

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland · Charity number 107128

Details

Status	Received
Registered	2019-04-19
Register	View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register

Contact

Address	N/a N/a Bt7 3bz BT7 3BZ
Phone	07834236523
Email	rscni@hotmail.co.uk
Website	none

Activities

Purposes: The Community is established to: 2.1 Raise awareness of, and support culture, traditions and language of Russian speaking countries in Northern Ireland for the benefit of general public and migrants from those countries living in Northern Ireland; 2.2 Contribute to the cultural diversity, good community relations and the social inclusion of the beneficiaries through the provision of educational, social, recreational and multicultural activities for the benefit of all people living in Northern Ireland and migrants in particular.

What the charity does: The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science

How the charity works: Arts,Community development,Cultural,Education/training,Playgroup/after schools,Volunteer development,Youth development

Who the charity helps: Adult training,Children (5-13 year olds),Ethnic minorities,General public,Language community,Men,Parents,Preschool (0-5 year olds),Voluntary and community sector,Volunteers,Women,Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£31,117	£25,487	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Mr Alexey Shitvov		
Mrs Tatiana Panova		
Ms Svetlana Svyatko		

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Accounts



Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland
Charity no. 107128
Founded in 2013
Registration date 19/04/2019

Statement of assets and liabilities - Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 31 July 2025	Total Funds 30 June 2024
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at bank at the beginning of the year	10 402	-	10 402	11 600
Net of receipts/(payments)	4 328	1 303	5 631	(1 198)
Cash at bank at the end of the year	14 730	1 303	16 033	10 402

Bank and Cash Balances

	31 July 2025	30 June 2024
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Barclays Bank Account	16 033	10 402

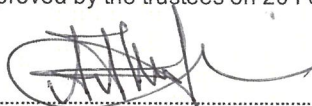
Other Assets

	31 July 2025	30 June 2024
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Belfast City Council Medium Grant (Restricted Funds)	-	995
Belfast City Council Micro Grant (Restricted Funds)	-	299
Choir "Rosinka" Assets, Net book value	-	656
CLC "Zhar-Ptitsa" Assets, Net book value	244	343
Other debtors (Unrestricted Funds)	-	81
	244	2 374

Other Liabilities

	31 July 2025	30 June 2024
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Creditors	-	-

Approved by the trustees on 20 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

 /25/02/2026

Alexei Shitvov
Chair

Svetlana Svyatko
Treasurer



Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Charity no. 107128

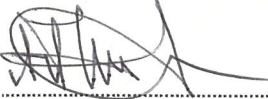
Founded in 2013

Registration date 19/04/2019

Receipts and Payments Accounts - Year Ended 31 July 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Prior Year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
Receipts				
Grants:				
Education Authority Grant	1 800	-	1 800	3 577
Belfast City Council Medium Grant	-	995	995	3 981
Belfast City Council Micro Grant	-	299	299	1 195
Boys & Girls Clubs (NI) Grant	-	150	150	-
Donations	-	-	-	108
Receipts from Charitable Activities:				
CLC "Zhar-Ptitsa" Tuition Fees	27 223	-	27 223	19 734
Community New Year Event	651	-	651	670
Total Receipts	29 673	1 444	31 117	29 265
Payments				
Cost of Charitable Activities:				
CLC "Zhar-Ptitsa"	23 060	-	23 060	23 175
Community New Year Event	1 071	-	1 071	939
Teambuilding Community Event	-	141	141	-
Club "Silver Age" (55+)	105	-	105	172
AQUA Activities Project Cost	-	-	-	1 494
Choir "Rosinka"	-	-	-	1 200
Cost of Fundraising	70	-	70	-
Governance cost	1 040	-	1 040	3 484
Total Payments	25 346	141	25 487	30 464
Net of receipts/(payments)	4 328	1 303	5 631	(1 198)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Cash funds last year end	10 402	-	10 402	11 600
Cash funds this year end	14 730	1 303	16 033	10 402

Approved by the trustees on 20 February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

 /26/02/2026

Alexei Shitvov
Chair

Svetlana Svyatko
Treasurer

Education Authority Generic/Non-Targeted Funding
Funded Areas: Saturday School
Duration: 01/4/2024 - 31/03/2025
Direct Beneficiaries: 65
Total Budget: £1 800,00
Expenditures during current reporting period: £1 800,00
Funds received during current reporting period: £1 800,00
Balance at 31 July 2025 £0,00


Boys & Girls Clubs (NI) Grant/ Targeted Funding
Funded Areas: Community and Saturday school staff teambuilding
Duration: 01/04/2025 - 30/06/2025
Direct Beneficiaries: 12
Total Budget: £150,00
Expenditures during current reporting period: £141,20
Funds received during current reporting period: £150,00
Balance at 31 July 2025 £8,80

Belfast City Council Medium Grant / Targeted Funding
Funded Areas: Robotics Club, Choir, Saturday School
Duration: 01/04/2023-31/03/2024
Direct Beneficiaries: 150
Total Budget: £4 976,50
Expenditures during prior reporting period: £4 976,50
Funds received during prior reporting period: £3 981,20
Funds received during current reporting period: £995,30
Balance at 31 July 2025 £0,00

Belfast City Council Micro Grant / Targeted Funding
Funded Areas: Community AQUA Activities Project Cost
Duration: 01/04/2023-31/03/2024
Direct Beneficiaries: 150
Total Budget: £1 494,00
Expenditures during prior reporting period: £1 494,00
Funds received during prior reporting period: £1 195,00
Funds received during current reporting period: £298,80
Balance at 31 July 2025 £0,00

TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED £3 244,10

TOTAL FUNDING SPENT £1 941,20

 / ALEXEY SHTVOV
26/02/2026.

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Accounts

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland
Annual Accounts report for the period ending
June 30th, 2024

SVETLANA STALMACONOKA

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1. General Information

Charity Name: The Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland
Founded 2013

Charity Registration Number: NIC107128

Registration Date: 19/04/2019

Trustees:

Chairperson: Oksana Shelest
Svetlana Svyatko
Tatjana Panova

Accountant: Svetlana Stalmaconoka

Bankers

Barclays bank
Belfast City Branch
17 Castle Pl,
Belfast
BT1 1EL

2. Annual Monitoring Return of Accounts

For the year ending 30th June 2024, the Charity is required to submit an Annual Monitoring Return under section 70 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. As per the Charity Commission Regulation Law, the RSCNI is eligible for an independent examination since its gross Income is less than £250,000.

