



Brits Abroad

Shanghai 上海

Annual Report 2013-2014

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4th March 2014
Waldorf Astoria Hotel
On the Bund Shanghai

www.britsabroadshanghai.com
britsabroad57@hotmail.com

Once again Brits Abroad members supported events and functions
raising an amazing

164,500rmb for many good causes in Shanghai.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our
members so a huge

THANK YOU

On behalf of those people whose lives we have enriched.

Behind Brits Abroad there are people who give up their time tirelessly to
arrange events, coordinate enquires and ensure all funds are correctly
distributed.

A personal THANK YOU to all committee members on behalf of Brits
Abroad Members.

Suzanne Bloor – President Brits Abroad

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Membership Team – Pam Bryant, Lynn Frazer, Angela Allott

Welcoming New Members and ensuring all their details are up to date; Total family memberships for 2013 was 213, with Puxi membership almost doubling that of Pudong.

Meeters and Greeters – Sophie Leacacos,

Meeters and Greeters gives our members new ideas for shopping, getting to know Shanghai history and culture, and just having fun doing something together. We have explored the commodity markets in Puxi and Pudong, the Pearl Market at Yuyuan and the Children's Market on JinLing Road. Our visits included the Aquarium, the History Museum under the Pearl Tower, and wonderful Taikang Lu. We enjoyed special art and history lectures on the revolutionary artworks of the Mao period; Chinese artist Leng Hong's technique of painting on rice paper; and an unusual private visit to a Shanghai shikumen family museum. M&G also hosted a coffee morning for members with small children – no kids showed up, but we had a full group of happy BA potential grandmothers, and many stayed on for lunch!

Very special thanks to Susan Royce, who took excellent photos of our events.

Walks Team - Helen Beales, Jane Sutton, Kate Short, Laura Limer, Lynn Curran, Lyn Frazer, Aynur Schuermann

In 2013 the Brits Abroad Walks team provided nine interesting walks in a variety of locations, continuing to raise funds for charities via members donations. All walks were well attended with some having waiting lists after reaching 30 sign ups. Sadly Helen Beales moved away to new pastures within China and Laura Limer returned to the UK. Our thanks to them for all the fantastic walks they have developed and lead. Fortunately we then welcomed Lynn Frazer and Aynur Schuermann to the team. They hit the ground running with their first walk in January. We look forward to another year of fascinating walks in Shanghai.

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Book Club – Sandra Davis

A regular event on the third Tuesday of the month, we meet in the morning to have coffee and discuss the book of the month. We meet in the home of one of our members, who volunteer to host at the beginning of each year.

During May and June we choose the books for the following academic year, starting in September.

This year we have had a particular focus on books set in or around China. Some of these can be quite challenging so it's always interesting to discuss our response with others to try to get a more balanced viewpoint. We were so moved by a book about North Korea, 'Escape from Camp 14' by Blaine Harden, that one of our members wrote an email to Oprah, suggesting the book should be on her booklist!

Book club has been well attended with over 20 people on our mailing list and a pretty regular attendance of about 8 – 10 members. It's a very friendly, inclusive event with regular attendees getting to know each other well.

Social Team – Co ordinators -Caz Johnstone and Lisa Barker

Social team: Sue Adams, Ros Sapsford, Bernie Thompson, Lesley Sterling, Christel Popken, Amelia Krause, Kerry Rees, Teresa Ayres, Terry Vibert, Julie Rowell

The social committee organised a wide variety of events over the past year, to include monthly drop in drinks at various locations, quarterly pub quizzes, various cookery and cocktail making workshops, handicraft workshops, bicycle rides, bowling, golf clinic, Sunday brunches (to include Easter and afternoon BBQ), Afternoon tea, International Women's Day High Tea and museum tours.

They also organised various charitable events to include Ladies Ascot Day, Christmas Ladies lunch, and Christmas party. They were also actively involved in the organisation of the Brits Red, White and Blue Ball.

