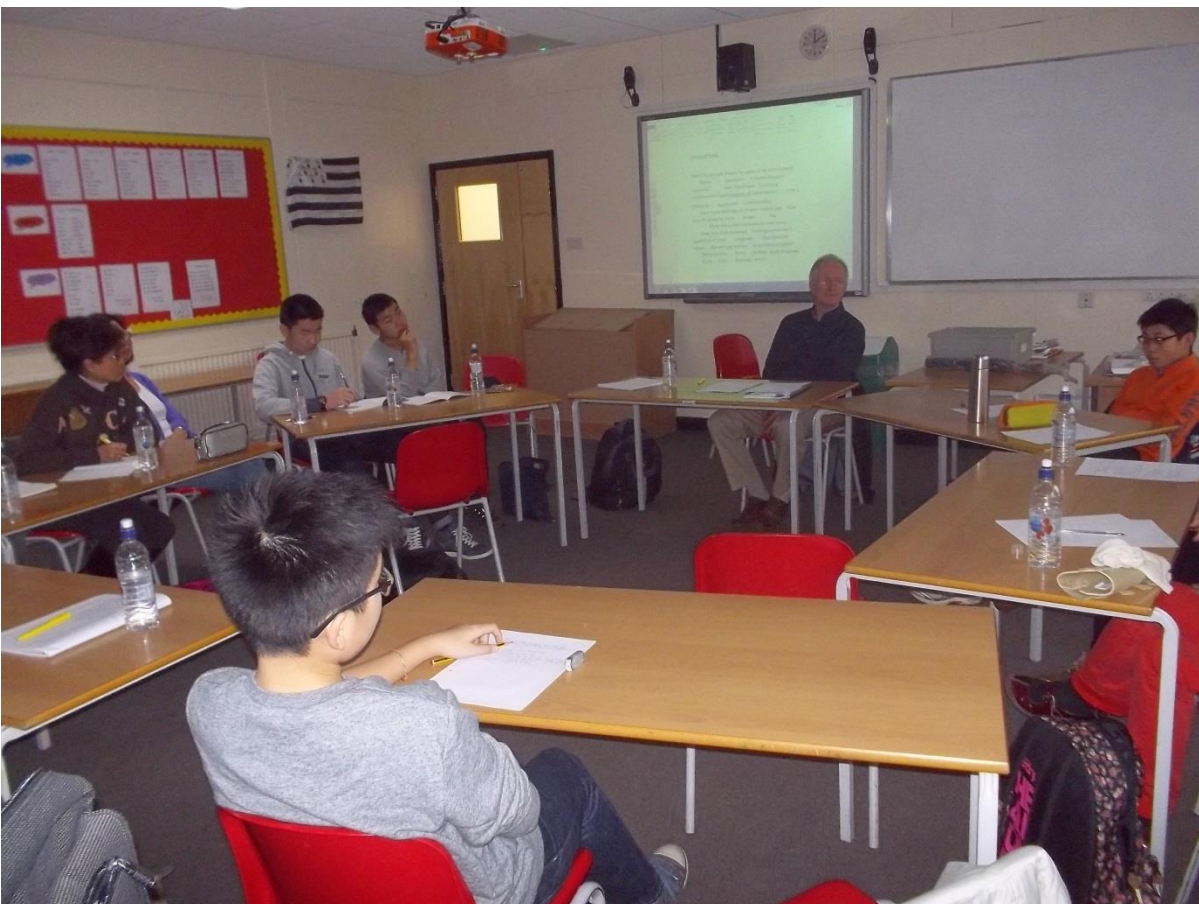
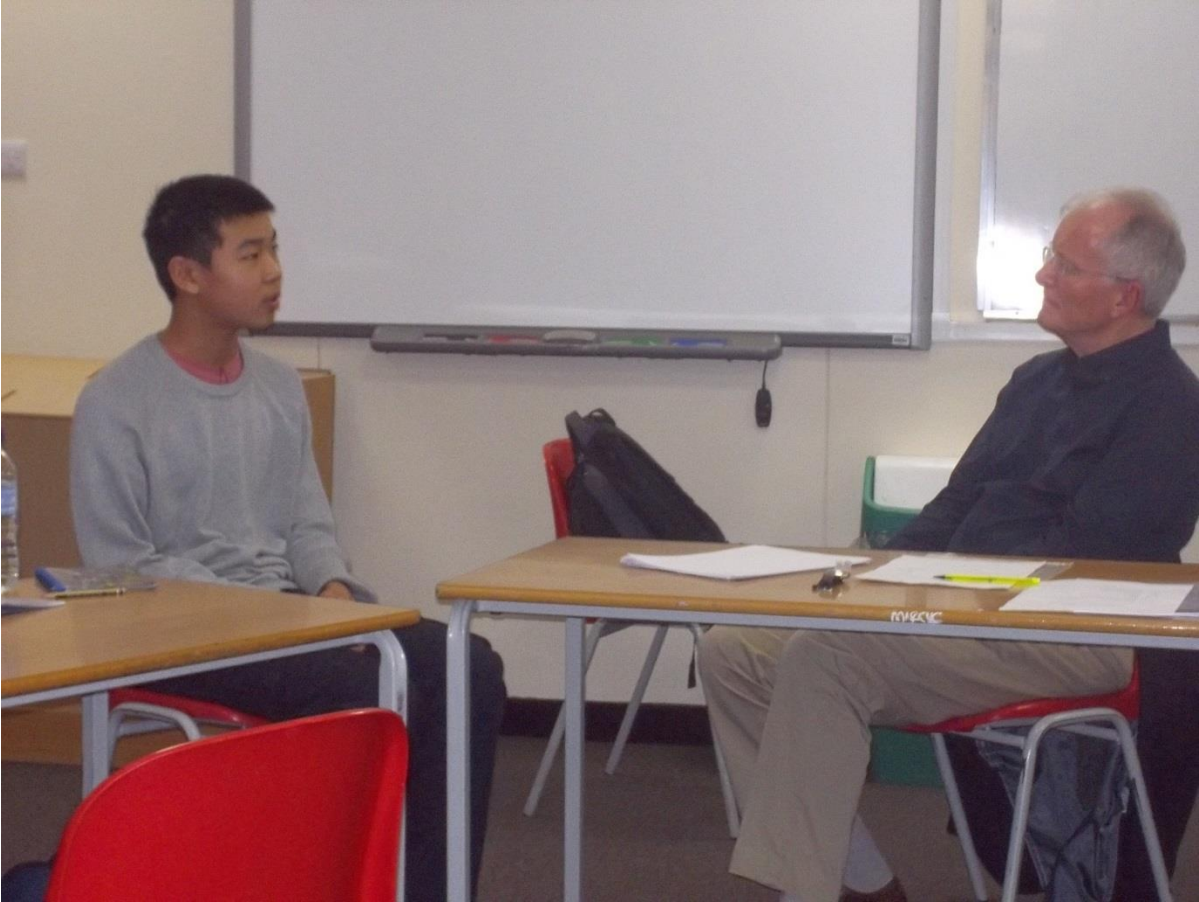
第一間泗和行於1975年在倫敦唐人街開業，當時我還在大學唸書。我對電腦科興趣特別濃厚，那個年代個人電腦還未普及，而我已把程式編寫的知識應用到公司的日常營運中，到現在我還沒停下來。現時泗和全記的收錢系統就是我的精心傑作。我專注軟件編寫，硬件方面就由兒子擔任。我個人很喜歡用電腦來解決問題，因為從中獲得的滿足有一份學以致用的感覺。

