



# **Brits Abroad Shanghai Annual Report 2017 – 2018**

To be presented at the meeting on  
Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 11:00 am

at  
The Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
On the Bund, Shanghai

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### **President's Review of the Year**

The past twelve months have been an incredibly busy, highly rewarding and very successful year for Brits Abroad Shanghai. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as President and would be delighted if I was elected to continue in this role for a further year. I have learnt so much more about living in Shanghai, I have enjoyed many fantastic events and activities, and I have had the best time working with the committee and other members to help plan and support our key events.

Brits Abroad Shanghai is fortunate to have an outstanding team on the committee who work very hard on our behalf to make things happen for us. I would particularly like to thank our two Vice Presidents, Bev Darle and Eunice Taylor for their support, advice and encouragement this year. Bev has done a super job on the weekly bulletin and the monthly Wire, and we are sad to see her leave Shanghai this month. I would also like to thank Pam Gray for her excellent work as our treasurer; Sammi Piasecki for her really good work as our membership co-ordinator; David Betts-Hollinrake for keeping our web-site up to date and our IT systems working very well; Sharon McIntosh for making sure that we are all well organised in her role as secretary, and for her boundless energy and enthusiasm; and Anne Witherspoon, our most recent committee member, for making sure our social calendar is action packed. I would particularly like to wish Bev and Sammi all the very best for the future; we will miss them both very much. We are really pleased to have Pam continue as our proofreader and we will still see her at many of our events.

I am especially proud of the large range of events and activities that Brits Abroad have facilitated this year for our members. The social calendar has been busy with routine events such as May1, Mahjong, Breakfast with the Brits, the Waldorf Coffee Morning, the Book Club, Drop in Drinks, Newcomers Coffee Morning and the Walks. There have also been the less frequent, yet very popular quiz nights, and the one-off big events such as the Easter Brunch, Ascot Day, the Welcome Back Afternoon Tea, Breast Cancer Think Pink Lunch and, of course, the Christmas Party. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with any of these events, and special thanks to Martha and the Walks team, Susan and Catherine and the Book Club group, Kerry and the May1 team, Karen and the Mahjong team, Kim for liaising with the Waldorf, and Anne and the social team for many of the social events.

An important part of our work this year has been the Community Outreach. I am delighted to report to members that this year, Brits Abroad have supported the following charities - Heart to Heart, Shanghai Baby Home, Shanghai Young Bakers, Shanghai Sunrise and More Than Aware. Our donations in 2017 have totalled ¥102,731, and we also presented a cheque for ¥25,000 to the Stepping Stones I Care Project in February 2018, from funds raised in the 2017 financial year. There was also the outstanding collection of baby clothes for Heart to Heart at the Christmas Party too. This is a fantastic achievement and on behalf of all our charities, thank you.

I am really pleased that we have recently launched the Brits Abroad App. Many thanks to Philip Crispin for all his work on this; I hope that all our members can download and use this new App.

Perhaps an area of our work that needs more focus and attention in the coming year is our Discounts Programme. Unfortunately, we have not had an Advertising and Discount Coordinator for the past twelve months and therefore progress on our discount offers has been slower than we might have hoped.

Brits Abroad Shanghai continues to liaise with the British Consulate and with the British Chamber and we have enjoyed excellent relationships with other expat associations. We welcomed the opportunity to showcase our organisation at the Expat Show in September and at some of the international schools' open mornings, where we recruited a significant number of new members.

Work on the Brits Abroad Cookbook is progressing, but at perhaps a slower pace than we initially envisaged. We have decided to include some of our most popular walks in the book as well. It will now be a Walk and Cook with the Brits in Shanghai, and it is taking a little longer to pull this all together.

Our biggest priority for the coming year is to encourage more of our members to get involved and help plan, lead, facilitate or support the running of an event or an activity, particularly with the Walks and Social Team events. I hope we can encourage you to do this. It has been a pleasure and an honour to have been the President for 2017/18 and I look forward to another highly successful, busy and stimulating 2018/19 for all our Brits Abroad members in Shanghai.

With thanks to all our members for your support.

Stephanie Quayle  
President 2017/18

## **Membership**

The calendar year of 2017 saw a total of 252 members. Many of these members have been friends of Brits Abroad Shanghai for some years now, and others are new to Brits Abroad this year. Our full year membership fee is 300RMB per family, with a reduced rate of 200RMB for those joining us from 1<sup>st</sup> July. We agreed to reduce the fee further for new members who joined us in September at the Expat Show or at one of the international school events to 100RMB for the final 4 months of this calendar year. We made this decision to attract new members so that they could see how wonderful our organization is and renew their membership for years to come.

We maintained at least 61% UK membership, so we were well within our constitution. We are pleased to have so many members of diverse nationalities. We can introduce them to the wonderful British culture.

