



# Society for Anglo- Chinese Understanding

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at 12.00noon on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, on the rising of the preceding public event which starts at 10.30am

The meeting will be a blended occasion with people able to participate physically in the venue in London and over Zoom. The link is provided in the special Members Newsletter which is being distributed on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 together with all the necessary papers.

### **All members are warmly invited to attend**

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 2020.
- To elect the members of the Council of Management.
- To transact any other ordinary business of an AGM.
- To consider a notice of Special Resolutions to convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation [CIO]

### **AGM Agenda**

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Messages and apologies for absence
3. Formal business:
  - i. **Minutes of the 2020 AGM** – see separate attachment

ii. **Election to Council vacancies:** it should be noted that Council members in post at the time CIO status is granted [see later in the agenda] will comprise the first charitable trustees of the CIO

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

- Fang Wang
- Linxi Li
- Walter Fung
- Peter Jarvis
- Andrew Hicks
- Barnaby Powell

Linda Rosen has decided not to stand for re-election. She has been a Council member for more than 30 years and during that time has undertaken various roles including newsletter editor [in the olden days of “cut and paste” she explains!]; Secretary and Vice-Chair. She says she is delighted with the new Council members that have been co-opted and their energy, enthusiasm and skills which are crucial to take SACU forward. She therefore feels the time is right to step down. We would like to record our thanks for the many long years of service which Linda has given to SACU and are pleased that she will be remaining an active member who can remember SACU’s history as it moves forward with new approaches and in new ways.

The following Council members were co-opted in July 2021 and are seeking election

- Imtiyaz Basharat
- Peter Farrar
- Jacob Holliday

All Members have been invited to consider standing for election to Council. Nominations received by Jacob Holliday on Jacob@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 President and Vice-Presidents] exceed 12 then tellers will be appointed, and votes will be cast to decide who will join Council.

4. **Annual Report of the Council of Management 2020** – each officer will present their section.
  - **Report from the 3 Working Groups**
  - **UK Public Education:** Zoë Reed 2020/Imtiyaz Basharat July 2021- Convenor

- **Membership Development:** Ros Wong 2020/Peter Farrar July 2021 - Convenor
- **China Connections and Chinese Heritage:** Wang Fang Convenor
- **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** – Zoë Reed
- **Review of the year** – Zoë Reed Chair

**1. Formal adoption of the Annual Accounts 2020**

- Zoë Reed and Imtiyaz Basharat to present the Accounts for adoption.

**2. Notice of Special Resolutions**

The following resolutions are proposed to this AGM and must be passed by a majority of at least 75% of those members casting their votes

- That the Society of Anglo-Chinese Understanding convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation [CIO].
- That the new CIO constitution circulated to members with this notice and available to them at this meeting be adopted as the new constitution of the Society of Anglo-Chinese Understanding taking effect from the time of registration as a CIO by the Charities Commission.

3. Any other business

4. Close [1.30pm latest]

## **The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding**

### **2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTS**

Registered Office: 15a Napoleon Road, St Margarets, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3EW  
Registered Charity No. 294651 Registered Company 876179

#### **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.

**This is our annual report covering 2020.** And as all will know, this was an extraordinary year with the impact of covid 19 being felt across the world. Because our last AGM was put back to October 2020, and because of the impact of the pandemic on SACU and its operations, we included some material in the 2019 annual report about 2020. We have therefore built on that material in this report to complete the picture for that year.

#### **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 2020 issues if you would be interested in reading more about each event.

SACU, in common with the rest of the world, has had to adapt to the virtual rather than physical space for events as a result of the impact of covid 19. 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 1<sup>st</sup> September we held a very successful public Webinar: *UK-China Relations: Finding the way forward for cooperation in difficult times*. Jenny Clegg conceived the idea and was

the excellent chair for the event. Professor Michael Wood, Graham Perry and Professor 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 was positive and we are now incorporating this format as a permanent part of SACU's Programme.

As part of the Public Education initiative, Wang Fang, Li Linxi and Barnaby Powell have developed a template and slide set for a talk by members of SACU's Speakers Bureau. There are a number of speakers willing to give introductory talks about China and SACU and the aim is to initially target schools. This is in support 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 2020**  
**UK Public Education Working Group**  
[chair@sacu.org.uk](mailto:chair@sacu.org.uk)

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

We took SACU ChinaCafés online in Spring 2020 because of the pandemic, and they became 'SACU ChinaChat' Zoom meetings, with the same format of member-only spaces for informal discussion on topical issues.

