

**FREE
PAPER**
DAILY LISTINGS
FOR DEC & JAN

SOUTHAMPTON'S ORIGINAL KICK-BOTTOM LISTINGS, REVIEWS &
COMMENT PAPER! GIGS, SHOWS, FAMILY EVENTS & ER... LEGAL ADVICE
YOUR MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A TRULY HAPPY NEW YEAR BI-MONTHLY.
ISSUE 18 : DECEMBER / JANUARY 2017

THE CANDIDE



(CENTER PAGES) SOUTHAMPTON'S BIGGEST CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL IS COMING! (Above) Waterside Lion Dance Club/facebook.com (no dragons were harmed in the making of this cover)

SOUTHAMPTON
Ambassadors





14 January 2017 will see Southampton's enthusiastic Chinese community celebrate its biggest Chinese New Year Festival ever. Five weeks of events and activities across Southampton area are set to bond the community with the city, in a wave of friendship, inclusion, education and entertainment.

I cornered Andy Lai, Vice Chair of the Southampton Chinese Association, to tell me why 2017 was going to be different to previous years and also about the background to it, for instance... what is that Dragon dance all about?



This year, we are very fortunate to be awarded the Celebrate grant from the Big Lottery Fund. We are also very thankful to the Southampton University Confucius Institute for co-organizing this event with us, as well as supports from the Southampton City Council, Southampton Solent University, West Quay Shopping Centre, Chinese Students and Scholars Association of Southampton, Portsmouth Chinese Association and various local Chinese restaurants and shops and of course The AND Guide. All this support has helped us to put together a large-scale 5-weekend celebration from 14 January to 11 February. We also have four cultural exhibitions during 16 January to 10 February at the Solent University Andrews Concourse.

The main theme of this programme is "Celebrating Chinese New Year Together In Southampton".

So tell me about the Dragon and Lion dancing?

Lion dance is a very special form of traditional performance in Chinese culture in which performers manipulate as a legend-form of lion. The lion dance is usually performed during the Chinese New Year and other Chinese traditional, cultural and religious festivals. It may also be performed at important occasions such as business opening events, special celebrations or wedding ceremonies.

The history of lion dance goes back thousands of years in Chinese culture. The lion, like the Chinese dragon, was only an animal which existed in myth, there were no actual lions in China. Before the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), only a few lions had reached China from the west, due to Silk Road trade. At that time, people mimicked the appearance and actions of the newly arrived lions in a performance, which developed into the lion dance in the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280) and then became popular with the rise of Buddhism in the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420-589). In the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the lion dance was one of the court dances.

The lion dance has spread across the world with Chinese immigration. Overseas Chinese in Europe, America, etc. have established many lion dance clubs, performing on Chinese festivals or big occasions, particularly Chinese New Year.

Lion dance is sometimes mistakenly referred to as dragon dance. An easy way to tell the difference is that a lion is normally operated by two dancers, while a dragon needs many people to operate. Also, in a lion dance, the performers' faces are only seen occasionally, since they are inside the lion. In a dragon dance, the performers' faces can be easily seen since the dragon is held on poles. In addition, there is a person to hold a dragon ball to lead the dragon during the performance.

In Southampton, we are very lucky to have Waterside Lion Dance Group which is found by Ricky Tang from Marchwood. Ricky has taught hundred of youngsters from all communities in Southampton and New Forest area how to perform a traditional lion dance. Waterside Lion Dance Group has performed in numerous occasions including previ-

ous Chinese New Year celebrations, cultural festivals and wedding ceremonies.

Why is Chinese New Year a different day to ours?

