



Society for Anglo- Chinese Understanding

2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTS

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Note: Re delay to AGM

2020 has been an extraordinary year. For the whole of 2020 the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been felt across the world. By the time we hold our AGM in October 2020 we will be 9 months into the following year which makes recalling the activities of 2019 hard to do. When UK went into lockdown in March 2020, we decided to postpone our AGM to the latest date possible [15 months after the last AGM which was July 2019] in the hopes that we could hold our usual meeting in a large meeting room. This has not proved possible; hence we are holding our AGM this year over Zoom. We realise this disenfranchises some people who are not comfortable with or don't have access to this technology, however it is the only option. Interestingly our experience thus far is that in fact more members are attending SACU events now they are held over Zoom, possibly because they do not have to travel to a physical venue.

We are also taking the opportunity to update Members on the first few months of 2020.

SACU

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) is a voluntary non-profit making, people-to-people organisation that has been dedicated to promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of the UK and China since our founding, by Dr Joseph Needham and others, in 1965. SACU is a member-based organisation. We have no political affiliations and are open to all who subscribe to our aims.

SACU mission is

To promote understanding and advance the education of the UK public in all aspects of China and the Chinese People by:

- providing facts and analysis about China – not uncritically but always from a firm basis of friendship
- helping the British people to understand the meaning of China – past and present
- promoting friendship and mutual respect between the peoples of China and the UK.

We aim to promote Understanding – for a purpose

- to help the UK flourish in a world increasingly influenced by China
- to help overcome misplaced suspicion and increase understanding of China within UK
- to help members progress their China-related interests and so to help SACU thrive

SACU also has a role in helping to support Chinese people making their way in the UK as students and workers, with friendship and understanding as well as education in all aspects of living in UK.

UK Public Education Working Group

This section of our report is focusing on events that were open to all and were about SACU taking forward its mission of public education to promote friendship and understanding. All our events are written up in China Eye which is sent to every member in pdf or paper form and can now be found on our website. So do look back at 2019 issues if you would be interested in reading more about each event.

2019

On 31st January 2019 we held a session hosted by the University of Manchester on China and the Korean Nuclear Crisis. Jenny Clegg was in conversation with Glyn Ford and we were pleased that the Consulate General from Manchester branch of the Chinese Embassy was able to join us.

On 15th March 2019, Professor Michael Wood gave a wonderful talk about his documentary “The Story of China” to a packed audience at EY’s [Ernst and Young] splendid offices in Canary Wharf. He illustrated his talk with film clips and reflected on some of the themes in his highly praised series on Chinese history. The hospitality from EY was lavish as ever and we are extremely grateful for their support at this and previous events.

SACU’s AGM last year, on 20th July 2019, was followed by a public meeting particularly inviting SACU members and Meridian members, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It started with Dr Amy Matthewson who took us on a tour of places in London associated with the Chinese novelist Lao She, who was one of the most significant figures of early 20th century Chinese literature. This was followed by SACU Vice President, Frances Wood, who gave an account of another Chinese writer, Chiang Yee, who wrote about his travels around England and Scotland between 1933 and 1955, and for whom a Blue Plaque has recently been unveiled in Oxford. The third item was a showing of a short film produced by Michael Ho recording the life experiences of his father, who left Hong Kong and became a dentist in Milton Keynes.

2019 was of course 70 years since the founding of the PRC, and SACU held an event on 16th October 2019 titled *China at 70: Looking Back, Looking Ahead* to mark the occasion. The Lau China Institute, Kings College London, kindly hosted the event for us.

Dr Frances Wood, SACU Vice President, chaired a Panel presentation and discussion with four eminent speakers: Professor Martin Albrow; Dr Sun Xin (standing in for Kerry Brown who was unavoidably detained abroad); Dr Jenny Clegg, SACU Vice President; and Mr. Wang Qi, Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of the Peoples' Republic of China.

2020

In the winter 2019 a number of ideas for speakers and events were under development, however 2020 heralded a very different reality. SACU, in common with the rest of the world, has had to adapt to the virtual rather than physical space for events. Whilst a very different medium, we are finding that we are able to attract larger and more diverse audiences when not tied to a physical location.