**SACU ChinaChat, 25 June: 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.

**SACU ChinaChat, 23 August: 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/HSBC Joint Event by Zoom, 19 November, The Story of China: Michael Wood**. This was a special talk, by **SACU President Michael Wood OBE**, to the joint HSBC China Connect Group and SACU members, on the subject of his newly published book, *The Story of China: A Portrait of a Civilisation and its People*. Michael's talk was lively and engaging, focusing on some key episodes and outstanding characters whilst also summarising the long history and culture of China.

**SACU ChinaChat 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020: Early Years of SACU**. SACU Archivist Linxi Li is gathering SACU's history through the medium of interviews over Zoom. SACU began to deliver this new online SACU ChinaChat series – "Your Stories with China" from November 2020. Each time a member is invited to share his/her special moments with China. The first talk was "The Early Years of SACU" with Graham Perry an early member and former Vice-Chair, in conversation with SACU Archivist Linxi Li.

SACU ChinaChats are a way we can address members' concerns about current issues or learn more about the history of the society through the 'Your stories with China' series.

The Zoom SACU ChinaChats held this year were well-supported. Members who had not been able to attend physical meetings previously, due to distance or being unable to leave home, were able to join us online. In addition, the cost of hiring venues, which contributes to limiting activities, did not arise. Further information on forthcoming events is available on our website, in our eNewsletters and via social media. We do need members to come forward with suggestions for future SACU ChinaChats and to assist in their organisation.

## **eNewsletter**

As the coronavirus spread in early 2020, we had to think of new ways of working and our activities went online. Council discussed content and distribution and it was agreed that the newsletter should become a member-only benefit. Our first priority was 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 were to draw members' attention to articles which they might not have come across in the mainstream media, with a focus on the current global pandemic situation and heightened international tensions with China. By July, I had reviewed all the email addresses held in Mailchimp, and since then the newsletter 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.

**Michael Sheringham** began editing the newsletter in late 2019 and in September 2020 **Wang Fang**, SACU Council member, began working on the newsletter with Michael and we welcomed her involvement and expertise.

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

The members-only eNewsletter is now an important way to stay in touch with our members when we do not have face-to-face 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](mailto: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 has 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 started to prepare for the next essay competition 2021 and looked 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 after the response to Covid 19 has subsided.

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.

## **3. 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. We are 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](mailto:EssayCompetition@sacu.org.uk)**

## Membership Secretary's Report

We started 2020 with 267 members (including 20 complimentary memberships). We welcomed some 35 new members during the year but lost a similar number by lapsed memberships, some resignations and, sadly, the deaths of two members, Valerie Diamond and Jude Woodward. By the end of the year, membership stood at 294, the apparently higher number accounted for by including 26 school student entrants in the SACU/Peking University Essay Competition 2020. We offered all 2020 entrants one-year complimentary memberships (from June 2020) to encourage them to continue their China-related interests.

**Who are our members?** From the information we hold and personal knowledge of our members, academics remain a significant component of our membership, including senior academics as evidenced by numerous titles of 'Professor', 'Emeritus Professor' or 'Dr'. Members have often had experience of living and working in China or have specialist interests in China-related fields. The contribution to *China Eye* by new members who are also authors has been noticeable.

**Membership categories:** Just under half the membership had standard 'Individual' membership, with a further third in the 'Retired/Unwaged' category. We had 8 paying students (and 26 complimentary school students as mentioned above). Overseas members made up 7% and there were several Institutional or Library members. This review suggests an ageing membership and the society will need to attract a new generation of younger members to survive and carry on the mission.

**Geographical distribution:** Walter Fung, *China Eye* Editor, analysed member addresses in early 2020 and confirmed our perception that the largest concentration of members was indeed in London (inner and outer areas) and the South East within easy travelling distance of London. The Midlands and the North West were the next biggest concentrations but they cover a very large area where public transport is not nearly as good as in London. There were about 10 members in Scotland and slightly fewer in Wales. International members (based on their address given on joining) included 6 members in China including Hong Kong, low numbers in USA, Canada and Australia and one member in each of India, Malaysia and several European countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy and The Netherlands.

**"How did you hear about us?"** We ask this question in our online joining form and from replies received in 2020, 'Internet search' was the most common answer (12), more than 'Word of mouth' (7), 'Other' (10) or Facebook (1). This indicates the value of our Internet presence as well as traditional, personal word of mouth contacts.

