

From: [The Scotland-Russia Forum](#)
To: [Sarah Macfarlane](#)
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News from the Scotland-Russia Forum

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SRF News

2014 is UK-Russia Year of Culture

We hope this means a feast of Russian culture and other events - you need to keep an eye on the official websites and other sources as events, official and non-official, are being announced all the time.

Official websites are <http://ukrussia2014.ru/> (British Council) for British events in Russia, and <http://rbth.co.uk/ukrussia2014> (Russia Beyond the Headlines) for Russian events in the UK.

Other sources of information: Regular updates on events, mainly in London and internationally are published on the [Russian Art and Culture](#) website and email bulletins; events in Scotland are listed in SRF [What's On](#). And...

SRF Review will be out soon

A bumper issue devoted to the UK-Russia Year of Culture in Scotland. A bit delayed but worth waiting for. Members should receive their copy by early February. It will also be available online and from various other outlets. Contact us for more information.

SRF Committee changes

At the SRF AGM in December the following committee changes occurred: Ian McGowan and Andrei Rogatchevski resigned from the committee (Ian had completed his 2nd term since introduction of our new constitution, Andrei is leaving Scotland). Varvara Bashkurova, coopted onto the committee for 2012-13, has also left the committee.

Ian was one of the founders of the Scotland-Russia Forum and has been our Treasurer since its foundation in 2003. Committee members past and present (and others) joined together to present him with an engraved silver paper knife in recognition of the considerable contribution he has made to the SRF.

David Caldwell joined the committee, by unanimous vote of members present. David has agreed to take on most of the Treasurer duties with Sheila Sim taking on other tasks previously fulfilled by Ian.

Committee positions will be voted on at a committee meeting this week and full details will appear on our website - [About Us](#) page.

SRF events in the pipeline

As regular readers will be aware we do not have the manpower to offer a regular programme of events any longer. However we have teamed up with the Edinburgh Film Guild, Glasgow University and others to take part in a very interesting programme of films and discussions on the topic of **LGBT rights in Russia** during February. Details and links for the whole programme will be added to our [Cinema](#) page as information becomes available.

Our contribution to the programme is a [panel discussion on 15 February](#). The

discussion, including audience participation, will be led by a distinguished panel of LGBT activists from Russia, MP Chris Bryant (vice-chair of the all-party group on Russia at Westminster), and Glasgow University academics. After the discussion there will be a screening of short films. Hope to see you on 15th!

Other SRF events in Jan/Feb:

Чай и Чат continues monthly, meeting in the Summerhall Cafe for Russian/English conversation over coffee and cakes. All welcome. Next meeting 11am Thursday 6 February. Contact us for more information - or just turn up!

Russian classes

Our Russian classes resumed this month, and we are delighted that we can still offer 6 levels of tuition - from complete beginners to an advanced discussion group. Classes are small - an advantage to students of course - so there may be still be time to join. Both of our tutors also offer private tuition, including preparation for TRKI examinations. More information and contact details on [Language Classes](#). Feedback from students is excellent - some extracts from our regular mid-year survey of our students' views will be on the website soon.

What's On

Scotland

Church services: [details](#) of Orthodox and Ukrainian services in Scotland

29 May 2013-13 March 2014: [Arctic Convoys](#). Edinburgh Castle, exhibition

17 January: [Ukraine and the EU](#). Edinburgh. Seminar.

22 January: [Russia's Wounded during the First World War](#): Medicine and Politics. Glasgow. Seminar

23 January: BASEES Postgraduate Workshop - [MODERNITY](#). Glasgow. All day workshop.

29 January: [The Electoral Tango](#): The Evolution of Electoral Integrity in Postcommunist Electoral Authoritarian Regimes. Glasgow. Seminar

31 January: [Russia's Political Opposition](#). Edinburgh. Seminar

February (dates tbc): Edinburgh Film Guild New Cinema 4 - ["Notes from Underground: Queer Russian Cinema"](#). Edinburgh and Glasgow. Films and discussion, various dates (see below).

February (date tbc): [Mikhail Shishkin at the Dashkova Centre](#). Edinburgh. Readings

6 February: [Чай и Чат](#). Edinburgh. SRF event

7 February: [Two Lenins: multiple temporalities and the gift of modernity in the Kremlin and Central Siberia](#). Edinburgh. Lecture.

8 Feb, 22 March: [From Russia with Love](#). Study days at the RCS. Glasgow.

11 February: [LGBT equality and the geopolitics of human rights: insights from Russia](#). Glasgow. Discussion

13 February: [Talk by the editors of the Russian lesbian journal Ostrov](#). Glasgow. Talk.

14 February: [LGBT films at the Glasgow Short Film Festival](#). Glasgow. Cinema

15 February : [The LGBT situation in Russia](#). Edinburgh. Panel discussion and films. SRF event

18 February: [Alexander Verkhovsky](#) - the Honorary Dashkova Lecture. Edinburgh. Lecture.

7-10 May: [Uncle Varick](#) by John Byrne. Edinburgh. Theatre

21-25 October: [The Three Sisters](#) by John Byrne. Edinburgh. Theatre

Events outside Scotland

6 December-22 February: [Turgenev's "Fortune's Fool"](#) (Нахлебник) at the Old Vic, London.

21-26 January: [Exhibition of Russian Winter Sports Paintings](#) of the 1960s and 70s. London.