On 1st September we held a very successful public Webinar: *UK-China Relations: Finding the way forward for cooperation in difficult times*. Jenny Clegg conceived of the idea and was the excellent chair for the event. Michael Wood, Graham Perry and Kerry Brown all gave informative presentations and responded to questions from participants – and to one another. Dr Ruby Wang unfortunately was flying to Beijing at the time of Webinar, so we showed a video of her presentation which also offered some thoughtful perspectives. Feedback on our first public Webinar has been positive and we are planning several more for 2020/21.

As part of the Public Education initiative, Wang Fang, Li Linxi and Barnaby Powell have produced a draft template and slide set for a talk by members of a Speakers Bureau to be formed to deliver initially to schools. This is designed to further our mission to improve understanding of China and its culture and thereby co-operation between China and the UK by providing a platform of basic knowledge to enable people to engage more effectively and productively with the Chinese.

Zoë Reed
Chair and Coordinator
UK Public Education Working Group
chair@sacu.org.uk

Membership Development Working Group **-Supporting members in promoting friendship and understanding**

SACU ChinaCafé 19 February 2019 on 'Health and Wellbeing': **Jessica Darling** gave a fascinating talk on health systems in China and the UK from her own experiences, having trained as a nurse in the UK and worked in Chinese medicine and acupuncture in China. She grew up in China with her father, Dr Joshua S. Horn, author of *Away with All Pests: an English Surgeon in People's China 1954-1969*. Her talk helped us think about English and Chinese cultural understanding of health and well-being.

SACU ChinaCafés are small, informal, meetings with the room laid out café-style with refreshments for relaxed conversation about the theme between participants. They are member-only spaces with newcomers welcome to join at the event. The intention is to support members' understanding and better equip them when discussing China.

2020

We took SACU ChinaCafés online because of the pandemic, becoming 'SACU ChinaChat' Zoom meetings, with the same format of member-only spaces for informal discussion on topical issues.

SACU ChinaChat 25 June 2020: Discussing the Opium Wars, expertly led by **Dr Jenny Clegg**, SACU Vice President, based on Stephen Platt's book, *Imperial Twilight: The Opium War and the End of China's Last Golden Age*. The stimulating discussion that followed explored the different attitudes held by the west and China to this turbulent period of Chinese history. This Zoom event was recorded and can be accessed by members only using the link provided in the July 2020 Members eNewsletter.

SACU ChinaChat 23 August 2020: Discussion on Hong Kong. SACU members **Andrew Hicks** and **Barnaby Powell**, who both have extensive knowledge and experience of Hong Kong, introduced the discussion with their own thought-provoking ideas and perspectives. SACU members then had the opportunity to join the conversation to share their own thoughts and experiences on the topic.

SACU ChinaChats are a way we can address members' concerns about current issues and the two Zoom SACU ChinaChats held so far have been well-supported. Members who have not been able to attend physical meetings, due to distance or being unable to leave home, have been able to join us online. In addition, the cost of hiring venues, which contributes to limiting activities, does not arise. Further information on events is always available on our website, in our eNewsletters and social media. We do need members to come forward with suggestions for future SACU ChinaChats and to assist in their organisation.

eNewsletter

2019

As membership Secretary, **Chris Henson** also wrote a very well-received monthly email newsletter of forthcoming events and news items of particular interest to SACU members, and sent to members, friends and supporters. He managed to do this right up until his death in November 2018 when I then took over. I welcomed SACU member **Michael Sheringham's** offer to co-edit the newsletter from December 2019. Michael is in contact with many organisations and individuals so has collated their events for the newsletter. Whilst Michael collated the items, I concentrated on learning about Mailchimp, the email program by which we send out the newsletter. The monthly issues of 2019 continued to carry links to information about upcoming events and relevant news items.

2020

As the coronavirus spread in early 2020 and we had to think of new ways of working and our activities went online, the content of the newsletter was discussed in Council. We agreed to shift to a narrower focus for its content and distribution. Our first priority is to inform members about SACU news and notices, along with links to reports and videos of past SACU events. Links to items in the media are to draw members' attention to articles which they may not have come across in the mainstream media, with a focus on the current global pandemic situation and heightened international tensions with China. Since July, when I reviewed the email addresses held in Mailchimp, the eNewsletter has been distributed to members only. We are happy for members to forward the email on to their friends as a way of encouraging others to join.

Wang Fang, SACU Council member, began compiling the newsletter with Michael Sheringham from September 2020 and we welcome her involvement and expertise.

