



Brits Abroad Shanghai
Annual Report 2015-2016
to be presented at the
Annual General Meeting
on
Tuesday, 1st March 2016 at 11:00am
at
The Waldorf Astoria Hotel
On the Bund, Shanghai

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President's Review of the Year



2015/2016 has been a great year for Brits Abroad. I have loved every minute of being President and I'm looking forward to continuing in the role for another year. We have seen the membership continue to grow, we have had a great social year, with lots of new events being added to the calendar as the year moved on, and attendances at events also grew.

The Social Team put in a huge amount of effort and time into making sure everyone is catered for. Our weekly and monthly activities prove as popular as ever and Waldorf Coffee Morning, Breakfast at Paulaner and Newcomers at Pret are attracting more people every month. It's so good seeing everyone so enthusiastic about what we do. Community Outreach is indeed reaching out to lots of people in need, the monthly lunch at the Renewal Center is becoming a very popular and worthwhile date for the calendar. We continue our support of Heart to Heart, with lots of our members volunteering on a regular basis. We help, in various ways, around 10 charities, all very deserving and all delighted with anything we are able to offer them.

This year we have made good connections with the British Chamber, the Consulate and most recently Scots in Shanghai - yes there is such a group. It makes sense to pool resources, information and be able to work together to raise money. We do this mostly by supporting each other's events. The link with the Consulate is good because we never know when we may need information or help. I hope in the coming year we will continue supporting each other.

Of the many events throughout the year there were three that really stood out for me, Ascot, where the sight of all the beautiful ladies wearing their best dresses and hats is always a spectacle to behold. It certainly raised a few eyebrows and is always a fun day. The Breast Cancer Walk also raised a few eyebrows as 50 ladies bedecked in pink walked through Shanghai. The sun shone for them and everyone helped raise money for our Breast Cancer charity. It was quite a sight and I think possibly a first walk like this in Shanghai. Finally, the Christmas Party – well, what's to be said? A day of fun, food, drink, dancing and lots of merriment. This is now one of our most popular events and more and more tables had to be ordered. It is said to be the best party in Shanghai, I can see why.

So all in all it's been a great year, people have worked hard to make it so, but then the people who turn up to event after event are equally important to keep the whole thing going. A big thank you to each and every one of you, thanks for your support and for the help you've given me during my first year at the helm, without you I would most definitely have floundered. So onwards and upwards. Here's to another great year ahead.

Jacqui Muir
President, Brits Abroad Shanghai

Membership

A total of 232 memberships, representing 435 adult members, joined or renewed their membership with Brits Abroad Shanghai for the year ending 2015. According to our constitution, a majority of our members (60%) must be from the UK, with up to 40% from other countries. Throughout the year our UK membership has consistently run from about 63-65%, leaving us comfortably meeting this requirement. This has enabled us to meet the needs of both our UK members by providing a familiar social environment and our non-UK members by letting them experience our culture!

Month	Members	Adults	Month	Members	Adults	Month	Members	Adults
Jan	101	198	May	152	287	Sep	180	229
Feb	119	231	Jun	154	291	Oct	182	343
Mar	144	274	Jul	157	297	Nov	212	410
Apr	149	284	Aug	166	314	Dec	232	435

Within Shanghai, as of year-end, 58% of our members lived in Puxi, while 42% were in Pudong.

We welcomed our new members at many events – especially our famous Elevenses at the Waldorf, our Breakfast with Brits overlooking the Bund and the Huangpu River at Paulaner, and our Newcomer Coffees. Over the summer we decided to move our long-standing Newcomer Coffee to the newly-opened Pret A Manger in the K11 building, Huangpu District. The new location has worked out very well, with management often offering complimentary snacks and second coffee free. Plus it has turned out to be much more accessible for most people. We hope to see you all there soon!

Social

Looking back at 12 months as Brits Abroad Social Coordinator fills me with amazement at what can be achieved by a group of volunteers. Firstly, the volunteers' dedication has been highlighted by hours spent organising and running our events and by the large amounts of money we have raised to donate to worthwhile causes in China.

