



Brits Abroad

Shanghai 上海

Annual Report 2014-2015





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Brits Abroad Shanghai
Annual Report 2014-2015
to be presented at the
Annual General Meeting

on

Tuesday, 3rd March 2015 at 11:00am

at

The Waldorf Astoria Hotel
On the Bund, Shanghai

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President's Review of the Year



The aim of Brits Abroad Shanghai is to provide a welcoming environment for expats living in Shanghai – supporting new arrivals through those first few bewildering weeks, organising a wide variety of social activities and giving something back to our host community here in China.

Whatever your interests, we hope that we have helped you make the most of your time in Shanghai over the past year. We've explored the city on foot, in sidecars and even cycled the streets at night. Our brains have been exercised regularly with Mandarin, Mahjong, Book Club and May I – not forgetting the ever-popular quiz nights at the Park Tavern. We've tried new arts and crafts and sampled Shanghai's food and drink scene at all times of day with

breakfasts, coffees, lunches and dinners across the city. We've dressed in our finery for Ascot, Valentine's and Breast Cancer Awareness lunches, though the most glamorous event of all was the Red, White & Blue Ball at the Waldorf Astoria.

In the course of all these fun activities, we've also raised a staggering amount of money to benefit local charities. THANK YOU to all our members for your generous support – during 2014 we reached a fantastic grand total of:

RMB 241,797

This money is already making a huge difference to hundreds of lives in Shanghai and beyond and you can read more about the beneficiary charities later in this report.

Our fundraising events would not be so successful without the support of our many Sponsors who have provided raffle prizes, auction items and cash donations this year – THANK YOU. Thanks also to our Discount Partners, Vendors and Advertisers for their continued support of Brits Abroad.

It has been an amazing year! None of this would be possible without our team of hard working volunteers who put together our programme of events and keep the organisation running smoothly. On behalf of all the members of Brits Abroad, a huge THANK YOU for contributing your time and talents to benefit the whole community.

Delyth Jenkins
President, Brits Abroad Shanghai

Membership

A total of 254 families renewed or joined for the year ending 31st December 2014. Although essentially British in nature, Brits Abroad also welcomes non-British passport holders as associate members to make up to 40% of our total membership. We even have one dedicated member who splits her time between Hangzhou and Puxi!

Geographical Split			Membership Type		
Puxi	165	65%	Full	174	69%
Pudong	89	35%	Associate	80	31%
Total	254	100%	Total	254	100%

Welcoming New Members

Our monthly **Newcomers Coffee Mornings** continue to provide an informal setting for recent arrivals to learn more about Brits Abroad. The welcome is warm and, by the end of the morning of friendly chat and tips, our new members are often whisked away for an impromptu visit to the market or a taster session of Mayl.....and so their Shanghai adventure begins.....

Towards the end of 2014, we launched the **Brits Buddies** scheme as another route to help new arrivals have a smooth transition to life in Shanghai. The goal is to link existing Brits members with new members to help show them the ropes. We are building a database of Buddy volunteers, so that we can match newcomers with someone in their neighbourhood with similar family circumstances and interests. Look out for more information and opportunities to get involved during 2015. Brits Buddies is replacing the former Meeters & Greeters programme and the Meeters & Greeters events will now be incorporated into the Social calendar.



Social

Once again, the centrepiece of our social programme was the **Red, White & Blue Ball** – this year held in June to coincide with the FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Nearly 200 guests enjoyed the fantastic food and entertainment in the elegant Ballroom setting of the Waldorf Astoria on the Bund.

The table football tournament, with our very own FIFA referees, was a definite highlight and the Brazilian dancer raised more than a few eyebrows with her spectacular costumes! Our chosen charity was Operation Smile and one of our Ball guests summed it up beautifully saying, “What more could anyone have hoped for than to see so many smiling faces at the Ball and to know we raised enough money to create so many more.”



A few days later, we donned our finery again to celebrate **Ascot Ladies Day** with lunch at Tavola. The horse-themed raffle supported Operation Smile and there was much debate over which outfits, hats and fascinators deserved a special prize.



Social continued

The Four Seasons Hotel, Puxi were wonderful hosts for our October **Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch** where many of our guests took 'wearing a touch of pink' to a whole new level. Amongst the fun of the outfits and the breast-themed quiz, we also dug deep for the raffle to support the Fudan University Breast Cancer Unit.



We returned to the Four Seasons Hotel, Puxi in December to start the festive season in style with our **Christmas Lunch**. A delicious meal was followed by games and dancing, with musical chairs living up to its reputation of being brutal but fun! Once again, our guests were incredibly generous in their support of Stepping Stones and Heart to Heart.



