



**Annual Report**  
**March 2005 – August 2006**

## **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 Commonwealth of Independent States, 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.

### **The Scotland-Russia Forum**

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**Officers 2005 – 2006**

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

**Committee 2005 – 2006**

Chairman	Tania Konn-Roberts
Newsletter editor	Helen Williams (to Jan 2006) Ann Caldwell (co-opted Jan 2006)
Committee members	Peter Harvey Neville Long Lara Ryazanova-Clarke Helen Williams

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, March 2005 – September 2006**

The year and a half since the last AGM has been both busy and eventful.

Our monthly programme of talks has covered a wide variety of topics in meetings held in a variety of locations. The full extent of our interests is described in detail in the Summary of Activities made available to you. We have been fortunate in the calibre of speakers we have been able to attract – all of them giving freely of their time. In addition to our normal run of meetings, the Forum received extensive recognition for the part played in securing and arranging a very well-received interview, at Glasgow University, with the departing Principal Conductor of the RSNO, Alexander Lazarev, who received an Honorary Professorship from the University. Equally successful was our sponsorship of the Boris Akunin interview with Ian Rankin at the Edinburgh Book Festival last year. This really was an interested, full-house affair. These two events have to be regarded as major coups by the Forum.

Among our other special events was the noteworthy All-day Conference on Business Opportunities in Russia in April 2005, and our recent close involvement with the visit of the Cultural Mission of St Petersburg to Scotland aimed at promoting closer ties between our two countries. We were the joint organisers, with Edinburgh City Chambers, of a reception held in their honour, as well as contributing to the arrangements made for discussion meetings with representatives of cultural and educational circles at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. This is the point where I must thank the Russian Consulate, and in particular, Mr Vladimir Malygin and Mr Nikita Matkovsky, for the prominence afforded the Forum in this stimulating, and it is to be hoped, fruitful, series of meetings.

Our corporate membership continues to grow as does our personal membership – we now have 180 members. Encouragingly, the proportion of Russian or FSU-born members has also gone up. And although most of our members live in or near Edinburgh this pattern is gradually changing.

Developments during the year have encouraged us to reconsider our existing Constitution. We now have draft proposals designed to make the best use of the talents, interests and energies of Forum members with fewer general meetings and more specialised steering groups. We want to see practical outcomes which can benefit the whole organisation. You will also hear from Ian on the the current state of his investigation into the pros and cons of charitable status. I would like to record our appreciation for all the detailed work and not inconsiderable time he has put into clarifying and presenting these legal issues – as well as ensuring we remain financially healthy!

You will be aware that our Hon. Secretary, Jenny Carr, was in the US for five months over the summer. In her absence - only physical I have to say, for her email had a long reach – various responsibilities were devolved to Ann Caldwell, Peter Harvey and Neville Long. I should like to thank them for the willingness which they displayed in coping with their new tasks.

The existence of our website and Newsletter owes much to the hard work and time invested in both enterprises by Helen Williams. She has asked to be released from these heavy commitments and we are fortunate that Ann Caldwell has agreed to take on responsibility for the Newsletter while Ilya Kuznetsov has taken over responsibility for updating the website. I should like to thank them for all the hard work involved.

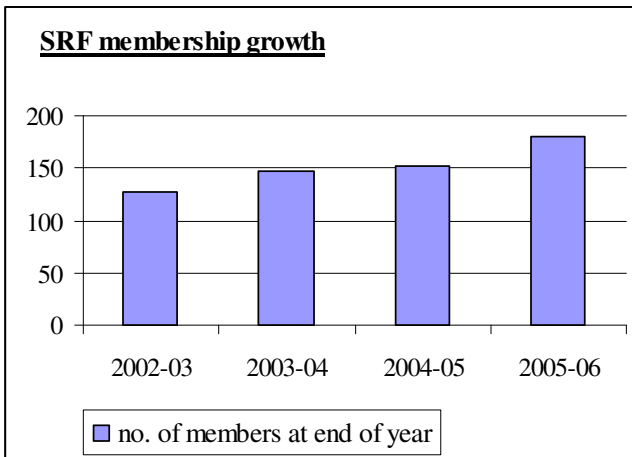
Three of our existing Committee members – Peter Harvey, Lara Ryazanova-Clarke and Helen Williams – have come to the end

of their term of office and will not be standing for re-election. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their contributions to the success of the Forum.

Finally, my thanks to Jenny who has invested so much of her time and energies into making our organisation a successful one. Without her I have no doubt our existence would be more problematic. However, we will not be allowed to stagnate – you will be hearing from her about the proposed Russian Cultural Centre.

