

Happy Chinese New Year!

Chinese New Year and Burns Night
Feb 2015



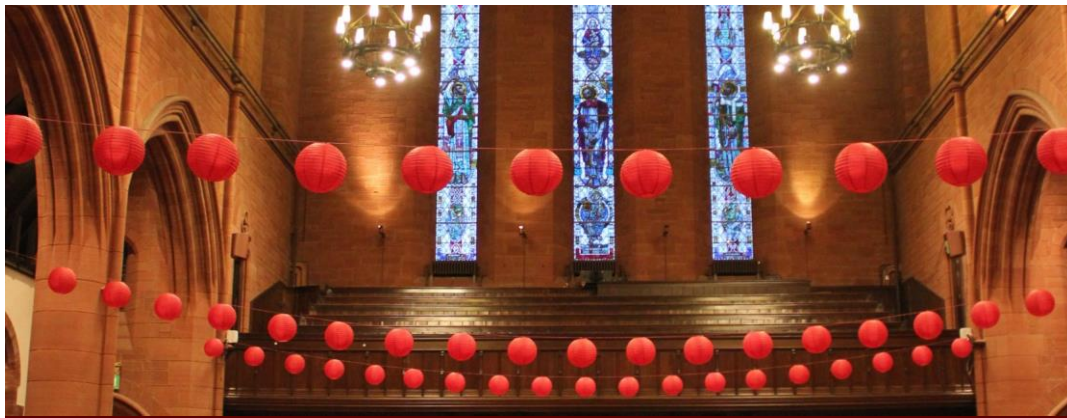
Dear Colleagues,

This year Chinese New Year is on 19th February. Happy Chinese New Year to all!

The Strathclyde China Institute (SCI) collaborated with the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), the Business School and HaSS in holding a joint celebration of Chinese New Year and Burns Night on 13th February. The event was a great success and we, as organisers, would like to share some of the most memorable moments with you in this special newsletter.

Chinese New Year is called Spring Festival in Chinese, celebrating the first day of Spring. Having a long agricultural history, our ancestors believe that Spring is the beginning of a new cycle as the snow melts, animals come out of hibernation, farmers start seeding the fields and work towards a new harvest. It is this renewed energy and spirit that SCI wants to share with you in this New Year.

During the last a year and a half, through the efforts of SCI and the hard work of Strathclyde colleagues, we now have 60 Chinese students here with us in HaSS and SBS. We take this chance to express our sincere thanks for all your support and help!



We were very excited that we managed to get the Barony as our venue—it is truly beautiful!

Decorations and all the details



A table of mixed cultural elements

We had tables named with Chinese and Scottish cities. I sat at the table of St. Andrews, what about you?

We had green seedlings as central piece - you couldn't miss the signs of new beginnings!

Red-envelopes give Chinese people exciting memories of receiving these from our elders - lucky money was inside! What did we have in these ones? Burns' poetry! The one I got was "My Heart's in the High Lands." Something a bit different!

Yes, we also had fortune cookies! I often wonder how people can write so many good things for people. The guest beside me got one saying, "You are beautiful inside and out" and I had to agree!

Oh, let's not forget those cute goats sitting on the tables. They turned out to be the stars of the night! So many people took pictures holding them! Indeed, a love for goats/sheep/rams (we are confused too) is something that Chinese and Scottish people have in common. How can we do without tartans and portraits of our beloved poet Robert Burns? Auld Lang Syne is indeed the world's song of friendship and hope.



The speeches



Should I brag that we had a proper Burns Night? Aye, we did!

We had a piper piping in the Haggis! How exciting!

Fiona Fisher gave an excellent 'Address to the Haggis'. For those of us who did not know about the emotion attached to this, we will think twice before taking a Scotsman's haggis—something very close to their heart!

Li Hong Yu did a fantastic 'Selkirk Grace'. Well done!

Mark Poustie delivered a 'Toast to the Lassies' and Lorna Dougall replied to the laddies with grace and style!

Jude McKeerecher, from CISS, perfected "The Immortal Memory."

Consul General, Mr Pan Xinchun, expressed his New Year wishes to all the guests and also brought greetings from home to our Chinese students.

A wonderful night was had by all!





Dancing, singing, and generally enjoying ourselves!



过年好！

Strathclyde China Institute
Maozu Lu, David Roxburgh, Zhen Liu
Lord Hope 303,304
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