**Mailchimp:** The Membership Secretary had also maintained a separate mailing list in Mailchimp of our monthly eNewsletter recipients, but this list had become out of step with SACU membership records. Council discussed and agreed the newsletter should be for members only, so I checked and cleaned the data to limit recipients to members only. As our activities and events have gone online since the pandemic began during 2020, the newsletter has been a useful way to keep in touch with members.

**Ros Wong**  
**Membership Secretary**  
**[membership@sacu.org.uk](mailto:membership@sacu.org.uk)**



## **Treasurer's Report**

Our Treasurer Yuan Gao stepped down from Council in the Autumn 2020. We thank her for her work and contribution. In the interim, pending the appointment of a new Treasurer, Ros Wong and Zoë Reed have taken on management of SACU Accounts. We are very grateful to Rob Griffiths, SACU member, for the work he undertook to produce the Annual Accounts 2020 included at the end of this Annual Report. He painstakingly analysed all the expenditure records as well as the Bank and PayPal Statements and reconciled the information.

As the Accounts indicate, SACU currently has healthy balances built up over the years as a result of generous donations. The impact of covid 19 on the budget has been that expenditure has been minimal, primarily because we have had no physical events to incur venue hire or Council members' travel expenses. The tireless efforts of Ros Wong as Membership Secretary has contributed significantly to the income side as she has ensured that members have been alerted when their subscriptions have become overdue, in some instances by several years, and members have been keen to make up the missing years. The increase in subscription rates is also starting to come through although encouraging members to alter their PayPal and Direct Debits has taken time.

**Zoë Reed and Ros Wong  
Managing the SACU Accounts**

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 because the printer remained open. I thank all those who have provided me with encouragement by making favourable comments on the content, layout and general appearance of the all-colour 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. Hopefully positive news and information will eventually and gradually erode and moderate some of this. Racist incidents against Chinese people, and people who look Chinese, have multiplied by a factor of three since the start of the pandemic; hopefully SACU and China Eye can help combat this.

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, especially new authors, Mark Nam, Ed Conduit, Andrew Beck, David Law and Keith Lamb. There have been articles from regular contributors; Ros Wong, Rob Stallard, Barnaby Powell, Brain Morgan, Fang Wang, Michael Sheringham, Rodney Mantle, David Rosier, Jacqueline Buksh, and the ever-dependable Flo and Ivor Kenna.

I have had some problems with my subscription to Beijing Review, but I have been able to use other Chinese periodicals and in addition, Keith Bennett has sent in valuable news items.

Grateful 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**

## **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 company for digitisation and database development, which is expected to be completed in the coming two years.

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

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](mailto:archive@sacu.org.uk). We also welcome feedback and suggestions on how to make these archives more useful, please use the same email address.

**Wang Fang and  
Linxi Li SACU Archivist  
[archive@sacu.org.uk](mailto:archive@sacu.org.uk)**

## **Council of Management and Executive Committee as at October 2021**

### **President and Vice Presidents [able to attend Council meetings]**

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

Peter Farrar+ Vice-Chair (Programmes) – new role [July 2021 Peter Farrar co-opted]

Jacob Holliday+ Secretary [Corinne Attwood stood down October 2020: July 2021 Jacob Holliday co-opted]

Imtiyaz Basharat+ Treasurer [Yuan Gao stood down October 2020: July 2021 Imtiyaz Basharat co-opted]

Ros Wong\* Membership Secretary

Fang Wang\* Members Newsletter

\*Zoe Reed, \*Ros Wong, \*Wang Fang: also Working Group Coordinators in 2020.

+Peter Farrar: took on Membership Development Coordinator from July 2021

+Imtiyaz Basharat: took on Public Education Coordinator from July 2021.