Social continued

Preparations are well underway for our 2015 **Valentine's Lunch** at El Willy's and we're looking forward to a fabulous red-themed afternoon in aid of Heart to Heart.

Throughout the year, we have held several sell-out **Quiz Nights** at The Park Tavern, culminating in a charity quiz in November to benefit The Mercy Fund. The 'lucky' winners of each event have been invited to set the questions for the following quiz and have risen to the challenge with fiendish questions that have perplexed us all.



A lovely new tradition is the **Welcome Back Afternoon Tea**. This year, we gathered at Isola in September to catch up with all those folks who had escaped the Shanghai summer. We repeated this in January with a cosy catch up at Kafer in Pudong.



Drop in Drinks continues to be a popular monthly fixture to unwind from work and sample a variety of bars across Shanghai. We also gathered for **Sunsetters** at the Southern Belle and had an opportunity to socialise if we were 'home alone' whilst our partners travelled for work or family visits.

Members' creative talents have been in evidence at painting, Chinese knotting and Thai cooking classes. We partnered with Britcham to learn about Traditional Chinese Medicine and John McKenna whetted our appetites for travel in China. The night cycle rides and sidecar tour helped us see Shanghai from a whole new angle.

The Social Team are always on the look-out for new activities for us all to try – so please do get in touch if you have any suggestions!



Regular Monthly Activities

The beautiful setting of the Salon de Ville in the Waldorf Astoria is a great place to start each month at **Elevenes with Brits**. This year, we've adjusted the layout to accommodate more vendor tables which adds interest for members, increases our Brits Abroad funds and benefits our raffle prize stock. We've been delighted to host performances from the International Women's Choir and also welcomed our charity partners for gift donations. Attendance continues to be strong and the Waldorf coffee morning is certainly a popular venue for membership sign up/renewal and ticket sales for upcoming events.



Just across the river, Paulaner Lujiazui is a more contemporary setting for **Breakfast with Brits**, usually on the third Thursday of the month. We tuck into a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, cold meats, cheeses, breads, croissants, jams and honey. All washed down with tea or coffee and accompanied by a good chat with some fun people. Numbers have fluctuated over the year but, at just RMB 65 for Brits Abroad members, it's one of the best value breakfasts in Shanghai – you don't want to miss it!

Brits Abroad **Walks** continued monthly in 2014, except for the usual break for heat in July and August. Our groups, mostly between 15 and 25 members, enjoyed two hours of walking exercise and the opportunity to chat and meet people, with some people heading for an impromptu lunch afterwards with old and new acquaintances. We explored historic areas and buildings, alleys, parks and riverside walks and viewed art, architecture and seasonal decorations in areas of Shanghai that included Hongqiao, Hongkou, Suzhou Creek, Pudong, the Bund and the Old Town.



Regular Monthly Activities continued

The Walks Team helped coordinate the October **I-Spy Shanghai** event in the former French Concession – a Quiz/Treasure Hunt coupled with food at Cotton’s and charity fundraising for The Renewal Center. Three walks that had to be rescheduled because of rain were also repeated later in the year. The Walks Team welcomes anyone interested in joining its ranks for a fun and stimulating way to discover Shanghai while contributing to local causes and our expat community.



This year's reading list for the **Book Club** has focused on books that are inspirational in nature. The discussions have been equally thought-provoking, with members coming from a variety of backgrounds. We continue to meet in members’ homes, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, and we can guarantee a warm welcome and an interesting discussion. Why not come along and try something new – what better way to read books you might not normally choose!

Regular Weekly Activities

The **Mahjong** group meets every Monday afternoon at The Park Tavern. This is a very popular activity and we are pleased to see that our numbers are increasing this year. Players of all levels and experience are welcome and we always have a beginners’ table for members who are completely new to the game.

The mahjong tiles are replaced by playing cards on a Wednesday afternoon when the **May1** group meets at The Park Tavern. This card game is based on Rummy but played with two packs of cards over 12 rounds to find the eventual winner. We have been delighted to welcome new members to the group this year and beginners are able to pick up the rules very quickly – it’s a great way to relax, chat and meet new friends.



Every Monday morning a small group of Brits Abroad members meet up in Lujiazui to practise our **Mandarin Conversation** skills whilst chatting informally about everyday topics. Our group is directed by a Chinese Mandarin Teacher who focuses on pronunciation, grammar structure and vocabulary. This is a great way to reinforce the Mandarin language skills we learn during our other Chinese classes. Why not sign up and join us for a taster session?

