



Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library & Museum

London • charity no. 1161434

Report of the trustees for the year ending 31 December 2020

The trustees of The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library and Museum present their annual report, accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020 and an independent examiner's report and confirm they comply with the requirements of the applicable legislation and the trust deed.

OUR AIMS

The charity is a specialist library and museum in London whose aims are:

- collection and preservation of publications on Belarusian history and culture;
- preservation of archives and artefacts and development of Belarusian museum;
- enabling access to Belarusian cultural heritage;
- maintenance of reference collection for encouragement of Belarusian studies in the UK and abroad;
- contribution to events promoting Belarus.

The charity operates under a Trust Deed dated 23 July 1979 as amended on 12 November 1992 which includes the regulations for appointment of trustees.

The library offers the largest and most comprehensive collection of Belarus-related print publications in Western Europe, which is available to members of the Belarusian community and any other person with interest in Belarus.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The library's activities in 2020 were affected by the global pandemics, which resulted in a smaller number of physical visits and face-to-face events.

Nevertheless, the library was able to organise or co-organise several events prior to the first lockdown:

- 8 February 2020: *Mother Language Day with Valiaryna Kustava*, a prominent Belarusian poet, scriptwriter and presenter (organised together with the Anglo-Belarusian Society)

21–22 February 2020: *5th Annual 'Belarusian Studies In The 21st Century' Conference* (organised together with UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies and the Ostrogorski Centre);

- 22 February 2020: *Chagall, Malevich Et Al: Fate Of The Creators Of The New Art* a talk by the well-known Belarusian art historian and author Siarhiey Chareuski to mark the centenary of the Viciebsk art group UNOVIS;

- early 2020: a few face-to-face meetings of the Belarusian Readers' Group.

Since the beginning of the first lockdown, regular activities have been taking place in an on-line format (e.g. frequent Zoom meetings of the Belarusian Readers' Group, virtual poetry recitals in November 2020, etc.).

Further details can be seen on <https://www.skaryna.org.uk/en/>

The charity continued progressing its ongoing projects, including:

- development of a professional catalogue for the existing collection of books and periodicals (over 20,000 items) using a recently acquired Soutron software;
- digitisation of most valuable items and making them available online;
- organising an archive of historic documents housed within the library.

No significant refurbishment or decoration of the library's building was undertaken in 2020, bar some plumbing and roof repair jobs.

OUR FINANCES

The financial statements show the charity's annual income of £28,970.57. This is higher than usual as it was boosted by a local authority Covid grant.

The principal sources of income apart from the Covid grant were rental income (from an adjacent self-contained flat and a guest room) and donations – which were broadly consistent with those in the previous years.

The main items of expenditure (£15,072.21 in total) were:

- maintenance of the building, utilities, council tax and insurance; and
- the library acquisitions and projects,

as further detailed in the annual report.

The trustees regularly review the finances, budgets and spend against budget together with a cash flow

analysis as part of the effective stewardship of the charity.

The trustees have appointed a professional investment manager, Kingswood Wealth, to manage the charity's endowment (valued at £130,028 on 9 December 2020). This is a growth portfolio with income reinvested. Funds are only withdrawn where rental income and donations are insufficient to cover expenses (e.g. in case of a major refurbishment of the building). No withdrawals were made in 2020.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity was governed by five trustees, although a sixth one will be added in 2021.

Apart from regular trustee meetings, there are six sub- committees:

1. User Services
2. House maintenance
3. Fundraising & Financial Management
4. Collection Development and Management
5. Digitisation
6. Archive

Because of the global pandemics, most trustee and subcommittee meetings in 2020 were in a zoom format.

Yours sincerely,



Ales Herasimenka
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Receipts and Payments Accounts

made on 2 January 2021, approved by the trustees on 1 February 2021

The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library and Museum (registered charity under number 1161434)

for the period 1 January – 31 December 2020

Section A:	Receipts and Payments	
<p>A1: Total receipts:</p> <p>£28,970.57</p> <p><i>(comprising:</i></p> <p>- Ordinary income: £18,970.57</p> <p>- Local council COVID grant: £10,000)</p>	<p>(a) Rent and contribution to utilities from the flat at 37 Holden Rd: £10,531.39</p>	<p>£950 (Jan), £950 (Feb), £950 (Mar), £950 (Apr), £950 (May); £950 (June), £667.75(gas bills); £950 (July), £950 (Aug), £352 (water bill); £38(gas bill); £298.64(electricity bill); £675 (Sep), £900 (Dec)</p>
	<p>(b) Rent from the library room at 37 Holden Rd: £4,764</p>	<p>£100, £400 (Jan), £500 (Mar), £444; £500 (May), £460(Jun), £500 (Jul); £500 (Aug); £380 (Sept); £480 (Oct); £500 (Nov)</p>
	<p>(c)banking interest/ income from investments: £0</p>	<p><i>income is reinvested</i></p>
	<p>(d) Donations: £3,675.18</p> <p><i>(or £1,175.18 excluding the website grant from the Belarusian Charitable Trust)</i></p>	<p>Jan: <u>£131.86</u> (£6.86, £10, £100, £15);</p> <p>Feb: <u>£ 630.81</u> (£75.52, 6.86, £10, £538.43 (for Chareuski/ Vitsebsk art school presentation);</p> <p>Mar <u>46.86</u> (£15, £15 £6.86, £10);</p> <p>Apr <u>£31.86</u> (£6.86, £10, £15);</p> <p>May <u>£23.45</u> (£6.86, £6.59; £10);</p> <p>June <u>£31.86</u> (£6.86, £10, £15; £10),</p> <p>July <u>£2,500</u> (web archive project);</p> <p>July <u>£26.86</u> (July £10, £6.86, £10),</p> <p>Aug <u>£44.88</u> (£6.86, £10, £28.02),</p>