+Jacob Holliday: new role – Young SACU development from July 2021

### **Other Council Members**

Walter Fung China Eye

Pete Jarvis Webmaster

Linxi Li SACU Archivist [returned to China August 2020 and stood down from Executive Committee at that point due to time difference]

Andrew Hicks CIO advisor and constitution

Barnaby Powell Speakers Bureau

Linda Rosen

Flo Kenna

### **Former Council members**

Ivor Kenna [passed away June 2021]

Tom Harper [stepped down May 2021]

Cai Chen [stepped down October 2020]

## **Meetings of the Council and Executive Committee**

Following the departure of our Secretary Corinne Attwood, whose contribution was recognised at the last AGM, Zoë Reed, SACU Chair, took on the additional role of interim Secretary for both the Council and the Executive Committee. This would not have been possible without the unfailing support of Ros Wong, Membership Secretary, who also took on many additional responsibilities. We are both pleased to report that in June 2021 a recruitment exercise was held and Council was delighted at the level of response. As a consequence, we now have a new Secretary, Jacob Holliday and Treasurer, Imtiyaz Basharat. We also recruited to a new role – Vice Chair [Programmes] Peter Farrar. This additional capacity is very much to be welcomed as it will contribute significantly to SACU's surviving and thriving.

**Zoë Reed**  
**Interim Secretary SACU Council and SACU Executive Committee**

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2020 – and into 2021**

### **Sad News – Ivor Kenna**

We are very sad to report the passing of Ivor Kenna in June 2021. He together with Flo his wife were the first members of SACU joining in May 1965. Ivor was a Council member for the last 25 years as well as author of the Sinophile carried in China Eye since its inception. Walter has produced a full obituary in China Eye no.71 which I would urge members to review because Ivor was a friendly and interesting person of high intellect, and we will miss his sharp wit and contributions at Council meetings as well as his commitment to SACU and its mission through all those years.

### **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. 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/counteracting 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 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. The pandemic initially put pay to that idea, however in the afternoon of the AGM 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020 we held our first virtual session when several members joined SACU Council and we discussed progress of each of the working groups. This model has continued subsequently and operating in this virtual

way over Zoom has in fact made it easier for more members to participate in the working groups in the afternoon of our Council meetings. This is very much welcomed.

### **Focus on building a younger membership**

As reported earlier, we are delighted to have been able to recruit 3 younger professionals to take on the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chair (Programmes). They all responded to an advert placed on the British Council Generation UK LinkedIn network. This network is primarily for young people who have been to China as part of the British Council programme, to undertake a short-term work placement for example. Upon returning to UK they join the Network because they are keen to keep their connections with China. This influx of young Council officers has greatly reduced the age profile of Council and hopefully will help it develop a programme of activities which encourages more younger people to both join SACU and to want to support its mission. Peter Farrar will develop SACU's overall Programme and Jacob Holliday has taken on the role of Young SACU development.

### **Ways of Working**

The impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on SACU has forced the pace of our modernisation. As face-to-face meetings for Council have 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 Zoom/Microsoft Teams and have noticed several benefits including increasing attendance and no travel expenditure. The downside is that a few Council members do not have access to email or the internet and therefore cannot participate. Notwithstanding this downside, we think the benefits are such that we plan to continue holding Council meetings virtually for the foreseeable future.

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.

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 plans to engage some consultancy help to develop our Digital Marketing Strategy have not been successful. Nevertheless, we are determined to make better use of social media and feel that with the influx of younger Council members and hopefully SACU members we will be able to increase the effectiveness of our social media presence.

### **Partnership working**

We are grateful for the continuing support from the Lau China Institute, Kings College London and its Director Professor Kerry Brown. The Lau has recently strengthened its team with the benefit of a significant donation and have reached out to SACU wanting to continue to build our partnership.

In the past our partnerships has focused on the other organisation hosting our events and thus minimise venue expenditure. This has been vital in the past, however for the foreseeable future we need to look to partnerships that can also help us via non-physical platforms and approaches. We held a joint event with HSBC ChinaConnects network which is described above. They reached out to us as one of their members is also a SACU member and we had a very successful event to which all our membership were invited to attend, and HSBC hosted on their Zoom platform. We supplied the speaker – our President Michael Wood - whom they were very keen to have present to their network and they were all delighted with his contribution.

Another such partnership 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 opportunities including active participation on their LinkedIn platform which has nearly four thousand members all of whom have been to China and wish to retain their interest in it. As mentioned above, this was the source of our 3 new Council officers, and we are very hopeful of continuing collaboration with this network.

### **Friendship with allied organisations**

We continue to build friendship with allied organisations and were honoured to be invited to a number of events organised by the Chinese Embassy to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the PRC. These included attending a concert at the Barbican and taking part in the event in Manchester hosted by the Consul General. In 2021 we were invited to meetings with the first Minister at the Chinese Embassy as well as to the reception, over Zoom, for the new Ambassador. The Manchester Consul General Mr Zheng Xiyuan is keen to work with SACU on other projects.

