

London's Chinese new year: Internet calls and house parties

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London's Chinese new year: Internet calls and house parties

For most Location Chinese New Year means Noun dancing in Location
Location - part of a Adjective programme Past tense verb by some of China's early migrants
Verb ending in ing in central Location Chinatown.

But for those newest to the Noun it is about house parties, dinners, karaoke and internet conference calls.

Chinese people Present tense verb up the largest single overseas student group in the Location
according

to the British Council, and London is their most popular place to study, with _____
Number Plural noun

Celebrations for the Year of the _____
Animal which _____
Verb on 23 January and last for

Number days, will be marked in _____
Location on 29 January with a parade and a _____
Number

strong performance in _____
Location Location Verb ending in ing among others, _____
Location

Song and _____
Verb Troupe and the National Music Orchestra of _____
Location Noun.

'Different rules';

But for many young _____
Adjective people, the season - their nation's most important - is more about

Adverb Verb ending in ing the gaps in culture between East and West and much of it _____
Verb

behind _____
Past tense verb doors.

The

biggest difference most young Chinese people find is that London's celebrations _____Verb_____ a lot less

_____Adjective_____ than the national holiday in _____Location_____.

Chinese _____Plural noun_____ Verb ending in ing_____ dinner on _____Event_____ Event_____ Event_____

_____Event_____ Students separated from their families _____Verb_____ traditional _____Plural noun_____ together in

_____Location_____

In mainland _____Location_____ fireworks and _____Plural noun_____ are an essential part of the start of the

_____Event_____ Event_____ with _____Number_____ set off in the _____Location_____ to _____Verb_____ off the evil

monster, _____First name_____. Apart from the occasional firecracker let off in _____Location_____ it's a far quieter

affair here.

_____First name_____ Name of a person_____ 22, from _____Location_____ studying at Goldsmiths College, explained

that a few years ago he and his friends bought a small rocket to let off in the garden, but he wisely chose against

letting off any more, conceding "different country, different rules".

While he _____Past tense verb to _____Location Square for the celebrations a few years ago - "It's OK, but it's not _____Location"; - this year he chose to celebrate Chinese New Year's Eve at a house party in Lewisham, entertaining everyone with his Chinese _____Verb ending in ing.

Lunar in Lewisham

However, _____Pronoun found it hard to _____Present tense verb down the _____Adjective white spirit, bai jiu, used to toast the new year back home. "I _____Past tense verb in the Chinese supermarkets in Lewisham,"; he explained, "but it _____Past tense verb all sold out.";

Chinese students in London are, at least, spared the arduous task of travelling to their home town. Each year the largest

seasonal migration of people in the world takes place in time for the traditional reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve.

He Jui at Silk Road restaurant in Camberwell He Jui's new year celebrations include rapping, and sometimes rockets

Lin Xing is studying business management at King's College London. It is her first new year away from her home in Fujian Province.

She said: "Back home I would go to my grandparents' house."; That involves a five-hour drive.

Asked if she was going to miss her family she said: "It's fine because I have friends here and we will celebrate together.";

Jin Heng, 31, who is Malaysian Chinese, works in a shop in Chinatown and lives in Brixton. He explained that internet conferences were vital.

"We are separated from our families so we don't have the reunion dinner here. We have it by Skype, by internet conference. Because of the time difference we have two celebrations - one with friends in the UK and one over Skype.";

Ying Wang, 27, from Tianjin, works in a restaurant. She explained that in China, people have time off work, but it is, of course, a different story in London.

Making dumplings

"The first year I stayed in London I hung out with friends and we made dumplings but this year I have lots of work so I went to a restaurant for a meal.";

Karaoke, or KTV as it is called in China, is also popular during the holiday season. While London lacks the same number of venues with private singing rooms, there are alternatives. Ting Wang, 19, who lives in Marble Arch and studies pharmacy, said: "We will have a party or go to KTV in some restaurants.";

Like Christmas in the UK, entertainment is a big part of Chinese New Year in China. While some tune in over the internet for the televised gala watched by a reported 700 million, others organise their own entertainment.

Mr He, who performs under the name which translates as 'Little Fat in London'; and works at Silk Road restaurant in Camberwell, said he rapped last year at a new year show put on by London University, which about 2,000 people attended.

This year, University College London's Chinese Students & Scholars Association will present a joint event with LSE on 30 January. A trailer online promotes it.

Uniting the youngsters is good because as He Jui puts it, whose father and grandparents are back in China, "I can get sad because it is when families get together".