



THE CAMBRIDGE
RUSSIAN-SPEAKING SOCIETY
EST. 1999

CamRuSS AGM
22 February 2021



AGM Agenda

Agenda Item	Speaker	Position	Mins	Total
Part 1: Reports for 2020				
Welcome from CamRuSS's Patrons	Libby Howie	Patron	5	
1. Summary of results for 2020	Ksenia Afonina	Chair	5	
2. Finances	Janar Davletov	Treasurer	4	
3. Membership	Katia Onatskaia	Membership Officer	2	
4. Communications	Elvira Churyumova	Communications Team	2	
5. Trustees' activities	Yelena Karl	Trustees' Secretary, Vice Chair	3	
6. Clubs and collaborations	Yelena Karl	Trustees' Secretary, Vice Chair	2	
Questions/comments			5	
Vote of thanks	Ksenia Afonina		1	29
Part 2: Plans for 2021				
7. Overview/Board of Trustees, Advisers (Q&As)	Ksenia Afonina	Chair	5	
9. Membership (followed by Q&As)	Sayara Thompson	Membership Development Officer	5	
10. Gift Aid (followed by Q&As)	Janar Davletov	Honorary Adviser	4	
11. Website upgrade (followed by Q&As)	Ksenia Afonina	Chair	4	
12. Policies (Q&As)	Yelena Karl/Jelena Carter	CamRuSS Trustees	4	
Voting	POLL		5	27
Events for 2021				
13. Plan of events March - July 21	Yelena Karl	Vice Chair, Events Coordinator	5	
Questions/comments			5	
14. Russian-English Conversation Group	Tanya Yurasova	Honorary Adviser	3	
15. CamRuSS Art Sale	Elena Richer	Trustee	3	
Questions/suggestions/AOB			10	
Closure of the meeting	Ksenia Afonina		1	27
Total			83	83









Part 1 – Reports for 2020

1. CamRuSS activities and external collaborations - K. Afonina
2. Finances – J. Davletov
3. Membership – E. Onatskaia
4. Communications – E. Churyumova
5. Trustees' work – Y. Karl
6. Clubs and collaborations – Y. Karl
7. Summary for 2020 and vote of thanks – K. Afonina



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Summary for 2020

- Events: 28 with 1500+ participants 40% 
- Communications: 60+ mailings 50% 
- Members: 90 (25 families) £1,219 11% 
- Donations/sponsorships: £11,400 207% 
- Turnover: £14,908 2% 
- Net surplus: £9,381 142% 
- Collaborations: SIFFA, The Kino Klassika Foundation, Raymond Nicolette Trust, Gift of Life, The Great Britain-Russia Society, Russian Art and Culture, Teremok Shop



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Organisation structure 2020

Patrons: Sir Tony Brenton, Libby Howie, Rachel Polonsky, Anthony Cross

Board of Trustees: Ksenia Afonina (Chair)
Yelena Karl (Vice Chair and Secretary)
Janar Davletov (Treasurer)
Jelena Carter (Volunteers Liaison)
Ekaterina Onatskaia (Events)
Elena Richer (Events and Finances)

Honorary Advisers: John Barber, Tanya Yurasova, Firuza Melville

Organising Committee (active volunteers):

- Alona Gunko (membership)
- Tania Ustinova (communications)
- Natasha Bacon (communications)
- Elena Gorban (finance)
- Beverly Lott (proof-reading)
- Tania Klady (events)
- Stephen Lawrence (proof-reading)
- David Coates (proof-reading)
- Dima Mevzos (outdoor events)
- Sayara Thompson (events)
- Yelena Alexander (events)
- Dana Olaru (communications)

Part-Time Administrator: Elvira Churymova



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Events/activities 2020



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Before lockdown...



“Another World of Music” by Dr Peter Zinovieff

Date: 27th January

Key organiser: Yelena Karl

Participants: 25



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An evening with Ekaterina Schulmann (in collaboration with CURS)

Date: 1st February

Key organiser: Tanya Yurasova

Participants: 85



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21 February - 27 November 2020

6 Talks

Over 500 participants



The Mother of God Vladimirskaya, XII C.

**Russian History
and Arts Lecture
Series:**

**FROM
ICONS
TO
MODERNISM**



Natalia Goncharova. Mother of God, 1911

1. "Russian Icons: a sacred tradition which inspired modernism" by Dr N. Budanova
2. "The Birth of secular art in Russia, From Peter the Great to the Wanderers", by Dr N. Murray
3. "Russian Portraiture: from Parsuna to Modernism" by Dr N. Kozicharov
4. "The Peredvizhniki: A national school of Russian Painting?" by Dr N. Kozicharov
5. "Mikhail Vrubel: between Angels and Demons" by Dr N. Budanova
6. "When Art Danced with music: Sergey Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes" by Dr N. Murray

From icons to modernism

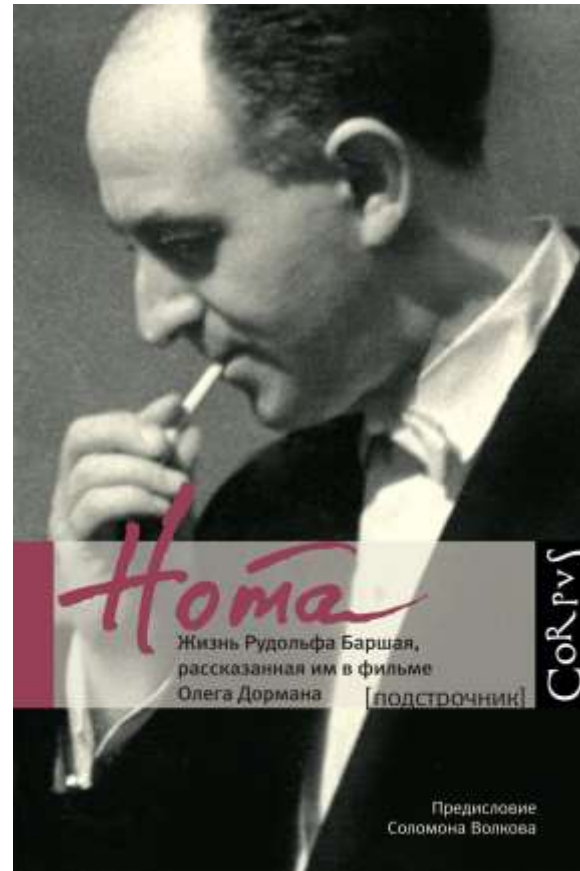
Date: 21st Feb – 27th Nov

Key organiser: Ksenia Afonina

Participants: 544



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“The Note” documentary screening and Q&As with director Oleg Dorman

Date: 9th March

Key organiser: Yelena Karl

Participants: 30



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During lockdown...



CamRuSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) Online

Date: 16th April

Key organisers: Ksenia Afonina/Yelena Karl

Participants: 28



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“COVID-19. Problems and Opportunities of Modern Medicine” with Dr Uliana Bashtanova, Dr Natalia Notkina and Dr Zhenia Shoenberg

Date: 26th April **Key organiser:** Elena Richer (inspired by Katya Parker) **Participants:** 65



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Weekly Russian-English Conversation

Date: 8th May

Key organiser: Tanya Yurasova

Participants: 17-20



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**Victory Day video address by Captain Rolfe Monteith and
Presentation about Arctic Convoy British veterans on CamRuSS website**

Date: 8/9th May Key organisers: Yelena Karl and Ksenia Afonina



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Round Tables with Volunteers

Date: 11th May/16th June/20th July **Key organisers:** Yelena Karl/Jelena Carter **Participants:** 20



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“On the Body of the Soul” with Lyudmila Ulitskaya

Date: 22nd May

Key organiser: Ksenia Afonina

Participants: 72



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“Franz + Polina” film screening and Q&As with the director Mikhail Segal

Date: 22nd June **Key organisers:** Yelena Karl (interpreter Marina Zaretskaya) **Participants:** 42



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‘The White Nights’: Evening of Songs & Music on Zoom

Date: 27th June

Key organiser: Tanya Yurasova

Participants: 40



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“Lenin’s Ideas on Revolution: Are they Relevant Today?” by Dr David Lane