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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 thanking SACU for its longstanding cooperation and support. In July 2021 we received a response from Mr Lin Songtian to our letter of congratulations on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. In it he again paid tribute to the contribution of SACU and below is an extract

*SACU has always been an important partner of our Association. Since it was founded by Dr. Joseph Needham and our British friends in 1965, it has made important contributions to promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the Chinese and British peoples. We cherish each other's friendship and mutual trust and are grateful to SACU for recognising China's development and achievements. We were so moved that when the pandemic raged in China, SACU spoke up for China with honesty and sent us a letter of condolences amongst the first to show support to fight against COVID-19. We are willing to deepen cooperation with SACU in the post-pandemic era and carry out more exchanges between Chinese and British youth and think tanks, so as to promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.*

*I myself and the CPAFFC are always ready to work together with your Society to comprehensively deepen the friendly exchanges and win-win cooperation, enhance people-to-people connectivity and ensure our bilateral relations to deliver more benefits to the two peoples.*

The Gansu Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries works with the CPAFFC and has recently renewed contact keen to develop visits and exchanges when this becomes feasible.

We also work with Gungho – the International Committee of Chinese Industrial Cooperatives [ICCIC] with whom we share much common history and interest. Their Chair Michael Crook is also the SACU Beijing Branch contact.

The most significant partner to mention is Professor Sun Hua Peking University with whom we have been in partnership for several years. He has, through the Edgar Snow Centre of which he is the director at Peking University, funded and supported the SACU/Peking University Essay Competition and recently funded the digitisation of the SACU Archives which is something SACU has been wanting to do but could never have afforded. Once this project is complete, we will have secured the future of our Archives and it will be available for others to use. This is a significant step for SACU and we are immensely grateful to Professor Sun Hua.

## 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 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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, SACU has worked consistently building bridges and strengthen bonds and this work is increasingly more important in this current period.

This report ends with an important look to the future. At this AGM we are recommending that SACU convert to a CIO and there is a draft Constitution circulated with the notice of this AGM for your approval. This will be an important step because it means SACU will no longer need to report to both the Charity Commission and Companies House which will greatly reduce the administrative burden. It is also an opportunity to modernise our constitution and adopt one that is based on government recommendations. Our current constitution is the one created when SACU was established in 1965 so members will appreciate the need for modernisation. I do hope you will all agree that this is a worthwhile step for SACU to take and join the Council in passing the necessary resolution set out in the Agenda papers

**Zoë Reed**  
**Chair**  
**[chair@sacu.org.uk](mailto:chair@sacu.org.uk)**





**BALANCE SHEET as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020****0876179**

2019		2020
<hr/> <b>FIXED ASSETS</b> <hr/>		
0	Net written down Value	0
<hr/> <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b> <hr/>		
18218	Balance at Bank	22154 <i>(see note 1)</i>
<hr/> <b>Less CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> <hr/>		
104	Deferred Income to 2021.	0
<hr/>		
18114	SURPLUS OF CURRENT ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES	22154
	REPRESENTED BY:	
14613	ACCUMULATED FUND BROUGHT FORWARD	18218
3501	SURPLUS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR	3936
<b>£18114</b>	<b>ACCUMULATED FUND AT THE END OF YEAR</b>	<b>£22154</b>

*Note 1. Current account £10772, Savings account £7737, PayPal £3287, Cash £358*

**STATEMENT BY DIRECTORS**

For the year ending 31st December 2020 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 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

.....[Chair] Director, on ..... 2021

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING LTD.**

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020.**

<b>2019</b>		<b>2020</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>			
3772	Membership subscriptions applicable to 2020.	4450	
749	Donations/Fundraising.	1130	(see note 1)
700	George Hogg Education Fund.	0	
0	Essay Competition Fund.	2000	
32	Interest Received.	27	
<b>£7561</b>		<b>£7608</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
631	AGM & COUNCIL Expenditure and Administration	9	
2116	China Eye printing & postage	2667	
520	Website/Online Events/Social Media	508	
526	Events and publicity	0	
267	Essay Competition	405	
<b>£4060</b>		<b>£3670</b>	
<b>£3501</b>	<b>NET SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>£3938</b>	

*Note 1. Member donations £312, AmazonSmile from member purchases £20, HMRC gift aid £798*