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President's Review of the Year



Once again, Brits Abroad have had a great year as the group goes from strength to strength. In 2016/17, we have good membership numbers and a good mix of Brits and non-Brits which I think makes for a good balance of people. Everyone works hard to make sure we are friendly and welcoming and I am happy to report I get lots of feedback saying how welcome people feel as newcomers. This is very positive and good to hear that we are practising what we preach.

We have raised lots of money through our various fundraising events but I think everyone will agree that our 20th Anniversary Dinner in May, which raised 84,000 RMB, was the event of the year. The Social Team put a lot of hard work into making it the success it was.

Of course, raising money would be difficult without our sponsors who continue to provide raffle prizes and monetary donations, all of which we are very thankful for. We work with other groups, such as British Chamber, Scots in Shanghai and American Ladies, sharing information to help make it easier for everyone.

There have been two big changes this year with running of the club. The first being that we had to prove we were not affiliated to any other groups outside of China and that we ran purely as a group of people getting together for social activities. Thankfully, in the end it was agreed that they were happy for us to continue although rules are being reviewed in a few months time. I really don't think Brits Abroad has any need to worry, we are transparent in what we do and keep fairly low-key. Secondly there has been a government ruling which has affected the charities we are able to help. They must have a government certificate permitting them to receive charity money. Community Outreach have worked hard as it hasn't been easy to figure it all out but, thankfully, H2H have the certificate so we will continue to support them in the coming year. We sadly have had to drop a few of our charities but have picked up a few more.

As this is my last year as President I am very happy to be leaving a successful group where everyone contributes in one way or another to keeping it running successfully. So a thank you to everyone who helped me make my way through the past two years, I have enjoyed it.

Jacqui Muir
President, Brits Abroad Shanghai

Membership

A total of 212 memberships joined or renewed their membership with Brits Abroad Shanghai for the year ending 2016. 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 mostly run from about 62-65%, leaving us comfortable 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! We decided to raise the membership annual dues starting on January 1st, 2017 to 300 RMB from 250 RMB to cover increasing costs. The price is reduced from July 1st- December 31st to 150 RMB.

Within Shanghai, as of year-end, 64% of our members lived in Puxi while 32% were in Pudong. We welcomed our new members at many events throughout the year, such as Brits Walks, Book Club, Mahjong, May I, Waldorf Coffees, Breakfast with Brits and our Newcomer Coffees at Pret A Manger. We have moved the Newcomer Coffee to the new Pret a Manger location in Pudong near the IFC Mall.

As of 24 January 2017

No of Families	105
No of Adults	203
No of Reported Children	28
Total No of People	231
% Full Members	63%
% Associate Members	37%

Membership Summary 2016

Month	Renew	New
January	9	9
February	7	5
March	8	17
April	1	5
May	2	1
June	2	4
July	2	4
August	3	11
September	1	26
October	4	8
November	19	1
December	60	3
Total	118	94

Grand Total for 2016 - **212**

Social

Once again, the Social Team were kept very busy and continued to put on events throughout the year, ensuring our members had a fun-filled, busy time, whilst also supporting various charities. Going back in time to March 2016, we started off the year with all of our regular activities: Coffee Mornings at The Waldorf, May 1, Mahjong, Pudong Breakfast with Brits, Newcomer Coffee Mornings, various walks around town, Sunsetters and Drop In Drinks. In March, we also had our trilogy of Empire of the Sun, brought to us by the Book Club and Walks Teams. The trilogy included reading the book, watching the film and a guided tour of J.G. Ballard's family home and neighbourhood. An outstanding series of events. Our Welcome Back Afternoon Tea at the Four Seasons Pudong was a fantastic afternoon of lovely surroundings, wonderful food and excellent company. Around the World Lunch began at Little Huia with a trip to New Zealand, a very good lunch indeed.

