



The Scotland-Russia Forum

Annual Report

Sept 2006 – August 2007

Aims

The Forum was founded in February 2003, as a successor to the Scottish branch of the Britain-Russia Centre (previously GB-USSR Association).

We aim to promote a clear understanding in Scotland and in Russia, together with the countries of the Former Soviet Union, of the respective ways of life and the cultural and commercial activities, and voluntary services, of the other countries and to create contacts of all kinds between the peoples of these countries.

Officers 2006 - 2007

Hon. President	Tam Dalyell
Hon.Vice-President	Lt Commander Dairmid Gunn OBE, Royal Navy (Retd).
Hon.Vice-President	The Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill
Director	Jenny Carr
Treasurer	Ian McGowan

Committee 2006 – 2007

Chairman	Tania Konn-Roberts
Newsletter editor	Ann Caldwell (issues 15, 16) Jenny Carr (issue 17)
Committee members	Alan Holmes Neville Long Andrei Rogatchevski Irina Voloshinova

The Scotland-Russia Forum

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES 2006-7

TALKS etc

- Oct 06 Glas "Russian Writing Today: War and Peace". Readings by authors.
(With New Writing North)
- Nov 06 Hugh Barnes "Gannibal"
- Dec 06 Rosamund Bartlett "Chekhov's Russia"
- Jan 07 Meg Luckins "Living in a town called Monday – some impressions of
life in Tajikistan"
- March 07 Craig Murray "Murder in Samarkand"
- April 07 Svetlana Stephenson "Homelessness in Russia Today"
- May 07 Simon Roberts "Motherland: a pictorial journey through Russia"

SOCIALS, ENTERTAINMENTS, OTHER EVENTS

- Sept 06 Days of St Petersburg. Civic reception in Edinburgh City Chambers
- Oct 06 AGM and concert by Elena Domozhirova
- Nov 06 Visit to Kelvingrove Museum, Russian materials
- Nov 06 Evgenii Tsymbal: showing of film "Red Zion" followed by questions to
the director
- Feb 07 Maslenitsa party (with Edinburgh University RussSoc)
- June 07 EGM to discuss application for charity status
- Summer 07 Poster competition for Russian Language Year, theme "Why Learn
Russian?"

BUSINESS EVENTS

None this year – though business contacts continue to receive occasional mail-
ings of business interest

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter Quarterly until Dec 2006. The newsletter was redesigned and re-
named the **SRF Review** in 2007. It is now a biannual publication,
issued in June and December, and contains mainly feature articles
and reviews. It is sent free to all members. £1.50 where sold.

Website www.scotlandrussiaforum.org. The website was substantially re-
designed in 2007 by Big Lizard (<http://www.biglizard.co.uk>)

Emails approx. weekly bulletins containing events and notices of Scottish/
FSU interest are sent to around 300 members and non-members
(though perhaps double that number receive the information in
whole or part indirectly)

AFFILIATED ACTIVITIES

School for Russian speaking children in Edinburgh run by Russian Edinburgh.
Film, conversation and discussion groups in Edinburgh and Perth.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT at the AGM
September 2006-August 2007

We are delighted to be starting the SRF's fifth year and thank members for their interest and enthusiasm as our range of activities continues to grow.

Membership numbers are stable – 180 at the end of this year as at the end of the last “year” (actually an 18 month period). We gained 37 new members in 2006-7.

Staying with members – I am sorry to say that our President Tam Dalyell has tendered his resignation though we are honoured and delighted that he has decided to stay in touch as an ordinary member. As our first and founder President he was always ready to support us and interested in our activities – members may remember his enthusiastic participation at the meeting addressed by Prof. Dukes, as secretary I remember his willingness to discuss and advise on a number of issues.

We would like to thank Tam and our two Hon. Vice-Presidents for their support and interest throughout the year. Baroness Smith continues to be involved in a number of Russo-Scottish fields (she is for example President of the Edinburgh based Friends of Ukraine). Dairmid Gunn is extremely active in the SRF – he often attends meetings and is a wonderful source of advice and ideas to me in particular. A very good sounding board, supportive and occasionally (no doubt necessarily) restraining without of course interfering in committee decisions.