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Website – Phillip Crispin

The Brits Abroad website provides member information for Events, Book Club, Shanghai Gems, Walks, Discounts, Useful Links, With Thanks To, Membership and Community Outreach, and allows members to sign up for events. And a weekly email is sent to members about events and other information for members. Both the website and the emails have been maintained without problems over the last year and neither has undergone much change. We received good feedback about the emails and website.

Mahjong Team – Karen Carrington, Bernie Thompson

You're in China so why not try your hand at mahjong? Mahjong is a game that originated in China, but is now played (in varying forms) all over the world. Similar to the Western card game rummy, mahjong is a game of skill, strategy, and calculation and involves a degree of chance.... or it's just a fun game for getting to know your fellow Brits Abroad members.

Every Monday afternoon (1:30 – 4:30) we play the British version of mahjong at the Park Tavern on Hengshan Road. It's a popular event and lots of fun. It's open to everyone and is a great way to relax, chat, and meet new people. We have a beginners table every week so don't worry about not knowing how to play. We only charge a 50 RMB fee to play which includes beverages for the afternoon and money for the charity pot. Come!

In 2013 we raised 11,180rmb for the charity pot.

The Wire and The Newsletter - Anna Barlow

Each month, Brits Abroad publishes The Wire or The Newsletter. The Wire appears eight times during the year and is an e-publication posted to the website. It mainly gives information on upcoming events, a note from the President, and usually has a photo-of-the-month with some very *interesting* scenes around Shanghai. The Newsletter is printed four times during the year: March, June, September and December. It is available at select activities and also on the website as an e-

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

publication. While it also includes upcoming events and a note from the President, it highlights past events with lots of photos of BA members enjoying themselves, a book club review and Community Outreach update. The Newsletter also includes advertisements.

In working on each of these over the past year, I have especially appreciated all of the information submitted by the various groups, Sue Maguire for guiding me through The Newsletter process, Jane Sutton for her amazing proof-reading skills, and Ruth Thompson who has provided all of the cover photos for The Newsletter in 2013.

Community Outreach Team - Delyth Jenkins, Jan Dallison, Kate Short, Andrea Conner, Aynur Schuermann, Jacqui Muir.

Thanks also to the many Brits Abroad members who have helped out at our fundraising events throughout the year.

The generosity of Brits Abroad members and friends has continued throughout 2013-14. Our fundraising events kicked off with the Red, White and Blue Ball in April, which generated much needed funds for the Renewal Center who continue to support homeless men and women in Shanghai. In June, the glamorous ladies at the Ascot Lunch raised money for Heart to Heart's library project; later in the year, some of our members were proud to deliver the books to a rural school in Jiangsu province.

We continue to support two high school students via Shanghai Sunrise and we have said a bittersweet farewell to Amber, who we have sponsored for many years via the Josephine Charles Foundation. Amber has been awarded a full scholarship to continue her studies in Sichuan and progress towards her goal of attending University to study medicine – we wish her well.

We raised a record amount during October's Breast Cancer Awareness events, culminating in our 'touch of pink' lunch at the JW Marriott. As in previous years, our donation will support the work of the Breast Cancer Unit at Fudan University Cancer Hospital. November saw everyone put their thinking caps on for the sell-out Charity Quiz in aid of Huixin Orphanage.

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

We supported the Dental Health Project of the Yangtze Delta Foundation with our Christmas Lunch raffle, funding oral hygiene kits and training to schoolchildren in the local region. Lunch guests each received a hand-embroidered make-up bag from Home Sweet Home, which provides training and employment for disabled people. The eight children who live at Shining Star (blind orphanage) enjoyed a very special Breakfast with Santa courtesy of Brits Abroad – sometimes we can even make wishes come true!

We have also collected gifts for some of our long-term charities - baby clothes and blankets for Baby's Home Shanghai (Christmas lunch), stationery gifts for migrant children via Stepping Stones (Breakfast with Santa) and, at our February coffee morning, toiletries for Heart to Heart.