We welcomed new and renewing members at almost all functions, including Breakfast with the Brits, Newcomer Coffee Morning and our favourite, monthly “Morning Coffee at the Waldorf.”

Here’s how the year looked from a membership perspective:

Month	Renew	New	Month	Renew	New	Month	Renew	New
January	22	5	May	0	4	September	11	43
February	12	3	June	2	1	October	0	2
March	2	1	July	0	2	November	20	4
April	1	3	August	7	14	December	28	2

## Social

The social calendar has been extremely busy in 2017, with a host of routine events, such as Breakfast with the Brits, Newcomers Coffee, Drop in Drinks and the Waldorf Coffee Morning, as well as one-off special events.

Drop in Drinks which is held on the last Friday of each month is always well attended and popular with the men, as it gives them a chance to meet other members and get together with wives and partners. This year it is our intention to find some new venues that we hope will enable us to explore new bars in the city, whilst enjoying a cold beer, a glass of wine or our favourite cocktail.

Breakfast with the Brits is another monthly event, usually on the third Thursday of each month. It is a sign-up event, that is always well attended, at Paulaner. There is a delicious spread of breakfast dishes including scrambled eggs, cheeses and cold meats, as well as an excellent range of pastries, representing excellent value for money for our members. We particularly enjoy our breakfast when we can sit outside and enjoy the pleasant weather, looking out over the river and reminding ourselves that we are having breakfast in Shanghai.



The Quiz Night is extremely popular and the sign up for this event is always prompt. Everyone that has been involved in setting the questions, has made our brains work overtime and there have been some very challenging rounds, but it’s always great when people think ‘out of the box.’ We are looking to host even more quiz nights in 2018.

Another successful event was our annual Ascot charity lunch at Kathleen’s Waitan. The turnout was good; the food was amazing and the location that was to die for. The sun was shining for our group photo (see above), which showed off the beautiful dresses and hats on display.

Return to Shanghai Afternoon Tea is always a popular event. It is a chance to chat and catch up with friends who have been away over the summer break, and for those who endured

the summer heat to give some tips on survival. This year's Tea was held at POP Three on the Bund where over 40 members gathered for this traditional event.

Breast Cancer Lunch - On October 19th, Brits Abroad hosted our annual Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon which was a splendid success! We started the event with pink fizz, a photo booth and a great game of Bra Pong. The meal, provided by Sky Restaurant at The Roosevelt, was absolutely delicious and dessert was a huge hit! Our president, Stephanie Quayle, emceed our raffle where we gave away prizes from many local vendors. The support and donations were very generous.

Joining together with our friends from other organisations, especially the German Club, we welcomed Mika Fenton-James as our guest speaker. Mika is a thriver (breast cancer survivor) and a member of the More Than Aware team. We selected More Than Aware as our charitable organisation and the proceeds from this event were presented at the November Waldorf Coffee.



Thank you so much for the support of all our members and sponsors who made this event a huge success!

Our Christmas Party is a highlight of the Brits Abroad social calendar. This year it was held on the 37<sup>th</sup> floor at the Four Seasons Hotel, rather than in The Ballroom on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, and this proved to be an excellent venue for our party. The reindeer game was hilarious; the food and wine were lovely as usual and the infamous "musical chairs" was as dangerous as in previous years.



Thomas the D.J. did a fabulous job of keeping us on the dance floor until early evening with some brilliant tunes, and after a few more drinks in the lobby of The Four Seasons it was certainly time to go to bed!! What a fabulous event, well done to all the team who worked so hard putting it together.

## Mayl

The Wednesday afternoon Mayl group has continued with strong participation through 2017. We meet weekly at the Park Tavern with many members enjoying lunch together before the card game. All levels of card players are encouraged to join. Beginners are paired up with experienced players to ensure they feel welcome and to enable them to quickly learn the rules of the game.

Mayl is a great way to meet fellow Brits Abroad members. Each week participants pick a card to determine which table they will be playing on. By picking cards, members play with

different people each week allowing them to get better acquainted with fellow expats and forge new friendships. For only 50RMB, participants play approximately 3 hours of cards and receive free flow coffee, tea and soft drinks. Join us for a fun afternoon of Mayl on Wednesdays!

## **Mahjong**

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. Like 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 (1:30pm – 4:30pm) 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 beginner's table every week so don't worry about not knowing how to play. We only charge a 50RMB fee to play which includes beverages for the afternoon and money for the charity pot. Come!

In 2017 we raised 13,635RMB for the charity pot.