Just doing a count up of the number of events that have taken place this year came as a total shock - we are at the fantastic number of 40! Not bad for a small group like Brits Abroad.



So to start our journey, we begin back in March 2015 with our Fun Quiz. As ever this was a sold-out event, with fierce competition to see who will take the crown and write/compose the following quiz. We will have gone on to do 3 more fun quiz nights before our year is over. If you have not come along yet, I would take a chance and join us for the next one.

We arranged a visit to Zotter Chocolate factory – which was just delicious. For all you chocolate-mad folks out there, you will not find a better way to spend an afternoon, it's total heaven. To keep with the food theme, we arranged an Indian Cookery Course which was very well received, Easter Brunch at the Marriott, and a traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony by the lovely ladies from Twinings, Dinner at Face on the Lake in Pudong, two x Welcome Back Afternoon Teas, Lunch at Bordelais and a BBQ at Geneva – on a warm Shanghai evening. We launched our Around The World Lunch Club which has seen us taste the delights of Spain, New Zealand and Italy. We will continue to trot across the globe from the comfort of Shanghai during the coming months. We tried our hand at Lawn Bowls which was great on a very wet evening in Shanghai. Danielle and Siobhan, two of our members that, sadly, have left Shanghai put on a Nia class for some of our members and donated the money to our charity pot – THANK YOU.

A first for Brits Abroad, we organised a Bingo Night! Bingo cards were brought in by Sue Adam's Mum in her suitcase – well, as it was a **first** for the Brits Club, we had to have the right equipment! Then we had our very special bingo caller, Terry Sapsford, and his two lovely assistants, Ros & Sue. Fantastic night – we will be doing it again in case you missed out last time.

In May we joined forces with the British Chamber to help them celebrate their 100th anniversary. 73 of 1,000 guests were Brits Abroad members, which was a great turn out considering the size of our group. It was a brilliant night, we ate, drank and danced into the small hours.

A highlight for me was the Ascot Charity Lunch at Kathleen's Waitan. The turnout was great, amazing food and a location to die for overlooking the Pearl Tower. Pilar, the lady from the charity, gave a heart-warming speech about how she started the charity and the amazing group of children the charity is helping. Ladies, you looked great in your lovely dresses with the sun coming out to allow us to have drinks on the terrace.



Following the Ascot Lunch, we enjoyed an informative evening with the British Consulate to explain how they can help us in times of need. Plus, we had a tour around their new offices, so if we need them going forward we know where they are in our vast city.

For the arty folks in our group, we arranged an art trip around M50, our very own art district here in Shanghai. We started the afternoon session with lunch and then moved around some great art galleries. If you are ever at a loose end at the weekend you should pop along and see what amazing art is right on your doorstep. We reintroduced SunSetters at Southern Belle, plus continued with Drop In Drinks which have visited a different location each month – well-supported by our members, always a treat to try somewhere new, catch up with old friends and meet new Brits members.

As 2015 came to a close we planned our now famous Christmas Lunch. We returned to the Four Seasons Hotel. What a lovely start to the festival season! Wonderful venue, amazing food and the musical chairs lived up to its rumours of being brutal but fun! Our members were very generous and gave wonderful new winter outfits for the charity Heart to Heart, plus all the raffle money went to the charity Stepping Stones. To complete our Christmas activities we had Drop In Drinks at Bocado. Even Mrs. Santa came along to make sure we were celebrating Christmas in style!



We kicked off 2016 with a Welcome Back Tea, then moved onto our first Around The World Lunch, Drop In Drinks and two Indian Cookery Courses and finally, to round of this year, a final Fun Quiz. Throughout the year we enjoyed our Elevens at the Waldorf. I still pinch myself each time I am sitting there in the fabulous surroundings of a very grand hotel, surrounded by a group of very special people. So that brings the current Brits Abroad year to a close, lots of great memories to look back on. PLUS, as we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary during 2016, we have a very elegant Dinner and Dance to look forward to in April. The Social Team looks forward to welcoming you all to this upcoming event.