April brought the Brits Abroad 20th Anniversary Dinner and Dance, held at The Langham Hotel. The Social Team and friends put together a wonderful event. The evening began with welcome drinks, accompanied by Jenny and Julia on the flute and piano for our enjoyment. Then followed a four-course dinner with free-flow (it was a Brits event!) and we danced the night away to DJ Thomas. Good food, great atmosphere and some very interesting moves on the dance floor. Many thanks to Tiger for his photographic services. All proceeds from the event went to Heart to Heart, Shanghai to pay for a library at a rural school in China. Around the World Lunch took us to Bella Napoli, we had conquered Italy.





It was time for some lycra in May with the Night Cycle Ride. The trip started in the FFC, on to The Bund and back to Hengshan Road - a great time was had by all who attended. Easter Brunch was held at the Four Seasons Hotel, Pudong. The sun was shining, the Prosecco started to flow and the chatting got underway. To finish off the brunch, members headed to the dessert table, a chocolate lover's heaven. May was the first SunSetters of 2016, held at the Southern Belle, and a rainy night meant the men had to hang around the bar!

Around the World Lunch was held at Le Bordelais where we sampled the delights of France and Drop in Drinks at the Liquor Factory ended the month on a high.

Now the weather was heating up it was a call for Ladies in Hats - Ascot Ladies Charity Lunch, held at Kathleen's Waitan. 45 members dressed to impress and raised money for charity - a fabulous event. On the 14th June, a group of Brits Abroad members were invited to the Queen's 90th Birthday Party by the British Consul. The highlight of the day was a successful attempt to break the world record for the biggest ever Cream Tea Party; the previous record of 616 was smashed with a total of 735 participants.



With the heat scattering members of Brits Abroad, July and August are normally quiet months on the social scene but many regular activities are ongoing and we had A Street Eats Tour in July, with a Chinese breakfast of champions. We sampled freshly-pulled noodles and Shanghai's famous xiaolongbao. Air conditioners were turned up for Mahjong, May I, Newcomers Coffee and Coffee Morning at The Waldorf. Drop in Drinks was held at Abbey Road for July and August.



Holidays over and Brits Abroad was bubbling again in September. A Welcome Back Afternoon Tea at The Liquor Factory was a great way to get back in touch with old friends, meet new ones and discuss our exciting tales of summer. Breakfast with Brits was held on a national holiday which meant that our partners could join it too. It was noisy and fun, the only concern was that our other halves got a glimpse into what we actually do in the week!

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we held our special 'pink-themed' charity lunch at The Langham Hotel - our members certainly looked pretty in pink. We were joined by Ying Liu Ko from Shanghai United Family Hospital who gave a presentation on how last year's money had been used to fund an ultra scan breast cancer screening programme. This year, we raised a total of 13,149RMB which will go towards cancer awareness in Anhui province. Good job!



A special Tour of Twinings Tea Factory on 8th of November was a great trip for our members, not only did we get to see the workings of the factory and experience some tea-tasting but we also got a goodie bag of Twinings finest tea. A Fun Quiz was held at The Park Tavern, always an informative night!

Ahhh December, full of Christmas festivities, starting with some seasonal spirit in the form of mulled wine at the December Coffee Morning at The Waldorf. Brits Abroad's famous Christmas Party was held once again at The Four Seasons, Puxi. The day started off with music from the choir and ended up with musical chairs, party games and dancing round our handbags. Again, we were raising money for charity and this year's recipients were Shanghai Young Bakers. Members also purchased warm clothes for Heart to Heart's children. A fantastic function to end a fantastic year.



A fabulous job to everyone involved - here's to another great year with Brits Abroad Shanghai!

Regular Activities

Walks



Brits Abroad Walks began 2016 with an annual visit to the YuYuan and Old Town area of Shanghai and the chance to view the theme decorations for the upcoming Chinese New Year celebrations. Other walks throughout the year took us to the architectural gems of Nanjing Road and People's Square, around the always-popular Former French Concession, including two very well-attended Sunday walks with partners and families, to lovely Century Park in Pudong and also to the impressive riverside developments of the Longhua and West Bund area. April saw an all-day visit to the treasures of Old Jiading, with its waterways, temples and famous gardens, including the magical Japanese Wisteria Garden which was in bloom,

April Outing to Old Jiading

A series consisting of book, film and walk events, centred around the theme of former Shanghai resident and author J.G. Ballard and his semi-autobiographical novel "Empire of the Sun", took place in the spring and will be followed by a similar series in 2017, this time centred on the author Eileen Chang. The final walk of 2016 once again provided the opportunity to admire the fabulous Christmas decorations in grand hotels and public spaces on both sides of the river.