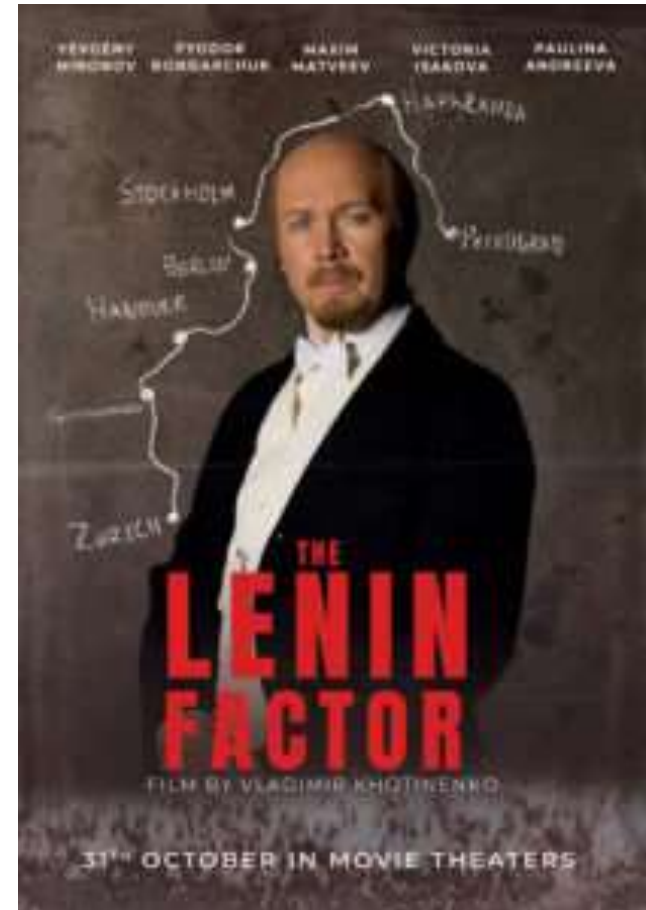
Date: 2nd July

Key organiser: Ksenia Afonina

Participants: 57



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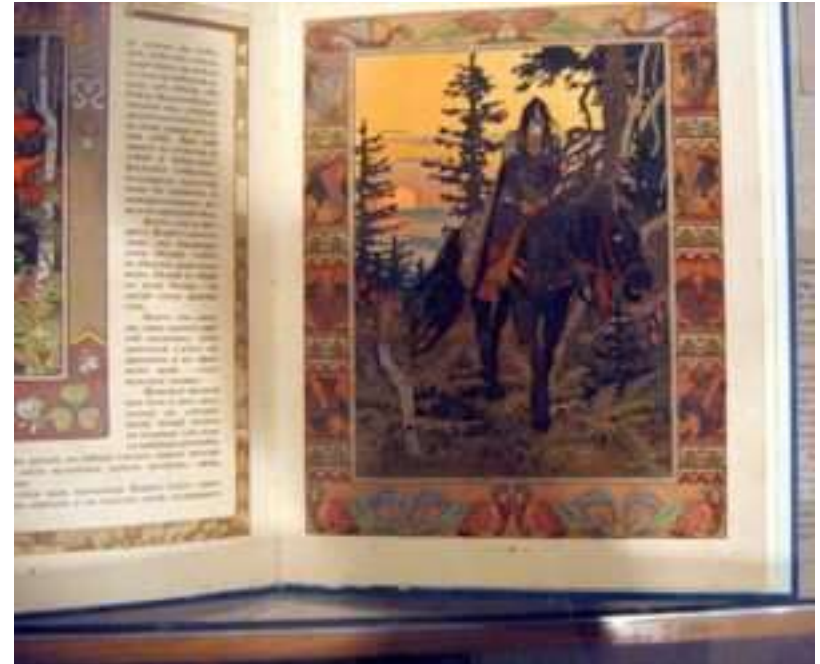
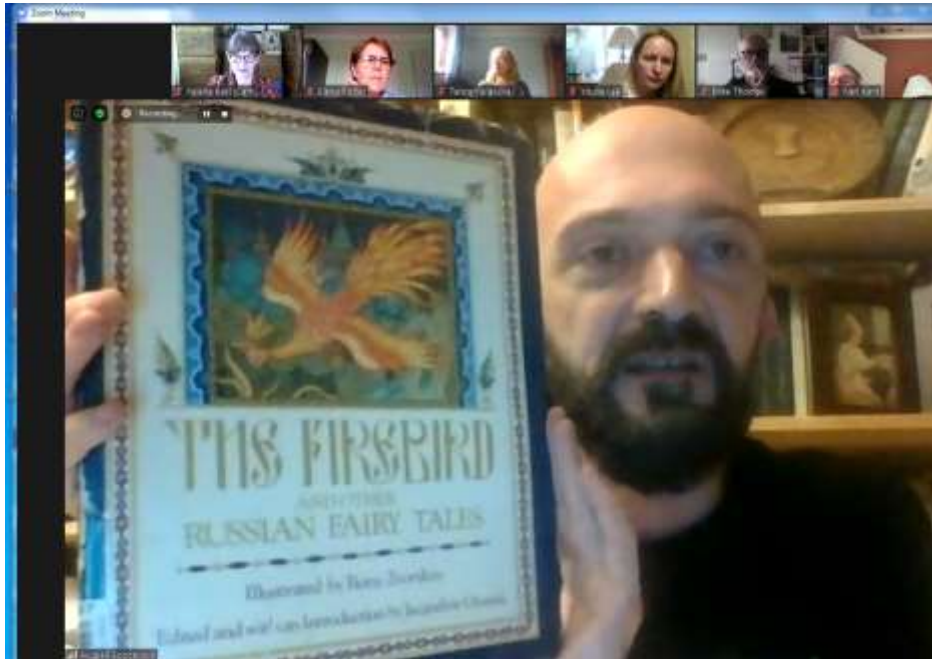
“The Lenin’s Factor” film screening and Q&As with the director Vladimir Khotinenko (in collaboration with SIFFA)

Date: 10th July

Key organisers: Ksenia Afonina, Firuza Melville & Yelena Karl



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“Fairytale Realism. Russian Folklore in Art” and Q&As with Andrei Borovsky

Date: 16th July

Key organiser: Yelena Karl

Participants: 20



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Online meeting with the Russian veterans organised by Aleksander Goncharov in Moscow

Date: 30th August **Key organisers:** Ksenia Afonina, Yelena Karl and Ekaterina Onatskaia



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Cambridge Russian Language Summer Course Online

Date: 22-23rd/29-30th Aug

Cambridge Russian Language Winter Course Online

Date: 28-29th Nov/5-6th Dec Key organiser: Tanya Yurasova



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“Operation Barbarossa: The Turning Point of WWII” by Dr John Barber

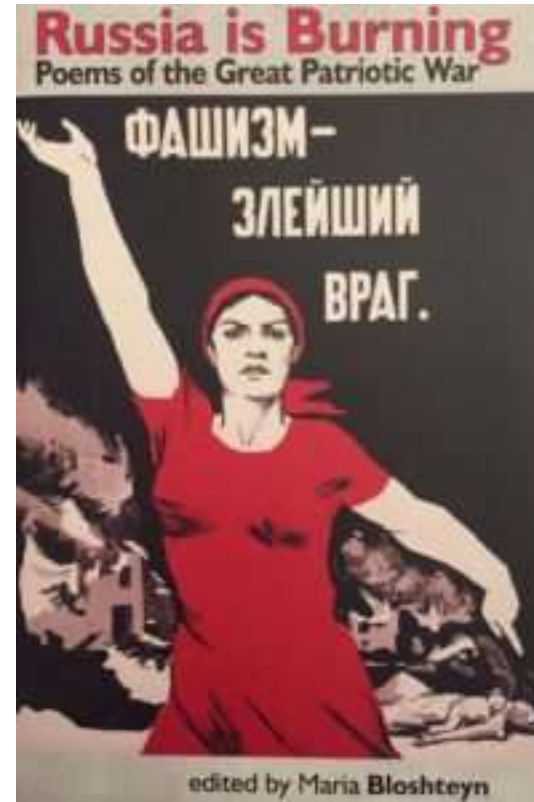
Date: 18th September

Key organiser: Ksenia Afonina

Participants: 55



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Russian Poetry of the Second World War with Maria Bloshteyn

Poetry read by: John Barber, Stephen Lawrence, Robin Spratt, Sergey Gladkov and Tanya Yurasova

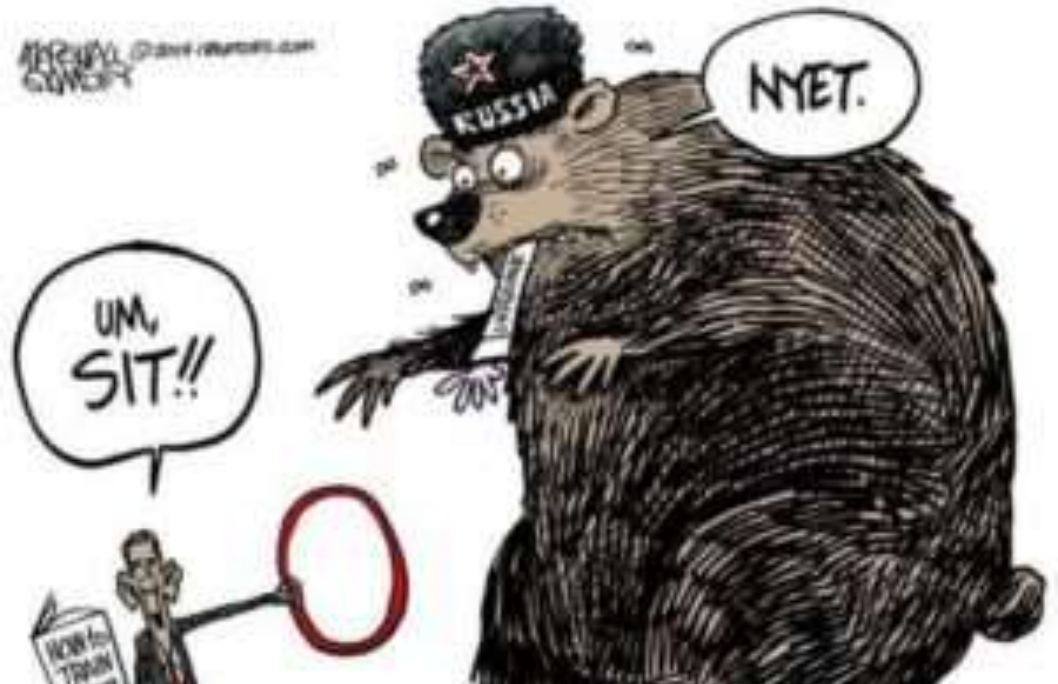
Date: 22nd October

Key organiser: Yelena Karl

Participants: 50



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“Member of the Family or Barbarian at the Gate? Russia and the West” by Sir Tony Brenton