Rather like an Oscar acceptance speech this report contains many ‘thank-yous’. The reason is obvious enough – an organisation of our kind depends entirely upon the willingness of its members and officers to shoulder responsibilities essential to its existence and effective performance. Neither the members nor the Forum’s officers should be taken for granted – the ‘thank-yous’ are thoroughly deserved.

Tania Konn-Roberts  
Chair  
October 2006



## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

### TALKS

- March 05 Stephen White – Who is Mr Putin?  
 April 05 Donald Rayfield – What motivated Stalin’s henchmen?  
 April 05 Alexander Lazarev in Conversation. Interviewer Stuart Campbell  
 May 05 Tania Konn-Roberts – Russia in Egypt  
 June 05 Alan Flowers & Nicholas Schellenberg – Aspects of Belarus Today  
 Sept 05 Jock Dempster – Convoys to Murmansk  
 Oct 05 Agnes Ness – From Glazunov to Glasgow  
 Nov 05 Bob Porter – Reading myself and others: thoughts on Russian writing today  
 Dec 05 Catherine Merridale – Why did Ivan fight? Red Army soldiers in World War 2  
 Jan 06 Xenia Dennen – Religious Life in Russia Today: Keston Institute's ground-breaking new survey  
 Feb 06 Ian Press – For Ever Russian: History in Russian, Russian in History  
 March 06 Lesley Chamberlain – Lenin and the Exile of the Philosophers  
 April 06 Averil King – Levitan  
 May 06 Clem Cecil – Moscow Under Threat

### SOCIALS, ENTERTAINMENTS, OTHER EVENTS

- August 05 Boris Akunin interviewed by Ian Rankin at the Edinburgh Book Festival. Sponsored by SRF. Reception at Russian Consulate-General.  
 Dec 05 Christmas Party. Organised jointly with Russia Travel Ltd., refreshments by “Nostalgia”, entertainment by brass quintet from St Petersburg.

March 06      Mayakovsky's "Клоп" (Bedbug) performed in Russian. Directed by Elena Gudkova, producer Marsha Connor. Edinburgh University Russian Society, Freestage Theatre and SRF. Sponsors Awards For All, Scottish & Newcastle plc.

### **BUSINESS EVENTS**

April 05      Business Opportunities in Russia conference.  
Sponsors: Edinburgh University Management School, The Russia House, Scottish Development International, Scottish & Newcastle plc. Refreshments by Mila Seglina.

### **AFFILIATED ACTIVITIES**

Saturday School for children run by Russian Edinburgh.  
Edinburgh Russian Conversation Group

### **JOINT EVENTS**

Partners have included: Consulate-General of the Russian Fedn, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh University Russian Section, Edinburgh University Russian Society, Edinburgh University School of Architecture, Edinburgh University School of Management, Freestage Theatre, the French Institute, Glasgow University Slavonic Studies, Russia Travel Ltd.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Newsletter      Quarterly, sent free to all members. £1 to non-members.  
Website          [www.scotlandrussiaforum.org](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org)  
Emails            regular bulletins containing events and notices of Scottish/FSU interest sent to members and others

### **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS**

Friends of Pskov, GB-Russia Society, RBCC, Russia Travel, The Russia House



**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
**1 MARCH 2005-31 AUGUST 2006**

		2005-2006	2004-2005		Notes
		£	£		
<b>INCOME</b>					1
	Subscriptions	2670.00	2120.00		2
	Donations	506.50	130.00		
	Events	4702.75	3112.30		
	Sundries	275.65	132.82		
	Total	8154.90	5495.12		
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
	Printing	366.48	358.67		
	Postage, etc	875.19	792.92		
	Room rental	648.27	365.00		
	Catering	1559.92	1324.86		
	Events	3921.82	1052.06		
	Total	7371.68	3893.51		
<b>SURPLUS</b>		783.22	1601.61		
<b>SURPLUS</b> 2003-2004				1481.11	
<b>SURPLUS</b> 2004-2005				1601.61	
<b>SURPLUS</b> 2005-2006				783.22	
<b>TOTAL</b> <b>SURPLUS</b>				3865.94	

**NOTES**

1. The start of the subscription year was changed at the 2005 AGM from 1 March to 1 September. Therefore the present accounts cover the 18-month period 1 March 2005 to 31 August 2006 of the 2005-2006 subscription year.
2. Total members at 31 August 2006: 181 (Individual – 70, Joint – 70, Concessions – 23, Corporate – 4, Remote – 5, Complimentary – 9)