Thanks are due to several other SACU members who regularly contribute items to the eNewsletter: notably **Jenny Clegg**, **Keith Bennett** and **Rob Stallard**.

The members-only eNewsletter is now a valuable way to stay in touch with our members when we do not have 'physical' meetings. We have had special newsletters this year including: the press release about our new President; a statement on the Covid-19 situation; and SACU ChinaChat links. We can potentially make more use of our social media

channels to post links to articles and news reports relevant to our mission. We would welcome members to come forward to get involved with developing our digital presence.

Ros Wong and Wang Fang
Coordinator
Membership Development Working Group
membership@sacu.org.uk

China Connections and Chinese Heritage Working Group

- Working in and with China and the Chinese

1. SACU and Peking University's joint UK/China Friendship and Understanding Essay Competition 2020

SACU and Peking University's joint UK/China Friendship and Understanding Essay Competition 2020 was a success with the support from both the members and the partners of SACU. Despite the unprecedented situation of the pandemic, the number of both entries and schools participating the competition have been the most since we started it in 2016.

The competition, with the theme of "Overcoming the Cultural Gap between China and the West" was launched in Oundle school in Jan 2020. After nearly a half year preparation and a preliminary assessment by the schools, we finally received 27 entrants from 7 schools.

The Judging Panel, chaired by Dr. Frances Wood and Prof. Sun Hua from Peking University, awarded three students the prizes for 16 years old and above category, and 3 prizes for up to 15 years old category. It was also the first time that we honoured one entry with Multimedia Award to encourage more visual response to the competition by still art or video. All winners were awarded one-year free junior membership of SACU, award certificates and prize money sponsored by Peking University.

Due to the pandemic crisis, the award ceremony, hosted by Zoë Reed, SACU Chair, was held online via Zoom in June 2020. The virtual ceremony brought the entrants, parents, teachers together from different locations in the world. And some of the entrants even joined the event from as far away as Shanghai.

We have started to prepare for the next essay competition 2021 and look forward to the suggestions and recommendations for schools to participate in the competition from all SACU members. We believe the joint effort to keep the competition going will push forward the understanding and friendship between people from the UK and China for future generations.

2. George Hogg Education Fund

We started planning for a series of activities in 2019 under the umbrella of George Hogg Education Fund, and we have been working on them with various resources from both UK and China. We will continue to work on these projects to make them achievable in 2020-2021.

1) George Hogg China Tour

A tour to trace the places where George Hogg lived and worked in China.

2) George Hogg Cooperative Business Social Practice Training Programme

A pilot programme will be taken firstly at Shandan Bailie School or Lanzhou City College,

with perhaps Gansu Agricultural University. In the long run, the programme could be extended to students in other cities.

3) Virtual Exhibition of George Hogg Story

4) The Chinese edition of George Hogg's biography *Blades of Grass: The Story of George Aylwin Hogg*, written by his nephew Mark Thomas, is in translation now and to be published in 2021.

5) Chris Henson Homestay Project

We have established the Chris Henson Homestay Project in his name and hope to recruit SACU members to open their homes and invite visiting Chinese Scholars or students in the UK to enjoy an overnight homestay or even just a day visit into their home. This project has been delayed in the current circumstances however as soon as things are more settled, we will be asking SACU members to participate. I'm pleased to say that Chris's wife and daughter have offered to advise us on the project.

Wang Fang and Linxi Li
Coordinator

China Connections and Chinese Heritage Working Group
EssayCompetition@sacu.org.uk

Membership Secretary's Report

2019

2019 was my first full year as Membership Secretary, having taken over from Chris Henson who developed health problems during 2018. During the handover period it had been difficult to send out renewal reminders so unfortunately some members' subscriptions had lapsed. At the start of 2019 I began a complete overhaul of the membership data, at that point newly transferred to an Excel spreadsheet. Over several months I attempted to contact everyone in our records about their membership status, by email or letter, sometimes twice, occasionally three times! Most members responded positively, but by summer 2019, I had to remove members who had not responded by regarding them as 'lapsed'. I then had an accurate record of 'paying' or 'complimentary' memberships.