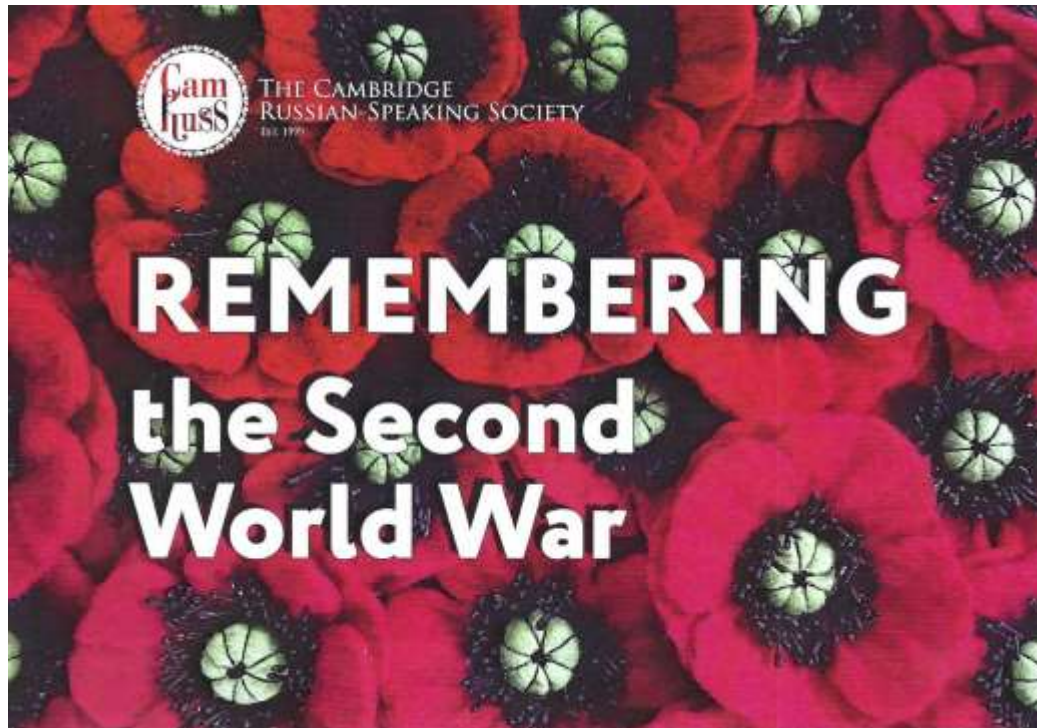
Date: 6th November

Key organiser: Ksenia Afonina

Participants: 125



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“Remembering the Second World War” Brochure, Greeting cards and presents to the British and Russian Veterans in the UK

Date: 11th November **Key organisers:** Yelena Karl/Ksenia Afonina



of items donated by the local artists, professional and amateur - members of the Russian-speaking community - in support of The Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society

Date:
13 November 2020, 19:00

Please register your interest here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZcacQvoviosHNzSTZRwafIFTuClpEnw3W>



Date: 13th November

Key organiser: Elena Richer

Participants: 30



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**БЫКИ И КОРОВЫ /
FAMOUS COWS & OXEN**

December 2020

First Round



Pre-Christmas Social Gathering (virtual party with toasts, music and a quiz)

Live music performance by Diana Arslanova

Date: 13th December **Key organisers:** Tanya Yurasova, Jelena Carter **Participants:** 40
Viktor Zvyagin (video quiz)



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Online Cooking Class of Authentic Georgian Cuisine with Elena Riddle

Date: 18th December

Key organiser: Elena Richer

Participants: 102



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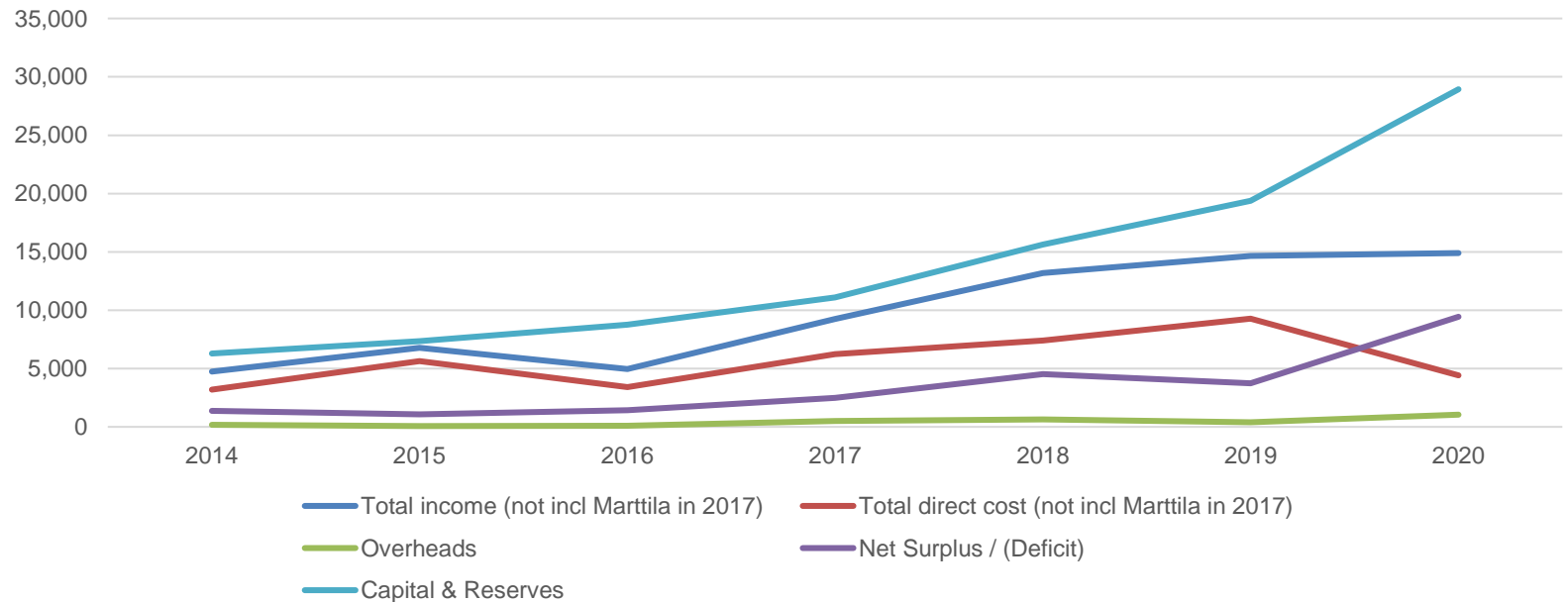
CamRuSS Finances

Janar Davletov



Cambridge Russian Speaking Society 2020

Description	2014 £	2015 £	2016 £	2017 £	2018 £	2019 £	2020 £
Total income (not incl Marttila in 2017)	4,741	6,787	4,953	9,253	13,200	14,645	14,908
Total direct cost (not incl Marttila in 2017)	3,186	5,653	3,427	6,247	7,394	9,286	4,407
Overheads	178	68	108	519	636	403	1,059
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	1,376	1,065	1,418	2,487	4,532	3,749	9,441
Capital & Reserves	6,281	7,347	8,765	11,110	15,642	19,391	28,952
<i>increase of reseves year-on-year</i>		17%	19%	27%	41%	24%	49%





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Cambridge Russian Speaking Society 2020

