

FEBRUARY 2012

THE WIRE

BRITS ABROAD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



VALENTINE'S LUNCH – 14th February President's Message

Join us for a delicious 3-course lunch at The Westin on Valentine's Day. Starting at **12noon**, guests will be welcomed with a glass of something fizzy and then sit down to enjoy the culinary delights from the renowned Westin chefs.

This is a **TICKET ONLY** event, and there will be NO SIGN UP. Please select your menu choice when you collect your ticket, **LAST COLLECTION WILL BE 7th FEBRUARY** at the coffee morning at The Waldorf.

COST: 250RMB Members/ 300RMB non-members

ADDRESS: THE WESTIN BUND CENTER SHANGHAI, 88 Henan Central Road, Shanghai 200002

MENU ~ CHOOSE FROM:

Starter: Duck prosciutto with rocket salad, artichoke and tomato **OR** Tuna tartar with grilled asparagus **OR** Melanzane with ricotta cheese and rocket salad

Main: Pappardelle with your choice of: tomato sauce, puttanesca or four cheeses **OR** Spit of the day: chicken breast served with sautéed vegetable and creamy potatoes **OR** Herb crumbed grouper served with vegetable-tomato stew

Dessert: Fruit Galette on Crème Anglaise served with Crostoli **OR** Napoleone di cioccolato e mousse alle fragole con crema caramellata (*Chocolate Napoleon, strawberry mousse on coulis and cream brulee*) **OR** Seasonal fruit

Brits Abroad welcomed the New Year in with style at our new swanky Waldorf venue. Everyone agrees it is a lovely setting and three toddlers and their Mums joined us too. We have several things lined up for you during February... our Valentine's Lunch is sure to attract a good turn-out... but please remember that this is a ticket only event.

I would like to remind you all that we will hold our AGM at the beginning of March and we are anxious to recruit new members to the committee. If you feel able to assist Brits Abroad in any way, please let us know... we will be looking out for new volunteers.

Our *Red White and Blue Ball* Committee are already in action organizing this year's event. We are very keen to build on last year's success and make it even bigger and better. We are now looking for sponsors/donors and would like to hear from you or your company if you would be willing to support this important Shanghai event. Tickets will go on sale soon.

With traditional New Year behind us, I now wish you all *Xin Nian Kuai Lechange*... to welcome in the *Year of the Dragon*,
Katy
President of Brits Abroad

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Renew Membership

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Photo of the month

See what Lisa Barker sent in for Photo of the Month! See page 4

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Brits Abroad organise a range of activities for members to enjoy.
So why not come along and see old faces and meet new people!**

8th February – Thai Cookery Class



In this fully equipped teaching kitchen, you will be taught by a professional chef how to make three recipes: Shrimp Cake; Green Papaya Salad and Beef Pad Thai *
Afterwards, sit down and enjoy the food you have made. With lots of chef demonstration and hands on practice, this is a great opportunity to pick up some culinary tips. Aprons will be provided as well as printed recipe cards. It has also been suggested you may like to bring a food container to take home some of the treats that you have made.

Please sign up via Brits Abroad Website.

COST: 280RMB

LOCATION: Building 20, 3rd Floor, Lane 383 South Xiang Yang Lu, find map on:

<http://www.thekitchenat.com/contact.html>

**a vegetarian option is available for the Pad Thai, please specify if you require this on registration*

Monday, 13th February – Walk

Our walk will be around the Jewish Ghetto area of Hongkou, roughly a mile square, which was established by the Japanese authorities for stateless Jewish refugees in 1943. Shanghai continued admitting stateless refugees throughout the war period and was alone in accepting Jewish refugees at this time, so the area is unique. It is situated in the former Japanese occupied section of the city, which had previously housed many other waves of refugees.

The walk will take 1½-2 hours and includes a visit to the Jewish Refugees Museum, originally a synagogue. (Fee: 40-50 kuai depending on group rate.). This visit is optional, but is not at the end of the walk.