We increased membership subscriptions from 1 October 2019. Subscription rates had remained the same for over a decade and increases were approved at the AGM in July, followed by agreement at the next Council meeting in September. All subscription types were increased by £5 (except Students by £2 only). It was felt this would be a reasonable way to reduce SACU's underlying deficit. All members were informed of the increase in our newsletter, in *China Eye* and in renewal emails and letters. They were reminded to update their PayPal or bank standing order arrangements, although subsequently there have been some underpayments and some duplicate payments requiring refunds.

At the end of 2019, membership was at 267 (including 20 complimentary memberships). We gained 37 new members and a similar number left, either resigned or lapsed and, sadly, 4 members died (Ruth Baker, Haris Livas-Dawes, Janice Dickson and Chris Henson) during the year.

2020

1. Essay Competition Students: We offered all entrants to the SACU/Peking University Essay Competition 2020 one-year complimentary memberships of SACU. We wanted to encourage continued interest in China that the essay-writing had generated for these young students. This resulted in an additional 26 complementary members being added to our membership in June, giving a high point of some 300 members in total.

2. Review of names and email addresses in Mailchimp: The Membership Secretary maintains a separate mailing list in Mailchimp of recipients of our monthly eNewsletter. This list had become out of step with SACU membership records, so again I found myself checking and cleaning data. I have now completed this review and the mailing list is now limited to members only. As our activities and events have gone online since the pandemic began it is useful to be able to contact members through the members-only eNewsletter.

Most of my available time has been spent on the administrative tasks of renewals and queries, and the data cleansing projects as outlined, so this annual report has a narrow focus. We have members across England, Wales and Scotland, and internationally in several European countries, USA, Canada, China, India, Malaysia, and Australia. I have had the privilege of corresponding with them all.

Ros Wong
Membership Secretary
membership@sacu.org.uk

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that 2019 was a financially successful year for SACU, where we had a total income of £7,561 with net income after expenditure £3,501, which is almost double the net income of previous year. The financial situation of SACU has been considerably improved, thanks to a number of activities and contributions that increased our income whilst reduced the expenditure.

From the income perspective, firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to the generous donation of £2,308 from the Quaker China Group and the accumulated donations of £749 from over a hundred SACU members. This reaffirms SACU's identity as a member-based organisation. Secondly, with the diligent work of our membership secretary Ros Wong, who followed up on delayed historical payments as well as sending membership renewals well in time, our membership income of 2019 has increased by over 30% to £3,772.

The total total expenditure for 2019 is £4,060, which is 6.6% lower comparing to the previous year. The major reduction comes from the collaboration between our China Eye editor Walter Fung and our Webmaster Pete Jarvis on promoting digitalisation of China Eye across our members. Subsequently, the cost of China Eye of 2019 has been successfully reduced by 25% to £2,116. Thanks to Linxi Li for the free room in King's College London, we managed to hold more events with no more cost on room hiring and council expenditure compared with previous years. Last but not least, thanks to our Marketing Officer Cai Chen's artistic design of SACU's posters last year, the events & publicity expense has been reduced significantly by 44%.

Overall, I am very grateful for all the hard work of our Council members to help improving the financial strength of SACU. This teamwork not only demonstrates the wide breadth of our members' talent, but also increases the resilience of SACU in adapting to the new development and technology during this special period.

I will propose the adoption of the Annual Accounts 2019 to the AGM.

Yuan Gao
Treasurer
treasurer@sacu.org.uk

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

Our website continues to support our members, largely due to the great efforts of Ros who has been posting articles, upcoming events and write-ups of previous ones. We continue to build up the Books section, showcasing our own authors. In 2019 we started to post digital copies of China Eye on our website, enabling members to download high quality versions of our famous quarterly magazine.

Our Social Media platforms (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and WeChat) are important parts of our overall digital presence and we aim to improve our usage of them for our members' benefit. Make sure you follow them to keep up-to-date with everything that is going on.

SACU Council has increasingly been making use of Microsoft Teams, which we get for free as a registered charity, to conduct its events and store its valuable documentation. It has been a learning journey for some, but we are rapidly embracing 21st century technology!

If any members would like to get involved in the management of our digital spaces we are always looking for keen volunteers, especially if you have previous experience – please contact webmaster@sacu.org.uk. We also welcome feedback and suggestions on what you would like to see on the site and on our social media channels, using the same email address.