Income and Expenditure

For the year ending 31/12/2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Income							
Membership	1,229.00	1,250.45	1,768.00	1,218.00	1,114.00	1,144.00	678.00
Entrance fee	1,472.60	4,324.65	5,384.82	3,521.50	1,553.86	5,205.00	3,052.00
Raffle tickets	0.00	271.21	457.16	400.00			
Donations	10,900.02	3,540.00	1,924.00	10.00	827.57	87.00	906.73
Sponsorship/External Grants	500.00	3,990.00	3,160.00	3,502.91			
E. Marttila Exhibition grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00			
Other income	805.00	1,085.00	405.00	484.00	1,419.17	351.00	104.00
Merchandise sale	0.00	183.50	101.20	116.90	38.00		
Bank interest received	1.36	0.24	0.18	0.13	0.17	0.08	0.06
Total income	14,907.98	14,645.05	13,200.36	17,253.44	4,952.77	6,787.08	4,740.79
	13%	9%	43%	87%	-27%	43%	-4%
Direct Cost							
Rent for the events	0.00	3,272.58	1,160.95	799.00	446.75	936.56	143.00
Refreshments for the events	198.19	691.66	848.34	1,183.17	775.54	339.19	626.82
Flowers and souvenirs	28.60	510.03	217.43	192.96	322.54	585.81	419.27
Travel direct cost	134.24	1,214.71	1,653.80	1,298.70	368.07	919.18	129.73
Guests/performance fee	782.50	1,186.00	785.33	685.00	250.00	1,777.00	1,532.00
Publicity and promotion	104.00	1,825.89	923.62	710.38	61.20	0.00	4.60
Other direct cost	726.15	485.08	1,804.80	1,378.18	1,122.51	1,095.75	331.04
E. Marttila Exhibition costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,141.90			
Previous years direct cost	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	0	0.00
Total direct cost	1,973.68	9,185.95	7,394.27	14,389.29	3,426.61	5,653.49	3,186.46
	-73%	24%	18%	82%	-39%	77%	1%
Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	12,934.30	5,459.10	5,806.09	2,864.15	1,526.16	1,133.59	1,554.33
	123%	-9%	103%	88%	35%	-27%	-12%
Governance cost	122.20	309.50	396.79				
Corporate cost	2,311.49	897.13	242.03				
Overheads							
Web and IT exp	969.18	104.05	189.20	121.40	0.00	38.22	83.49
Stationery & Postage	4.50	132.67	169.15	397.56	108.06	0	64.39
Fees & Subs	145.60	146.48	277.36	0.00	0.00	30	30.00
Total overheads	1,119.28	383.20	635.71	518.96	108.06	68.22	177.88
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	9,381.33	3,869.27	4,531.56	2,345.19	1,418.10	1,065.37	1,376.45
	check	0.00					



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Balance Sheet

as at

Current Assets

	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	31/12/2017	31/12/2016	31/12/2015	31/12/2014
Bank Current account	21,145.00	16,834.35	14,974.97	10,562.84	17,275.67	6,818.24	5,777.55
Bank Deposit account	3,342.45	341.33	341.09	341.04	340.91	340.74	340.66
Bank NEW Current account	1,913.00						
Bank NEW Deposit account	0.00						
PayPal	2,307.52	2,016.40	214.67				
Cash	184.27	318.83	110.91	206.20	173.31	187.81	163.21
	28,892.24	19,510.91	15,641.64	11,110.08	17,789.89	7,346.79	6,281.42

Prepaid Income					9,376.50	0.00	0.00
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Current Liabilities

Prepaid Expenses					351.50	0.00	0.00
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Current assets less liabilities

	28,892.24	19,510.91	15,641.64	11,110.08	8,764.89	7,346.79	6,281.42
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Capital & Reserves

Reserves	19,510.91	15,641.64	11,110.08	8,764.89	7,346.79	6,281.42	4,904.97
Surplus or deficit	9,381.33	3,869.27	4,531.56	2,345.19	1,418.10	1,065.37	1,376.45
	28,892.24	19,510.91	15,641.64	11,110.08	8,764.89	7,346.79	6,281.42

48% 25% 41% 27% 19% 17% 28%

check 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

diff above represented by:

oggi tomic inc in 2019 but paid in 2020, no invoice yet 600.00

9,381.33 3,869.27 4,531.56 2,345.19 1,418.10 1,065.37 1,376.45

142% -18% 93% 65% 33% -23% -12%



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CamRuSS Membership

Ekaterina Onatskaia



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CamRuSS Membership

Family Status	2019	2019	2019 events which generated the largest volume of new/ renewed memberships
Qtr1	£210.00		Tony Brenton 2019 (6 memberships)
Qtr2	£252.00		Crimea: A History 2019 (5 memberships), online 9 (memberships)
Qtr3			
Qtr4	£234.00		Film Festival 2019 (13 memberships)
Family total	£696/ 39 memberships	13 new memberships/ 26 renewed	
Individual Status			
Qtr1	£276.00		Tony Brenton 2019 (6 memberships), online 15 (memberships)
Qtr2	£180.00		Natali Gouncharova 2019, Crimea: A History 2019 (7 memberships)
Qtr3	£24.00		
Qtr4	£204.00		Film Festival 2019 (9 memberships)
Individual total	£684/ 57 memberships	29 new memberships/ 28 renewed	
Grand Total	£1,380.00		

2020	2020
126	
108	
36	
180	
£450/ 25 memberships	5 new memberships/ 20 renewed
252	
216	
72	
240	
£780/ 65 memberships	30 new memberships/ 35 renewed
£1,229	



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Communications

Elvira Churyumova

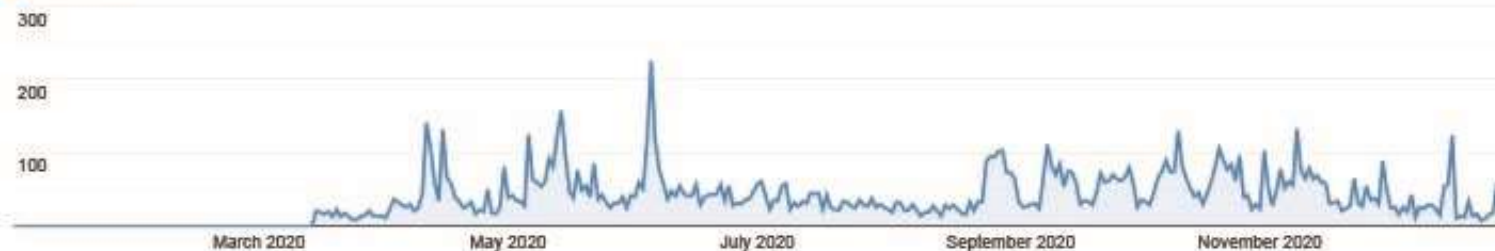


All Users
100.00% Users

1 Jan 2020 - 31 Dec 2020

Overview

New Users



Users

13,501



New Users

13,360



Sessions

16,118



Number of Sessions per User

1.19



Page Views

25,199



Pages/Session

1.56



Avg. Session Duration

00:00:55

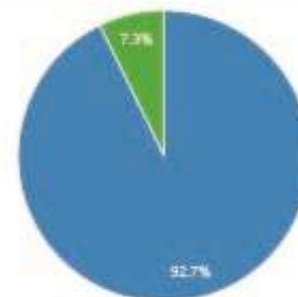


Bounce Rate

74.68%



New Visitor Returning Visitor



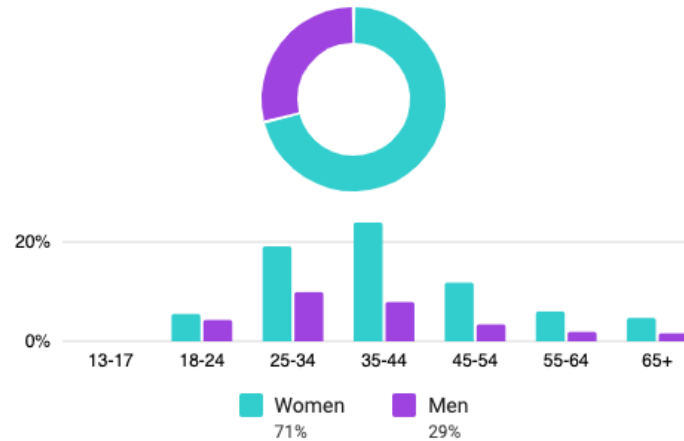
Language		Users	% Users
1.	en-us	7,037	52.51%
2.	en-gb	3,835	28.62%
3.	ru-ru	591	4.41%

