Scotland–Russia Forum
AGM report 2016–17

16 March 2018
Jenny Carr, SRF chairperson
Trustees report 2016–17

1. Objectives and activities
2. Achievements and Performance
3. Financial Review
4. Structure and Governance

Burning issues for 2018 and beyond
Trustees report

1. objectives and activities

- Objectives
  i. “to advance education through the promotion of a clear understanding…”
  ii. “creation of cultural contacts”

- Activities
  Lectures, social events, magazine, e-bulletins and social media, schools, ELA programme, language classes and lending library.

QUESTIONS
- Are the activities relevant to the objectives? What could or should change?
- In practice all the objectives are prefaced with “Raise interest in Russia and neighbours and then …”. What else could we do to raise interest?
Trustees report

2. achievements and performance

INFORMATION
EVENTS
MEMBERSHIP
SOCIAL PROGRAMME
RUSSIAN IN SCHOOLS
LIBRARY
## 2. achievements and performance

### i) Information – websites, bulletin

Websites and e-bulletin, 15 Jan 2017 and 7 Feb 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>707</th>
<th>1091</th>
<th>2057</th>
<th>2418</th>
<th>170</th>
<th>208</th>
<th>455</th>
<th>810</th>
<th>1081</th>
<th>1211</th>
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<tr>
<td>Unique visitors / week</td>
<td>15-JAN-17</td>
<td>07-FEB-18</td>
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<td>15-JAN-17</td>
<td>07-FEB-18</td>
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<td>07-FEB-18</td>
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<td>Page views / week</td>
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<td>208</td>
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<td>810</td>
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<td>Addressees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Websites</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org">www.scotlandrussiaforum.org</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk">www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk</a></td>
<td>e-bulletin</td>
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2. achievements and performance

i) Information – social media

Facebook "likes"

Twitter followers

- Facebook "likes" showed an increase from 756 in 2014 (Dec) to 1097 in 2018 (Feb).
- Twitter followers increased from 378 in 2014 (Dec) to 696 in 2018 (Feb).

I INFORMATION
EVENTS
MEMBERSHIP
SOCIAL PROGRAMME
RUSSIAN IN SCHOOLS
LIBRARY
2. achievements and performance
i) Information – magazine
2. achievements and performance

ii) Events 2016–17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All year</td>
<td>Chai n Chat met monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All year</td>
<td>Russian classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All year</td>
<td>Monthly news e-bulletins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2016</td>
<td>New version of <a href="http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org">www.scotlandrussiaforum.org</a> launched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2016</td>
<td>SRF stand at SALT teaching conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2016</td>
<td>SRF Christmas Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>SRF stand at SCILT schools events in Dundee, Inverness and Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>SRF AGM + presentation by photographer Simon Croft</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2017</td>
<td>Winter issue of the SRF magazine published (36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>Relaunch of <a href="http://www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk">www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>SRF event: Dairmid Gunn “Cold Seas and Warm Friendships – interviews with Arctic Convoy veterans”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>SRF event: Maxim Katz “Oppositional politics in Russia – an insider’s view”</td>
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<td>Mar 2017</td>
<td>SRF stand and events at the Language Show, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Mar 2017</td>
<td>SRF event: “Revolution”, Edinburgh Filmhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2017</td>
<td>SRF event: Robert Brinkley “The current situation in Ukraine”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2017</td>
<td>SRF Library Open Day</td>
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## 2. Achievements and Performance