Pete Jarvis
Webmaster
webmaster@sacu.org.uk

CHINA EYE

China Eye has not been affected by Covid-19. The printer has remained open during publishing times. More important, Prontaprint agreed to print China Eye, all in colour, at the same price as before, from a pdf. This has made an enormous improvement to the appearance of the magazine. My computer literacy does not extend to preparing a continuous pdf of all the individual articles, but Linxi Li has come forward to do this task for me – and she is located in Beijing! Thank you Linxi. I have to thank all those who have provided me with encouragement by making favourable comments on the content, layout and general appearance of China Eye.

I have said before that having grown up in the UK and exposed to the anti-China attitude of some people and the biased, misleading and sometimes inaccurate reporting of some sections of the media and press, I get a sense of satisfaction from 'pushing back', by providing positive information about China. I always try to give a reference to information and views. Anti-China sentiments this year have reached a new high with various issues including Covid-19, which has become highly politicised. However, my view is to let truth speak for itself and hopefully positive news and information will eventually and gradually erode and moderate some of the misunderstanding between the peoples of the UK and China. The SACU mission statement is on page four of every China Eye and I try to work towards contributing to it.

I want to thank all the contributors, without whom China Eye would not be possible:

Andrew Hicks, Ros Wong, Zoë Reed, Jenny Clegg, Tamara Treichel, Dirk Nimmegeers, Steve Bale, Tom Harper, Kevin Harrison, Barnaby Powell, Jacqueline Buksh, Teresa Ray, John Ham, Bryan Sitch, Wenlie Liang, Jennifer Lee Tsai, John Gittings, Frances Wood and Helen Walliman.

Especial thanks are due to the regular contributors: David Rosier, Rob Stallard, Michael Sheringham and Flo and Ivor Kenna. In addition, Keith Bennett sent in news items from time to time.

Thanks, are also due to Cilla Hollman, for proofreading of Sino File, and Linxi Li and Peter Jarvis for help in preparing the China Eye pdf and putting it onto the SACU website.

Walter Fung
China Eye Editor
chinaeyeditor@sacu.org.uk

SACU Archives - Capturing and capitalising on our history

Our Archive Project, launched in early 2019, aims at retrieving SACU's historical archives and researching Sino-British relations. The archives consist of more than 9,000 photographs, up to 10,000 pages of publications, decades of administrative documents and personal records, as well as various visual materials. They have been stored at Oundle School since 2017 and were brought back to London to a temporary safe place in August 2020. We are grateful to Oundle School for hosting our Archives during that period.

Our initial plan for retrieving these archives includes four stages: preserving, cataloguing, digitising and finally building a database. In the past years, we have gone through all the archives, planning to purchase some folders and plastic wallets to preserve the photographs. We are currently negotiating with a Chinese intellectual company for digitisation and database development, which is expected to be completed in the coming three years.

In a long run, the archive will be fully used for academic research and public education. The database will be open to scholars, students, journalists, and policymakers; while the physical materials will be presented via exhibitions, publications and online galleries.

So far, we have got academic links with professionals in King's College London, Bristol University and SOAS Library. The following organisations have also shown interests to this project: Sino-British Fellowship Trust, the 48 Group Club, Xinhua News Agency (London), China Daily (London) and Cypress Books.

Since we are still improving the archives, we encourage all members to help us with more materials which are scattered across the country. If any members would like to share/contribute/donate your materials or memories to this project, please contact archive@sacu.org.uk. We also welcome feedback and suggestions on how to make these archives more useful, please use the same email address.

Linxi Li
SACU Archivist
archive@sacu.org.uk

Council of Management and Executive Committee

Michael Wood President

Jane Hadley Vice President

Frances Wood Vice President

Jenny Clegg Vice President

Rob Stallard Vice President

Executive Committee

Zoe Reed* SACU Chair

Corinne Attwood Honorary Secretary

Yuan Gao Treasurer

Ros Wong* Membership Secretary

Linxi Li SACU Archivist

Wang Fang* Members Newsletter

*Also Working Group Coordinators

Other Officers

Walter Fung China Eye

Cai Chen Marketing

Pete Jarvis Webmaster

Other Council Members

Andrew Hicks

Barnaby Powell – Speakers Bureau

Linda Rosen

Ivor Kenna

Flo Kenna

Tom Harper

Meetings of the Council and Executive Committee

The Council held four meetings in 2019 - three in London and one in Manchester. The Executive Committee initially comprised Zoë Reed Chair, Yuan Gao Treasurer, Corinne Attwood Hon. Secretary and Ros Wong Membership Secretary/events coordinator. The purpose of the Executive Committee is to progress work between Council meetings. It sometimes meets in face to face meetings and sometimes meets 'virtually' through SACU's virtual office in Microsoft Office TEAMS. In 2019 the Executive Committee met three times, once in London and twice digitally. We have a number of working groups and sub-committees – the Programme Group, which met immediately after Council meetings, and the Digital Communications Group. The Archives Project and the George Hogg Cooperative Education Fund both include Council members in addition to the Executive Committee, who are taking the work forward.

