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## Become a Member

The constitution of the SCCG states that we are a membership organisation, and we're delighted to have members from all the main church denominations and from partner organisations in Scotland. Individuals can also become members. There is no cost, but membership ensures you are kept up-to-date with our work and activities. Contact Patricia Johnston if you'd like to know more (details below).

## Contact Us

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# Making it add up

Although financing the SCCG, as for any other small charity, is an ongoing task, I think it's fair to say that these last few years have been challenging! On the one hand, some projects had to be put on hold because of Covid travel restrictions and so the funding for them has been sitting fallow while we wait for things to open up in China. This situation should improve in the coming year provided the global political situation remains stable.

On the other hand, the running expenses for the SCCG need to be met and, though we continue to have generous support, particularly from the Barbour Trust, we have also to look for grants more widely in order to cover these outgoings.

At the beginning of the year the SCCG secured a grant from the Barbour Trust of £12,000 for running costs. This helps cover the salary for our part-time Advisor, who maintains and develops partnerships and projects, and works very closely with Chinese partners. 'Running costs' also includes website, publicity, events and accountancy fees. These, by definition, are ongoing and have to be covered by core income.

There is a continuing need to find new sources of finance if the SCCG is to continue the important work we do in maintaining links of friendship and service to the people of China.

In response to the need to find new funding sources we have recently set up a sub group of three people to prepare grant applications - but none of us are experts in this field. We would really welcome the input of another volunteer, with experience in fundraising, to join us or to offer advice. Please get in touch with me if you can help.

*Val Nellist, Treasurer*

# Language Matters

Time and time again our Chinese partners have expressed an interest in study, outwith China, to develop a wider knowledge base for their chosen subject. This is whether it is environmental studies, palliative care, dementia studies or special educational needs. But, overseas study places demands both upon the SCCG and upon our partners. For the SCCG it is funding; for our partner, it is identifying a staff member who speaks English or is willing to study to achieve the required language level. The pandemic has also presented a new issue: lack of exposure and practice of English, ideally with native speakers.

Pre-pandemic, our partners in the Amity Foundation and Shengjing Hospital hosted overseas visitors and also could travel outwith China. This provided our partners with the opportunity to maintain English skills. All of that stopped with Covid. There have been Zoom conversations and meetings but not frequently enough to be a substitute. The result is that our Chinese colleagues are struggling with language skills.

Ma Xiaobo of the Amity Children's Development Centre in Nanjing, has now postponed her Masters Studies (which the SCCG is funding) in Inclusion and Special Educational Needs in order to improve her English. Our other candidate, Chu Chaoyu, Amity Foundation General Secretary, also has challenges. The SCCG is grateful to Caroline Fielder and Anthony Rose for engaging in Zoom listening and spoken language practice.

Please remember our candidates as they continue to work towards Masters-level study. They have made a huge personal commitment to these studies which will contribute towards the development of their professional service.

## Zero Covid still in force



Photo: © The Amity Foundation

Chinese authorities are still implementing their strict 'Zero Covid' policy. As we went to press, more Chinese cities, including Nanjing where some of our partners are based, have been affected by new restrictions. Authorities are particularly keen to restrict travel, and possible spread of Covid, during the Chinese traditional mid-Autumn Moon Festival.

Chengdu is the latest city to be locked down, affecting 21 million people. One person per household is allowed out for essential shopping.

As well as the impact these restrictions bring to day-to-day life, experts say the policy is adversely affecting China's economy.

Travel for individuals to China remains all but impossible due to the policy, but we are constantly monitoring the situation and taking advice.

# Scottish Churches China Group

苏格兰教会中国会



# NEWSLETTER

## Marking Eric Liddell

The SCCG Autumn Plenary this year hears from John MacMillan, CEO of the Eric Liddell Community. John is bringing us up-to-date with plans for 2024, marking one hundred years after the legendary sportsman's gold medal win in the 1924 Paris Olympics. John says, "Our vision is to create a global community that celebrates Eric Liddell's inspirational legacy, values and integrity. We want to bring his achievements to life for everyone, and inspire new generations to make a positive impact on their community, their society and their world."

The Eric Liddell 100 will recognise and celebrate the life, sporting and community service achievements of one of Scotland's iconic figures. They are delighted that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal agreed to become the Patron for the

initiative. The initiative aims to secure, cherish and celebrate the legacy of Eric Liddell in particular ways. John MacMillan explains, "We exist to accelerate positive change in our community, bringing people together to make sure no one feels lonely or isolated. We do this through a programme of support for people living with dementia, a wellbeing programme for unpaid carers and operating a vibrant Community Hub in Eric's old neighbourhood."

We will continue to bring you more news of this historic marker, and the development of events and initiatives, as we approach the centenary.



