

## SCOTLAND-RUSSIA FORUM

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

The trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2017.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. Consequently, an Independent Examiner undertook an examination carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

#### Objectives and activities

The Forum's purpose is to advance education through the promotion of a clear understanding in Scotland, Russia and the countries of the former Soviet Union, of the respective ways of life, history, heritage and the cultural and commercial activities and the voluntary services of the said countries and through the creation of educational and cultural contacts of all kinds between the peoples of these countries.

The Forum arranges lectures, publishes a magazine "The Forum" twice a year, circulates a monthly information bulletin by email and provides information through its website and social media, promotes Russian studies in schools, recruits English Language Assistants for Russian universities, and runs adult language classes and a lending library. The Forum's activities are managed from office accommodation in Edinburgh's Summerhall arts complex.

#### Achievements and Performance

1. Membership: At the end of the year membership stood at 180
2. Events: Our talks and were extremely well attended this year, with an average audience of 60+. Event partners included the University of Glasgow, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh Filmhouse and the Europa Research Group (Edinburgh University).  
Topics: the current situation in Ukraine (by former UK ambassador Robert Brinkley); the history of the Arctic Convoys (by Lt. Cmdr Dairmid Gunn, our Vice-President); opposition politics in Russia (Maxim Katz, Yabloko activist); photographs of Ukraine (Simon Crofts – speaking after our AGM); art and the Russian revolution (Margy Kinmonth, Q&A after the screening of her film "Revolution").
3. Social programme: Monthly conversation group meetings, open to all, continued throughout the year. We held a Christmas party for members in December.
4. Information: Readership of our monthly e-bulletins continues to grow, as do follower numbers for both of our social media accounts. We published two issues of our biannual magazine "The Forum" which is available online to all and, where requested, in print to our members. Back copies of the e-bulletins and the magazine can be downloaded from <https://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/archive.html#newsarchive>.
5. Websites: Both our websites ([www.scotlandrussiaforum.org](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org) and [www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk](http://www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk)) were substantially redesigned and relaunched during the year. They are regularly updated. Usage of [www.scotlandrussiaforum.org](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org) almost doubled to around 1100 views pcm by August.
6. Russian in schools: We had a stand and ran a Russian class at the Language Show Live Scotland (SECC Glasgow) and an information stand at SCILT events for schools in Edinburgh, Dundee and Inverness, as well as the SALT conference.
7. Library. Books are loaned to members and our collection continues to grow, despite constraints on space. We held an Open Day for the library this year to encourage more use.
8. Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Russia: The Forum is one of the supporting members of this Group as initiated and chaired by Andy Wightman MSP. Following on the inaugural meeting of the CPG on 26 October 2016, there have been three further meetings since.

#### Financial Review

The Forum's main source of income is from membership subscriptions and philanthropic donations. The trustees' policy is to apply these funds to the organisation of the Forum's activities and to ensure that the charity's income and expenditure are in balance, taking one year with another.

Total expenditure for the year ended 31 August was £6,249. After annual income from subscriptions, including Gift Aid payments of £1,088 for the three years to 31 August 2016 from the HMRC, of £4,764, the deficit for the year was £1,486. At the year end, the charity's reserves amounted to £14,750.<sup>1</sup>

Whilst the Forum remains a going concern in the short term, the trustees expect the continuation of current activities to occasion an increased deficit of the order of some £2,000 in 2017-18, financed by reserves. In the absence of charitable donations additional to membership subscriptions, the charity will be unable to maintain current levels of expenditure in future years. In 2018, the trustees intend to review the charity's activities in the light of expected levels of income, particularly in the context of apparent reducing membership numbers, to recommend appropriate action to the members.

## Structure and Governance

The Forum is a charitable incorporated association and governance arrangements are set out in its constitution. Recognition as a Scottish Charity was gained on 20 September 2007. The Forum was incorporated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 20 May 2016.

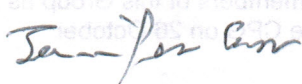
The structure of the Forum consists of the members – who have the right to attend members' meetings (including any AGM) - and have important powers to appoint members of the board as well as taking decisions on changes to the constitution itself; and the board – who hold regular meetings and generally control the activities of the Forum. For example, the board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the Forum. The minimum number of board members is three and the maximum is eight. Members of the board act as the charity's trustees and are appointed or reappointed by the members at the Forum's annual general meeting. The Board also has the power to co-opt other members of the Forum as trustees. One third of the trustees stand down at each AGM and any member may stand for election in their place.

Voting and terms of office are governed by the constitution, which was most recently altered on 28 October 2015 and can be found at [https://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/uploads/6/0/0/0/60006689/srf\\_scio\\_constitution\\_2015.pdf](https://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org/uploads/6/0/0/0/60006689/srf_scio_constitution_2015.pdf)

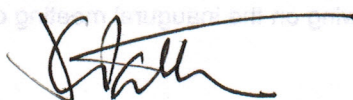
## Reference and administrative information

<b>Charity Name</b>	The Scotland Russia Forum
<b>Charity Number</b>	SC038728
<b>Registered Office</b>	Summerhall, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh EH9 1PL*
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	A.W.Scotland ICAS
<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Scotland
<b>Trustees</b>	The trustees who served during the period were as follows: Jennifer Carr James Patterson (Appointed 21 June 2016; Elected 19 January 2017) Sheila Sim Joseph Wake (Resigned 19 January 2017; Appointed 22 February 2017) Alexandra Smith Margaret Tejerizo David Brew (Elected 19 January 2017)

## The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees



Jennifer Carr  
Chairperson



James Patterson  
Treasurer

<sup>1</sup> Income and expenditure figures differ slightly from those in the OSCR accounts due to technical accounting rules that treat figures differently such as refunds of overpayments and separation out of the Independent Examiner's fee of £200. The annual deficit and the end of year reserves are the same.

SCOTLAND RUSSIA FORUM: Reporting Year 2016/2017 - Receipts, Payments & Balances

September '16 - August '17	Receipts				Payments							Comments
Balance brought f'w'd	£16,236	Subscriptions	Restricted Donations	Deposits	Fundraising	Premises	Print/stationery	IT/Comms	Events	Other		
September 2016		£1,970				£189	£91	£234	£0	£0		
October 2016		£280				£188	£0	£259	£73	£0		
November 2016		£195				£188	£36	£73	£1,001	£0		
December 2016		£200		£1,088		£188	£0	£13	£60	£0	Deposits: Gift Aid claims for 3 years (£1,088)	
January 2017		£236		£140		£188	£127	£144	£441	£0	Deposits: refunds for overpayments from Summerhall & JC	
February 2017		£0		£40		£188	£317	£0	£28	£0	Deposits: refund from Bullguard	
March 2017		£75				£188	£79	£0	£407	£200	Other: Independent Examiner's fee	
April 2017		£105				£0	£0	£10	£154	£0		
May 2017		£0				£577	£0	£10	£0	£0	Premises: Rents for April & May + £200 insurance premium	
June 2017		£20				£188	£0	£10	£0	£0		
July 2017		£0				£188	£0	£11	£0	£0		
August 2017		£415				£188	£0	£11	£0	£0		
Totals for each category	£3,495	£0	£1,268	£0	£2,461	£649	£776	£2,164	£200			
Total receipts	£4,764				39%	10%	12%	35%	3%			
Subtract payments from receipts	£6,249											
Net surplus for year (net deficit)	-£1,486											
Balance carried f'w'd	£14,750											
Actual balance 31.08.17	£14,750											

Payments