Audience

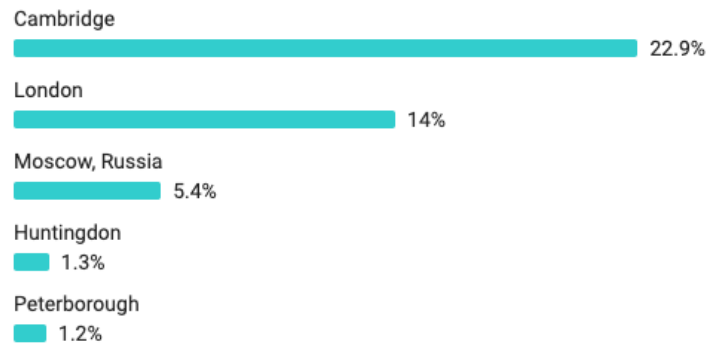
Facebook Page likes ⓘ

1.4K

Age & gender ⓘ



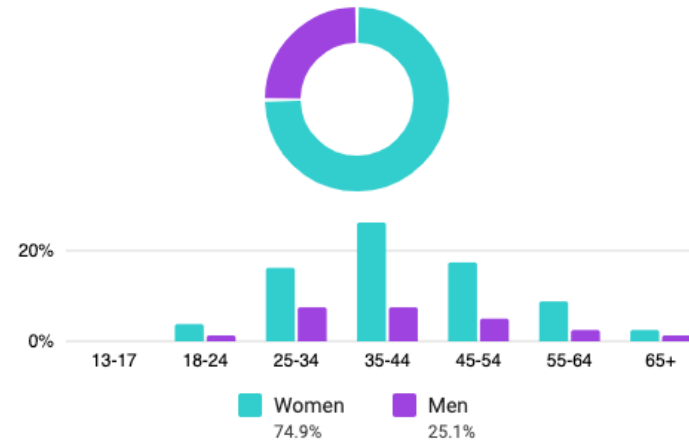
Top towns/cities



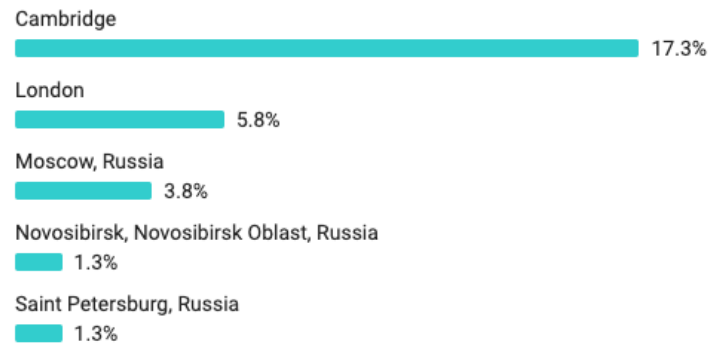
Instagram followers ⓘ

156

Age & gender ⓘ



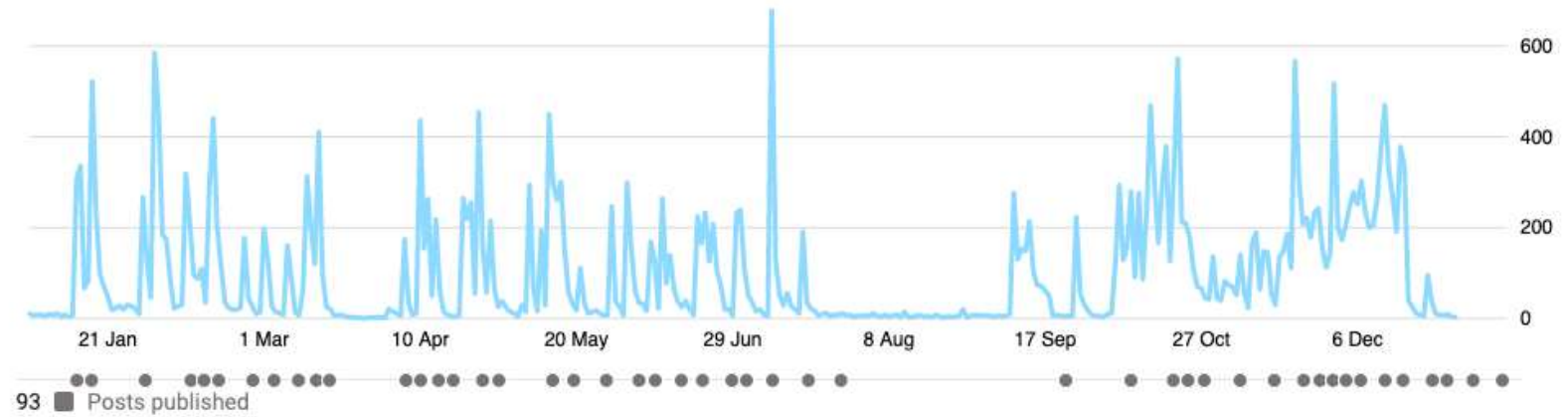
Top towns/cities



Facebook Page reach ⓘ

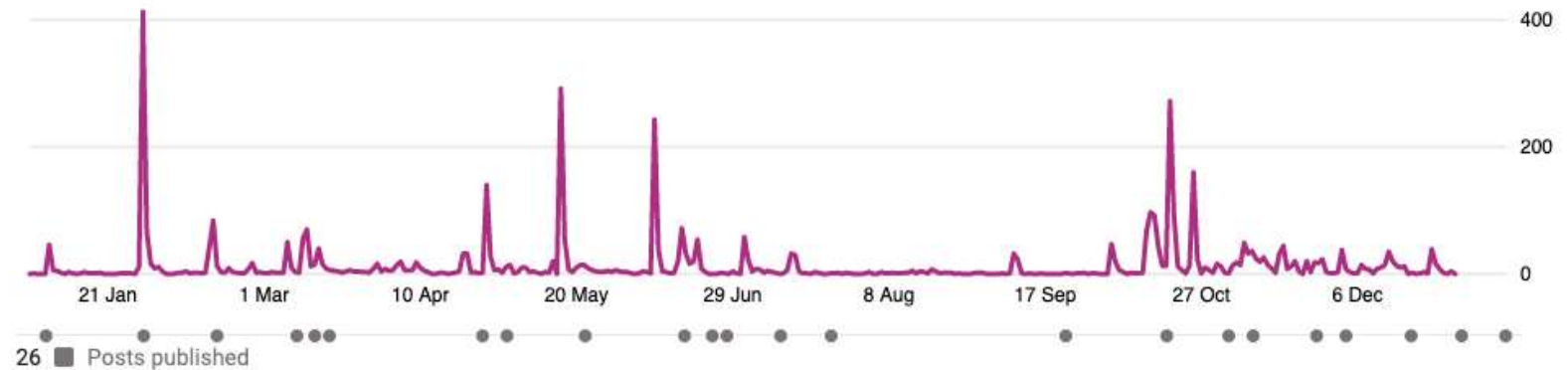
[See suggested action](#)

13,755 ↑ 32%



Instagram reach ⓘ

2,598 ↑ 223.5%





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Trustees' Report

Yelena Karl



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Trustees' Report

- Trustees are active volunteers
- Monthly 2-hour meetings: plans, events, goals, follow-up
- Brainstorming meeting with Honorary Advisers and Patrons
- Collegial decision-making
- New format, new projects, new ideas
- Growing CamRuSS: more subscribers, members, volunteers
- Ongoing training and learning new skills
- Strengthening the Board of Trustees – new trustees, advisers, patrons



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Clubs and Collaborations

Yelena Karl



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Clubs and Collaborations

- Russian Book club in Cambridge
- Theatre Vot Takoi Teatr
- Club 80+
- Russian-English Conversation group
- Online Russian Language Weekend Courses
- SIFFA (Sochi International Film Festival)



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Summary for 2020

Any questions or comments?

Voting



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Summary for 2020

THANK YOU!
СПАСИБО!

Report of CamRuSS activities in 2020

Dear Members of the Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society,

I am pleased to conclude that we, at CamRuSS, have had an eventful and successful year, against all odds. We held over 28 meetings with the majority held online, including our first virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 16th April. The range of topics varied from Covid-19 to an online masterclass in Georgian cuisine, allowing us to address different interests and expand our audiences.

Over 1500 people joined our events last year, notwithstanding the social distancing restrictions and, in many ways, thanks to the new format we have had to embrace since March. We have had speakers and attendees from various countries connecting and contributing to our meetings.

Some of the highlights of 2020:

We launched a series of talks exploring Russian History and Art “From Icons to Modernism” which were delivered by a group of esteemed art historians and proved to be very popular.

We realised an important community project for VE Day 75: “British Veterans of The Second World War”, a collection of illustrated autobiographies of the living veterans of WW2 residing in the UK. We also published a brochure “Remembering the Second World War”, which in addition to the veterans’ biographies, included personal stories from relatives and friends who experienced war at first hand on the Eastern and Western Fronts. Copies of the brochure were filed at key UK legal deposit libraries, including the British Library.

As part of this important anniversary, we sent cards and presents to our local veterans, including felted poppies hand-crafted by a Russian artist in St Petersburg, and recorded a memorable audio greeting by Capt. Rolfe Monteith.

Over the course of the year, we were delighted to welcome three distinguished patrons as members of CamRuSS: Prof Anthony Cross, Libby Howie and Dr Rachel Polonsky. We should like to extend particular thanks to Libby, with whose generous support we could afford to employ our first part-time administrative assistant, who since mid-October has been helping to streamline our communications and provide support to the external community.

We are most grateful to CamRuSS’s Patron Tony Brenton for delivering the brilliant online talk “Member of the Family or Barbarian at the Gate? Russia and the West” on 6 November 2020 and providing his invaluable support to CamRuSS over the years.

We initiated collaborations and provided support to the following UK partners: The Kino Klassika Foundation, Raymond Nicolette Trust, Gift of Life, The Great Britain-Russia Society, Russian Art and Culture.