Regular Activities

Walks



This year, Brits Abroad Walks have covered far-reaching areas of interest in Shanghai, from the fascinating Old Town to the planned, then abandoned, new city centre of Wujiaochang, the Jesuit-inspired gems of Xujiahui, the treasures of the Former French Concession, the fabulous structures of the Expo Park and some lovely green spaces, including Zhongshan, Luxun, Fuxing and Century Parks. A new highlight this year was the October Walk for Life through Puxi and Pudong which saw 50 participants wearing pink t-shirts and raising awareness and funds for Breast Cancer causes.

The Walks Team was very sorry to lose Lyn Frazer when she returned home to Australia in September but pleased that Jenny Cantlay was willing to take on the role of Joint Coordinator with Jane Sutton. The current team of 6 also includes Kate Short, Jaki Madely, Natalie Miller and Jane Bullen. Walks are held monthly apart from July and August and, after each walk, the notes are added to the Brits Abroad website where they can be accessed by members.

Book Club

Book Club is a regular event on the Brits calendar, with members meeting on the third Tuesday of the month from September to June. The books are chosen in June for reading the following academic year from a selection of works proposed by our members and voted on by the whole book group. We aim to discuss a wide variety of books and this year was no exception.



In 2015 we covered an extensive range of themes and authors from across the globe, stimulating some lively debates and discussions.

Traditionally, meetings have been held in the morning at members' homes but this year we shook things up a bit and introduced two meetings a year at an outside venue. In March we held a late afternoon/early evening Book Club at Kartel Wine Bar and in June the books were discussed over afternoon tea at Sasha's. These events were highly popular and the later times opened up Book Club to a slightly different circle of readers.

In the autumn, we arranged to buy tickets for the Shanghai International Literary Festival. Members attended two of the literary lunches taking place at 'M on the Bund': "Is the Foreign Press too tough on China" and Patricia Luce Chapman's captivating talk, "Why I will never pierce my ears and other Shanghai stories". All those who attended were very enthusiastic and we hope to repeat the experience in 2016.

Book Club has been well attended in 2015 with over 20 people on our mailing list. There is regular attendance of about 8 – 11 members and it is a very friendly, inclusive event with regular attendees getting to know each other well. The transient nature of expat life in Shanghai means that we have said goodbye to several of our members over the course of the year but we have had the good fortune to have some lovely new members join us and Book Club looks to have a healthy future in 2016!

Mahjong

We had a fun 2015 at Mahjong on Monday afternoons. Conversations and laughter could be heard throughout the afternoons with many people getting to know one another much better while having fun playing the game.

We have a lot of Mahjong experts now. In contrast, there were quite a few new members and guests trying out their hand at learning the game. In fact, there were only a few weeks all year where we didn't have a beginners' table. Although the game seems complicated for the first few weeks, it is something that anybody can play so it's good to see so many people giving it a try. We had some record attendances this year and will hopefully need to buy some additional Mahjong sets in 2016 so even more people can play.

We meet every Monday afternoon at The Park Tavern. Come and join us!

May I

We meet every Wednesday afternoon at The Park Tavern for the card game that is May I. There is usually a lot of laughter and chatter throughout the game as well as the occasional pleading "May I" from many quarters. The rules are quickly learnt and beginners are made to feel very welcome, usually winning the first few hands as so many "professionals" are keen to help. For 50 RMB you also get free flow coffee, tea and soft drinks to keep you going.

We select cards to see which table we will play on and this way we get to meet new people and forge new friendships. We often meet for lunch before hand to catch up before the game begins. Come along and give May I a try.

Community Outreach 2015

Thank you to all our members who, while having fun and meeting new people, have helped to raise significant funds for our chosen charities. This year, with your help, we supported 11 charities covering a wide range of aid including dental health care provision, ultra sound scans for breast cancer diagnosis, a child's heart surgery and sponsorship for a child's cot in a hospice for one year.

There are three main sources for our funds: targeted fundraising from individual events (such as the Christmas Lunch), funds raised from regular events such as Mahjong and Walks, and ad hoc income from other areas such as Junk Your Jiao and second hand DVD donations.