To align with the new Council Working Groups Structure, the SACU Executive Committee has been adjusted to ensure the Coordinators of each Working Group and our main activities are included so the membership now comprises Zoë Reed* Chair, Yuan Gao Treasurer, Corinne Attwood Hon. Secretary, Ros Wong* Membership Secretary, Linxi Li Archivist, Wang Fang* Essay Competition [*these people also coordinate the Working Groups].

Corinne Attwood
Secretary
secretary@sacu.org.uk

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

Michael Wood – SACU's President

The first thing to report is that towards the end of 2019 Frances Wood and I approached Michael Wood to become SACU's President. We were so delighted when he accepted. We decided to time our press release to coincide with 2020 Chinese New Year. We continue to get very positive messages from people in UK and China about Michael and how this has enhanced SACU's offer and reputation. After so many years without a President it is wonderful to have someone of Michael's stature and relevance to the times we find ourselves in. He is renowned and respected in both China and in UK and we are confident that with Michael as our President, SACU will continue to grow in influence, recognition and respect.

Chris Henson – our sadness

It is my sad duty to record in this Annual Report that Chris Henson passed away on 20th November 2019. He was an absolute mainstay of SACU Council, holding the post of Membership Secretary for many years and very much making it his own. He continued to contribute to SACU despite increasing ill health by producing the Members Newsletter. Our Winter 2019 China Eye no.64 carried a full tribute to Chris and his contribution to SACU. As a lasting memory of Chris and his work for SACU, the Council has decided to develop a Chris Henson Homestay Project. Chris didn't just talk about friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and UK – he and his family actually made it happen by inviting Chinese people for a short Homestay, and those who participated said it really did help them with their understanding.

Established 3 Working Groups

The Spring 2020 China Eye no.65 carried a description of our new Working Group structure and a plea to members to please join one and offer to help. This means we have organised our reporting differently from last year as we want to reflect the new structure. The aim of each working group is described below and taken together they encompass the work we are undertaking to deliver our Mission.

- (a) **UK Public Education** – engaging in current issues/countering negative stereotypes providing a platform for eminent speakers who can help the public gather perspectives and information to foster friendship and understanding and which they would not necessarily come across in the mainstream media.
- (b) **Membership Support and Development** – harnessing the capacity, skills and knowledge of our members to enable all of us to be equipped to promote SACU's mission and engage in current issues in a way that continues to build friendship and understanding.
- (c) **Working with Chinese heritage people in UK; Working in China with Chinese Organisations** – SACU's USP, to build friendship and understanding through practical joint projects and activities.

We had also restructured our Council meetings so that the business was transacted in the morning with the afternoon devoted to the 3 working groups meeting in parallel and then coming together for the final half hour to share progress. The intention was that Members would be invited to join us for the afternoon workshops. Unfortunately, the pandemic has put pay to that idea for the time being, however we are hopeful that members will join a working group and offer their time and help via virtual platforms.

Modernising operations and increasing value for money

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on SACU has been to force the pace of our modernisation. As face to face meetings for Council has become impossible, we have all had to get to grips with the technology and use more fully what we have had available for

some time! We now hold all our meetings via our Microsoft Teams system and have noticed several benefits including increasing attendance and no travel expenditure. The downside is that a few of our Council members do not have access to email or the internet and therefore cannot fully participate. Similarly with our internal SACU Members meetings – called SACU ChinaChats now whereas when they were physical meetings they were called SACU ChinaCafes – and our public meetings; they have all moved to Zoom and we have noticed larger and more diverse attendees [from the whole of UK and other Countries including China] and greater participation in the events. This is probably because everyone in the world has been forced to make the same modernisation journey as a result of Covid 19 and therefore have the capability to attend a Zoom SACU meeting, whereas in the past they might not think the time or money to travel to a physical location was worthwhile.