The Financial Statement have been prepared, approved, and authorized by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for release on 30 October 2024, and signed by:

Oksana Shelest

Chairperson
Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Signed: 

Date: 23/11/24

2.1. Profit and Loss
Year ended 30th June 2024

	NOTES	2023/2024	2022/2023
Gross Profit/ Fundraising			
Donations		108	11
Sales	10	19932.01	11672.8
Total Gross Profit		20040.01	19683.8
Cost of Fundraising			
		2023/2024	2022/2023
Choir 'Rossinka' project rehearsals		420.00	1550
Community project Rent		866.60	900
Community project		596.60	372.95
New Year project		938.58	451.64
Youth Club project		252.00	792
Chess Club project		0.28	0
Club 55+ project		172.31	0
Robotic club project facilitator fee		572.00	
Robotic project		43.38	
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' project misc exp		-58.05	650.6
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' project		1098.85	1391.63
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Administrator fees		5503.50	4300.1
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Teachers fees		6259.30	10443
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Training Lysenco/other		69.15	179.4
Postage and Carriage		14.99	45.35
Professional fees		3325.00	2387.5
Bank Charges		0.00	15.49
Insurance		139.72	0
Internet		143.88	0
Choir 'Rossinka' assets depreciation		655.92	655.92
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' assets depreciation		404.28	310.68
Community assets depreciation		139.36	141.24
Total Cost of Fundraising		21557.65	24587.5
Funds generation/Used funds		-1517.64	-4903.7
Funds used		-1517.64	-4903.7

2.2 Balance Sheet

Year ended 30th June 2024

	NOTES	2023/2024	2022/2023
Fixed Assets			
Office Equipment	7	998.99	2198.56
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	1375.1	0
Bank Account		10402.12	11600.35
Creditors amount falling due within one year	6	<u>0</u>	<u>-205.05</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>12776.21</u>	<u>13593.86</u>
Capital & Reserves			
Funds		0	0
P & L Account		-1517.64	-4903.7
Previous Year Adj.		0	0
Funds This Year		<u>-1517.64</u>	<u>-4903.7</u>

2.3 Notes to the financial statement

Year ended 30th June 2024

1. General Information

The Charity organisation is registered in Northern Ireland. Reg NIC107128

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been provided with the provisions of Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

3. Accounting policies Basis of preparation

The Financial statements prepared in sterling's, which if functional currency of the entity. Annual monitoring return under section 70 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Fixed assets

The Fixed assets are initially reordered at cost and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant & machinery	25% Straight line
Fitting fixtures & equipment	25% Straight line
Motor vehicles	25% Straight line
Computer Equipment	25% Straight line

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply the conditions attaching to them, and the grants will be received.

Financial instruments

A financial instrument or financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes.

A financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at the market rate for similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measure at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date.

4. Staff cost

The average number of persons employed by the charity organisation the year amounted to zero.

5. Debtors

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Debtors		
Restricted funds Grant MCNI MGF	0	0
Prepayments Fit Moms	0	700
Belfast city council mini grant	298.8	0
Belfast city council medium grant	995.3	0
Koshkin Dom	81	0
	<u>1375.1</u>	<u>700</u>

6. Creditors

Creditors	2023/2024	2022/2023
Charity Accruals	0	205.05
	<u>0</u>	<u>-205.05</u>

7. Fixed Assets

Office equipment	Cost	2023/2024		2022/2023	
		Depreciation	NBV	Depreciation	NBV
Community assets	563.09	563.09	0	423.73	139.36
Choir Assets	3279.54	2623.67	655.87	1967.74	1311.8
School Assets	1617.06	1273.94	343.12	869.66	747.4
	<u>5459.69</u>	<u>4460.70</u>	<u>998.99</u>	<u>3261.13</u>	<u>2198.56</u>

Detailed Cash flow

Year ended 30 June 2024

Barclays Bank	2023/2024	2022/2023
Cash on the beginning FYE 01 July	<u>11600.35</u>	<u>17600.96</u>
Cash at the end FYE 30 June	<u>10402.12</u>	<u>11600.35</u>

Cash flow

Bank at the beginning of the year		11600.35	17600.96
Money in	8	29265.41	26699.8
Money out	9	30463.64	32700.41
Bank at the end of the year		<u>10402.12</u>	<u>11600.35</u>

8. Money in

		2023/2024	2022/2023
Sales	10	20404.01	18854.9
Donation		108	11
Grants	11	8753.4	6310
Supplier refund		-	128.9
Contra Account Supplier/Debtors			1395
		<u>29265.41</u>	<u>26699.8</u>

9. Money out

Supplier payment	12	18405.34	23863.61
Card payment	12	1538.8	
Grants	13	10047.5	8836.8
Customer refund		472	
		<u>30463.64</u>	<u>32700.41</u>

10. Detailed Sales

	2023/2024	2022/2023
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' School Fees	19310	18710
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Annual admin fees	400	424
Membership	24	0
New year party	670.01	540
Discount allowed	0	-1.2
	<u>20404.01</u>	<u>19672.8</u>

11. Detailed received Grants

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Education Authority	3577	3000
MCNI MGF	0	1335
MCNI MGF NOR RESTRICTED	0	1975
Belfast city council mini grant	1195.2	0
Belfast city council medium grant	3981.2	0
	<u>8753.4</u>	<u>6310</u>

12. Detailed payments

	2023/2024	2022/2023
Choir 'Rossinka' project rehearsals	420.00	1550
Community project Rent	866.60	900
Community project	596.60	372.95
New Year project	938.58	451.64
Youth Club project	252.00	792
Chess Club project	0.28	0
Club 55+ project	172.31	0
Robotic club project facilitator fee	572.00	0
Robotic project	43.38	
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' project Misc exp	-58.05	650.6
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' project	1098.85	1391.63
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Administrator fees	5503.50	4300.1
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Teachers fees	6259.30	10443
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Training		
Lysenco/other	69.15	179.4
Postage and Carriage	14.99	45.35

Professional fees	3325.00	2387.5
Bank Charges	0.00	15.49
Insurance	139.72	0
Internet	143.88	0
Total payments	20358.09	24587.5

12. Detailed payments	2023/2024	2022/2023
Choir 'Rossinka' project rehearsals	420.00	1550
Community project Rent	866.60	900

13. Detailed Grants expenditure	2022/2023	2022/2023
Education Authority	3577	3000
Belfast City Council mini grant	1494	0
Belfast City Council medium grant	4976.5	
MCNI MGF NOT RESTRICTED	0	1975
MCNI 5% MGF	0	3260
MCNI 112/113	0	601.8
Total	10047.50	8836.8

FUNDS

Funds Net per project	This year	Last year
Choir 'Rossinka'	0.00	50.00
CLC 'Zhar-ptica'	10402.12	11550.35
Prepaid RENT FIT MOMS	0.00	700.00
Prepaid KOSHKIN DOM	81.00	0.00
Prepaid BCC MEDIUM GRANT	995.30	0.00
Prepaid BCC MINI GRANT	298.8	0.00

Svetlana Stalmaconoka

Accountant
At Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Signed: 

Date: 28/10/2024

3.Independent Examiner's Report 2023/2024

I have made examined The Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland Accounts for the financial year 2023/2024 ended 30 June 2024.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9) (b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Findings

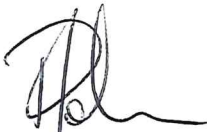
All entries in the RSCNI accounts were checked with Bank Statements.