Community Outreach

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our Brits Abroad members and supporters, we have been able to support a significant number of Community Outreach projects this year. The money comes from three main sources: targeted fundraising at one-off events, surplus cash from regular events (mahjong, walks etc) and periodic distribution of surplus funds from running Brits Abroad.

The biggest beneficiary this year has been **Operation Smile**, a charity which performs cleft lip and palate surgeries for underprivileged children in China. Following the fundraising efforts at our Red, White & Blue Ball and the Ascot Ladies Day Lunch in June, we donated RMB 140,000 to Operation Smile – enough to fund 28 life-changing surgeries. In November, a small group of Brits Abroad members attended an Operation Smile surgical mission in Nanjing and we were humbled to meet the families and see how this surgery can completely transform a young life.



Nanjing Butterfly Home is a children's hospice which opened its doors in the Autumn of 2013. Brits Abroad made an initial donation of RMB 3,000 early in 2014 and we have been kept up to date ever since by the hospice's staff. In November, we visited and saw first hand the warm and loving environment that has been created for these desperately sick children. We have now allocated a further RMB 36,000 for the Nanjing Butterfly Home and this will fully fund one cot for the next year.



Community Outreach continued

For many years, Brits Abroad has been a staunch supporter of **Heart to Heart** a charity which provides life-saving heart surgery for some of China's poorest children. We have made financial donations following our Valentine's Lunch and also the Junk Your Jiao collection of small change. As part of the allocation of surplus funds, we have recently allocated RMB 25,000 for Heart to Heart which will completely fund the heart surgery for one child.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and our 2014 fundraising activities raised RMB 18,000 which has been donated to the **Breast Cancer Unit at Fudan University Hospital** in Shanghai. Women (and some men) travel from across the region for treatment at this specialist unit and our donation will be used to develop and print informative literature to support patients attending the unit.



Stepping Stones is an organisation best known for its English language programmes in Shanghai's migrant schools and early in 2014 we donated RMB 10,000 to support their community centre English classes. Our Christmas Lunch raffle (December 2014) was in aid of Stepping Stones' I Care project. This funds eye tests, spectacles and corrective eye surgery for children in migrant schools, where vision defects often go untreated. Our RMB 16,000 donation will be enough to cover three surgeries or provide eye tests/spectacles for over 70 children.



Community Outreach continued

Tucked away in Pudong are the facilities of **Home Sweet Home** which provides a residential home and training for disabled young adults. This year, we have allocated RMB 14,000 to fund the conversion of some office space into living accommodation, including a bathroom area.

The **Renewal Center** hosts twice-weekly drop-in sessions for Shanghai's homeless adults to take a shower and change their clothes. In addition, the Center runs a smaller residential programme providing a pathway back to employment. Our donation of RMB 12,000 at the beginning of 2014 helped fund a new washing machine and clothes dryer for the centre. We donated a further RMB 3,000 following the I-Spy Shanghai event and that has been earmarked for their women's support project.



Our Autumn Charity Quiz Night featured a raffle in aid of **The Mercy Fund**. This lesser known charity supports children undergoing cancer treatment here in Shanghai. Volunteers visit the children in hospital and the charity also provides financial aid for the poorest families. Our donation of RMB 11,000 will be used for medical treatment bills, benefiting two needy families.



Community Outreach continued

Last Spring, several of our members visited a migrant school in Minhang district to distribute dental health packs funded by the previous year's Christmas Lunch. This year, we have again allocated funds to the **United Family Hospital Foundation** for their dental health project. Hospital staff volunteer their time to visit underprivileged schools and provide training and dental kits to the staff and students at that location. Our donation of RMB 10,000 will fund dental kits for around 250 students.



Shanghai Sunrise provides educational scholarships for children whose families would otherwise be unable to afford high school tuition fees. Over the years, Brits Abroad has sponsored several students through their education. This year, we are supporting two new high school students (total tuition fees RMB 6,000p.a.) and have also set aside a further RMB 5,000 for additional tutoring, should that be required.

Beyond these financial contributions, Brits Abroad members have also been very generous with their non-monetary support this year. We have collected airline/hotel toiletries for Heart to Heart, unwanted winter clothing for The Renewal Center and new children's outfits for Heart to Heart at our 2014 Christmas Lunch. We have also prepared and served a series of British afternoon teas for the homeless men who visit The Renewal Center. In addition to this, many of our members volunteer at several Shanghai charities and gain great personal satisfaction through giving something back to our host community.



Please don't hesitate to contact us at Brits Abroad if you would like to get involved with our Community Outreach projects.