The 2016 Walks Team members were: Jane Sutton, Jenny Cantlay, Kate Short, Natalie Miller, Jane Bullen and Kelly TomHon. We are always looking for members who are interested in sharing their experiences of exploring Shanghai with other members through Brits Abroad Walks. Please get in touch if you would like more information, we would love to hear from you.

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

March 2016 was eventful, as reading the book "Empire of the Sun" was expanded to a film and a walk.

Members put forward their recommendations for books in April and May. After voting, the final choice was made in June, just before the Book Club broke up for summer. We lost a few members due to repatriation or mobility but these members still stay in touch and want to know our choices for 2017-2018.

September 2016 brought 3 new members. Volunteers stepped up to host coffee mornings/lunches. When appropriate, lunches are to be held in an outside venue, themed to work with the book of the month (eg October = Vedas Indian Restaurant).

In November 2016, after 18 months as Book Club Coordinator, Mary Bardet left Shanghai. Prior to leaving, she planned/proposed events until June 2017, requiring only follow-through for the actual event (website update, email reminders and WeChat for more immediate communication). From December 2016, responsibilities are shared between Catherine Hogan-Conlon and Susan Gas.

February 2017 is another eventful month themed around the book "Lust Caution", with a film viewing and a walk. Like the Empire of the Sun month, this is a joint venture between Book Club and Walks, with the Walks Coordinator doing the organisation, helped if and when required by Book Club.

In March, there should be an outing to Shanghai Film Park Chedun, again to tie in with the book "Lust Caution". Jane Sutton (Walks) Catherine H-C and Susan G did a trial run on January 25th, 2017 and the event looks fun and original.

Attendance: In January, 3 more members joined, bringing the total to 17. Generally, there is a core of 10 members who attend nearly every month. December was quiet (7 members), January was average size (11 members).

Still to be read/discussed: Lust, Caution and Other Stories, The Tale of Two Cities, Snow-Flower and the Secret Fan, Bad Ass Librarians, The Lie Tree.

Already discussed: The Good Women of China, The Year of the Runaways, Mao's Last Dancer, The City of Thieves, Orphan Train.

Mahjong

Mahjong Mondays continued in 2016. Most weeks we had a beginners table for those who were new to the game while the more skilled players had their own tables. It was a great way for veteran Mahjong players and newcomers to Mahjong to hone their skills while chatting with their new and old Brits Abroad friends. We had some record attendances this year and even needed to buy some additional Mahjong sets to accommodate the players. Fun was had by all.

We meet every Monday afternoon at 1:30 at The Park Tavern. Come and join us!

May I



May I has been running throughout the year on Wednesday afternoons in the Park Tavern. Many of the members enjoy a pre-May I lunch in one of the local restaurants before meeting to play. It's certainly a very sociable afternoon and a great way to meet new people and learn a new game.

There is a large group of regular players who attend most weeks. During the course of the year, we have also had many new comers sign up. It doesn't take long to learn the rules and, with the support of the 'experts' and the use of a beginners table when necessary, new players learn quickly. Many of us then go on to teach our families and friends how to play - showing how enjoyable and popular the game is for all. May I's popularity is reflected by the numbers of attendees, with some weeks needing five tables to accommodate over twenty players. Some new cards, card bags, pads and pens were also purchased to replace old or used equipment.

We meet every Wednesday afternoon at The Park Tavern. Please come and join us!

Community Outreach

Once again, Brits Abroad members have generously given their time and money to support charities across Shanghai. During 2016, we made donations totalling 113,496RMB to six charities across a wide range of activities, helping people live healthier lives with more opportunities. This has included improving access to healthcare and higher education, as well as training, to improve the route to better paid jobs.