The impact of Covid 19 also means that to continue our work and deliver our mission we need to become more skilled and effective in the use of social media and our YouTube and Website. Our balance of spend needs to mirror our balance of activity which has shifted from paper and face to face towards the virtual online world. And whilst physical human interaction is crucial for all of us as individuals, the work of SACU has not been hampered by this shift and indeed it is possible that it will have been helpful in forcing us to modernise; reduce our impact on resources and increase opportunities for participation. In 2020 we are planning to invest in some consultancy to help us make the best use of our social media and increase the effectiveness of our communications.

Partnership working

We are grateful for the continuing support from the Lau China Institute, Kings College London and its Director Professor Kerry Brown. In 2019 they provided SACU with venues for our SACU ChinaCafés and internal Council and Executive Committee meetings as well as public meetings. We are also grateful to EY [Ernst and Young] for the events they have hosted for us and sorry that they now unfortunately find financial constraints mean this is unlikely to continue. Cypress Books offer a discount for our members purchasing books from their website and their Bookshop, Guanghwa, and hosted events in the bookshop.

Whilst partnerships that offer to host our events and thus minimise venue expenditure have been vital in the past, for the foreseeable future we need to look to partnerships that can help us via non-physical platforms and approaches. One such is the British Council Generation UK: China Network. SACU is an official partner and the new manager of the Network recently renewed contact. We are discussing a number of joint working opportunities in the future including active participation on their LinkedIn platform which has nearly four thousand members all of who have been to China and wish to retain their interest in it. In similar vein, we have started to build links with the FCO Chevening Programme that brings people from many countries to UK to undertake post graduate qualifications. A diverse group of people are invited to apply from across China each year and the organisers are keen to link them with SACU going forward. Chevening are also having to move much more online and this too provides opportunities for closer working with Chinese alumni.

Friendship with allied organisations

We continue to build friendship with allied organisations and were honoured to be invited to a number of Chinese Embassy 70th Anniversary of the PRC celebrations. These included attending a concert at the Barbican and taking part in the event in Manchester hosted by the Consulate General. We were saddened to hear that the Quaker China Group felt it could no longer continue and we were also grateful to be the beneficiaries of their closing balances when they shut the group down. Chris Henson was the SACU Council member on the Global China Dialogue organising committee and a number of us attended the 6th Global China Dialogue *Governance for World Peace* as well as the House of Lords reception afterwards.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries [CPAFFC] have had a long friendship with SACU and for example sent a large delegation to our 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2015 and presented us with commemorative glass plaque. We wrote to them in February 2020 expressing our concerns for the Chinese people affected by Covid19 and they wrote to us in April offering their concerns about the virus in UK. There was also a letter informing us that Mr Lin Songtian has succeeded Mme. Li Xiaolin as President of CPAFFC and stating

The key to sound relations between states lies in the affinity between their peoples. We'd like to thank your organization for the long-time understanding between us, as well as support to and cooperation with the association. It is cordially expected that we will continue to enhance friendship, promote exchanges, and deepen cooperation in the aim of making greater contributions together to the all-around development of the friendly co-operational relations between the two countries and peoples.

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries avails itself of this opportunity to renew to your organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

A very recent organisation SACU has become associated with is the COVID-19 Anti-Racism Group [CARG]. This is a large and growing collection of influential people and organisations who have come together to tackle the rapid rise of racism and attacks on people of Chinese heritage and their businesses in UK.

Summary

As you can see from the SACU Council colleagues contributions to this Annual Report, there has been a huge amount of hard work and dedication from everyone – doubly impressive given that everyone is a volunteer and all build their contribution to SACU into busy lives. We really would encourage other members to please come forward and offer to join the Council or one of the Working Groups to contribute your skills, contacts, knowledge or expertise to help take SACU's mission forward.

As is obvious to all of those with a commitment to building friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and UK, we are in extremely difficult times at the moment and need all our members to step forward and promote our mission. To support members in this task we are seeking to provide information and space to enable us all to develop our knowledge and perspectives and to marshal our arguments given the hostile context within which we are operating. Thank you to all our members and particularly those on the Council who work tirelessly for the membership. As the Chinese Ambassador said at our 50th anniversary, SACU has worked consistently building bridges and strengthen bonds and this work is increasingly more important in this current period.