The Chinese New Year is based on the lunar calendar, which depends on the cycles of lunar phases according to the movement of the Moon. This is different from Gregorian calendar, which is a solar calendar based on the revolution of the Earth around the sun. With the exception of February, each month in the Western calendar has 30 or 31 days, and there are 12 months every year. Since the months of the Chinese calendar are derived from the lunar cycle, which lasts 29.53 days on average, its months are either 29 or 30 days long. Like the Western calendar, the Chinese calendar's ordinary year has 12 months, but a leap year, every two or three years, will include an extra



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新年

Gong Hey Fat Choy

HAPPY NE



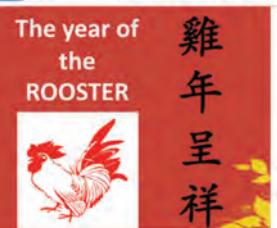
Celebrating Chinese New Year Together
In Southampton 2017

2017 共慶新年 聚南安

Five celebrations at three places

五個慶祝 三個地點

1. Sat 14/01/17 11am-4pm: Southampton Guildhall Square
2. Sat 21/01/17 11am-4pm: Southampton Guildhall Square
3. Sun 29/01/17 11am-4:30pm: West Quay Shopping Centre
4. Sat 04/02/17 11am-4pm: The Spark, Southampton Solent University
5. Sat 11/02/17 11am-4pm: Southampton Guildhall Square



13th month. The ordinary year in the Chinese calendar runs between 353 and 355 days; a leap year has from 383 to 385 days. As a result, the Chinese New Year Day would never be the same day as the Western New Year Day.

The first day of the Chinese New Year in 2017 is on 28th January and it is the year of the Rooster.

Do Chinese people have a similar day to Christmas? ie with everyone giving presents etc?

During the Chinese New Year cel-

ebration, which lasts for 15 days, married relatives will normally give out red envelopes (lei sze) to unmarried children. Traditionally, there are some monies inside the red envelops, which are meant for suppressing evil spirits. It is a custom for children to wish elders a year of happiness and good health before accepting the red envelope. In the modern world, Chinese people send lei sze through Internet transaction via social website like Wechat.

In addition, friends and relatives will visit each other and exchange presents. Most of the presents are

sweets and expensive dry seafood. People would take this opportunity to give their relatives and friends their good wishes.

Is there the equivalent of a Chinese Father Christmas?

There is no such character as a Chinese Father Christmas. However, we do have a God of Wealth. The 5th lunar day of Chinese New Year is the Welcome Day for the God of Wealth. Many families worship the God of Wealth in the early morning. After the ceremony, people explode firecrackers to invite the God of



17

快乐

W YEAR

GongXi Fa Cai

The Chinese Association of Southampton will present a series of celebrations at Southampton to welcome the Year of the Rooster in 2017.

Our five celebrations include:

Lion and dragon dance; Kungfu display;
Traditional Chinese dance, music and song;
Asian dance and music; Western music and song;
Chinese opera; Chinese cultural workshops and foods.

We also have:

A range of exhibitions from 16/01/17 to 10/02/17 at Southampton Solent University, Andrews Concourse.

Special thanks to our co-organizers, supporters and sponsors.



樸茨茅斯華人協會
Portsmouth Chinese Association



Wealth to enter the house. Nowadays, some big shopping centres hire people to dress as the God of Wealth and distribute lei szie (good luck offering, usually money and usually in red envelopes) to their customers during the Chinese New Year period.

What acts are performing and where over the new year festival?

In 2017 we will have 5 celebrations at Southampton as shown in We will have lion and dragon dances, kungfu displays, traditional Chinese/Asian dances, music and

song, traditional Chinese costume show etc.

We would like to thank our sponsors and supporters: Yau Brothers, Lime Bar, Shanghai Bay, Sukee Market, Gourmet Kitchen, 88 Chinese Restaurant, Fusion Noodle Bar, the And Guide Magazine, TriExForces Group Ltd.

What is a typical meal for the Chinese on New Year's Eve?

The New Year's Eve dinner is the most important dinner for the Chinese. Normally, this is the family reunion dinner, especially for those

with family members away from home. In the New Year's Eve dinner, customarily, fish will be served. Dumplings are the most important dish in Northern China. These two dishes mean "prosperous." Other dishes are served depending on personal preference. The majority of the Chinese will gather together to eat New Year's Eve dinner at home instead of a restaurant.