The bank opening balance (£ 11600.35),
Income/Fundraising (£19,932.01),
Donation received (£108.00),
Expenditure (£ 21,557.65),
Grants received 23/24 (£8,753.40),
Grants expenditure (£10,047.50) was verified is correct.
The bank closing balance of (£ 10,402.12) is correct.

No irregular items nor any discrepancies were found.

The expenditure details confirm that the objectives of the RSCNI have been met.

Name:



T. JOHNSTON

Signed.....

Professional qualification / body:

DIRECTOR

Date: 25 OCT 2024

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Annual report



Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Charity No: 107128

Annual Report 2023-2024

Chairperson Report

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland (RSCNI) for the fiscal year 2023/24. This report outlines our achievements, ongoing projects, and plans for the upcoming year. Despite facing challenges, our community has made significant progress in various areas, thanks to the dedication and support of our members and volunteers.

During the past year, our community group actively engaged with our community members to attract new members to the governing board, ensuring diverse representation and effective leadership. We held multiple introductory meetings with those who expressed their interest in Trustee Board work. Tatiana Panova has joined our Board as a trustee and she is responsible for volunteers recruitment and management.

Our permanent projects such as Culture and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptitsa' (Saturday school), choir, Robotics club and 'Igroteka', continued to flourish, attracting new participants and fostering a sense of community among attendees. We successfully continued with our new initiative Club 55+ for senior adults. This project aims to cater to diverse interests and demographics within our community and is poised for continued success in the upcoming fiscal year.

Our annual New Year celebration event for kids, directed by the talented Inna Sudilovskaya, was a resounding success, drawing over 150 attendees including children and their parents. The event was actively supported by volunteers and staff at "Zhar-Ptitsa" with traditional Father Frost and Snegurochka characters, New Year gifts, festive activities, dancing and singing around the Christmas tree for children and adults. This was the biggest event of the year to celebrate the arrival of the New Year before everyone took a break for Christmas holidays.

With the support of Belfast City Council, we organised a community day out for all children and young people and their families at Shaw's Bridge park and river that included active sports games, team building activities in the park, laser tag and kayaking. A community picnic organised after activities provided lots of opportunities for socialising and making new friends. The event was facilitated by amazing team of Mobile Team Adventure. About 60 children and young people took part from Zhar-Ptitsa centre, Youth club and other community members.

The following chart provides an overview of the funding received by the Russian Speaking Community NI during the fiscal year ending 30 June 2024:

Community Activity Medium Grant 2023-2024 Tranche 1

Funded Areas:	Robotics Club, Choir, Saturday School
Duration:	01/04/2023-31/03/2024
Direct Beneficiaries:	150
Total Budget:	£4,976.50
Received:	£3,981.20
Expenditures (to 30/06/2024):	£4,976.50
Balance (to 30/06/2023):	£-995.30

Community Activity Micro Grant 2023-2024 Tranche 1

Funded Areas:	Saturday School, Robotics Club, Youth Club
Duration:	01/04/2023-31/03/2024
Direct Beneficiaries:	150
Total Budget:	£1,494.00
Received:	£1,195.00

Expenditures (to 30/06/2024):	£1,494.00
Balance (to 30/06/2023):	£-298.80

Education Authority Generic/Non-Targeted Funding

Funded Areas:	Rent, Public Liability Insurance
Duration:	01/04/23 – 31/03/24
Direct Beneficiaries:	150
Total Budget:	£3,577.00
Received:	£3,577.00
Expenditures:	£3,577.00
Balance (to 30/06/2024):	£0.00

TOTAL RECEIVED GRANTS 22/23: £8753.20

TOTAL SPENT GRANTS £10047.50

Looking ahead to the forthcoming fiscal year, our community aims to focus on several key priorities:

- Attracting new members to the governing board
- Expanding the range of activities offered by the Youth Club and increasing youth involvement.
- Continue revision of policies and procedures for youth group activities to ensure safety and compliance.
- Organising new recreational and festival activities for adult beneficiaries, promoting social bonding and celebrating the cultural diversity of Russian speakers in NI.
- Providing child protection training and conducting Access NI checks for new starters to ensure the safety of all participants.
- Strengthening partnerships with sponsors and other national communities in NI, fostering collaboration on projects and enhancing communication channels.

In conclusion, the past year has been marked by notable achievements and exciting developments within our community. As we embark on the next fiscal year, we are committed to building on our successes, addressing challenges, and advancing our mission of promoting unity, education, and cultural enrichment. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for their unwavering support and dedication.

Oksana Shelest
RSCNI Chairperson

RSCNI Culture and Learning Centre ‘Zhar-Ptitsa’

It has been another successful year for the Culture and Learning Centre “Zhar-Ptitsa” that has been running in Belfast since 2015, supporting social ties, conducting educational activities and community events for children and families coming from different parts of Northern Ireland and united by the common language and culture. “Zhar-Ptitsa” is one of the longest-running projects of RSCNI aimed at teaching Russian as international language, literature and speech development in Russian, artistic and dance skills, and providing additional opportunities for children from Russian speaking and mixed families to interact and socialise in a range of activities. It is also open for anyone interested in Russian language and cultural diversity of the Russian speaking countries.

Kids’ classes and activities were delivered every Saturday (except for school holidays) throughout the school year, and included Russian language, Drama and speech development classes, Literature class, Dance class, Artwork and Crafts and a new class in Calligraphy. Approximately 43 children between age of 3 to 16 attended the classes. 7 children attended Russian language classes online.

All children’s classes were conducted in groups formed by age and level of the Russian language proficiency:

- Early Development group - Games & Alphabet (3-4 years);
- Basic Russian group - Foundations of Russian Reading & Writing (5-7 years);
- Intermediate group – Reading Beginners & Writing group (6+ years);
- Upper Intermediate – next level after the Intermediate group and beginning World around us programme (7+ years);
- Advanced group – More complex Russian grammar and World around us (8+ years).

This year’s teaching programme saw the introduction of a new subject – Calligraphy or the art of joint-up writing in Russian. This subject, complementing the Russian language studies, became a new addition to the learning package offered by “Zhar-Ptitsa” and consisting of the Russian Language & Literature classes. At Calligraphy classes, children not only had the opportunity to develop practical calligraphy and literacy skills, but also were able to learn about the history of Slavonic scripts and development of the system of writing in Slavic culture.