Zoë Reed
Chair
chair@sacu.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at 11.30am on Saturday 10th October 2020.

The meeting will be conducted over Zoom

All members are warmly invited to attend; and the Zoom link has been included in the Members eNewsletter sent out with this Annual Report.

The **purpose** of the AGM is to transact the following business:

- To receive and adopt the Annual Report of the Council of Management including the Review of the Year and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019.
- To elect the members of the Council of Management.
- To transact any other ordinary business of an AGM.

AGM Agenda

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Messages and apologies for absence
3. Formal business:
 - i. Minutes of the 2019 AGM – see separate attachment
 - ii. Election to Council vacancies:
 - At each AGM one-half of the elected members of the Council retire from office and are then eligible for re-election. Retiring Council members who wish to stand for re-election will be asked to make a short presentation to the meeting and ask for re-election. The Council members who are seeking re-election are
 - Ros Wong – Membership Secretary
 - Ivor Kenna
 - Florence Kenna
 - Zoë Reed - Chair
 - Corinne Attwood, Secretary, has decided not to stand for re-election. Corinne has been the Secretary for many years and worked diligently in her role. We wish to record here our thanks for all that she has contributed to SACU and how she has supported the work of the Council. Her decision has prompted us to think about the importance of succession planning for all the officer roles and this is something the Council needs to attend to going forward.
 - All Members have been invited to consider standing for election to Council; Nominations received by Corinne Attwood via secretary@sacu.org.uk will be brought to the meeting and individuals invited to make a short presentation and ask to be elected to Council
 - Should the total number of Council members [including the half who are not up for retirement, excluding the Vice-Presidents and Treasurer] exceed 21 then tellers will be appointed, and votes will be cast to decide who will join Council.

4. The Council has prepared this Annual Report of the Council of Management 2019 – and each officer will present their section.
 - Report from the 3 Working Groups
 - UK Public Education: Zoë Reed
 - Membership Development: Ros Wong
 - China Connections and Chinese Heritage: Wang Fang
 - Membership – Ros Wong Membership Secretary
 - Members eNewsletter – Wang Fang
 - Website – Pete Jarvis Webmaster
 - China Eye – Walter Fung China Eye Editor
 - Archives – Linxi Li SACU Archivist
 - Council administration – Corinne Attwood Secretary
 - Review of the year – Zoë Reed Chair

5. Formal adoption of the Annual Accounts 2019
 - Yuan Gao, Treasurer to present the Accounts and members to raise any questions

6. Discussion on the Annual Report
 - Discussion to inform SACU looking forward for the next 5 years, to its 60th Anniversary

7. Any other business

8. Close [1.00pm latest]

Please enjoy your lunch break and join one of the Working Groups at 2.30 to hear more about the work and how you might contribute and get involved

- **UK Public Education**
- **Member Development**
- **China Connections and Chinese Heritage**

BALANCE SHEET as on 31st December 2019**0876179****2018****2019****FIXED ASSETS**

Office Equipment at cost

Less Depreciation

0

Net Written Down Value

0**CURRENT ASSETS**

12527

Balance at Bank

18218

0

Debtors

01253718218**Less CURRENT LIABILITIES**

0

Creditors

0

310

Deferred Income to 2020

104

0012227**SURPLUS OF CURRENT ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES**18114**REPRESENTED BY:**

10677

ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD

14613

1550

SURPLUS/LOSS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

3501

12227**ACCUMULATED FUND AT THE END OF YEAR**18114

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR(S)

For the year ending 31st December 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved and signed on behalf of the board of directors by

.....(.....)

Director, on2020.

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING LTD.**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEARE ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2019**

2018		2019
INCOME		
2882	Membership subscriptions applicable to 2019	3772
178	Donations/Fundraising	749
805	George Hogg Education Fund	700
0	Quaker China Group	2308
32	Interest Received	32
0	Events	0
2000	Essay Competition Fund	0
0	Misc	0
5897		7561
EXPENDIT- URE		
593	AGM& Council expenditure	631
2813	China Eye Printing & Postage	2116
0	Website	520
0	Administration	0
940	Events & Publicity	526
0	Essay Competition	267
4346		4060
£1550	NET SURPLUS/LOSS FOR THE YEAR	£3501