We made several donations throughout the year, including £100 towards Captain Tom Moore’s NHS fundraising campaign and a small donation to Russian Art and Culture for their promotional support.

All this was made possible thanks to the active support of the Board of Trustees: Ksenia Afonina (Chair), Yelena Karl (Secretary & Vice-Chair), Janar Davletov (Treasurer), Elena

Richer, Ekaterina Onatskaia, Jelena Carter and Honorary Advisers: Tanya Yurasova, John Barber and Firuza Melville, as well as the help of the key volunteers: Alyona Gun'ko (membership), Elena Gorban' (finance), Tania Ustinova, Oksana Gerasimova, Tanya Yurasova, Natasha Bacon (communications), Beverley Lott (proofreading) and Elvira Churyumova who joined our team as a part-time administrator.

We are greatly thankful to CamRuSS Honorary Adviser Dr John Barber for delivering an insightful talk online, "Operation Barbarossa: The turning point of The Second World War", on 18 September 2020.

I should like to especially mention the contribution of the Secretary and Vice-Chair Yelena Karl, whose role was crucial in the process of introducing online activities. Thanks also to all members, speakers, attendees and contributors to our events. We did not charge for our online events but invited donations which were kindly gifted by over 70 of those who attended our events throughout the year. Your membership fees and kind support have kept us going in these challenging times.

When reviewing the progress of the plans set at our last AGM in April 2020, I am pleased to report that we completed most of our tasks, apart from the website upgrade project, on which we have started work and will aim to launch in 2021.

Thank you for another remarkable and memorable year!

Ksenia Afonina, Chair

Financial Report CamRuSS 2020

We are in the midst of an unprecedented health emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic. So it is with great regret that we had to minimize the number of our in-person events during the lockdown in 2020. The move of events to online with all of us staying home is a somewhat sad moment for us but these measures are in accordance with government regulations and guidance, and reflect the seriousness of the current situation.

It is both tough and disappointing that we cannot meet in person, but we also recognise that online events brought our organisation some unexpected benefits such as being able to invite some interesting speakers from afar, accommodating more attendees on our online platforms than would normally be possible. High-quality online lectures were available to all members and friends throughout the year due to the hard work of the Trustees and volunteers who organised them.

Our income for the year stands at £14,908 (£14,645 last year), which derived from income from entrance fees 10% (30% in 2019), sponsorship and external grants 3% (27% in 2019), donations 73% (24% in 2019), memberships 8% (9% in 2019) and other income 6% (10% in 2019). We have been successful in obtaining a grant from the Cambridge City Council for £500 for 9th of May presentation and the Remembrance Day brochure production.

In 2020 we have received incredibly generous donations from our supporters and Patrons. Overall donations amounted to £11,400 (£7,530 in 2019) which is 76% of total income received in the year. There was a particularly large general donation of £10k given to support the work of an administrative assistant and the development of our website. That work is now underway. Overall donations not including this one came to £900.

Membership income contributed 8% (9% in 2019) to our overall income in 2020. The Trustees are very grateful to the members for their continued support even in this challenging year.

Now that CamRuSS is a registered charity, we are able and planning to submit a Gift Aid claim on donations received in 2020. For a basic-rate taxpayer, this adds up to 25% of the value of the donation to CamRuSS under the Gift Aid scheme, so if you gave £10 with Gift Aid your gift is worth £12.50 to our charity. Gift Aid is one of the simplest and most effective ways of making your donations go even further; it's like a gift on top of a gift at no extra cost to you! However, we can only claim Gift Aid on eligible donations, i.e. where we have a completed Gift Aid declaration form from the donor, confirming that they are a UK taxpayer. It is that easy and the form is available on our website. Gift Aid represents the long-standing principle of not taxing money donated to good causes. Gift Aid acts as a recognition of the important role of charities in society. So please go this extra step which could make quite a big difference for the funding of CamRuSS' activities at no extra cost.

The overall expenditure in 2020 was £5,467 (£10,895 in 2019), of which 37% was attributable to direct costs (85% in 2019), 20% (4% in 2019) to overheads such as website maintenance, subscription fees and insurance. Such an increase in overheads is due to additional subscriptions and fees CamRuSS had to pay for a Zoom licence and website maintenance to be able to carry out the events online. 43 % (3% in 2019) was attributable to governance and corporate costs: 1% (5% in 2019) governance and 42% (8% in 2019) to corporate costs such as corporate memberships. One of the main factors that led to this increase in corporate costs was the employment of a part-time administrative assistant.

In conclusion, I hope an effective lockdown and the vaccines that are being rolled out across the country offer us some light at the end of the tunnel and that we shall be able to return to normal life in due course. Meanwhile, CamRuSS will continue to maintain various and interesting engagement with you all. Please continue your support to our Society so that we can keep meeting again online and in person.

Janar Davletov, Treasurer

Membership

Last year we did very well, and we would like to say thank you all for your kind support.

However, we can see that the total number of memberships in 2020 is slightly lower compared to 2019. I presume that this was caused by the pandemic and the fact that all in-person events were cancelled.

The Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society Reports for 2020

Overall, in 2020 we received £1,229 (90 members) in memberships compared to £1,380 (96 members) in 2019.

Again, thank you very much for your support!

Family Status	2019	2019	2019 events which generated the largest volume of new/ renewed memberships	2020	2020
Qtr1	£210.00		Tony Brenton 2019 (6 memberships)	126	
Qtr2	£252.00		Crimea: A History 2019 (5 memberships), online 9 (memberships)	108	
Qtr3				36	
Qtr4	£234.00		Film Festival 2019 (13 memberships)	180	
Family total	£696/ 39 memberships	13 new memberships/ 26 renewed		£450/ 25 memberships	5 new memberships/ 20 renewed
Individual Status					
Qtr1	£276.00		Tony Brenton 2019 (6 memberships), online 15 (memberships)	252	
Qtr2	£180.00		Natali Gouncharova 2019, Crimea: A History 2019 (7 memberships)	216	
Qtr3	£24.00			72	
Qtr4	£204.00		Film Festival 2019 (9 memberships)	240	
Individual total	£684/ 57 memberships	29 new memberships/ 28 renewed		£780/ 65 memberships	30 new memberships/ 35 renewed
Grand Total	£1,380.00			£1,229	

Alona Gun'ko, Membership Officer

Communications

This has been another very busy year for the team with a particular emphasis on electronic communications due to the need to go virtual since the end of March 2020.

Over 60 electronic communications have been sent during the year. We have publicised and supported CamRuSS events and projects through the following digital platforms and collaborators:

CamRuSS Website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, collaborating with Cambridge University Slavonic Department and CURS, as well as Cambridge Arts Network, Talks, All Events, Eventbrite, Visit Cambridge & Beyond, and local newspapers.

We are delighted to introduce Elvira Churyumova who took over from Tanya Ustinova in October 2020. Before Elvira joined the team in October, Tanya Ustinova was responsible for sending electronic newsletters via Mailchimp by collecting news items, compiling, editing and testing content, liaising with organisers and making sure the information was correct and relevant.

Ksenia Afonina was managing the website as well as Instagram and Eventbrite accounts, compiling and checking newsletters and providing backup support across other areas of communications.

Yelena Karl helped to proofread and edit newsletters, posted events on the CamRuSS website, Facebook, All Events as well as Visit Cambridge & Beyond (till its closure in summer 2020).

Now Elvira Churyumova has taken charge of electronic bulletins, as well as promoting CamRuSS events on social media and across all communication channels, including our partners, updating the CamRuSS website and responding to communications received at events@camruss.com, camruss1999@gmail.com, newsletter@camruss.com.

During the year, Natasha Bacon has been promoting our events (especially those in the CamRuSS Art Series) via Facebook among relevant interest groups.

Tanya Kladi helped with translations into Russian.

Tanya Yurasova has been looking after the official CamRuSS contact mailbox info@camruss.com, responding to queries or forwarding them to the relevant officers/members of the board of trustees.

We are also delighted to welcome Beverley Lott who is now helping with proofreading and editing the English-language communications.

(Tanya Ustinova, Ksenia Afonina, Elvira Churyumova, Yelena Karl, Natasha Bacon, Tanya Yurasova, Tanya Kladi, Beverley Lott)

Tanya Yurasova, on behalf of CamRuSS Communications Team

Website and Social Media Report:

The CamRuSS website has demonstrated an active performance since the beginning of the first lockdown with over 1700 users visiting it each month since April 2020, where the majority were new visitors. In addition to UK-based audience members we attracted users from across the world, including Russia, USA, China, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

Our Facebook Account has 1600 subscribers

Instagram – 158 followers

Twitter – 111 followers

Our mailing list grew by 500 new subscribers in 2020.

Short overview of the activities by individual interest groups:

Theatre/ Vot Takoi Teatr (Svetlana Baibekova)

In 2020 Vot Takoi Teatr continued to exist despite the pandemic and the lockdown.

The group continued rehearsing Nikolai Erdman's play *The Suicide* (*Самойбу́йца*) with Svetlana Baibekova as a director. 3 more people joined the group making it 21 in total. Apart from the play rehearsal, Konstantin Kamenski (a professional theatre director from London) ran three masterclasses with the group.