Pupils of “Zhar-Ptitsa” were also able to get involved with the Robotics Club – a project of the RSCNI that included a beginners group for younger children (7+) and a more advanced group for older children building programmable robots.

Aside from in-person Saturday sessions, the centre successfully continues an online learning programme in the Russian language. During the academic year 2023-24, two groups of different language proficiency have been undertaking these lessons once a week throughout the academic year.

In addition to academic progress, the Centre has been able to successfully organise various seasonal festivities with pupils, staff, parents and volunteers.

We had a number of new volunteers joining us in the past year at our “Zhar-Ptitsa” centre. A special themed open class was organised by our new volunteer Nadezhda Narovska to celebrate Cosmonautics Day and to allow children to learn about space and its exploration. All children received special themed certificates recognising their effort in learning new facts about this popular topic.

Apart from the traditional Saturday classes, during the period September 2023 – June 2024, festive community events were organized in the Centre.

- Halloween (October 2023) – active games, fancy dressing, face painting, treats and Halloween disco.
- Maslenitsa festive games and celebrations (16 March 2023) – modern and traditional folk games, singing, dancing, fun and tea party with traditional Russian food bliny (crepes) and other traditional food and traditional folk costumes.
- End of Year Event (June 2023) – concert showcasing achievements of pupils to close the school year, including our dance groups, reciting poems and the award ceremony for pupils, volunteers and staff.

At the End of Year event, there was also an exhibition of artworks from the Centre art class pupils and Puskin's poetry reciting by parents and teachers to celebrate the poet's 225th birth anniversary.

During the year, volunteers from the Centre, parents and supporters of the RSCNI actively participated and supported the Centre's work.

Darya Hanzharova,
RSCNI Culture and Learning Centre "Zhar-Ptitsa" Coordinator

RSCNI Community Youth Club

RSCNI Robotics Club

It's been a remarkable year for the Robotics club, full of experiences that were exciting and fun. In 2023-2024 season, 3 robotics groups started their work delivering services to total 25 participants. The majority of participants (20) were also attending Russian classes at our Culture and Learning Centre, and the rest of participants were from Russian speaking community residing in Northern Ireland.

Robotics workshops covered various activities, methods and techniques. Through robotics participants

- learned how real-world technologies work;
- were introduced with control systems, sensors and smart technology;
- designed and built smart robotic devices;
- gained expertise in programming, science, technology, and electronics;
- and also developed such transferable skills as creative thinking, problem-solving and innovative mindset.

Participants of the senior children group worked with complex robots, which required robot full setup, including electronic sensors and control systems followed by programming and trial ride.

The robotics club has got in total 24 robotic kits, of which 14 kits are aimed at older age children and help to develop in-depth programming skills and 10 kits for junior participants that were obtained with the financial support of the Belfast City Council during the year of 2023-2024. The current number of the robot kits allows every participant to access each time a different robot after finishing previous one.

The Robotics Club 2023/24 season finished with final Robot competition, where all participants exhibited their built robots and presented their functions and capabilities. Robot cars participated in a race. All participants received participation certificates and winners were recognized with winner awards.

Oleksi Kashkarov,
RSCNI Robotics Club Lead

RSCNI Board Game Club

The Board Game Club exists to unite teenagers by interests and includes the creation of a visual-active, active self-education environment focused on identifying and developing creative, cognitive and communicative abilities of children.

This year, we consolidated strategic thinking skills with the help of such games as Citadels and Secret Message. These small at first glance games help teenagers learn to think through their actions several steps ahead, bluff, teach attentiveness and concentration when achieving the goals.

One of the favorite games for a large company appeared to be Code Names. The game allows one to develop imagination, quickly search for associations, group pictures with different messages and work in a team. The game has become so popular that we have changed the regular set to an XXL set.

Well, let's move on to the absolute favorites of the Board Game Club. In the second place in popularity is the Bunker game. This is a discussion game of elimination. The game is popular among young people and adults. It helps develop discussion skills, emotional intelligence, increases interest in various professions, motivates to study various social phenomena and their psychological impact on a person in non-standard conditions, enriches vocabulary. The popularity of the game makes the manager think about purchasing a new, more modern set.

Well, the undisputed leader of the Board Game Club is the Mafia game. This is a psychological step-by-step elimination game with a detective plot. The game develops deductive skills, emotional intelligence and the ability to read body language. It also teaches the ability to persuade and conduct productive discussions, promotes speech development.

The popularity of the game is so high that participants have to use all the characters to speed up the passage of the games. The maximum number of participants in the Board Game club was 37 people and we had to divide the participants into two groups and hold both Mafia and Bunker at the same time.

From all of the above, we can conclude that a comprehensive approach to organizing and equipping the subject-development environment and the refusal to duplicate the school-office system help in pedagogical work, and also bring children and parents closer together in the educational process, especially when it comes to bringing parents and teenagers together.

The survey showed that the interest of teenagers and parents in the implementation of the project is satisfied and most of the participants regularly visit the Board Game Club.

Anna Shestakova

RSCNI Board Gaming Club Coordinator

RSCNI Choir “Rossinka”

This has been a quiet year for the choir “Rossinka”, and we had fewer rehearsal and performance opportunities for various reasons beyond our control. The rehearsals were conducted by Oksana Churikova, who is professional musician and recently moved to live in Northern Ireland.

The project was supported by the Culture and Learning Centre “Zhar-Ptitsa” and funded by Belfast City Council in addition to our community reserve funds.

The weekly 1.5-hour rehearsals took place in the Currie Primary School premises and lasted from September 2023 to the end of March 2024. During these sessions, participants worked on voice development, intonation and breathing exercises, singing as an ensemble in 2 voices, understanding music and performance. A number of songs were revisited from the Choir’s last season repertoire using newly gained knowledge and skills, as well as a few new songs were learned.



The Choir performed twice this year. We took part in the Christmas and Pancake Week celebrations held in the Culture and Learning Centre “Zhar-Ptitsa”. The pleasure of our new repertoire and the compliments we received from the audience highly paid off the hard work we did this year.

Yekaterina Perova,
RSCNI Choir “Rossinka” coordinator

SRCNI Social Club 55+

The Club 55+, organised by the Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland (RSCNI), serves as an initiative to promote social interaction and support among older members of the community. Established with the goal of expanding social circles and reducing loneliness, the club provides a welcoming platform for people aged 55 and older to engage in various social and cultural activities.

Activities and Communication

The club utilises a WhatsApp group as its primary communication platform, enabling members to stay connected, share updates, and plan events. This digital approach allows for spontaneous outings and gatherings, accommodating members' varied interests and schedules. Throughout 2023-2024, Club 55+ organised a range of events and outings, each contributing to the Club's sense of camaraderie and purpose.