## **Walks**

This year, Brits Abroad Walks covered some new and old favourite areas of interest in Shanghai. The new highlights for the year included The Shanghai Film Park with its resurrected Nanking Lu landmarks, including the Pingan Cinema, Kaisiling Cafe and Siberian Fur shop; and an exploration of what was known as the 'Sectour Sub' of the French Concession during the early to mid-1900's. Buildings previously police stations, libraries, homes of the famous and infamous, beautiful garden villas, now part of hotel chains and lane houses of all types were included. Weekend walks were introduced this year which have been a great hit, as now many of our 'working' members can join us.

The Walks Team was very sorry to lose several of its members this year: Jane Sutton, the Walks Team Coordinator who has relocated to the Middle East; Natalie Miller who you would know for her informative walks, has returned to England; Sammi Piasecki has returned to the United States; Nina Skuja has moved to start her new adventure in Hangzhou; Jane Bullen, who has been the master of introducing the weekend walks will be leaving us in February to return to Melbourne, Australia.

Our remaining team members Kate Short and Kelly TomHon, who have commenced studies, will have limited time to help with our 2018 walks. The Brits Walk Team is in urgent need of new members. We have currently had to cancel January and February Walks as we do not have any team members available to lead the walks. A new Coordinator will also be required as Martha Chivers will be leaving Shanghai mid-year.

## Book Club

The Book Club is an enjoyable and easy way to meet members when you join Brits Abroad. We meet usually on the third Tuesday of each month in member's homes from 10.30am to 12.30pm. The attendance is usually 10 -12 people, and we number 20 members in our WeChat group. The Book Club runs from September to June.

Book selection is democratic by members voting on titles put forward by members. Selections happen either once or twice a year. Discussion is lively and entertaining and an ideal opportunity for members to get to know each other.

Once a year the Walks team and the Book Club come together for a shared event based on a book. In February 2017 our shared event was based on *Lust Caution*. Our walk was at the Shanghai Film Park and the film was enjoyed at the Shanghai Centre. A fun joint venture which was greatly enjoyed by the members. This coming year the Walks team and Book Club will base the joint event on *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Dai Sijie.

Books read recently include *Essex Serpent* by Sarah Perry, *China Cuckoo* by Mark Kitto, *Hag-Seed* by Margaret Atwood & *The Girl Who Saved the King of Sweden* by Jonas Jonasson. Books to be read in the coming months include *When We Were Orphans* by Kazuo Ishiguro, *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue & *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. New members are warmly welcomed. Come along and see if it's for you.



## Community Outreach

2017/18 has been a busy year yet again for Brits members - giving their time and money to a wide range of charities in Shanghai. This meant we were able to give an amazing 121,731RMB to help improve people's lives in Shanghai. Our supported charities help make people healthier, better educated and more able to get a job.

There are three main sources for our funds: targeted fundraising from individual events - Breast Cancer Lunch, Ascot Lunch, 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, toiletries for Home Sweet Home and given new children's clothes for Heart to Heart at our 2017 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 2017/18:

**Heart to Heart** were given a donation that enabled them to carry out one complete heart operation on a child in Shanghai.

We continued the investment with **Shanghai Sunrise** and our three students, by enabling two of them to continue to university in Shanghai and the third student to continue her studies at high school. All of these children would have been unable to afford to attend high school, and university would have been an unachievable goal.

**Shanghai Baby Home** was given money towards life altering operations for babies in their care, enabling surgery such as cleft palates to be repaired.

We supported a new charity this year - **More than Aware**. This charity works with cancer survivors to enable them to re-adjust back to normal life. Support groups in their local areas help the women become healthier in both body and mind.

**Shanghai Young Bakers** were supported to help them train and develop young people making them 'job ready.' This programme is targeted at young people who are doing less well at school and are more likely to achieve less without support.

Lastly we supported **Stepping Stones/I-Care** to go into a rural school and provide eye tests and glasses. This will enable children to see properly, immensely improving their chances to learn and do well in school. This in turn improves their chances in life.

All in all another rewarding year, learning more about how Brits Abroad and Brits members can support others, and in turn have an enriching experience in our adopted home.



### Summary of Brits Abroad Donations in 2017/18

Charity	Activity	Donation use	RMB	Month
<b>Stepping Stones</b>	I-Care Project	Providing eye tests and glasses for children in rural schools	25,000	February '18
<b>More than Aware</b>	Breast Cancer awareness/health	Supporting women who are recovering from cancer to live a normal life	31,234	October '17
<b>Shanghai Sunrise</b>	Further education for secondary school children that can't afford to go to school	2 students continuing on to university and our other student to continue at high school for 17/18	15,000	April and July '17
<b>Shanghai Baby Home</b>	Residential home for babies undergoing surgery at SHCMC	Cost toward a baby's medical care	16,497	June '17
<b>Heart to Heart</b>	Heart surgery for children	Full cost of one heart operation	30,000	April '17
<b>Shanghai Young Bakers</b>	Training for work and work placements for hard to reach young people in rural communities	Shanghai Young Bakers training	10,000	April '17

**Total – 127,731RMB**

*(includes recent 25,000RMB donation to Stepping Stones)*

### Internal Communications

Much praise and thanks must go this year to Philip Crispin who has designed and made available our very own Brits Abroad App. The Brits Abroad App allows our members to view upcoming events and activities and manage their sign up and attendance. Members can also update their personal information such as address and phone number. We hope that many of our members are enjoying using the Brits Abroad App.