5 February: [Dash Cafe - Hammer and Tickle](#). Humour and art in the USSR. London

22 April-17 May 2014: [Belka Productions "A Dashing Fellow"](#) (based on Nabokov stories). London.

24 April-3 May: ["Uncle Vanya" and "Three Sisters"](#), Mossovet Theatre dir. Andrei Konchalovsky. London.

Notices

The most exciting news

This is the official announcement of a new international network of Russian language institutes to be called "Pushkin Institutes" <http://www.itar-tass.com/obschestvo/831870>, <http://www.ruskiymir.ru/ruskiymir/ru/news/common/news45427.html> and <http://government.ru/docs/8621>. Hope they come to UK/Scotland!

7th National Russian Essay Competition 2014

Students learning Russian at Schools, Colleges and Universities in the UK, heritage learners from Russian-speaking families and adult learners, are invited to take part in the competition. The competition is organised by the [Russian Teachers' Group UK \(RTG\)](#).

This is a high-profile event which will give your students a chance to win great prizes including cash (**1st prize - £100**) and see their essays published on-line! It is a great opportunity for your students to be creative, compete nationwide with their peers in a field-wide event and raise the profile of Russian at your institution. The deadline for submitting entries is **11 March 2014**.

Judges will review the entries in March and April, and winners will be announced by 30 April 2014.

More detailed information on essay topics; categories and criteria for judgment is available on the official [RUSSIAN ESSAY COMPETITION website](#). Please note that a new system for submitting entries is presently being created.

We would be very grateful if you could **confirm your interest** to the essay competition organisers at essay@tronenko.com as soon as possible.

Russian conversation club at RCS Haven in Glasgow

Every Saturday from 4pm till 6pm you can come over and chat in a friendly atmosphere. You'll get to know a wee bit more about Russian culture, history, literature - choose what you want - and you will improve your Russian speaking skills. We will be focused on conversation (don't be upset, a piece of grammar is obligatory as well) because conversation will expand your vocabulary making you more confident. You can drop into our Russian conversation sessions when you want to. All ages and levels welcome.

Don't hesitate to contact us if there are any questions: contact@rcshaven.org.uk, tel: 0141 5522144. 11 Duke Street, Glasgow G4 0UL

Scottish Diaspora Tapestry looking for stitchers

[Scottish Diaspora Tapestry](#) have designed some wonderful panels illustrating some of the prominent Scots who lived in Russia - and would really like to find stitchers from the Russian / Scottish-Russian community here or in Russia. Please contact [Yvonne Murphy](#) if you can help.

Dunsinane going to Moscow

The National Theatre of Scotland and the Royal Shakespeare Company's production *Dunsinane*, David Greig's majestic sequel to Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, is touring to the Far East and Russia this spring. Performances in Russia will be part of the Chekhov International Festival / UK-Russia Year of Culture at the Mossovet Theatre in Moscow (15 to 18 May).

Slava Zaitsev - poems about Scotland

Slava Zaitsev, a Russian poet living in St. Andrews, has just published a collection of poems entitled 'Russia - Scotland'. [Details](#).

Edinburgh "Chto Gde Kogda" news

Most games will now be in Teviot Row House. The group posts details on [Facebook](#) and [VKontakte](#). New members welcome.

Recent reports on language learning

British Academy "Lost for Words. The Need for Languages in UK Diplomacy and Security". [Download](#)

British Council "Languages for the Future. Which languages the UK needs most and why". [Download](#)

Russian learning app for beginners

Linguascope has just released a Russian vocabulary trainer app for Apple devices (Android version coming soon). [More information here](#) - let us know what you think.

2014 BEARR Trust Small Grants Scheme

Deadline: 1 March 2014.

Section A invites bids for projects dealing with reintegration of vulnerable young people (16-25 years old) into society in the Urals Federal Region of Russia and Section B In Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. More information:

<http://www.bearr.org/small-grants-scheme-2014/>

Contemporary Russian writers

Recent documentary narrated by Stephen Fry and Juliet Stephenson - "RUSSIA'S OPEN BOOK: WRITING IN THE AGE OF PUTIN." Writers featured include Zakhar Prilepin, Dmitri Bykov, Ludmila Ulitskaya and Mariam Petrosyan.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRPDM7OTMrl&feature=youtu.be>

UKTI Russia Economic Report - December 2013

Russia's economy has grown by only 1.2% over the past year, and inflation remains above its target range.

This full online edition with links is available at:

<http://www.ukti.gov.uk/uktihome/item/668160.html>

How can you support the Scotland-Russia Forum?

The SRF works to improve understanding of Russia and her neighbours in Scotland. We are a voluntary organisation, and an educational charity (reg.no. SC038728).

If you would like to support us please consider becoming a full member, and playing a part in decisions of how best to implement our aims

We also welcome donations and offers of help with our various activities.

Please find details on our [website](#).

Tel. 0131 560 1486 or email info@scotlandrussiaforum.org to discuss.

This email was sent to sarah.j.macfarlane@strath.ac.uk

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The Scotland-Russia Forum · Summerhall · Edinburgh, EH9 1PL · United Kingdom