Overview of 2023–2024 Activities

In the 2023–2024 period, Club 55+ organized multiple outings and activities, featuring a mix of outdoor adventures, cultural experiences, and social gatherings:

- **2 July 2023** – Outing to **Glenariff Waterfalls and Forest Park**. This event attracted 18 members who enjoyed a scenic walk followed by a barbecue, marking the outing as a memorable success.
- **28 July 2023** – Social gathering at **Robinsons Bar** in Belfast, providing an informal setting for members to connect.
- **23 August 2023** – **Visit to Hillsborough Castle and Gardens**, allowing members to explore historical grounds in a relaxing setting.
- **24 September 2023** – **Russian-themed tea party** at Blick Studio on Malone Road, Belfast. This gathering attracted 20 attendees who participated in various games, demonstrated their artwork, exchanged books and plants.
- **7 October 2023** – Trip to **Springfield House, Co. Londonderry**.
- **21 October 2023** – Outing to **Tollymore Park, Newcastle**, a picturesque setting ideal for socializing and exploring nature.
- **18 November 2023** – Visit to the **Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum**, allowing members to explore Northern Ireland's industrial heritage.
- **3 December 2023** – Attendance at **Boris Grebenshchikov's Concert** at the Empire Concert Hall, offering a shared musical experience.
- **16 December 2023** – Outing to **Murlough Beach, near Newcastle**, followed by a meal and karaoke at Firuze Restaurant, combining nature with culinary enjoyment.
- **13 January 2024** – **Pottery Masterclass** at Loaf Pottery in Crawfordsburn. Eleven members participated, enjoying a hands-on artistic activity.
- **5 May 2024** – **Easter Celebration** at The Dock Café, Belfast, providing a festive atmosphere for members to celebrate together.

Impact and Importance

Club 55+ has proven to be a valuable initiative within the community, fostering meaningful relationships and offering regular opportunities for older adults to engage in enriching activities. Through diverse outings and cultural events, the club encourages active participation, helping to alleviate social isolation among seniors. A notable value of the Club lies in its spontaneous outings, like the impromptu visit to Hillsborough Castle and Gardens and the trip to Springfield House in Co. Londonderry, made possible with a free National Trust Family Pass.

Conclusion

The Club 55+ is a commendable project by RSCNI that strengthens community bonds and enhances quality of life for its senior members. Given the positive impact and continued engagement, further support for the Club 55+ would be a beneficial investment in promoting community wellbeing for older adults.

Tatiana Panova
RSCNI Social Club 55+ Coordinator

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Annual return

3.Independent Examiner's Report 2023/2024

I have made examined The Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland Accounts for the financial year 2023/2024 ended 30 June 2024.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9) (b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.

Findings

All entries in the RSCNI accounts were checked with Bank Statements.

The bank opening balance (£ 11600.35),
Income/Fundraising (£19,932.01),
Donation received (£108.00),
Expenditure (£ 21,557.65),
Grants received 23/24 (£8,753.40),
Grants expenditure (£10,047.50) was verified is correct.
The bank closing balance of (£ 10,402.12) is correct.

No irregular items nor any discrepancies were found.

The expenditure details confirm that the objectives of the RSCNI have been met.

Name:



T. JOHNSTON

Signed.....

Professional qualification / body:

DIRECTOR

Date: 25 OCT 2024

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Accounts

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland
Annual Accounts report for the period ending
June 30th, 2023.

SVETLANA STALMACONOKA



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1. General Information

Charity Name: The Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland
Founded 2013

Charity Registration Number: NIC107128

Registration Date: 19/04/2019

Trustees:

Chairperson: Oksana Shelest
Treasure: Svetlana Svyatko
Secretary: Aleksey Shitvov

Accountant: Svetlana Stalmaconoka

Bankers

Barclays bank
Belfast City Branch
17 Castle Pl,
Belfast
BT1 1EL

2. Annual Monitoring Return of Accounts

For the year ending 30th June 2023, the Charity is required to submit an Annual Monitoring Return under section 70 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. As per the Charity Commission Regulation Law, the RSCNI is eligible for an independent examination since its gross Income is less than £250,000.

The Financial Statement have been prepared, approved, and authorized by the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees for release on 30th November 2022, and signed by:

Oksana Shelest

Chairperson
Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Signed: 

Date: 16/12/23

2.1. Profit and Loss

Year ended 30th June 2023

	NOTES	2022/2023	2021/2022
GROSS PROFIT/ Fundraising			
Donations		11	641.4
Sales	10	19672.8	22521
TOTAL GROSS PROFIT		19683.8	23162.4
Cost of Fundraising			
Choir 'Rossinka' project rehearsals		1550	12.5
Community project Rent		900.00	0
Community project		372.95	574.13
New Year project		451.64	360.98
Youth Club project		792	0
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' project Rent		650.6	800
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' project		1391.63	1858.45
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Administrator fees		4300.1	150
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Teachers fees		10443	11746.5
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Training Lysenco		179.4	0
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' costumes		0	414.29
Team Building Choir 'Rossinka'		0	925.4
Team Building Youth Club		0	810
Postage and Carriage		45.35	17.89
Professional fees		2387.5	78
Bank Charges		15.49	8.4
Choir 'Rossinka' assets depreciation		655.92	655.92
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' assets depreciation		310.68	279.39
Community assets depreciation		141.24	141.24
Previous year adj.		0	-1600
Internet		0	-143.88
Total Cost Fundraising		24587.50	17089.2
Funds generation/Used funds		-4903.7	6073.19
Previous Year Adj.		0	-143.88
Funds used		-4903.7	5929.31

2.2 Balance Sheet

Year ended 30th June 2023

	NOTES	2022/2023	2021/2022
Fixed Assets			
Office Equipment	7	2198.56	2807.39
Current Assets			
Debtors	5	0	-926.8
Bank Account		11600.35	17600.96
Creditors amount falling due within one year	6	-205.05	-284
Net Current Assets		<u>13593.86</u>	<u>19197.55</u>
Capital & Reserves			
Funds		0	-13124.36
P & L Account		-4903.7	-7529.31
Previous Year Adj.		0	-1600
Funds This Year		<u>-4903.7</u>	<u>5929.31</u>

2.3 Notes to the financial statement

Year ended 30th June 2022

1. General Information

The Charity organisation is registered in Northern Ireland. Reg NIC107128

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been provided with the provisions of Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The Financial statements prepared in sterling's, which if functional currency of the entity. Annual monitoring return under section 70 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Fixed assets

The Fixed assets are initially reordered at cost and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant & machinery	25% Straight line
Fitting fixtures & equipment	25% Straight line
Motor vehicles	25% Straight line
Computer Equipment	25% Straight line

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are not recognised until there is reasonable assurance that the company will comply the conditions attaching to them, and the grants will be received.

