



The Scotland - Russia Forum Форум Шотландия – Россия

Registered charity no. SC038728
www.scotlandrussiaforum.org

THE SCOTLAND-RUSSIA FORUM APPEAL

The Scotland-Russia Forum is appealing for funds to enable it to carry on its work to promote interest and understanding between Scotland and Russia and her neighbours.

The SRF has had measurable success in attaining these aims, particularly in the year since we opened our cultural centre: in 2008-9 nearly 3000 people visited the Scotland-Russia Institute or participated in events organised by the SRF. This compares to under 500 who attended events when we did not have our own premises.

To manage, secure and continue this growth we are now seeking additional finance:

- to secure the premises after our initial 3 year grant expires in June 2011: **£15,000pa**
- to employ 2 people to manage our future growth: **£60,000pa**

Background: the Scotland-Russia Forum was founded in 2003 by members of the former GB-USSR Assn / Britain-Russia Centre's Scottish branch and after the closure of that organisation. The aim of the SRF is to promote understanding of and interest in Russia and her neighbours. We attained charitable status in 2008 – Scottish Charity no. SC038728.

Membership was 126 at the end of our first year in February 2004. At the end of 2008-9 (August 2009) we had 278 full members. Members' subscriptions support publication of the SRF Review, and contribute to the cost of events and other running costs.

Activities and services now offered include: talks on all aspects of the culture of Russia and her neighbours, often by world famous authorities; a varied and ambitious exhibitions programme; Russian lending library; shop; biannual journal; weekly e-bulletins; language classes; drama performances; business networking events; culture centre open to the public; Scottish students sent to Russia as language students; regular contact with Scottish schools and language organisations. The growth of all these activities, and the number of people involved, has greatly accelerated since the opening of the Scotland-Russia Institute in 2008: see Table 1 overleaf.

Community involvement: We are involved with a wide range of organisations in the fields of Russian culture and community, language education, politics and others. For example: we founded the Russian Saturday school in Edinburgh (it now has 90+ pupils); we are in close touch with the Edinburgh Russian and Ukrainian consulates, and with Russian organisations such as Russkyi Mir; we attend the quarterly COALA meetings (for cultural organisations and local authority education advisers) and have a stall at the Scottish Assn of Language Teachers conference.

Finance. Accounts information is shown in Table 2 overleaf.

Until now all our activities have been organised by volunteers and funded by a combination of membership subscriptions, income from activities and donations in 2008 from Scottish & Newcastle plc (£45,000 to fund premises for 3 years) and Awards for All (£7,750 grant for furniture and equipment).

Our main sources of income are:

- Membership subscriptions: approx £4,000 a year
- Donations, sales, events: approx £8,500 in 2008-9



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TABLE 1: SCOTLAND-RUSSIA FORUM: increase in annual activity since opening the Scotland-Russia Institute (Sept 2008)

YEAR	MEMBERSHIP at year end	EVENTS ATTENDANCE (total)	EVENTS (no.)	SRI VISITORS	NEWSLETTER CIRCULATION (average per issue)	E- BULLETINS	WEBSITE HITS
2003-4	126	410	11	na	100	100	na
2004-5	151	390	12	na	150	200	unknown
2005-6 (18 months)	180	445	14	na	150	350	unknown
2006-7	180	320	9	na	200	400	unknown
2007-8	220	315	9	na	300	450	6,821
2008-9	278	1122	40	1880	350	500	10,411
% increase 07-8 to 08-9	26	256	344	na	17	11	53

Notes:

- all figures are based on a combination of our records and conservative estimates
- 2005-6 figures reflect activity over 18 months because we changed our subscription year end from 31 January to 31 August
- visitors - est at 30pw from SRI opening in September 08, 125pw during August 09, SRI closed for 2 weeks
- SRI = Scotland-Russia Institute (open Sept 2008)

TABLE 2: ACCOUNTS 2007-8 AND 2008-9

		2008-09 (provisional)	2007-08	Notes
		To nearest £	To nearest £	1
INCOME				
	Donations incl. Subscriptions	4054	48195	2
	Grants		7750	2
	Fundraising activities	8483	1483	
	Trading receipts	3968	691	
	Income from investments	1873	359	
	Other charitable activities		43	
	Total	18378	58521	
EXPENDITURE				
	Payments relating directly to charitable activities	28222	12915	
	Governance costs – legal costs	150	956	
	Purchases of fixed assets	6791	642	
	Total	35163	14513	
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		-16785	44008	
CASH FUNDS				
	Cash and bank balances at start of year	48277	4269	
	Surplus on receipts and payments account	-16785	44008	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	31492	48277	

- The figures reflect the breakdown of receipts and payments required by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in the Forum's annual report to OSCR.
- 2007-8 income includes £53,000 donations from the Lottery and S&N plc