The  
**Eric Liddell**  
Community

Photos: © ELC



# New Opportunities for Chinese Language Learning in Scotland

by Simon Macaulay

As the new school session and academic year get underway there are many new challenges facing all sectors of education. Continuing covid, international tensions, economic uncertainty and the consequences of drought will, in different ways have an impact on school and university life for a very long time to come.

The uncertainties ahead impact on the choices young people make as to the subjects they choose to follow to SQA level, and beyond. All modern languages are under pressure, with evidence of decline in most languages year on year. Mandarin Chinese is by no means exempt from these pressures, and faces its own and new challenges.

Yet the reality is that China continues to develop as a major force in the world. All our futures, economic, cultural, and political, are linked to the continuing growth of China.



This means that the emerging generations here in Scotland must be able to engage with Chinese people, through learning at least something of the language and understanding the culture.

The Scotland China Education Network (SCEN) is a registered charity, established in 2006, which exists to promote learning Chinese and about China in Scottish schools.

Since the start of the covid pandemic most of our work has been online. However, in session 2022 – 23 we are looking forward to face-to-face events, bringing together for the first time for well over two years teachers, students, and others committed to the Chinese learning agenda.

A key event this year will be a SCEN lecture plus social event where the recent representative of Scottish Government at the British Government in Beijing, Martin McDermott, will share his experiences of working with China for five of the most interesting, and challenging, years in recent history. The event takes place at 6pm on Thursday 1 December at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In addition to the talk, there will be an opportunity for people interested in Chinese learning to meet and chat, which is the first time we have done this for three years. Tickets are now available on Eventbrite (see the SCEN website for more details), but anyone associated with SCCG has any questions, please contact us at [admin@scen.info](mailto:admin@scen.info).

We are also running a major Youth event in the autumn, bringing together young people from several schools, both primary and secondary. The event will in part be a showcase event,



SCEN's Spring Conference 2022 Photos: © SCEN

demonstrating what young people are learning of Chinese language and about China. The date and venue are still to be confirmed. We are also organising specific events in schools, starting with one in the autumn term, with another scheduled for the Spring.

We also intend to commission a major research project on the teaching and learning of Chinese in Scotland.

Great challenges, but for SCEN, as for SCCG, great opportunities lie ahead.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us at [admin@scen.info](mailto:admin@scen.info).

*Simon Macaulay is Chair, Scotland China Education Network (SCEN).*

*SCEN was founded in 2006 to bring together individuals, national agencies and associations keen to promote the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture in Scottish schools.*



Chinese sisters Photo by Naomi Shi on Pexels

## The Nanjing Rainbow

by Patricia Johnston

The SCCG is working to establish a new partnership with Nanjing Rainbow, a support service for children with cancer, with the help of our long-term partner, The Amity Foundation. We're delighted that the United Free Church Scotland is fundraising for the project via the SCCG.

We are very fortunate to have a range of palliative and end-of-life services in this country whether they are provided by the NHS, hospices, Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Care or CHAS.

At a time when there is desperate need for medical, psychological, spiritual, practical and emotional need, we have highly skilled, dedicated staff to call upon and support us when we, and our loved ones, are at their most vulnerable. Perhaps we take for granted what isn't available in many other countries – China being one of them.

Palliative and end of life care services have made progress in China over recent years but it is still a fledgling service and there is a long way to go. This is especially true of palliative and end of life care for children.

For any parent to be told their beloved child has a terminal or life-limiting illness is beyond devastating but within a family unit, parents and siblings can offer love, care and support to their child as they face treatment, pain, long periods in hospital wards, confusion and perhaps fear as to what is happening to them and is going to happen to them.

For a child to be able to hold their Mum and Dad's hand, to be cuddled by them, just to have them with them throughout the final months, weeks, hours and minutes of their lives – we can only give thanks for the comfort and reassurance that brings.

But what happens if you don't have a family? What happens if you are an orphan living in what may well be a highly under resourced orphanage? Who's going to provide the love, comfort and reassurance that every terminally ill child deserves if there is no family? Well, in Nanjing staff and volunteers of the Nanjing Rainbow Palliative Care Charity become the child's family ensuring they receive the love and care they deserve following

a terminal diagnosis. Doctors and nurses provide professional treatment, while caregivers surround the child with love, care and opportunities to live what time they have left to its fullest; celebrating birthdays, going on outings, playing, drawing, singing – doing the 'normal' things that enrich a child's life.

At the end of 2021 Nanjing Rainbow had looked after 181 children, 74 of whom had subsequently died.

Besides working with local orphanages, Nanjing Rainbow also works with local hospitals to help families with dying children. In 2020 it helped set up a children's hospice ward in Nanjing Children's Hospital. Doctors, nurses, social workers and psychologists come together, in a multi disciplinary team, to support terminally ill children and their families. At present, there are only three beds – many more are needed.

*This article first appeared in Stedfast, the magazine of the United Free Church of Scotland.*