Financial instruments

A financial instrument or financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes.

A financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at the market rate for similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measure at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date.

4. Staff cost

The average number of persons employed by the charity organisation the year amounted to zero.

5. Debtors

	2022/2023	2021/2022
Debtors		
Restricted funds Grant MCNI MGF	0.00	-1925.00
Prepayments Fit Moms	700.00	1600.00
Grant MCNI T112, T113		
	<u>0.00</u>	<u>-601.80</u>
	<u>700.00</u>	<u>-926.80</u>

6. Creditors

Creditors	2021/2022	2021/2022
Charity Accruals	205.05	284.00
	-205.05	-284.00

7. Fixed Assets

Office equipment	Cost	2022/2023		2021/2022	
		Depreciation	NBV	Depreciation	NVB
Community assets	563.09	423.73	139.36	282.49	422.25
Choir Assets	3279.54	1967.74	1311.80	1311.74	2623.63
School Assets	1617.06	869.66	747.40	559.08	838.55
	5459.69	3261.13	2198.56	2153.30	3884.43

Detailed Cash flow

Year ended 30 June 2023

	2022/2023	2021/2022
Barclays Bank		
Cash on the beginning FYE 01 July	17600.96	9384.3
Cash at the end FYE 30 June	11600.35	17600.96

Cash flow

Bank at the beginning of the year		17600.96	9384.3
Money in	8	26699.8	41194.2
Money out	9	32700.41	32977.54
Bank at the end of the year		17600.96	17600.96

8. Money in

		2022/2023	2021/2022
Sales	10	18854.9	22521
Donation		11	641.4
Grants	11	6310	17430
Supler refund		128.9	0
Contra Account Supplier/Debtors		1395	0
		0	601.8
		26699.8	41194.2

9. Money out

Purchases	12	23863.61	17472.54
Grants	13	8836.8	15505
		32700.41	32977.54

10. Detailed Sales	2022/2023	2021/2022
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' School Fees	18710	21247
CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa' Annual admin fees	424	624
Russian Choir 'Rossinka'	0	650
New year party	540	0
Discount allowed	-1.2	0
	19672.8	22521

11. Detailed received Grants	2022/2023	2021/2022
Education Authority	3000	1200
Belfast city council 2 tranche	0	4215
MCNI MGF	1335	12015
MCNI MGF NOR RESTRICTED	1975	0
MCNI T-112	0	231.6
MCNI T-113	0	370.2
	6310	18031.8

12. Detailed payments	2022/2023	2021/2022
Community rent Fit Mums used prepayment	900.00	
Accountancy fee	2367.50	
Rent of CLC 'Zhar-Ptitsa'	650.60	800
Community New Year expenses	0.00	116.95
Community expenses	372.95	574.13
New Year Party project	451.64	244.03
CLC Zhar-Ptitsa' project expenses	1391.63	1988.74
CLC Zhar-Ptitsa' Saturday Administrator fees	4300.10	150
CLC Zhar-Ptitsa' Lysenco training	179.40	0
Community team building expenses	0.00	
Postage and Carriage	45.35	17.89
Professional fees	20.00	78
Bank Charges	15.49	8.4
CLC Zhar-Ptitsa' Teacher Fees	10443.00	11746.5
Choir 'Rossinka' Depreciation	655.92	
Community Depreciation	141.24	
CLC Zhar-Ptitsa' Depreciation	310.68	
Profit & Loss CLC Zhar-Ptica	0.00	
Youth Club exp	792.00	
Choir 'Rossinka' rehearsals & expenses	1550	12.5
Team Building Choir 'Rossinka'		925.4
Team Building Community		810
	24587.50	17472.54

13. Detailed Grants expenditure	2022/2023	2021/2022
Education Authority	3000	1200
Belfast City Council	0	4215
MCNI MGF NOT RESTRICTED	1975	10090
MCNI 5% MGF	3260	0
MCNI 112/113	601.8	0
	8836.8	15505

FUNDS

Funds Net per project	This year	Last year
Choir 'Rossinka'	50.00	1600.00
CLC 'Zhar-ptica'	11550.35	9475.07
Community	0.00	1404.30
Restricted Funds	0.00	1925.00
Prepaid rent Fit Mums	700.00	1600.00

Svetlana Stalmaconoka

Accountant
At Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Signed: 

Date: 15/11/2023

3.Independent Examiner's Report 2022/2023

I have made examined The Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland Accounts for the financial year 2022/2023 ended 30 June 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9) (b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I have completed my examination and have no concerns regarding the matters (1) to (4) listed above.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have not found any issues that require your attention.

I have not discovered any irregularities or discrepancies. I can confirm that the objectives of the RSCNI have been met.

Name: HUAN PETER NOGUEIRA-PARROCH
Signed: *H.P. Nogueira Parroch*
Professional qualification / body: RETAIL MANAGER
Date: 18/2 2024

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Annual report



Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Charity No: 107128

Annual Report 2022-2023

Chairperson Report

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland for the fiscal year 2022/23. This report outlines our achievements, ongoing projects, and plans for the upcoming year. Despite facing challenges, our community has made significant progress in various areas, thanks to the dedication and support of our members and volunteers.

During the past year, our community group focused on completing governance structure reforms. While progress has been made, further efforts are needed to fully adopt the new ways of working. We actively engaged with our community members to attract new members to the governing board, ensuring diverse representation and effective leadership.

Our permanent projects such as Cultural and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptitsa' (Saturday school), choir and 'Igroteka', continued to flourish, attracting new participants and fostering a sense of community among attendees. We successfully introduced new initiatives such as the Chess Club, Robotics, and Club 55+ for senior adults. These projects aim to cater to diverse interests and demographics within our community and are poised for continued success in the upcoming fiscal year.

Our annual New Year celebration event for kids, directed by the talented Anna Shestakova, was a resounding success, drawing over 150 attendees including children and their parents.

We organized four sessions on Stress Management with a professional Russian-speaking Psychologist. These sessions provided valuable insights and techniques to participants, helping them recognize and manage their emotions effectively.

Our first meeting and tea/coffee party for senior adults (Club 55+) was well-received, with attendees expressing enthusiasm for future activities. Plans were laid out for provisional activities, and participants engaged in the 'Seeds for Bees' project, planting seeds provided by Age NI.

With the support of Belfast City Council, our Saturday school kids enjoyed an educational trip to the Armagh Planetarium. The excursion provided an enriching experience for children and parents alike, fostering a love for science and exploration.