Beyond these financial contributions, Brits Abroad members have also been very generous with their time this year. You have collected airline/hotel toiletries for Heart to Heart, donated unwanted winter clothing to The Renewal Centre and given new children's clothes for Heart to Heart at our 2015 Christmas Lunch. For the second year running you have also prepared and served afternoon teas for the homeless adults who visit The Renewal Centre. Some members also volunteered their time to teach English to migrant workers' children with Stepping Stones or knit clothing for the Heart to Heart bears.

Here is more information about just some of the charities we have supported this year:

In 2015 we continued our support for the dental programme run by **Shanghai United Family Hospital**. Hospital staff volunteered their time to visit and provide health education for underprivileged schools in Shanghai. With the support of Brits Abroad, our 10,000 RMB donation helped to provide dental kits to all the staff and students at the schools. In October, Breast Cancer Awareness month, Brits Abroad raised almost 27,000 RMB from two events. The first was the Breast Cancer Lunch held at Langham's and then later on in the month we held the Walk for life. These funds are supporting **Shanghai United Family Hospital**, in conjunction with funds from other sources, to provide ultra sound scans to aid breast cancer diagnosis for teachers living in Anhui province.



The Renewal Centre hosts twice-weekly drop-in sessions for Shanghai's homeless adults to take a shower and change their clothes. In addition, the centre runs a smaller residential centre providing a pathway back into employment. This year we made 2 donations; the first for 26,400 RMB which went towards three areas, namely the purchasing of medical kits, the refurbishment of the men's residential bathroom and shower and also the purchase of a new commercial grade oven. The second smaller amount of 10,000 RMB helped

towards the furnishing and decoration of a new women's dormitory.

This year, with your help, we were able to donate 36,000 RMB to **Nanjing Butterfly Home**. The home is a children's hospice and this substantial donation funded the home to provide one cot for a whole year. When some of our members visited the home last year they were overwhelmed by the care provided for these desperately sick children by the hospice staff. It was good to hear that this charity has now received full sponsorship from a large Chinese Construction company.



Heart to Heart is one of our most popular charities with our Brits Abroad members. Not only because they consistently raise funds for heart operations for children, over 900 to date, but also because they provide many opportunities for volunteers to get involved such as their knitting group and participating in play activities with the children. This year we were able to provide the funds for one child's heart surgery. For the coming year we plan to donate a comprehensive range of library books covering the official curriculum

for all the children in a disadvantaged rural school.

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

News from our Treasurer

BRITS ABROAD FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015 - AMENDED

INCOME STATEMENT		Year Ended	BALANCE SHEET	
		31/12/2015	As At	As At
		RMB	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
Net Event Fees & Revenue			Assets	
Breakfast with the Brits		180	Bank Balance	104,984
Donations		3,250	Cash	25,322
Drop in Drinks		0	Allocated Cash	26,643
DVD Exchange		650	K5 Voucher	5,000
Elevenses		-8,410	Total Assets	161,949
May I		8,910		48,414
Mahjong		11,920	Liabilities	
Raffles		44,901	Membership Fees Paid in Advanc	12,400
Special Events		32,322	Total Net Assets	21,450
Walks		3,900		149,549
Total Net Event Fees & Revenue		97,623		26,964
Other Revenue			COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2015	
Advertising		2,500	Donations in 2015 from Cash Raised in 2014	
Bank Interest		124	Butterfly Homes	36,000
Membership		53,950	Heart to Heart	25,000
Other (Float cash return, surplus)		136	Home Sweet Home	14,478
Total Other Revenue		56,710	Mercy Fund	11,000
			Renewal Centre	26,400
Total Net Event Fees & Revenues		154,333	Shanghai Babys' Home	25,000
			Shanghai Sunrise	6,000
Expenses			Shanghai United Dental	10,000
Bank Charges		173	Stepping Stones	16,000
Gifts		538		169,878
Stationery and Other Admin Cc		4,381	Donations in 2015 from Cash Raised in 2015	
Other			Heart to Heart	250
Total Expenses		5,092	Home Sweet Home	7,600
			Huixin Orphanage	4,350
Net Income Before Donations		149,241	Morning Tears	20,000
			Renewal Centre	10,000
Less Donations		271,828	Shanghai Sunrise	4,000
Net Income		-122,587	Shanghai United Family Hospital	27,000
			Stepping Stones	12,550
			The Will Foundation	16,200
				101,950
			Total Donations	271,828