Throughout the year, we gather funds for our charity pot from our regular raffles and groups (mahjong, May1, walks, book club) and, as the Committee year draws to a close, this is being distributed to several organisations – Stepping Stones, the Renewal Center, Shining Star, the Mercy Fund (child cancer patients), Butterfly Home Nanjing (children's hospice), World Academy for the Future of Women (HIV/AIDS project) and Paw Pals Animal Rescue (animal shelter).

Thank you once again for your generous support!

Total Raised for 2013-14: RMB 164,500

Vice President – Sue Maguire

The two main parts of the vice-president's role are managing the coffee mornings at the Waldorf Astoria hotel and managing the Hotmail account.

Attendance at coffee mornings has been very variable, depending on the time of year and the weather. The Christmas one was very well attended and the one during the typhoon was a very select gathering! We have continued to have significant interest from potential vendors for our coffee mornings, and we made the most of this in December by getting many more than usual to attend, making the event more of a Christmas fair.

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Managing the Hotmail account is something that needs to be done regularly but can of course be done from anywhere in the world (and it has been this year). It is always nice to be the first contact for someone who has just moved to, or is planning to, move to, Shanghai and who is wondering what there is to do here. Brits Abroad fulfills a very useful purpose in China and we should be very proud of what we do.

Breakfast with Brits – Julia Ravenscroft

Every month (usually the third Thursday) Brits Abroad members new and old from both sides of the river meet for breakfast and conversation at Paulaner Binjiang restaurant in Pudong.

Paulaner is easily accessible from both sides of the river since it is only a short walk from the ferry and the metro. The location is lovely with a view over the river to Puxi. When we are lucky with the Shanghai weather, there is nothing nicer than sitting on the patio in the sunshine; chatting with friends, sipping coffee and watching the ships go by.

The food is hearty - platters of scrambled eggs, European meats and cheeses to share accompanied by breads, rolls and croissants, coffee, tea or juices – so come hungry! Also come ready to chat. It is a great venue to connect with old friends and make new ones. Sign up online and join us.

Someone from our membership team is always there to handle renewals and welcome new or prospective members with information about Brits Abroad.

A big thank you to my friends who have helped with Breakfast with Brits during 2013: Lesley Stirling, Jacqui Muir, Pam Bryant and Angela Allott.

BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

May! – Bernie Thompson, Caz Johnstone, Lisa Barker

May! continues to be a popular weekly event, with lots of new members eager to play this card game.
Throughout 2013 the group has raised 7,240 rmb for our Community Outreach Charities

Public Relations – Expat Show

Once again, we attended the Shanghai Expat Show in September, several members assisted in setting up our stall and helping to promote our organization. Contact were made with other groups within Shanghai. Thanks to all that assisted at the 2013 event.



BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



SNAPSHOTS OF BRITS ABROAD EVENTS 2013/2014



BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2013 – 2014

Treasurer – Bernie Thompson

Assistant Treasurer(s) - Liz Wickham, Xiying Zhang

TREASURY FIGURES: as at 1st March 2014

Cash In Hand	18,8970.87
Bank Account	67,270.67
Total	86,241.54

Raffles	19,995
Mahjong Group	11,180
Walks Group	3,770
Mayi Group	7,240
Others	17,331
Total	59,516

Ongoing Fundraising		One - Off Projects	
Charity	Donation	Charity	Donation
Shanghai Sunrise (2 students)	6,000	April: Red, White & Blue Ball Renewal Centre	33,000
Amber Gift	500	June: Ascot ladies Lunch Heart 2 Heart	11,000
Shinning Star Tks & Gifts for Children attending Breakfast with Santa	1,380	October: Breast Cancer Lunch Fudan Cancer Unit	24,750
Home Sweet Home	4,400	November: Annual Quiz Huixin Orphanage	26,670
Heart 2 Heart	3,100	December: Christmas Lunch Yangtze Delta Foundation	10,000
HongBao 2 Students	2,000		
Stepping Stones	10,000		
The Renewal Centre	12,000		
Shining Star	6,000		
The Mercy Fund	5,000		
Butterfly home (Hospice)	3,000		
Paw Pals Animal Rescue	2,000		
WAFW Hiv/Aids Project	3,700		
Total	59,080		105,420