AGM report
28 October 2015
Jenny Carr, SRF chairperson
Britain has frozen us out, says Russian envoy

Political dialogue between Russia and Britain has gone and “the only sphere we have left is culture”. Russia’s ambassador to London has told The Times.

Alexander Yakovenko said that diplomatic relations had sunk to new lows over the Syria and Ukraine conflicts after having “bit by bit fallen into decline” in recent years.

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Times, 26 October 2015

What is the SRF and what is it trying to do?

- Educational charity
- Tries to promote understanding of all the countries of the FSU
- Broad range of interests
  - "the respective ways of life, history, heritage and the cultural and commercial activities and voluntary services of the said countries and through the creation of educational contacts of all kinds between the peoples of these countries"
  - Constitution 3.2
- Independent
- Voluntary
SRF events 2014–15

- Sept 2014: Lermontov Exhibition and Reception, Scottish Parliament
- Oct 2014: Business roundtable
- Jan 2015: Roundtable on the Russian economy
- March 2015: talk by Peter Pomerantsev on the Russian media
- All year: monthly “Chai n Chat” meetings + summer outing
- 2015–6 so far: David MacFadyen on Russian Popular Music, Student party, Natalia Maeva poetry recital (2 Nov), Warwick Ball on Eurasian history (19 Nov).
The Scotland Russia Review

- 500 copies are distributed, to members and others
- The Review is also available online on www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/publications.html. The Feb 2015 issue was downloaded 1532 times Feb–Sept.

Library

- Reorganised
- Catalogue updated
- Open for business
Schools project

- Launched www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk
- Competition
- Exhibition
- School visits

- Plans for 2015–16: more school visits, relaunch and improve the website, design other materials for schools

www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk
Russian classes

2014–5:
- classes continued, mainly intermediate and advanced, numbers overall were lower than in the past and many classes run in tutors’ homes
- Student feedback good

2015–16:
- launched the year with an Open Day and more publicity so now have a strong beginners’ class in addition to the other levels
- Most classes this year will be in Summerhall

Information

Our main activity, mainly online
- Monthly email bulletin
- Website www.scotlandrussiaforum.org
- Facebook “The Scotland–Russia Forum”
- Twitter @ScotRussiaForum
- (… and everything else we do)
Benchmarking – social networks

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<th>Related organisations</th>
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<th>Twitter followers</th>
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<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>191</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>114</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB-Russia Soc</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>113</td>
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Websites and e-bulletin

[Graph showing visits to www.scotlandrussiaforum.org and www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk]

**E-bulletin: 1145 addressees, Oct 2015**
English language assistants

We recruit English language assistants for a number of Russian universities. Work closely with Scottish university Russian depts and last year had more applicants than ever before. Placements are few most years but closer relations with the Russian universities should improve the situation.

Plans for 2016

- New constitution
- Redesign of both websites
- New Russian writing – work with Glas
- Talks and exhibition(s)?
- Stand at the Language Show in Glasgow
- Visit more schools
The Scotland-Russia Forum
Форум Шотландия-Россия

New Russian Writing
A SRF-Glas partnership

More information to follow!

www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/newwriting.html
Thanks to:

- Officers and committee
- Members
- Supporters, moral and financial
- SRF Review team
- Чай н Чат organisers
- Language tutors
- Collaborators
- Volunteers
- Russian and Ukrainian Consulates
- And others!