

Happy New Year Chinese Style ... in Maadi



**The Dragon Dance at
BCA Maadi Clubhouse**

January 23rd 2012 marked the start of the Chinese year 4710, the Year of the Dragon. Those people lucky enough to be born in dragon years are said to have inherited some of this mythical beast's animal characteristics and so are brave, passionate and innovative. It comes as no surprise that both Salvador Dali and John Lennon were born in dragon years.

Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration in the Chinese calendar. All over China families enjoy the opportunity to get together for feasts, festivities and fireworks.

If you fancied welcoming the Chinese New Year in Cairo, Maadi was definitely the place to be. At the BCA Maadi Clubhouse, Friday 20th January was a day of events with a distinctly Chinese flavour.

Vibrant red and gold Chinese lanterns, posters and other New Year decorations brightened up the clubhouse courtesy of the Chinese



Embassy and Cultural Centre, plus there were opportunities to find out more about the Chinese way of life, with calligraphy, martial arts and cookery demonstrations.

At the Bazaar there was a chance to both win and buy books about



**The Chinese
celebrate at
CSA**

the country, and enjoy some really tasty Dim Sum. Children received the traditional Red Envelope of an 'Ang Pow gift, but for many the real highlight of the day was the chance to enjoy watching the traditional Dragon Dance, which was performed by a 20-metre long dragon to the sound of fireworks and an extremely energetic drummer.

The celebrations were brought to a close with a delicious four-course Chinese New Year Buffet, served in the Clubhouse by Singaporean born Mary Reuss and Cartier Rose. Other events to welcome the Chinese New Year took place elsewhere in Maadi including the CSA.

So, the Chinese New Year has been welcomed in by 'Opening the Eye of the Dragon' all over the world. A word of warning though – the Chinese consider the dragon to be untouchable and unpredictable. So in 2012 we would be wise to prepare for the unexpected!