From March 2020, when meeting in person became impossible, the group switched to rehearsals on Skype.

After it became clear that they would not be able to perform on stage any time soon, the group started to read various plays on Skype. With a weekly meeting on Wednesdays, each play takes 2-3 meetings to read. At the same time more people joined the group: Russian-speaking people from Germany, Israel, Russia. The group has started reading Shakespeare – so far six plays have been read. Under the current circumstances the Russian theatre group became a sort of radio theatre and expanded its members outside Cambridgeshire and the UK. When they were looking for a better translation to Russian, poet Marina Boroditskaya joined the group and offered a new translation to Russian of *The Comedy of Errors*. Currently, the theatre group meets weekly on Tuesdays.

Svetlana came up with the idea of inviting Marina Boroditskaya, poet and translator, to talk to the CamRuSS audience, which Marina kindly agreed to do in April this year.

Russian Book Club (coordinator: Olga Dunstan)

Book club continued to thrive in 2020 moving from in person meetings to online.

With 25-30 subscribers, 6-8 people usually attend the meetings. They read one book a month and held 11 meetings last year, exploring and discussing works by Russian and international authors, such as:

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari, On the Body of the Soul by Ludmila Ulitskaya, The Sacred Book of Werewolf by Viktor Pelevin, The Razor's Edge by W. Somerset Maugham, Brisbane by Eugene Vodolazkin, The Rehearsal by Vladimir Sharov, The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt, The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling, Tresorium by Boris Akunin, To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

Club 80+ (Irina Abnizova)

Sadly, after the death of another member of this club in summer 2020 and during the pandemic, the club stopped operating. It would be great to revive this initiative.

Irina Abnizova, who initiated the club a few years ago, is thinking about the ways to look after Russian-speaking elderly parents who live here with their adult children or any elders:

Soon a lot of CamRuSS active members will retire, (60+) they should do something nice for themselves! Perhaps make links with children who do not have their grandparents around.

Russian-English Conversation on Zoom (Tanya Yurasova)

This was a new initiative, offered to members of CamRuSS and the local community during the period of lockdown and social distancing. It started in May 2020, and took the form of weekly one-hour long meetings, with the number of participants varying from 6 to 20 at its best.

The group chooses a topic for each week; sometimes members prepare a short quiz or send to one another links to videos and other materials. Discussions take place in Russian and English, half of the time in each language, usually in breakout rooms in groups of 3-5. There is a core of regular and active participants who, hopefully, benefit from this activity.

CamRuSS Collaborations 2020: Summer and Winter Online Russian Courses run by local teachers of Russian language (Tanya Yurasova)

Two Online Russian Courses were organised this year by Tanya Yurasova with the help of a team of professional Russian teachers (Lina Konovalova, Vera Grantham, Anna Nerukh, Marina Burrell, Elena McKain, Olga Kimkhai, and Ioulia Ignatievskaya), in collaboration with CamRuSS. One course was in August, and the other in November – December. Each course ran on two consecutive weekends, with 60 and 40 participants respectively, and both were rather successful according to the feedback from the students.

Dear friends,

Last year the Board of Trustees met 13 times to discuss many important issues from making plans and organising events, to setting the society's future goals and planning and switching our activities to virtual format. A few of these meetings were also attended by Honorary Advisers and Patrons. At the last Annual General meeting Firusa Melville stepped down from her trustee role and became an honorary adviser, while Elena Richer joined as a new trustee.

After joining as a Patron Libby Howie hosted a strategic brainstorming in her garden on 29 June 2020 when it was allowed to meet outside. We discussed ideas of fundraising and special projects.

The specific characteristic of CamRuSS Board of Trustees is that all the trustees play a key role in running the society, essentially as active volunteers – members of the organising committee, unlike typical overseeing governors who check a charity's affairs only once or twice a year.

Let's look at the plans we set at the last AGM for 2020 and what we have accomplished:

- Upgrade CamRuSS website – found designers in St Petersburg; work in progress (technical description is being completed at the moment);
- Secure grant for the Manager's salary & website upgrade – found a donor to sponsor this position;
- Hire part-time CamRuSS Manager/Executive – hired Elvira Churyumova, Administrative Assistant on a part-time basis in October;
- Launch a series of talks about Russian Arts & Culture – 6 talks, 3 speakers, 540+ attended;
- Improve communications – administrative assistant is helping now;
- Improve involvement of members of the Organising Committee and attract new trustees – invited 4 new candidates: Alona Gun'ko, Sayara Thompson and Oksana Gerasimova joining as CamRuSS trustees in 2021;
- Create agreement templates and role specifications for trustees/volunteers in line with the Charity Commission requirements – work in progress (Mariam Olayan is helping);
- Organise an Open Table – to attract new people, volunteers, etc. – 3 round tables (brochure; prize project; engaged a new volunteer Beverley Lott who has been helping with proofreading our external communications);
- Work with existing volunteers; Search for new potential volunteers through social networks;
- Maintained and update the bank of ideas – work in progress.

Please see the individual reports submitted by the trustees below.

Kind regards,

Yelena Karl, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Ksenia Afonina, Chair

1. Organised and presented 11 events, including the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Russian History and Arts Lecture Series (6 lectures).
2. Assisted with running 6 zoom events.
3. Chaired all CamRuSS trustees' meetings in 2020.
4. Proposed and engaged new patrons for CamRuSS.
5. Secured a grant from Cambridge City Council for VE Day 75 - £500 and submitted a report.
6. Organised and recorded VE Day greetings message with Capt. Rolfe Monteith.
7. Sourced and commissioned felt poppies for the veterans of WW2 in Britain.
8. Helped to complete and print the *Remembering The Second World War* brochure; sent copies to the veterans, other contributors and helpers; distributed press releases to local newspapers and submitted copies to the reference libraries (British Library and other UK libraries).
9. Took the lead role in the recruitment process for a CamRuSS part-time assistant as well as training and continue to provide supervision and support.
10. Delivered and supervised CamRuSS communications (Mailchimp, website, FB, Instagram, Twitter, Eventbrite, etc.), prepared video recordings of the events before handing the major part over to the CamRuSS Assistant on 12 October 2020.
11. Arranged a discounted annual Zoom Pro licence through Charity Digital portal.
12. Organised and distributed Season's Greetings cards and presents to CamRuSS patrons, trustees, key supporters and partners (over 60).
13. Prepared an overview of Russo-British exchanges in 2020 for the end of year mailing.
14. Responded to enquiries received at camruss@camruss.com and managed external communications on behalf of CamRuSS, including cooperation with Luba Balagova (SIFFA), Jadranka (Serbian charity – Raymond Nicolet Trust); Natalia Fleer-Prujanskaia (Gift of Life).

Janar Davletov, Treasurer

1. Attended 9 trustees meetings.
2. Administered all CamRuSS accounts (bank, petty cash, PayPal, SumUp).
3. Updated summary financial records on ongoing basis with details of all income received & all expenditure incurred.
4. Arranged payments of all expenses and external suppliers invoices throughout the year.
5. Reconciled bank and petty cash records to the financial records on a regular basis.
6. Assisted with preparation of VE-75 grant application and report to Cambridge City Council.
7. Provided regular support to all events by printing and distributing posters and other printed media, attended "help desk" at events before the lockdown in April.
8. Monitored and approved the use of society's funds; discussed budget of each event with the key organisers.
9. Gave guided tours to the guest speakers in Trinity College: E. Shulmann, Oleg Dorman.
10. Opened a new bank account with a new name after registration as charity.

Yelena Karl, Secretary, Vice-Chair, Event Coordinator

1. Arranged all meetings of the Board of trustees; took and distributed the minutes.
2. Helped to organise and manage the AGM in April 2020 – prepared the reports and agenda; completed the minutes taken by Oksana Gerasimova.
3. Organised 5 events (in-person: with P. Zinovieff, O. Dorman and online with M. Segal, A. Borovsky, M. Bloshteyn).

4. Set up CamRuSS Zoom Pro account; attended Zoom training; provided technical support for the majority of CamRuSS virtual events on Zoom.
5. Coordinated the plan of events; searched for new possible speakers.
6. Took part in the preparation process and interviewing new Assistant; has been participating in weekly meetings with Elvira Churyumova, administrative assistant (tasks and plans).
7. Initiated and created Presentation PQ-2020 (about Russian Arctic Convoy British veterans) for 8-9 May.
8. Coordinated the creation of the brochure “Remembering WWII” for Remembrance Day with Ksenia Afonina.
9. Organised 3 Round tables with volunteers with Jelena Carter – as a result engaged new volunteer Beverley Lott as a proof-reader.
10. Work with veterans: sent cards on Victory day and Remembrance day (20+veterans); kept in touch with veterans and their families; helped Russian TV-1 to arrange interview with J.Baynes; interview for Russian TV/channel 1 about CamRuSS work with veterans. Sent Russian TV-2 documentary (DVD) to 4 interviewed veterans.
With Ksenia Afonina and Ekaterina Onatskaia met (on Zoom) the group of the Russian veterans who could not visit the UK. Helping to get Ushakov medals and other recognition by the Russian Embassy to the living veterans (U.K, U.S.A, Australia).
11. Took part in preparations for the VE-75 grant application and reporting (with Ksenia Afonina and Janar Davletov).
12. Prepared a list of Christmas greetings’ addressees for posting cards and presents.
13. Assisted with communications: newsletters – translation, proof-reading; website, AllEvents; promoting events on FB, Visit Cambridge & Beyond (until summer 2020).
14. Took part in the discussions of the Translation Prize project with Firuza Melville, Libby Howie, Ksenia Afonina.

