

## 2013 - The Year of the Water Snake

Checked your horoscope recently?  
Did you know that Chinese New Year begins on 10<sup>th</sup> February? Chinese zodiac signs differ from ours; twelve animals combine with the five signs of- metal, water, wood, fire and earth, making this the year of the Snake and more specifically, the Water Snake

### **“I’m not a Snake, or a Hake or a Drake...”**

So which sign represents the year of your birth? It’s a bit like that old song “ I am a mole and I live in a hole”-“I’m not a ram or a clam or a lamb, I’m not a hog, or a frog or a dog”, except the Chinese zodiacs are: rat, ox,tiger, rabbit,dragon,snake, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. Snakes were born in 1919, 29, 41, 53, 65, 77, 89 and in 2001.

### **And the Royal Baby?**

As we hopefully expect a Royal baby who will be our future Monarch this year, and just as important a host of Wychwood babies, what are the characteristics of those born in the year of the snake? Well, they are sleek and seductive, have gracious morality and great wisdom, they are, you will be glad to hear, usually financially secure and have tremendous sympathy for others and desire to help their fellow beings. (which bodes well for a future King or Queen). On the other hand, they can be jealous and suspicious of others, cautious and preferring to rely on themselves and with a tendency to overdo things.

It is interesting to note that both the Royal baby to be’s parents were born in the year of the dog (1982) making them compassionate people who fall in love at first sight and become marvellous parents,

even content to wear the same old clothes so that the child can have new ones (?), putting their family first, very supportive and forming lasting bonds. So all good for the future of the monarchy, but bad for Bond Street!

### **Cautionary Tale**

But some caution, as my Asia correspondent reports; “The only thing that I can remember that my Grandma told me is that someone born in the year of snake is not compatible with someone who is born in the year of rooster - because snake eats chicken. I don’t know why only rooster, as snakes eat mice, rabbits and lots of other animals. It didn’t occur to me to ask her this question!”

### **A Good Year Ahead in 2013?**

Well yes, as ancient Chinese wisdom says that a snake in the house is a good omen, meaning your family will not starve. Material wealth is assured. This year, according to Feng Shui master consultant Liew Shaw Pin, is set to bring a brighter look to the economy and market as a whole. The five elements are in balance assuring prosperity. You investors will be please to learn that it will be a comeback year with the share market set to improve. Agriculture, insurance and construction should all do well. The second and third quarters will be very bullish but beware the first and fourth quarter.

The last Water Snake year was 60 years ago (12 animals x 5 elements) in 1953. Anyone remember that? It was the year of the Queen’s coronation, of Hilary’s ascent of Mt Everest and the discovery of DNA. There was full employment and steady material growth, so bring it on for 2013!

**Liz Clarke-Watson**