There are three main sources for our funds: targeted fundraising from individual events - Valentines Lunch, Breast Cancer Lunch, Ascot Day and Christmas Lunch; funds raised from regular events such as May I, Mahjong and Walks and ad hoc income from other areas such as 'Junk Your Jiao' and sales of 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 and given new children's

clothes for Heart to Heart at our 2016 Christmas Lunch. Some members also volunteered their time to support many charities across Shanghai, helping children, disabled people and the unemployed. Here are some of the details about what Brits Abroad members' donations achieved in 2016:



Heart to Heart were given a donation which enabled them to carry out heart operations on children in Shanghai. One of these children, Peng Yuxi, is currently recovering from his second operation and hopes to make a full recovery, thanks to Brits donations.

Heart to Heart was given a second donation of 20,000RMB to set up a rural library in Henan. This library will help to raise the educational standards of the local children and is operated by the local schools.

We continued our support of secondary school pupils by providing a donation of 9,000RMB to Shanghai Sunrise which paid for three students to complete a year of secondary school education. The parents of these children would not have been able to keep these children at school otherwise.

In June, Shanghai Baby Home was chosen as the recipient of our Ascot Day fundraiser. Shanghai Baby Home provides palliative care for sick babies that need extra support. Stepping Stones were given a donation to work in partnership with EGRC (a Canadian-based charity that focuses on improving the educational standards of girls and women in rural China) to teach English to Chinese female university students in rural China. Improving the young women's standard of English enables them to progress to better jobs and further education, enhancing their chances in life.

In October, Brits Abroad held a lunch in aid of Breast Cancer. The financial surplus from this event will be used during 2017 (for the second year running) to enable women in Anhui province China to get their breasts checked for cancer. This will be done by MRI, operated by staff from Shanghai United Family Hospitals and Clinics. The Anhui women will also be taught how to conduct manual breast checks. All this activity will be funded and supported in conjunction with Shanghai United Family Hospitals and Clinics (SUFHC) who match any money raised by Brits Abroad. The estimated cost per screening is 100RMB.



Finally, we raised an enormous 22,346RMB at our annual Christmas party due to the generosity of members and the support of Henman Wealth Management. This cash was given to Shanghai Young Bakers which supports Chinese disadvantaged young people who have had to drop out of school due to family situations such as parental death, sickness or imprisonment. These students are trained in baking, English and life skills as well as given placements in 5 star hotels in Shanghai. The best have been sent to France to enhance their skills and they come back and teach more young people. An average of 30 students are trained per year.

Summary of Brits Abroad Donations in 2016

2016 Brits Abroad Shanghai Donation Recipients	Donations in RMB
Heart to Heart - children's operations	19,300
Heart to Heart - rural Library in Henan	20,000
Shanghai Sunrise - annual fees 3 students	10,500
Shanghai Baby Home	7,060
Stepping Stones - Gansu Project	15,840
NGO Anhui/Shanghai United Family Hospitals and Clinics	18,450
Shanghai Young Bakers	22,346
Total	113,496

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 YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 2016

<u>INCOME STATEMENT</u>	<u>12/31/2016</u>
Revenues	RMB
Breakfast with Brits	8,605
DVD Exchange	465
May I	29,220
Mahjong	22,820
Raffles	69,479
Special Events	274,940
Donations/Surplus	23,673
Waldorf Coffee	60,510
Walks	5,330
Advertising	2,200
Bank Interest	102
Membership	47,750
TOTAL REVENUE	545,094
Expenses	
Breakfast with Brits	8,580
May I	17,490
Mahjong	13,620
Special Events	267,322
Waldorf Coffee	67,320
Bank Charges	16
Admin	4,924
Charity Donations	113,496
TOTAL EXP & DONATIONS	492,768
NET INCOME/LOSS	+52,326

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>		
	12/31/2015	12/31/2016
Bank	38,932	39,623
Cash	9,482	61,117
TOTAL ASSETS	48,414	100,740
		<i>Net gain</i>
		52,326