### ii) Events 2017–18 So Far

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All Year</th>
<th>Chai n Chat meets monthly</th>
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<tr>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>Russian classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Year</td>
<td>Monthly news e-bulletins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2017</td>
<td>Members’ subscriptions due!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2017</td>
<td>“Look East” workshop for teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2017</td>
<td>Summer issue of the SRF magazine published (37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2017</td>
<td>SRF presentation at SALT teaching conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 2017</td>
<td>SRF event: Angus Roxburgh “Russia: Past and future” (with NLS and Cable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2017</td>
<td>SRF supported event – Russian Film Week in Edinburgh (with Un. Of Edinburgh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2018</td>
<td>Winter issue of the SRF magazine published (38)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2018</td>
<td>SRF event: Ian Proud “Business and people to people links with Russia” (with UEBS and Cable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2018</td>
<td>SRF AGM</td>
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**Forthcoming:**
- 8 March: Sheila Sim “Russian gardens”
- 28 March: *Uncle Vanya* at the Cameo
2. achievements and performance

iii) Membership

SRF membership

2008–12 is the period we ran the SRIInstitute
Trustees report
2. achievements and performance

Q Where do you DISagree with our assessments??

- growing and ?popular
- varied, good attendance
- stable at 180
- small but stable
- lots of work, some success, uphill
- excellent resource, unused
Trustees report

3. financial review

Income £4,764
o/w
members £3,495
3 yrs Gift Aid £1,088

Expenditure £6,249
o/w
office £2,461
events £2,164
IT £776
print/stationery £649

Loss £1,486

Reserves at year end £14,750

QUESTIONS (answers to the Treasurer later)
-Do you think expenditure is in line with our objectives?
-What do you think our policy on reserves should be?
Trustees report

4. structure and governance

- Charity Name The Scotland–Russia Forum SCIO
- Charity Number SC038728
- Trustees 2016–17
  Jennifer Carr (chair)
  James Patterson (treasurer)
  Sheila Sim (secretary)
  David Brew
  Alexandra Smith
  Margaret Tejerizo
  Joseph Wake

QUESTIONS
- Have you ever downloaded the SRF constitution? Or looked at the “About Us” page on the website?
- Do you have any questions about any aspects of the structure and governance of the SRF?
1. How can we use our existing resources (human and financial) to maximise effective progress on our aims?
   • What else could we do? Should we give up on anything? How can we economise?

2. How can we increase those resources?
   • Fundraising? Membership? Volunteers?

3. How can we ensure the future of the SRF?
   • How can we find trustees with time, energy and ideas to keep things going?

4. Data Protection changes
Thanks to

- The SRF’s founders: Dairmid Gunn, Meg Luckins and Ian McGowan
- officers and trustees
- members
- other supporters, moral and financial
- Чай н Чат organisers
- magazine contributors
- language tutors
- organisations and individuals who have worked with and supported us this year – incl. SCILT, SALT, the consulate, StageRussia, RFW, RTG, UofG, UofE, Glasgow City Council, Cable, NLS, Cameo, Filmhouse, Summerhall, retweeters, FB sharers, and anyone else I’ve (inadvertently) left out …
Statement from the chair of the Scotland–Russia Forum on the recent events in Salisbury. 14 March 2018, Edinburgh

A Russian–manufactured military nerve agent Novichok has been implicated in the attempt to murder UK citizen Sergei Skripal and his daughter, and has also seriously affected a local police officer and endangered many other UK citizens. UK prime minister Theresa May described this as an “unlawful use of force by the Russian state against the United Kingdom”. Nicola Sturgeon called for a “firm response”.

As chair of the Scotland–Russia Forum I deplore the attack and support the government’s position.

The situation strengthens our resolve to continue the SRF’s work as an independent organisation to raise interest and inform Scots about all aspects of Russia. We hope that people to people contacts through culture, commerce, travel and other non–governmental channels will continue since these are of great benefit to mutual understanding.

Jenny Carr
The Scotland–Russia Forum
Charity no. SC038728
And finally …

In the latest SRF Bulletin we asked “What should our priorities be for the future?” Two replies received so far. Please join the conversation!

What about creating an SRF TRAVEL CLUB?
The aim would be to organise flexible group travel to Russia for its members and perhaps their friends. There might be themed visits if there was sufficient enthusiasm.

... making more use of the Cancelled for THEATRE SCREENINGS. Would it be feasible to advertise OCCASIONAL EVENING MEALS

Send your ideas to:
info@scotlandrussiaforum.org OR Scotland-Russia Forum, Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1PL