



Brits Abroad Shanghai  
Annual Report 2022-2023

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

As I was looking at putting my thoughts together on this piece, I looked at the last AGM report, made by colleagues past and present, which reviewed 2020. Vidhya talked about the hardships the pandemic had caused up to that point and the ways in which we had all overcome them to keep socializing and communicating. It was optimistic and full of hope.

As we all know, the tests were yet to come with lockdowns and blocks for incoming and outgoing travelers which took months to see through, with only tourist visas being reinstated as of the day I write this.

Sadly, this has taken its toll on Shanghai, on its people, retail, and social clubs, and we are no exception.

Our illustrious team from then have all returned home, to new challenges abroad or in Shanghai, and the small team we have currently in place are working hard to continue to provide as much social activity as possible given the changes that have taken place over the last two years.

I am thankful for the members who have dug in and given their time supporting this organization, many

of whom have young families or straddle many charity obligations.

Our current committee, Mandy, Lidel, Anita, Caz, Sarah, and newly appointed Mary have been tireless in keeping things going. We said goodbye to Sharon and Lucy before the Christmas break and were hugely sad to see them go. Although Sharon, and Brits Abroad Alumni Kellie, have continued to offer support or an ear from their new homes.

As we move forward this Spring, there is a sense of true change in the air this time. New residents are arriving daily, and lunch events and coffee mornings are filling up with people excited to be out meeting new friends.

I feel the beginning of the next school year will see a further increase in new expatriates, perhaps looking for guidance, friends, or just a solid competitive game of Mahjong.

As I step back from my role as interim president, I wish Brits Abroad Shanghai all the best from the future and long may it continue.

Anna Foster  
Interim President

## **2. Membership**

The membership year of 2022, as we all know, has been an unusual year. As a result of the worldwide pandemic and extenuating circumstances causing many expatriates to repatriate or prevent them from entering China. In 2020 was proposed a temporary amendment to the Constitution on Article 2.2 and 2.3 relating to membership from the middle of August 2020. The amendment meant that Associate membership, open to any nationalities apart from the UK, should not exceed 45% of the total membership base and this was ratified by our members.

The total number of members for the calendar year of 2022 was 93 with a total number of people at 297. We have maintained 60% Full Membership and 40% Associate Membership which is within our amended constitution of 55% and 45% respectively.

Our membership fee was at RMB300 until June 30 and reduced to RMB200 thereafter. We started our membership renewals from 1st November 2022 and any new members who joined from then onwards could join 2023 and get November and December 2022 free.

James Dyson, who is our Website co-ordinator, repatriated and as a Committee, a decision was

taken to extend him an honorary membership so we can have his continued support on the Brits Abroad Website and App.

Membership sign-up was available at all Meet and Greet Coffee Mornings, May I, Mahjong and many other Brits Abroad events.

As part of membership, we had an active WeChat group maintained for all members where we posted events and exchanged news that would help the wider membership community.

Mandy Gill  
Membership Coordinator

### **3. Social**

It's certainly not been our usual calendar of events this year, but we tried to keep our Brits Abroad members entertained during the Shanghai lockdown with some TEAMS meeting quizzes and scribble drawing art.

#### **Drop in Drinks**

Another favorite our members was happy to see return was our monthly Drop in Drinks. We kicked off in July at The Captains, September at Butler & Whites, February at the Topsy Fiddler and most recently at Cottons. It's always nice to have our

informal gatherings around Shanghai, so thank you to Anna Forster & Caz Johnstone for organizing.



### **Coffee morning**

Anita managed to get a great crowd together for our first coffee morning at Melbourne's and with the Shanghai weather improving is also re-starting the Paulaner's Breakfast with Brits.



## **Other Doings**

We did manage to squeeze in a few special events:

- Ultimate Brunch at Yicafe at the Shangri La in September – organized by Mandy Gill
- Anokhi Lunch in October – organized by Caz Johnstone.
- Also in October Sarah Eckersley organized a Night Cycle around Shanghai.



I would hope you would all agree that given the turbulent year we've had, that we've maintained our



sense of community and friendship for our Brits Abroad members in Shanghai.

Caz Johnstone

#### **4. Regular Activities**

When lockdown lifted and venues reopened, we returned to playing our weekly games of May I? and Mahjong.

**May I?** is a great way to meet fellow Brits Abroad members. Each week participants pick a card to determine on which table they will play. 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 RMB50, participants play cards for approximately 3 hours and receive two drinks – coffee, tea, and soft drinks. Join us for a fun afternoon of May I on Wednesdays from 1:30pm – 4:30 pm at Abbey Road!

