

Durham Chinese School

杜伦中文学校



Chinese New Year Festival

Year of the Monkey 2004

猴子年

25th January 2004

at

Elvet Methodist Church, Durham

The Year of the Monkey began in spectacular style in Durham on 25th January 2004. The celebrations were sponsored by Durham City Arts and the County Durham Foundation and attracted a very large audience including His Worship the Mayor of Durham and the Lady Mayoress as well as a large number of members of the Chinese community in the Durham and Newcastle areas and other interested visitors, including parties of schoolchildren.

That so many people did attend is not surprising; there were so many activities to participate in. The Art Workshops included displays of Chinese painting, calligraphy and paper crafts as well as the opportunity to make monkey masks and lucky fish (using the red and gold hong bao envelopes traditionally used for gifts at Chinese New Year). The Church Hall was packed with would-be artists while the upstairs hall staged a display from the school's Kung Fu students and a display of work by pupils at the school which was entered in a Children's Competition.

The main event, however, held in the church itself, was a concert of songs, music and dance professionally introduced and skilfully performed by students and teachers, parents and pupils alike. There were lively displays of traditional dance and Kung Fu as well as graceful tai-chi. There was even a fashion display in traditional Chinese dress. The haunting melody of the Chinese zither was supplemented by performances on violin, flute and piano and, of course, there were songs, some wistfully sad, some happy and some gloriously joyful. Who could not conclude, as the last of the songs said, that "we are singing the same song??" (同一首歌)

As if all of these delight were not already enough to help everyone to enjoy the New Year there was a final part of the celebration which was greatly appreciated by all concerned. It is that part of Chinese culture which to everyone, no matter how athletic, musical or artistic they might be, will always be a favourite, traditional Chinese food served in the downstairs hall.



恭喜发财

Philip Cordery

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