Community Outreach continued

Community Outreach Beneficiaries 2014

Donations Made Using Funds Raised in 2014

Organisation	Amount/ RMB
Operation Smile	140,000
Fudan Breast Cancer Unit	18,000
Stepping Stones	16,000
The Mercy Fund	11,000
Heart to Heart	3,235
Renewal Center	3,000
Total	191,235

Additional Donations Approved For 2015

Organisation	Amount/ RMB
Nanjing Butterfly Home	36,000
Heart to Heart	25,000
Home Sweet Home	14,000
United Family Hospital Foundation	10,000
Shanghai Sunrise	6,000
Total	91,000

We will also continue to sponsor 2 high school students via Shanghai Sunrise (estimated at a further RMB 6,000 expenditure during 2015)

Fundraising Income 2014

Activity	Amount/ RMB
Specific fundraising events (e.g. Ball, Lunches)	190,328
Surplus from regular events (e.g. Mahjong, Walks, Coffees)	32,065
Waldorf raffles	10,400
Other Social events & donations	9,004
Total	241,797

Internal Communications

During 2014, we have reviewed our member communication channels and are introducing several changes. The most exciting of these is a revamp of our Brits Abroad **Website** and we are looking forward to launching this in March 2015.

Website visitors will notice a fresh, up-to-date appearance and technical changes behind the scenes will make website admin much easier for the Brits Abroad team. For the first time, we will be able to manage our weekly email **Bulletin** directly from Shanghai.

We owe a huge THANK YOU to Philip Crispin for the design, development and implementation of our IT solutions – Philip has been a long-term volunteer for Brits Abroad and continues to support us even though he is now based in the UK.

After canvassing our members earlier in the year, we decided to discontinue the quarterly printed **Newsletter** from December 2014. Moving forward, **The Wire** electronic magazine will be published monthly to promote upcoming events and review previous activities, though we still need Editorial volunteers to ensure its continuity. We know that many members enjoy receiving a printed record of their time with Brits Abroad and we are exploring the feasibility of producing a photo yearbook as a lasting memento.



External Communications

During 2014, we were able to revive our External Communications programme and are now reaping the benefits of wider exposure in the Shanghai community. Our biggest **Public Relations** activity was to attend the September 2014 Expat Show where we gained a good number of new members and useful contacts.

We developed a new flyer to promote Brits Abroad to potential members and sponsors. This has been circulated to schools, relocation companies and local businesses and we continue to expand our contact list.

We have attended events at Dulwich College and YCIS where parents, staff and teachers have seen first-hand what Brits Abroad is all about. We list our regular and featured events on the websites of City Weekend and Time Out and frequently appear in their print editions. City Weekend magazine was particularly supportive of our Red, White & Blue Ball – promoting ticket sales and running a full page photo feature after the event.



Advertising revenue helped fund the printing costs of the quarterly Newsletter during 2014. Ongoing, we will assess our options for including paid advertising in The Wire and the updated Brits Abroad website – both have been designed with the capability to display adverts if we decide to follow this route to generate additional income. Our list of **Discount** alliance partners has grown dramatically this year. Brits Abroad members can now receive deals at more than 35 businesses just by showing their membership card. These discounts range from 5% to a whopping 25%.

The Committee members and Representatives who served during 2014/15 are set out below.

The Committee

President	Delyth Jenkins
Vice President	Ros Sapsford/Caz Johnstone
Vice President	Bernie Thompson
Treasurer	Bernie Thompson
Secretary	Steph Ward
Membership Secretary	Pam Bryant
Social Coordinator	Penny Wilson/Lynette Booley
Community Outreach Coordinator	Siobhan Frost
Meeters & Greeters Coordinator	Pam Bryant
Brits Buddies Coordinator	Pam Bryant
The Newsletter and The Wire Editor	Anna Barlow/Judith Middelwaart/Danielle Woermann/ Tracy Hyde/Nicola Smith
Website Coordinator	Danielle Woermann/Judith Middelwaart/Tracy Hyde
Public Relations Coordinator	Caz Johnstone/Sabah Carter
Advertising Coordinator	Christine Kane
Discounts Coordinator	Christine Kane

The Representatives

Deputy Treasurer	Liz Wickham/Susan McNulty
Walks Coordinator	Jane Sutton/Kate Short/Lyn Frazer
Book Club Coordinator	Sandra Davis/Gill Gibson
Mahjong Coordinator	Karen Carrington
May I Coordinator	Bernie Thompson/Jaki Madely
Mandarin Conversation Coordinator	Lesley Stirling/Tracy Hyde/Danielle Woermann
Breakfast with Brits Coordinator	Julia Ravenscroft/Lesley Stirling/Danielle Woermann
Proofreader	Jane Sutton

Apart from these named team members there are a host of other volunteers, including the Social, Community Outreach and Walks Teams who give their time, energy and enthusiasm to make Brits Abroad the great organisation that it is.