Our activities are outlined on the previous page. Our constitutional aim is to promote understanding of Russia and the other countries of the Former Soviet Union and I hope you agree that all our activities reflect that. Talks covered mainly literary topics in the autumn and then ranged over political and social issues affecting different parts of the FSU area. “Other events” included a wider variety of events etc than previously, though sadly there was no time to include a business conference as in previous years. Under “Communications” there have been changes. Ann Caldwell continued to edit the newsletter in its original form and as sole editor until December – many thanks to her. The committee decided the newsletter should be redesigned so I put out a new version in June, this time with a team of helpers, and am delighted to have found a keen new editor to continue and improve upon my effort. Chris Delaney is now our newsletter editor and his team includes Emily Justice (reviews), Oxana Morgunova (Russian material) and me (advertising).

The website has been professionally redesigned and in the process we have acquired a new logo. The site itself remains simple but now has pages of events and notices which are easy to update as well as other ad hoc material. I

hope you will all make it your “home page” and check it for new material which I am now adding on an almost daily basis. “Affiliated activities” include the Edinburgh Russian Saturday school (“Russian Edinburgh”) which we are very proud to have set up – but can take no credit for its success since. They now have a roll of 40 children, a large, dedicated and professional team of teachers, and are starting to teach a few children from non-Russian speaking families. Other “affiliated activities” include conversation and discussion groups. One of our committee members, Irina Voloshinova, has been very active in setting up and supporting a range of conversation and discussion groups in Edinburgh and is currently convenor of the Edinburgh Russian Meetup group. Other members have set up an active group in Perth.

Plans for this year so far include talks on Ukraine, icons and a Christmas party. And not least under the heading of “Plans” is the cultural centre which we will be debating later on this evening. I can report that, as instructed by the EGM in June, we have now applied to the OSCR for charitable status. Our application was submitted in August and we await their decision. [*Received shortly after the AGM – application successful*]

Finally thanks to those on the committee I haven’t yet mentioned. Tania Konn-Roberts resigned in June after 4 years service, latterly as chair, and special thanks to her. Neville Long has shared responsibility for the talks programme with me since coming on to the committee in 2005. Andrei Rogatchevski has the uphill task of growing our membership in Glasgow and ran a very successful meeting there last year. Alan Holmes has guided us through the initial stages of our planning to set up a cultural centre, not least by securing funding from S&N, and continues to take a particular interest in that. Margot Alexander joined us in June and was elected Secretary. Ian McGowan was coopted to the committee in June and elected Treasurer, a post he had been filling as an officer under the old constitution since we started in 2003. He does much more than treasury things and in particular has kept abreast this year of all the paperwork and constitutional changes necessary in our application for charity status. He and I are standing for election to the committee today, following abolition of our “officer status” when the constitution changed. Many thanks to all of them and to you. The SRF’s strength is in its members and we value the commitment and participation of you all.

Jenny Carr
Chairperson
September 2007

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
1 SEPTEMBER 2006-31 AUGUST 2007**

	2006-07	2005-06	Notes
	£	£	£
INCOME			1
Subscriptions	2750.00	2670.00	2
Donations	200.00	506.50	
Events	794.00	4702.75	
Sundries	159.58	275.65	
Total	3903.58	8154.90	
EXPENDITURE			
Printing	517.61	366.48	
Postage, etc	1131.20	875.19	
Room rental	580.00	648.27	
Catering	238.68	1559.92	
Events	1033.38	3921.82	
Total	3500.87	7371.68	
SURPLUS	402.71	783.22	
SURPLUS 2003-2004			1481.11
SURPLUS 2004-2005			1601.61
SURPLUS 2005-2006			783.22
SURPLUS 2006-2007			402.71
TOTAL SURPLUS			4268.65
Cash in hand at 31 August 2007			77.62
Cash in bank at 31 August 2007			4191.03
TOTAL CASH IN HAND			4268.65

NOTES

1. The start of the subscription year was changed at the 2005 AGM from 1 March to 1 September. Therefore the figures for 2005-06 cover the 18-month period 1 March 2005 to 31 August 2006 of the 2005-2006 subscription year.

2. Total members at 31 August 2007: 180 (Individual – 76, Joint – 64, Concessions – 19, Corporate – 4, Remote – 9, Complimentary – 8)

These accounts have been prepared from the financial records of the Scotland-Russia Forum, and in my opinion they give a true and fair view of the state of the Forum's funds at 31 August 2007 and of the income and expenditure in the 12 months to that date.

Signed: P. R. Clarke, Hon Auditor.

Date: 15 November 2007