電腦應用是我熟諳的知識，此外如何經營一間公司我也有着豐富的經驗。在Greenwich的泗和行就是由我一人經營和管理了十多年。為了給公司設計一個完善的電腦系統，我曾分別跑到各部門親力親為，深入了解。例如要注意貨品的有效期，否則貨存太多或太少都會影響公司的運作，所以存貨控制十分重要。我最大的滿足感是設計了這套系統，就如自家產品，市面沒處可以買到。轉眼間已三十多年，希望往後這套系統還能繼續運作。

2002年父親退休，把業務全交給我打理。回想我第一次踏足雷汀是伴隨兒子參加游泳比賽，為他打氣那天。發覺這裡雖是倫敦西行的第一個大埠，卻沒有供應中國貨品的商店，於是就着手籌劃，於2005年泗和全記便在雷汀開業。

我是一個易於滿足的人。兒子既能自立，又能助我打理業務，讓我少費操心，可以無憂無慮享受退休生活，打高爾夫球，跟太太乘坐游輪消閒。雖然每天往駕車返倫敦和雷汀，非繁忙時段在公道上馳騁，那種感覺還是樂而不疲的。我已習慣英國的生活，兒子們在英國成長，未必適應香港的急速節奏，我想我們不會返回香港居住。

Oral history workshop training



Reading Chinese Association photos



Reading Chinese Association photos





Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Produced by Reading Chinese Association

Website: www.readingca.org.uk; Email: reading.ca@gmail.com; Telephone: 07596469231