Our wide-ranging social and fundraising events and activities would not be possible without the involvement of lots of our members on an ongoing or ad-hoc basis.

THANK YOU!

BRITS ABROAD (SHANGHAI) ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	Year ended 31/12/2014
	RMB
Fundraising Income	
May 1	8,790
Wetjeng	11,340
Members' Contribution	1,110
Wife's	4,320
Evenings with Brits	4,400
Breakfast with Brits	80
Other Social Events	1,780
Specific Fundraising events and activities	190,120
Wetjeng Buffet	10,800
Donations received	1,304
Total Fundraising Income	<u>244,764</u>
Other Income	
Membership fees	14,100
Bank interest received	200
Total Other Income	<u>14,300</u>
Total Income	<u>259,064</u>
Expenditure Paid	220,106
Other Expenditure	
Committee meeting refreshments	2,004
Gifts	320
Stationery and other administrative costs	1,400
Newspaper printing cost (incl of advertising income)	12,240
Bank charges paid	40
Total Other Expenditure	<u>15,964</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>236,070</u>
Surplus of income over expenditure	22,994
Reserves brought forward at 1 January 2014	100,876
Reserves carried forward at 31 December 2014	<u>123,870</u>

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31/12/2014 **as at 31/12/2013**

Assets		
Bank balance	65,404	104,964
Unallocated cash	47,051	25,322
Allocated cash	10,000	26,642
Deposit paid to be used for Acrot Lunch in June 2015	0	5,000
Total Assets	<u>122,455</u>	<u>161,928</u>
Liabilities		
Membership fees received in advance	21,500	12,400
Total Liabilities	<u>21,500</u>	<u>12,400</u>
Total net assets	<u>100,955</u>	<u>149,528</u>
Total reserves	<u>100,876</u>	<u>149,549</u>

Following a review of the constitution during 2014 it was decided to produce annual accounts for calendar years rather than from March to February to bring financial reporting into line with the membership year. The format has also been changed to show more detail of all sources of income and expenditure.

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015
 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

TRANSACTIONS WITHIN AND BETWEEN 2014

Activity	Amount Donated in 2014 RMB	Beneficiary	Amount Donated in 2014 RMB
Donations from allocated cash at 31/12/14			
Christmas Lunch 2014		United Family Hospital Foundation	10,000
Donations from unallocated cash at 31/12/14			
		Shanghai Summer Students Scholarship	4,000
		Shanghai Summer Students Travelling	1,000
		International Women Day	1,111
		Shopping Dinner	10,000
		Breast Cancer	12,000
		Wells Fund	1,000
		Heqing Butterfly Home	1,000
		New Hope Animal Rescue	1,000
		WFP (WFP) Food Assistance	1,700
		Spring Day	4,000
Amounts raised and donated in 2014			
February Valentine Lunch	1,420	Heart to Heart	1,420
June Red, White and Blue Ball	110,750	Operation Smile	110,750
June Street Lunch	8,206	Operation Smile	7,207
October Breast Cancer Lunch	15,400	Fudan Breast Cancer Unit	14,400
October Breast Cancer Raffle	1,000	Fudan Breast Cancer Unit	1,000
October Tea Shanghai	1,000	Breast Cancer	1,000
July Year Day	1,100	Heart to Heart	1,100
Donations made to be made in 2015			
November Charity Day	10,700	Wells Fund	
December Christmas Lunch	10,447	Shopping Dinner	
	140,123		125,148

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS APPROVED FOR 2015

As there was still a large bank balance at the year end the committee approved further donations as follows at the committee

meeting on 15th January 2015

Beneficiary	Amount to be Donated in 2015 RMB
Shanghai Summer Students' Training	5,000
Shanghai Summer Students Travelling	1,000
Heart to Heart	25,000
Heqing Butterfly Home	20,000
Home Sweet Home	14,000
United Family Hospital Foundation	10,000
	91,000

We will also continue to sponsor two high school students via Shanghai Summer. The amount is expected to remain at 1,000 RMB per student for 2015 and 2016.

Thanks to our sponsors

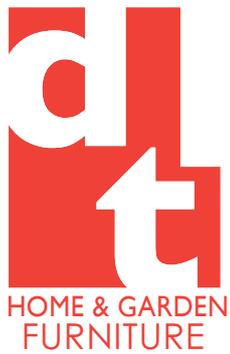


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Goody Bag: Paulina Cudna Photography
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Many thanks too to all those Brits Abroad members who have donated raffle prizes