<u>DONATIONS IN 2016</u>	
Breast Cancer (via Shanghai United)	18,450
--- from October Luncheon	
Heart to Heart	39,300
--- from 20 th Anniversary Gala in April	
Shanghai Baby Home	7,060
--- from Ascot Luncheon in June	
Shanghai Young Bakers	22,346
--- from Christmas Luncheon in December	
Stepping Stones	15,840
Shanghai Sunrise	10,500
TOTAL	113,496

Public Relations and Marketing

Brits Abroad very much deserves the excellent reputation it has amongst the expat communities in Shanghai. We have continued during 2016/17 to promote Brits Abroad to new members, sponsors and the wider community. In addition to running a stall at the 2016 Shanghai Expat Show, we have also been present at a number of international school events, introducing Brits Abroad to new audiences whilst celebrating our work with established members too.

Brits Abroad members have represented us at prestigious events in the city too, for example many were guests of the British Consul General at HRH The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in June. This was a wonderful event and many of our Brits Abroad members helped the British Consulate in Shanghai to make it in to the Guinness Book of Records with the largest ever gathering for a sit-down British afternoon cream tea. We are also pleased to have supported local businesses and activities, such as attending the soft opening of new stores and facilities and providing feedback on the quality of the service or experience.

Discounts and Advertising

A new client, Galatea Jewelry, began advertising on the website in December and, at the same time, they began offering a 15% discount on purchases for Brits Abroad members.

The discount section of the website was updated over the course of the autumn, to reflect current vendors and remove obsolete ones. The list is completely updated at this time.

The Wire and The Bulletin

Our main two channels of communication this year have been the monthly newsletter: "The Wire" and the "Weekly Bulletin". Both are electronic publications that have been sent out to all our members regularly throughout 2017. A third publication the "Midweek Events Bulletin" exists. However, due to good planning on the part of the Brits Abroad Team, we have only had to resort to using this publication on a couple of occasions when events have been cancelled or modified at the very last minute.

Brits Abroad members are very happy with both documents. "The Wire" is ideal for long-term planning and for reporting on past events while the "Weekly Bulletin" is used for more short-term adjustments, reminders and updates.

At present, there is also a great streamlined interaction between both publications and the association's website which makes it very straightforward for members to sign up, or to obtain more information, about events they see advertised in The Wire or the Weekly Bulletin. Many members have commented on how easy it is to use, even for the technically challenged amongst us!

The Website

Our website was launched in March 2015. It provides a great way of managing and tracking events. Members now use this as their main way of signing up for events and we have had very little issues arising. We always look to try and make sure it matches how we work as a group and it currently meets those needs very well.

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. Please let us know of any improvements we can make as we are always trying to improve the site.

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/Eunice Taylor
Vice President	Bev Darle
Treasurer	Sally Raymond/Mary Beth Stock
Secretary	Sam Cunningham
Social Coordinator	Jane Bullen
Membership Secretary	Alison Want & Michele Nettesheim
Community Outreach Coordinator	Kate Short/Eunice Taylor
The Wire Editor	Bev Darle
Website Coordinator	David Betts-Hollinrake
Public Relations	Janet Chetland/Stephanie Quayle
Advertising & Discounts Coordinator	Heidi Casey/Rhonda Mahs

The Representatives:

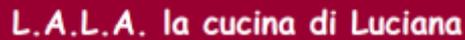
Walks Coordinator	Jane Sutton & Jenny Cantlay
Book Club Coordinator	Mary Bardet/Susan Gas & Catherine Hogan-Conlon
Mahjong Coordinator	Karen Carrington
May I Coordinator	Steph Ward/Gill Knight
Breakfast with Brits Coordinator	Anne Witherspoon & Lesley Stirling
Proofreader	Jane Sutton

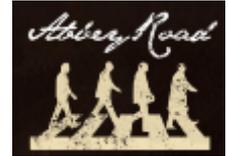
Together with the above, Brits Abroad are lucky to have a host of other volunteers who give their energy, time, enthusiasm, advice and help to make the Brits Abroad community a welcoming, active and fun place to be.

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.

Thank you to all our sponsors:







Futree Tea Shops

Shanghai Expat
Expert

Shanghai Expat
Travel

Future Power

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