		<p>Sep <u>£36.86</u> (£10, £10; £6.86, £10);</p> <p>Oct <u>£76.86</u> (£50, £6.86, £10, £10),</p> <p>Nov <u>£36.88</u> (£10, £6.86, £10.02, £10),</p> <p>Dec <u>£46.14</u> (£19.28, £10, £6.86, £10)</p>
	(e) Government grant: £10,000	Sept: £10,000 (COVID grant from Barnet BC)
	(f) Other: £0	<i>Erroneous payment by Barbara Kuskova of £1,300 paid in in Apr, refunded by cheques £1,200 and £100 in May)</i>
A2: Total asset and investment sales: 0		
A3: Total payments (expenditure): £15,072.21	(a) Talk Talk/ BT (telephone/ internet): £408.36	Direct Debit £31.14 (Jan), £31.14 (Feb), £31.14 (Mar), £31.14 (Apr), £31.14 (May), £31.14 (June), £31.14 (Jul), £31.14 (Aug), £31.14 (Sep); £38.98, £31.14 (Oct), £28.99 (Nov), £28.99 (Dec)
<u>Receipts</u> <u>less</u> <u>payments</u> : £13,898.36	(b) Utilities, cleaners, council tax and insurance: £8,095.23	<p>Jan: Opus (£2.60), Crown (£293.43)</p> <p>Feb: Opus (£85.27), Crown (£329.90)</p> <p>Mar: Opus (£9.68), Crown (£304.74),</p> <p>Apr: Opus (£72.56), Crown (£273.64); £40.96 (Affinity)</p> <p>May: Opus (£47.48); Crown (£158.63); council tax (1,331.20) ;</p> <p>Jun: OPUS (£63.58); Crown (£102.20); £478.80 (estate agent fees)</p> <p>Jul: Opus (£47.96), Crown (£62.52)</p> <p>Aug: OPUS (£42.05), Crown (£50.74)</p> <p>Sep: Castle Water (£144.28); Opus £58.36; Crown (£43.74)</p> <p>Oct: Insurance (£966.47); Insurance (£60); Estate agents (£110); Crown (£1,184.34), Council tax (£143.18); OPUS (£54.65);</p> <p>Nov: Crown (£127.31), OPUS (£61.46);</p> <p>Dec: Council tax (£130.57); Estate agents (£760.80); Crown (£358.27); OPUS (£68.04); Castle Water (£25.82)</p>
	(c) Library acquisitions and projects: £4,929.63	<p>Feb: £254.70 (catalogue development), <u>£828.63</u> (£76.70, £107.98, £461.73, £153.02 and £29.20) (Vitebsk art school presentation)</p> <p>March: £290.27 (catalogue devel), £73.25 (leaving present to Prof McMillin)</p> <p>Apr: £7.20 (travel refund to presenter), £100 (subscription); £127.47 (cata1336logue)</p> <p>July: £84.99 and £65 (book acquisitions)</p> <p>Sept: £134.40 (catalogue); £1,080 (Soutron – catalogue)</p> <p>Oct: £25.90 (catering); £70.52 (web archive project (£1,265 paid– 1,194.48 repaid)); £900 (web archive project); £350 (web archive project); £220.20 (catalogue);</p> <p>Dec: £7.50 (postage); £309.60 (catalogue)</p>

	(d) Library extraordinary expenses: £1,638.99	Feb: £290 (plumbing), £84 (roof repair), March: £87 (new tub), Sep: £500 and £664.00 (roof repair); £13.99 (doorbell)
A4 Total asset and investment purchases: £0	0	0
A5 Transfers between funds:	0	0
A6 Total cash funds last year end (31 Dec 2019): £9,289.10	(a) Treasurers account 01310798: £9,216.96	
	(b) Business 30-day notice account 07272081: £72.14	
Section B:	Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period (31 December 2020)	
B1: Total closing cash funds: £23,187.46	(a) Treasurers account 01310798: £23,115.32	
	(b) Business 30-day notice account 07272081: £72.14	
B2: Other monetary assets: 0		
B3: Investment assets:	(a) Bonds managed by Kingswood wealth: £130,028	<i>Value as of 9.12.20</i>
	(b) self-contained rentable flat at 37 Holden Rd: 0	no separate capital value assigned– an income generating asset
	(b) self-contained rentable room at 37 Holden Rd: 0	no separate capital value assigned– an income generating asset. <i>Note: the room is reserved for academic guests/ library visitors, not permanently let</i>
B4: Assets retained for the charity's own use	37 Holden Rd (freehold): £850,000 - £950,000	current estimated market value, no formal valuation has been undertaken
B5: Liabilities	0	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library and Museum

On accounts for the year
ended

31 December 2020

Charity no
(if any)

1161434

Set out on pages

One page

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/12/2020

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

06.01.2021

Name:

Mr. S. Piatkevich

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Economist

Address:

Flat 3, 52A Penn Road

London

N7 9RE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).