The following chart provides an overview of the funding received by the Russian Speaking Community NI during the fiscal year ending 30 June 2023:

Migrant Centre NI BAME COVID-19 Recovery Fund II - Ref MCNI 112/113

Funded Areas:	CHESS CLUB project
Duration:	18/09/2022 – 30/06/2023
Direct Beneficiaries:	68
Balance C/D 01/07/2022:	£601.80
Total Budget:	£601.80
Received:	£0.00
Expenditures (to 30/06/2023):	£601.80
Balance (to 30/06/2023):	£0.00

Migrant Centre NI NOT RESTRICTED GRANT

Funded Areas:	Adults 55+ project, Robotic club project, Chess Club project
Duration:	18/09/2022 – 30/06/2023
Direct Beneficiaries:	68
Total Budget:	£1,975.00

Received:	£1,975.00
Expenditures (to 30/06/2023):	£1,975.00
Balance (to 30/06/2023):	£0.00

Migrant Centre NI BAME COVID-19 Recovery Fund II - Ref MCNI MGF

Funded Areas:	Community development officer, ZOOM, Saturday School administrators fees
Duration:	01/11/2021 – 31/10/2022
Direct Beneficiaries:	74
Balance C/D 01/07/2022:	£1,925.00
Received 5% of MGF	£1,335.00
Expenditures:	£3,260.00
Balance (to 30/06/2023):	£0.00

Education Authority Generic/Non-Targeted Funding

Funded Areas:	Rent, Public Liability Insurance
Duration:	01/04/22 – 31/03/23
Direct Beneficiaries:	68
TOTAL C/D 01/07/2022	£2,526.80
Total Budget:	£3,000.00
Received:	£3,000.00
Expenditures:	£3,000.00
Balance (to 30/06/2023):	£0.00

TOTAL RECEIVED GRANTS 22/23: £6,310.00

TOTAL SPENT GRANTS £8,836.80

Looking ahead to the forthcoming fiscal year, our community aims to focus on several key priorities:

- Attracting new members to the governing board and fully adopting the new ways of working.
- Introducing a new membership system to streamline community engagement and participation.
- Expanding the range of activities offered by the Youth Club and increasing youth involvement.
- Revision of policies and procedures for youth group activities to ensure safety and compliance.
- Organising new recreational and festival activities for adult beneficiaries, promoting social bonding and celebrating the cultural diversity of Russian speakers in NI.
- Providing child protection training and conducting Access NI checks for new starters to ensure the safety of all participants.
- Strengthening partnerships with sponsors and other national communities in NI, fostering collaboration on projects and enhancing communication channels.

In conclusion, the past year has been marked by notable achievements and exciting developments within our community. As we embark on the next fiscal year, we are committed to building on our successes, addressing challenges, and advancing our mission of promoting unity, education, and cultural enrichment. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners for their unwavering support and dedication.

Oksana Shelest
Chairperson

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelest".

Cultural and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptitsa'

The Cultural and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptitsa' has been successfully operating in Belfast for 8 years, supporting social ties and conducting educational activities amongst the Russian-speaking residents in Northern Ireland.

For the Teaching Centre, the 2022-2023 period was the first since 2020 that allowed for a full, unrestricted teaching programme since the removal of imposed COVID-19 restrictions. This allowed the centre to successfully complete all proposed activities and projects; attracting parents and volunteers into the programme to support where needed.

All children's classes were conducted in groups formed by age and level of Russian language proficiency:

- Early Development Group - Toddlers 1 (3-4 years);
- Younger Group - Toddlers 2 (4-6 years);
- Basic Russian- Alphabet and Reading Beginners Group (5-7 years);
- Middle Group - Intermediate (5-7 years);
- Older Group - Upper Intermediate (8-12 years);
- Russian as a Foreign Language Group (mixed age group).

This year's teaching programme saw the introduction of a new class subject - Development of Speech & Literature. This subject, complimenting the Russian language studies, became a new addition to the academic package offered by the teaching centre. At its core, the main packaged covers Russian Language & Literature.

Aside from the main package, several faculties operate within the school. These are: 'Creative Arts & Crafts', 'Dance & Choreography' & the 'School Choir'. Additionally, students were able to get involved with a Chess Club – a project of the RSCNI.

All the lessons this year, including faculty classes, were developed to deliver lessons on the cultures and traditions of countries from which our students come from. Every month, students were introduced to folklore, crafts, traditional dances from countries such as Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Our ambition for the future is to continue this approach as it has received a great reception from students and staff.

Also, during the academic year, another teacher at our centre had successfully completed their studies based on the methodology of Olga Lysenko. This allowed the school to begin teaching the foundations of Russian Reading & Writing in one of the junior classes.

Aside from in-person sessions, the centre successfully continues an online learning programme. During the 22-23 period, two groups of variable language proficiency, had been undertaking these lessons.

In addition to academic progress, the centre has been able to successfully organise various seasonal festivities with students, staff and volunteers:

Apart from the traditional Saturday classes, during the period October 2022 – June 2023, festive community events were organized in the Centre.

- Halloween (October 2022) – active games, fancy dressing, face painting etc.
- The New Year's Performance (December 2022) - A New Year's Eve Spectacle, organised together by the RSCNI with active support from volunteers and staff at 'Zhar Ptitsa'.
- 12 Months (January 2023) – A theatrical performance featuring students and teachers at the learning centre who participated in the dance & choir group.

- Maslenitsa festive games (February 2023) – modern and traditional active and board games
- End of Year Performance (June 2023) – concert showcasing achievements of all the Centre pupils to close the school year, including our dance groups and a school choir performance.

End of Year concert, there was also an exhibition of artworks from the Centre art class pupils.



During the year, volunteers from the Centre, parents and supporters of RSCNI actively participated and supported the Centre's work.

In June 2023 the Centre volunteers organised group trips for all pupils of the Centre and their families: for the youngest kids - a trip to Belfast Zoo, and for the rest of the pupils - a tour to the Armagh Planetarium.



Maria Kondrashenkova
Cultural Learning Centre 'Zhar-ptitsa' coordinator

Community Youth Club

Robotics Club

The Robotics club was designed for teenagers aged from 14 y.o. and older. The weekly 1.5-hour sessions were running from January to June 2023. For the project the charity obtained 4 smart home starter kits and 3 smart robot car kits.

The program of the club included work with offered constructor kits based on Arduino programming. During the club sessions, the participants were involved in the following activities: the study of the principles of operation of electronic and mechanical devices, game elements, research and working on projects in small teams. The project was fully funded from the charity reserve funding.

The robotics sessions provided participants with initial knowledge about the design and principles of operation of robotic devices, the basics of programming robotic devices, general scientific and technological designing skills. Additionally, club participants improved their memory, attention to detail skills, ability to think logically and analyse data, focus on the main goals. By working in small teams, participants were also given an opportunity to express their thoughts, improve and apply problem solving skills.