Notes

The deficit in 2015 is due to charity donations that were made in fiscal 2015 with funds raised in fiscal 2014. In addition, the largest fundraiser held in 2014, the Brits Ball (RMB 132K), was not held in 2015.

Internal Communications

Our new website was launched in March 2015. Shortly after the launch we received many positive comments from our members about the new site, especially regarding the professional look of the site, the flexibility of signing up online for events and the sharing of photos from events. Our events Team Coordinators are benefiting from being able to track sign-ups for events and refreshment/meal choices, as well as having the ability to have a waiting list for oversubscribed events.

Increasingly, new members are joining online and the Committee are benefiting from being able to set up new members directly on the website at an event. This means the new member enjoys all benefits immediately.

Our electronic magazine, The Wire, is now being produced every month. Members have been contributing to the magazine's content by providing articles about their holidays, restaurants and services they have used in Shanghai. The magazine is also used to promote forthcoming events and review recent Brits Abroad Shanghai activities.

External Communications

This year we have introduced a new Brits Abroad logo and banner, we hope you like it:



We have continued to promote Brits Abroad to potential new members and sponsors. We attended the 2015 Expat Show where we met and signed up new friends as members and also sponsors. We held stalls at Dulwich College and YCIS and introduced Brits Abroad to the wider school community.

Brits Abroad is especially fortunate to have a range of sponsors and partners who, throughout the year, give our members benefits through discounts on purchases, including travel, food and beverage and health and well-being services. Other sponsors provide, at discounted cost, venues, food and drink for both our regular events and one-off celebrations, as indicated in the social report. In addition, other partners provide prizes for our raffles, secret auctions etc. which enables us to raise money for our target charities. Our sponsors are listed at the end of this report.

This year has seen our relationships continuing with many established partners and in addition new relationships have blossomed. We would like to thank them all for their support in 2015 and look forward to further strengthening those ties in 2016.

The Brits Abroad Team

The Committee members and Representatives who served during 2015/16 are set out below:

The Committee:

President	Jacqui Muir
Vice President	Caz Johnstone
Vice President	Tracy Hyde
Treasurer	Sally Raymond
Secretary	Sam Cunningham
Social Coordinator	Lynette Booley
Membership Secretary	Debbie Parker
Community Outreach Coordinator	Kate Short
The Wire Editor	Bev Darle
Website Coordinator	Tracy Hyde
Public Relations/Advertising & Discounts Coordinator	Janet Chetland

The Representatives:

Deputy Treasurer	Jo Sedgwick
Walks Coordinator	Jane Sutton/Jenny Cantlay
Book Club Coordinator	Mary Bardet
Mahjong Coordinator	Karen Carrington
May I Coordinator	Jaki Madely
Breakfast with Brits Coordinator	Anne Witherspoon/Lesley Stirling
Proofreader	Jane Sutton

Together with the above, Brits Abroad are lucky to have a host of other volunteers who give their energy, time, enthusiasm, advice and help to make the Brits Abroad community a welcoming, active and fun place to be.

Without the help of all of the above our many events and activities would not be able to continue - thank you, thank you, thank you.

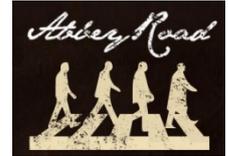
Thanks to all our sponsors:



THE LANGHAM
SHANGHAI, XINTIANDI







Future Power
Futree Tea Shops

Shanghai Expat
Expert

Shanghai Expat
Travel

Many thanks too to all those Brits Abroad members
who have donated raffle prizes