Price: 20 yuan members (50 yuan visitors to Shanghai)

Sign up via our website: www.britsabroadshanghai.com stating 'February Walk' and your membership number. Your reservation will be confirmed by email. Please do not turn up without booking as sometimes we have a waiting list. This is a members only event. (Visitors to Shanghai may be able to attend, depending on availability – please check with organisers.)

If you are in doubt whether the walk will go ahead on the morning, please check your email after 8.30am, by when you will have been notified if it has been cancelled.

As always, after the event the notes for this walk will be posted on the Brits Abroad website (Home/For Members/Walks).

Wednesday, 22nd February – Cocktail Making

A fun and interactive cocktail making session where you learn to mix it, shake it, and stir it like a pro. You will arrive to a surprise welcome drink then prepare three homemade cocktails with the assistance of professional bartenders. The great thing is you get to drink the one you made before you start the next! You will leave knowing how to mix, muddle and mash....oh and drink some tasty cocktails whilst putting a smile on your face and a skip in your step.

Please sign up via our website www.britsabroadshanghai.com by 15th February. Your reservation will be confirmed by email. Cancellation policy applies.

TIME: 7pm – 10pm

COST: 300RMB

LOCATION: URBAN BAR, Room 105, No.1A, Lane 183 Wulumuqi Road (South), Xuhui District



24th February – Drop In Drinks



WHERE: The Liquor Factory, Intercontinental Hotel, 1188 Xueye Road, Pudong from 7.30 to 9.30 Happy hour then normal prices apply

Join us at The Liquor Factory, a British style pub located in the garden of the Intercontinental Hotel surrounded with old style brick houses where employees of the liquor factory once lived. Mod London, the Beatles, mini coopers, mini skirts football and retro furnishings decorate the interior making Brits Abroad feel at home!

7th March – Chinese Dumpling Making

Learn how to make traditional Chinese Dumplings with professional Chef Demonstration and lots of hands on practice. In this class you will be taught the techniques of making basic dumpling dough and how to shape and cook steamed Pumpkin filling, a pan-fried shrimp and chive and pork filled dumplings. Afterwards you can sit down and enjoy your dumpling creations!

Aprons will be provided as well as printed recipe cards. It has also been suggested you may like to bring a food container to take home some of the food you have made.

Please sign up via our website www.britsabroadshanghai.com by 1st March. Your reservation will be confirmed by email. Our cancellation policy applies. Class size: minimum 6 people, maximum of 12.

WHEN: Wednesday 7th March

TIME: 10.30am – 12noon (pls arrive 10 mins before)

COST: 260RMB

LOCATION: Building 20, 3rd Floor, Lane 383 South Xiang Yang Lu, Shanghai



SNAPSHOT OF LAST MONTH'S EVENTS

WINE TASTING EVENING Friday 13th January

What better way to spend your time than on a tour of New Zealand and at the same time sampling some great wines, learning about their history and how they are made. The difference was 13 members of Brits Abroad did this in the middle of Shanghai, at a great evening with Yangjui Wine Merchants.

Matthieu, in his relaxed style, gave us some great insights into New Zealand Wine making. Did you know that New Zealand isn't even in the top 20 world wine producers and more wine is made in Cyprus. Almost 50% of their wine production is exported and 70% of that is Sauvignon Blanc. An early Brit Abroad, The Reverend Samuel Marsden was the first to plant grapes there in 1819, and although the first wine was produced in 1836, it didn't take off that well because the British Troops it was being sold to, turned out to be much better at drinking beer!

We talked about climate, soil, grape variety, how the warm days and cooler evenings in New Zealand are ideal for growing high quality grapes. We discussed the differences between Normal, Organic and Biodynamic Farming and New Zealand's stance on sustainable Wine growing.