Chinese Fish

In Chinese, "fish" sounds like 'surplus'. Chinese people always like to have a surplus at the end of the year, because they think if they have managed to save something at the end of the year, then they can make more in the coming year.

Chinese Dumplings

With a history of more than 1,800 years, dumplings constitute a classic Chinese food, and a traditional dish

during the Spring Festival. It is a dish especially popular in East China: Jiangxi, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Fujian, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, etc.

Spring rolls are a Cantonese dim sum dish of cylindrical-shaped rolls filled with vegetables, meat, or something sweet. Fillings are wrapped in thin dough wrappers, then fried, when the spring rolls are given their golden-yellow color.

Chinese cakes

NiángGāo or Chinese New Year cakes (Glutinous Rice Cake). In Chinese, niangao sounds like "getting higher year-by-year". In Chinese people's minds, this means the higher you are the more prosperous your business is. The main ingredients of niangao are sticky rice, sugar, chestnuts, Chinese dates, and lotus leaves.

Tángyuán Sweet Rice Balls

Tangyuan is the main food for China's Lantern Festival. However, in south China, people eat them throughout the Spring Festival. The pronunciation and the round shape of tangyuan are associated with reunion and being together. That is why the Chinese people favor them during the New Year celebrations.

Who is the most notable Chinese person in Southampton's

Mr Yiu Lam LEE. He is the oldest Chinese person at Southampton, at an incredible 93 years old.

But we have a strong community of Chinese people in Southampton performing important roles for the city. Apart from working at restaurants and takeaways, there are many Chinese people working as university professors, medical doctors, police officers, lawyers, accountants etc. I myself was a policeman.

How long has there been a Chinese community in Southampton?

The known oldest Chinese family in Southampton is the Ngan's family, who came to Southampton in the 1950's. The senior Mr. Ngan came to Southampton and started a launderette business. Of course, Ngan's family is getting bigger and bigger now!

In fact, this is something that we want to develop and therefore the Chinese Association of Southampton will commence an oral history project in 2017. After this, we will have more information about the Chinese community in Southampton.

It is something we want to learn more about and to share it with our Southampton neighbours. Our aim is to develop bridges and community within the city and this major New Year's Eve Festival we hope will be a major boost to that. After this, we will have more information about the Chinese community in Southampton.



ARE YOU A ROOSTER?

Sadly, if you are (and I am doh...) According to Chinese astrology, the year of one's birth sign is the most unlucky year in the 12-year cycle, with fortune in all aspects of your life will not so good.

(Which is great news as 2016 wasn't all that brilliant! 2018 it is then.)

The Rooster is tenth in the Chinese zodiac. Each year is related to an animal sign according to a 12-year cycle. Years of the Rooster include 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017, and 2029.

Lucky Colors: gold, brown, yellow

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, and 8

Lucky Flowers: gladiola, cockscomb

Personality: Observant, hardworking, confident, courageous, talent, frank and honest

Roosters are loyal and make devoted friends. They always keep their promises and are always true to their word. Sensitive individuals may find it hard to get along well with Roosters, because they always brag about themselves and their accomplishments, which may make others uncomfortable.

Most suited careers: Sales, restaurant owner, athlete, teacher, waiter, journalist and surgeon.

(Crikey how scarily is that? Apart from the bragging of course. I like to think I am the world's least bragger.)



YAU BROS



蘇記超市



eaten on Chinese New Year's Eve, widely popular in China, especially in North China.

What acts are performing and where over the new year festival?

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eaten on Chinese New Year's Eve, widely popular in China, especially in North China.

Chinese dumplings can be made to look like Chinese silver ingots (which are not bars, but boat-shaped, oval and turned up at the two ends). Legend has it that the more dumplings you eat during the New Year celebrations, the more money you can make in the New Year!

Spring Rolls

Spring rolls get their name because they are traditionally eaten

For details visit:
www.southamptonchinese.org.uk