There are many ways in which we hope that we keep you informed about what's happening with Brits Abroad and there are a range of ways in which you can keep in touch with us. In addition to our weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter, The Wire, there is of course the Brits Abroad website and our Hotmail account. And if you are a Facebook user, we hope that Brits Abroad is one of your Facebook friends.

Also, don't forget about our member's request facility. Many of our members use this feature to ask for help from fellow Brits Abroad members. All you have to do is fill in the form which is on our website and we will post your request in the weekly bulletin.

## External Communications

In 2017 we have continued to send out our monthly newsletter The Wire and the Weekly Bulletin. The format of The Wire has remained largely unchanged with articles about upcoming and past events and special features, mostly about our charity activities. Generally, members have expressed their appreciation of the easy sign-up links to activities in The Wire and of the follow up on money raised for charity; it is always interesting to see how the money has been put to good use.

Articles for The Wire are always very welcome, some months it's easier than others to pull together an edition, the editor is happy to receive articles from all members, in particular, please help the social and activity teams by proposing to write pieces for them when you have enjoyed an activity. All articles should be sent to the proofreader by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next edition.

## Financial Report

### BRITS ABROAD SHANGHAI FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

<b><u>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</u></b>		<b><u>BALANCE SHEET</u></b>		
<b><u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017</u></b>		<b><u>31/12/16</u></b>	<b><u>31/12/17</u></b>	
	<b>RMB</b>	<b>RMB</b>	<b>RMB</b>	
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		Bank	39,623	87,583
Mayl	33,285	Cash	61,117	25,969
Mahjong	13,240	<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>	<b><u>100,740</u></b>	<b><u>113,552</u></b>
Special Events	79,409			
Waldorf Coffee	49,470	<b><u>NET INCREASE</u></b>		12,812
Membership	42,350			
Walks	5,795			
Donations	777			
Bank Interest	22			
	<u>224,348</u>			
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Mayl	19,650			
Mahjong	8,220			
Special Events	22,422			
Waldorf Coffee	55,485			
Admin	3,028			
Charity Donations	<u>102,731</u>			
	211,536			
<b><u>EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b><u>12,812</u></b>			

We have had a very successful year which resulted in a surplus of 12,812RMB, after making donations of 102,731RMB. Our Balance Sheet is very healthy too - we have net assets of 113,552RMB.

## **Public Relations & Marketing**

Brits Abroad very much deserves the excellent reputation it has amongst the expat communities in Shanghai. In 2017 we continued to promote Brits Abroad to new members, sponsors and the wider community. In addition to running a stand at the 2017 Expat Show, we have also been present at many 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, for example as guests of the British Consul General at the Queen's Birthday Party on the Huangpu River, and at the Britain is Great Exhibition.

We sought advice and support from the British Consulate in the run up to the General Election in May, making sure our members were well briefed on the process and the time-scale for votes from overseas.

We are pleased to have supported local businesses and activities, such as attending the soft opening of new stores and facilities.

Many of our members have attended British themed activities and events in Shanghai, including the British Chamber and St. Andrew's Balls.

We were pleased to have been invited to the opening of the new British Chamber Offices in Shanghai last May too - it is a fabulous new facility.

## **The Brits Abroad Team**

The Committee members and Representatives who served during 2017/18 are set out below:

### **The Committee**

President	Stephanie Quayle
Vice President	Bev Darle
Vice President	Eunice Taylor
Treasurer	Pam Gray
Secretary	Sharon McIntosh
Social Coordinator	Elaine Sedgwick (Mar – June 2017) Anne Witherspoon (July – Mar 2018)
Membership Secretary	Sammi Piasecki
Community Outreach Coordinator	Eunice Taylor
The Wire Editor	Bev Darle
Website Coordinator	David Betts-Hollinrake
Public Relations/Advertising/Discounts Coordinator	

## **The Representatives**

Walks Coordinator	Martha Chivers
Book Club Coordinator	Susan Gas/Catherine Hogan-Conlon
Mahjong Coordinator	Karen Carrington
May I Coordinator	Kerry Cowart
Breakfast with the Brits	Anne Witherspoon/Lesley Stirling
Proofreader	Pam Gray
Drop in Drinks	Sharon McIntosh/Tracey Dhinsa

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.

### ***Brits Abroad Committee March 2018***