Future plans:

- To create the complete package of governing documents (volunteer agreements, trustee role descriptions, set of policies, etc.) to be added to the Constitution, Privacy Policy and Confidentiality agreement.
- To continue to coordinate our veterans projects, plan of events, bank of ideas and be the point of contact for external queries.
- To arrange the talks S. Dalziel, V. Tsareva-Brauner in 2021.

Ekaterina Onatskaia, Trustee

1. Took part in 11 trustees meetings;
2. Helped with organizing the Art Sale fundraiser;
3. Helped with collection data for WW2 brochure;
4. Communication with V. Pisarenko – to organise his concert when the time allows;
5. Communication with Vera Tsareva-Brauner – to organise her lecture in June, 2021;
6. Communication with Maral Yakshieva– jazz pianist from Kazakhstan;
7. Promoted CamRuSS events via Cambridge Russian Academy and beyond.

Future plans:

- membership coordinator – taking over from Alona Gun’ko;
- updating CamRuSS membership database and communicating with CamRuSS members;
- help with the next Art Sale;

- help in organising online craft masterclass with Ludmila Perlova;
- organise Vitaly Pisarenko concert, when the time allows;
- organise Vera Tsareva-Brauner lecture in June, 2021;
- organise Pamela Smith talk (Manchester) in 2021;
- help with the translation prize and any other projects.

Jelena Carter, Trustee

1. Organised the Christmas party online event together with Tanya Yurasova.
2. Wrote a grant application for CamRuSS Autumn Fair (was not completed, the event was cancelled due to the pandemic).
3. Promoted CamRuSS events to the Cambridge Russian School and groups on FB.
4. Took part in 12 CamRuSS trustees meetings and 2 Round tables with volunteers.

Future plans:

- to continue acting as a link between CamRuSS and the Cambridge Russian School;
- to organise social events (e.g. Autumn Fair, Old New Year), the key organiser with a team of volunteers;
- to help organising outdoor gatherings (mushroom walk, barbeque) with Dmitry Mevzos;
- as the CamRuSS Policies Officer organise the training for trustees and volunteers.

Elena Richer, Trustee (joined the CamRuSS Board of Trustees in February 2020).

1. Took part in 8 trustees meetings (all from May).
2. Proposed and organised the first CamRuSS online webinar ‘COVID-19. Problems and opportunities of modern medicine’ (attended by 65 people) on 26 April 2020.
3. Initiated and organised an Online Art Sale / Zoom Auction on 13 November 2020. Created the Catalogue of 22 pieces. The auction attracted 10 bidders raising £755 in total.
4. Organised Cooking Class of Authentic Georgian Cuisine by Elena Riddle on 18 December 2020 (100+ people from 10 countries attended).

Future plans:

- To organise a series of virtual cooking classes in the next years to cover the diversity and rich heritage of the national dishes represented by the members of the Russian-speaking community.
- To organise an annual Online Art Sale/ Auction in March 2021.

Alona Gun'ko, Membership Coordinator, GDPR Officer

1. Maintained the database of members' information in accordance with GDPR.
2. Acknowledged new members joining and sending reminders of renewal to members.
3. Kept in contact with the Treasurer about membership payments.
4. Replied to queries from members or Trustees about membership status or benefits, events or events' recordings.
5. Created the up-to-date list of current members before each event on request from event organisers.

6. Updated the database after each event (new members and renewals) and informed Communications team about these changes.
7. Prepared interim membership status reports for the mailings to members only.
8. Prepared Membership report for Annual General Meetings.
9. New responsibilities since 2020: Keeping records of 'Gift Aid' registrations and sending info to the Treasurer and/or members.
10. Sending "Thank you for your donation" letter to contributors (members and non-members).

Since April all our events were online because of COVID pandemic, so we decided to send an email to members and non-members (since 2013) and invite them to re-join the CamRuSS (350 people).



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society			Charity No	1183636
Annual accounts for the period				
Period start date	01/01/2020	To	Period end date	31/12/2020

Recommended categories by activity	Restricted			Total funds 2020	Total funds 2019
	Unrestricted funds	income funds	Endowment funds		
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	12,129	500	-	12,629	8,975
Charitable activities	2,279	-	-	2,279	5,466
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	204
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14,408	500	-	14,908	14,645
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	104	-	-	104	830
Charitable activities	4,923	500	-	5,423	9,756
Separate material item of expense	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	310
Total	5,027	500	-	5,527	10,896
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	9,381	-	-	9,381	3,749
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	9,381	-	-	9,381	3,749
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	9,381	-	-	9,381	3,749
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds carried forward	9,381	-	-	9,381	3,749

Section B **Balance sheet as at 31/12/2020**
The Cambridge Russian-Speaking Society

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Tangible assets	-	-	-	-	-
Heritage assets	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total fixed assets</i>	-	-	-	-	-
Current assets					
Stocks	-	-	-	-	-
Debtors	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	28,392	500	-	28,892	19,511
<i>Total current assets</i>	28,392	500	-	28,892	19,511
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Net current assets/(liabilities)</i>	28,392	500	-	28,892	19,511
<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>	28,392	500	-	28,892	19,511
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total net assets or liabilities</i>	28,392	500	-	28,892	19,511
Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	-			-	-
Restricted income funds		500		500	3,990
Unrestricted funds		8,881	-	8,881	3,869
Revaluation reserve		19,511		19,511	11,652
<i>Total funds</i>	-	28,892	-	28,892	19,511
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Name		Position		Date of approval dd/mm/yyyy
	Z.Davletov		Trustee & Treasurer		22/02/2021
	K.Afonina		Chair of Board of Trustees		22/02/2021

Z.Davletov



K.Afonina



Notes to the accounts

Note 1

Analysis of income

For the year ending 31 December 2020

for the ye
31/12/2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Total funds £
Analysis					
Donations and legacies:					
Donations and gifts	10,900	-	-	10,900	3,735
Gift Aid	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
General grants provided by government/other charities	-	500	-	500	3,990
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships which are in substance donations	1,229	-	-	1,229	1,250
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	12,129	500	-	12,629	8,975
Charitable activities:					
Entrance fee	1,473	-	-	1,473	4,305
Raffle tickets	-	-	-	-	271
Other	806	-	-	806	890
Total	2,279	-	-	2,279	5,466
Other trading activities:					
Merchandise sale	-	-	-	-	204
Total	-	-	-	-	204
Income from investments:					
Interest income	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend income	-	-	-	-	-
Rental and leasing income	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income:					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
Other:					
Conversion of endowment funds into income	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of a tangible fixed asset held for charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Gain on disposal of a programme related investment	-	-	-	-	-
Royalties from the exploitation of intellectual property rights	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	14,408	500	-	14,908	14,645

Notes to the accounts

Note 2

Analysis of expenditure

For the year ended 31 December 2020

for the ye
31/12/2019

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Total funds £
Analysis					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Incurred seeking donations	-	-	-	-	-
Incurred seeking legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Incurred seeking grants					
Operating membership schemes and social lotteries					
Staging fundraising events					
Fundraising agents					
Merchandise cost				-	635
Operating a trading company undertaking non-charitable trading activity				-	-
Advertising, marketing, direct mail and publicity	104		-	104	195
Start up costs incurred in generating new source of future	-	-	-	-	-
Database development costs	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-				
Investment management costs:	-	-	-	-	-
Portfolio management costs	-	-	-	-	-
Cost of obtaining investment advice	-	-	-	-	-
Investment administration costs	-	-	-	-	-
Intellectual property licencing costs	-	-	-	-	-
Rent collection, property repairs and maintenance charges	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure on raising funds	104	-	-	104	830
Expenditure on charitable activities					
Flowers and souvenirs	292		-	292	595
Guest fees	783		-	783	1,186
Publicity and promotion					
	88		-	88	1,631
Venue hire	-		-	-	3,273
Travel cost	134		-	134	1,215
Hospitality for events	198			198	677
Stationery & Postage	368			368	152
Web and IT expenses	969			969	104
Fees & Subscriptions	176			176	146
Other direct cost	1,638	500	-	2,138	777
Total expenditure on charitable activities	4,645	500	-	5,145	9,756
Separate material item of expense					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

Other	Total	-	-	-	-	-
	Governance cost	278	-	-	278	310
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total other expenditure	278	-	-	278	310
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		5,027	500	-	5,527	10,896