The Robotics sessions included lectures on theoretical foundations for the creation of robotic devices, elemental basics with which the device is assembled, the order of interaction of the mechanical components of the robot with electronic and optical devices, the procedure for creating an algorithm for the program of action of robotic means, safety regulations for working with tools and electrical appliances.

At the end of the season, the club organised a smart robot car competition among the club participants, the winners and participants were awarded with winner and participant certificates as appropriate.

In next season, the club is planning to introduce sessions for kids aged 8-13 that would involve explanation sessions of basic electric circuit as well as work in teams on electric circuit kits and technic robot kits. The teenagers' club will continue working on the current robotic kits expanding their functions by using additional sensors and parts for them.

Aleksey Kashkarov
Robotics Club Tutor

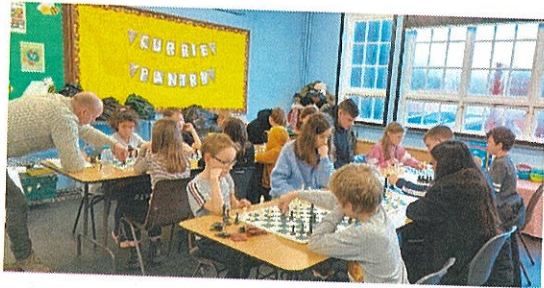
Chess Club

The goal of the Chess Club was to organise a full-fledged leisure time for club members, to teach the game of chess for new members of the club who were not familiar with the rules of chess.

The club sessions were held from January to May 2023, and involved chess games, problem solving and analysis of the games played.

At the meetings of the chess club, the achievement of these goals was carried out through the solution of the following tasks:

- development of logical thinking, memory, attention, perseverance and other positive qualities of Club members;
- to give the club members theoretical knowledge of the game of chess and tell them about the rules of the competition and the rules of tournament conduct;
- development of figurative thinking, expansion of ideas about the world around.



The key moment of the classes is the independent game of the Club members, in which they compare the strength of the pieces and their position during the chess game, draw conclusions, find out patterns, and implement chess combinations on the chessboard. The classes use material that is of particular interest to club members: chess miniatures and dramatizations.

Of great importance in the study of a chess course is the specially organized gaming activity of the club members in the classroom, the use of the method of outplaying educational tasks, creating game situations.

At the end of the season the club held a chess tournament for its members. The winners and participants were awarded with winner and participant certificates.

Aleksey Kashkarov
Chess Club Tutor

Community Board Game Club

The Board Game club sessions held from October 2022 to May 2023 were a great success and became very popular among our community members.

The main aims of the club sessions were: to create a common space for social interaction, to introduce and promote board games to our community members of various age, and to familiarise them with new board games.

During club sessions, various board games were represented including classic board games, strategic games, card games, and role-playing games. Additionally, workshops and educational sessions took place for beginners and game enthusiasts. The club sessions were attended by community members from various age groups: children, teenagers, adults, and even senior adults.

In September 2022, participants of the Board Game club took part in an Alice in Wonderland-themed quest and a cosplay show, where they dressed up as characters from the novel. The club's team achieved a 24th place from over 100 participated teams.



In February 2023, the club organised the Board Game Fair dedicated to celebration of 'Maslenitsa' for kids from Cultural and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptitsa'. The event was very popular and it was attended by over 40 kids. The participants were introduced with such board games as 'Ubongo', 'Seek in Sand', 'Double', 'Pixels' and etc. Two gaming sessions for two different age groups took place and at the end of each gaming session three winners were announced, who earned the greatest number of tokens participating in the board games. The event was supported and conducted by teachers of the Cultural and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptitsa', volunteers and the Board Game club members.

Overall, more than 10 workshops and educational sessions were conducted during 2022-2023 season, allowing participants to learn about new board games and enhance their understanding and skills.



The Board Game club successfully attracted diverse players with varying levels of experience, ranging from newcomers to seasoned gamers. Participants had an opportunity to explore new games, develop their skills, and enjoy socialising with like-minded peers.

The workshops and educational sessions held at the Board Game club offered participants a valuable opportunity to learn new games and improve their gaming skills. This contributed to an increased interest in board games and the growth of the gaming community.

At the end of each session as well as at the end of the season the club has received strongly positive feedback from participants and visitors of the Board Game club. They highly appreciated the organisation, the variety of games, the quality of the programs, and the chance to meet other gamers. This confirms that the Board Game club has become a successful and valuable part of our community.

The results of the Board Game club project for the previous year demonstrate its success and positive impact on the gaming community. We hope to utilize these findings to further develop and improve the Board Game club, providing participants and visitors with high-quality gaming programs and events.

Our Board Game club's future plans involve: to increase and improve the variety of board games in the Board Game club collection, to promote the club and attract more participants taking part in the events, to develop partnerships with local game stores and publishers, to increase the number of educational events and workshops facilitating all age groups.

Board gaming club 'Igroteka' coordinator
Anna Shestakova

Community Choir 'Rosinka'

In July 2022 the choir invited a professional musician, Anna Musan-Levi as their new choir conductor and music teacher, which brought their singing to a new more professional level.

With the support from our Russian Culture and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptisa' and community reserve funds, the weekly 1.5-hour rehearsals took place in the Currie Primary School premises and lasted from September 2022 till the end of June 2023. During these sessions, participants worked on voice development and intonation, the basics of music theory and note reading, singing as an ensemble in 3 voices, understanding music and performance. A number of songs was revised from the choir last season repertoire using newly gained knowledge and skills as well as a few new songs were learned.



Taking into account the tough political situation, the choir performed only once this year. We took part in the Pancake Week celebration held in the Russian Culture and Learning Centre 'Zhar-Ptisa'. The pleasure of our new level of singing and the compliments we received from the audience highly paid off the hard work we did this year. We are planning to continue our fruitful collaboration with our new choir conductor in 2023-2024.

Anna Musan-Levi
Choir 'Rosinka' conductor

Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland - Charity number 107128

Annual return

3.Independent Examiner's Report 2022/2023

I have made examined The Russian Speaking Community Northern Ireland Accounts for the financial year 2022/2023 ended 30 June 2023.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9) (b) of the Charities Act
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I have completed my examination and have no concerns regarding the matters (1) to (4) listed above.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have not found any issues that require your attention.

I have not discovered any irregularities or discrepancies. I can confirm that the objectives of the RSCNI have been met.

Name: HUAN PETER NOGUEIRA-DARROCH
Signed: *H.P. Nogueira Darroch*
Professional qualification / body: RETAIL MANAGER
Date: 18/2 2024