Mandy Gill  
May I? Coordinator



**Mahjong** is played every Monday afternoon (1:30pm – 4:30pm) we play the British version of Mahjong at Abbey Road on Taojing Road, at the corner of Fenjang 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 welcome beginners so don't worry about not knowing how to play. We only charge RMB50 to play, which includes 2 beverages for the afternoon and money for the charity pot. We have a lot of fun! Come join us!

Karen Carrington  
Mahjong Coordinator



### **Book club**

Lucy Ellis-Hardy started up our book club again in September, discussing books like *Wrong Place*, *Wrong Time* by Gillian McAllister, over a coffee and pastry in Baker & Spice. Mary Bardet took over the role in February, with a new lunchtime slot at Bull & Claw and a new system of readers voting in their book choices. A great start was made with *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid, going on to now reading *The Keeper of Lost Things* by Ruth Hogan. So please come along and join for lunch at noon, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, and a lively book chatter.

Mary Bardet  
Book Club Coordinator



## 5. Community Outreach

In partnership with other organizations, we held:

- A quiz night at Abbey Road for More than Aware where we were able to raise and donate over 8,000rmb.
- A lunch for International Women’s Day at Bottega with 80 women which we were able to raise over 20,000rmb for Educating Girls of Rural China.



## 6. Financial Report

### Brits Abroad Financial Statement June 2022-March current 2023

Balance June 2022	43,685
<u>Income</u>	
Membership	5,550
Mahjong	1,720
May I?	4,150
Walks	850
Quiz	8,900
<u>Expenses</u>	
Donation to MTA	8,500
Balance March 2023	56,515

All funds are held in cash in a locked safe.

Lidel Freeman

## 7. Marketing and Discounts

I have recently taken over from Pippa Horrocks who was remotely managing discounts until end of last year after her move back to the UK. Pippa has done an amazing job with vendors.

We currently have 19 vendors who provide discounts to our members and this is most updated as we go into print. Most are fixed discounts apart from Epermarket who give us a discount code and offer every month.

We have a large variety of discount partners ranging from Food and Beverage, Shopping, Health & Wellbeing, Education, Tourism and Other Services.

The discount page is updated with the latest offers. The more we use our discounts the more business sense vendors have of having the tie-up with us for our members.

Our current discount providers are:

- Abbey Road Restaurant - 10% off their midweek à la carte menu
- Australia Expat Travel - 10% discount off the Consultancy service
- Elle's Home Beauty Spa - 10% on all services
- EMW Fine Wines - 20% off all wines
- Epermarket - varied monthly free gifts/discounts
- Geneva Restaurant - 10% off their midweek à la carte menu
- Greenwave - 25% off on water filters (not replacements), 30% Blueair air purifiers apart from filter replacements and 20% on Blueair filter replacements

- Husk – A welcome drink when you order a main course
- Kebabs on the Grille – 10% off their à la carte menu
- MeatMaster Butcher - 10% off full product range (not any discounted or offers)
- Mikael Botteri Hair @Armani Salon - 10% off on any 2 of the following : full head of highlights, roots colour, cut and blow
- MinuteCare – 10% off on regular services (minimum to use 3h a week) at the first month. For successfully referring any friends who signed up for the service, you can enjoy 10% off on any of our one off services.
- Pera Indian and Turkish Restaurant – 10% off their à la carte menu
- Phoebe - Mobile Nail service - 10% off on all nail services
- Spin Ceramics – 10% off their range
- Times Grocery - 10% discount on shopping
- That's Mandarin - 5% off on all Adult courses
- The Tavern - Butler and Whites with Guinness - A free house wine or Becks with every meal purchased
- Tian Yi Corp Identity Design and Printers – 15% off all printing

I am still reaching out to more vendors to see if they are able to offer any specials for our members and the website and WeChat group will be updated.

Anita Aggarwal  
Discounts Coordinator

## **8. The Brits Abroad Committee for 2023-24**

1. President - Vacant
2. 2 Vice Presidents - Vacant
3. Treasurer - Lidel Freeman
4. Secretary - Vacant
5. Membership Coordinator – Mandy Gill
6. Discounts Coordinator – Anita Aggarwal
7. Social Coordinator - Caz Johnstone
8. Community Outreach Coordinator - Vacant
9. Newsletter Editor - Vacant
10. Website Coordinator - James Dyson

If you are interested in donating your time to this great, fun organization, please reach out to one of our current committee members.

## **9. Representatives**

1. May I? Coordinator – Mandy Gill
2. Mahjong Coordinator – Karen Carrington
3. Walks Coordinator – Sarah Eckersley
4. Book Club – Mary Bardet
5. Proof Reader – Vicky Creissen