The highlight was a journey, examining clarity and colour, swirling and sniffing, and finally at last drinking, needless to say the spittoon remained empty all evening; was around the different wine growing regions. A delay in Marlborough to try some great Cloudy Bay Sauvignon Blanc 2011, a wine to be drunk when young, a Cloudy Bay Chardonnay 2009 a more complex tasting wine, great colour, lovely nose and it went down well too; you can tell what else we learnt! We finished with a Kim Crawford Pinot Noir 2009 a delicious lighter Red. Matthieu certainly knows his wines and Yangjui.com can be found on line.



NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



The membership team are now taking renewals for the new year 2012.

The cut off date for is **February 29th** so we encourage members who have not yet renewed to do so before this date. We will endeavour to have a membership representative at most of our events throughout January and February to make renewal as easy as possible.

A renewal form should be completed and the annual fee of 250rmb paid to our membership team upon when you will receive a new membership card and number for 2012. The cards issued in 2011 should now be destroyed. Please note the new membership number will be required when signing up for events and the new cards will be required to be produced at our events.

Members not renewed by 1st March will be deleted from the email system and will not receive our weekly bulletins.

BRITS ABROAD BALL

The Brits Abroad Ball Committee are pleased to announce the 2012 **Red, White and Blue Ball** celebrating the London Olympic Games.

We'll be returning to the fabulous Fairmont Peace Hotel on Saturday 28th April for another evening of glittering entertainment, so put the date in your diary.

Watch the Website for further information and register your interest at britsabroad57@hotmail.com

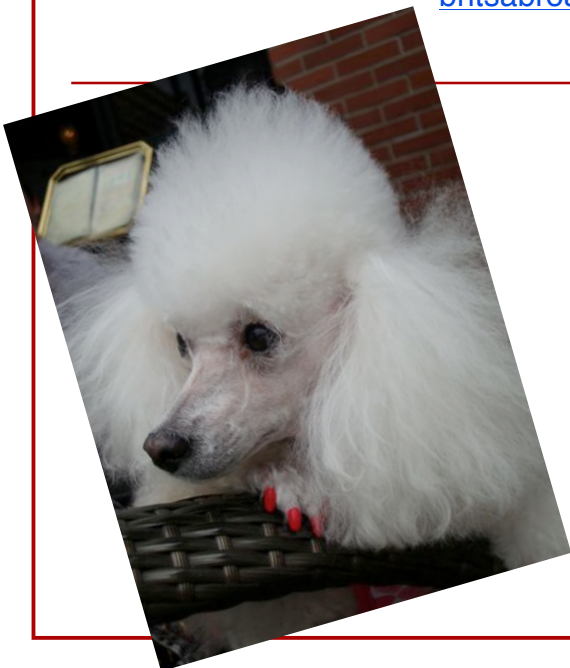


PHOTO OF THE MONTH

We are asking members to send in photos taken around Shanghai that are weird and wonderful!

This month's photo is taken by Lisa Barker who noticed this adorable poodle had been to the Puppy Parlour – manicured nails match the owners!

If you would like to contribute your photo for PHOTO OF THE MONTH, please email media@britsabroadshanghai.com

Regular Fixtures

The forthcoming dates set out below are provisional and subject to change, please visit www.britsabroadshanghai.com for updates on events and information.

Puxi Coffee Mornings (Tuesday's):

Time: 10 - 12noon

Where: Salon de Ville, The Waldorf Astoria, Shanghai on the Bund, 2 Zhongshan Dong Yi Lu

Cost: 80rmb members/ 120 rmb non-members

Dates: 7th February, 6th March 2012

Pudong Coffee Mornings – Breakfast With Brits (Thursday's):

Time: 10 – 11.30am

Where: Paulaner's Bar, Riverside Promenade, Binjiang Da Dao

Cost: 65rmb members/ 75rmb non members

Dates: 16th February, 15th March 2012

Newcomers:

Time: 10 - 11.30am

Where: Costa Coffee, 166 Anfu Lu

Dates: 29th February

Committee Details

Should you wish to make contact with any Committee Member, please contact:

BritsAbroad57@hotmail.com

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 Vice Presidents: Bernie Thompson
 Terry Vibert
 Treasurer: Bernie Thompson
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