

Serbian Month

in Great Britain

British Serbs

This catalogue has been produced
by the Serbian Council of Great Britain,
on behalf of the Round Table of Serbian
community organisations in Britain.

2021

Serbian Month in Great Britain 2021
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МИНИСТАРСТВО СПОЉНИХ ПОСЛОВА
УПРАВА ЗА САРАДЊУ С ДИЈАСПОРОМ И
СРБИМА У РЕГИОНУ

Events for the 13th Serbian Month will take place online because of the Covid pandemic.
Events will be available for viewing on the

YouTube channel: Serbian Month

More programme details
www.serbiancouncil.org.uk

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The Serbian Month Catalogue was first produced in 2018 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Serbian Month in Great Britain. It was such a success that we felt it should be a regular feature of Serbian Month promoting a greater understanding of the Serbian community in Britain all year round.

This year the Round Table agreed that there should be a theme to Serbian Month and the catalogue each year. This year's theme is British Serbs which will give us a chance to find out more about Serbian communities around Britain, their histories and how they have developed over the years.

Now in its thirteenth year Serbian Month in Great Britain is recognised as one of the most significant festivals of Serbian arts and culture in the Serbian Diaspora, showcasing the artists from Serbia and the British Serbian artists. It is one of the best examples of what the Serbian Diaspora in Britain can achieve when it works together for the good of the community. It has done much to raise the profile of the Serbian community in Britain and Serbia and amongst other Serbian Diaspora communities across the world.

With special thanks to

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - The Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region for their financial support of Serbian Month,

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**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



Serbian Communities in Britain

- London
- Birmingham
- Bedford
- Bristol
- Reading
- Canterbury
- Corby
- Coventry
- Halifax
- Leicester
- Guilford
- Oxford



Serbs in Britain

There is a long and proud tradition of Serbs living in Britain. British Serbs have made a positive contribution to wider British Society, whilst having cherished and nurtured their cultural heritage.

However, the story of British Serbs and the history of the different communities across Britain is not well known to many in the Serbian community itself, and certainly not to the wider British public. It is therefore appropriate that the first theme of Serbian Month should be to start to tell the story of the British Serbs and the rich diversity of our communities across Britain. We know that there are lots of gaps in the coverage but this is only the beginning and we hope that others will be inspired to share their knowledge of their communities with us so that we can produce a comprehensive picture of the Serbs in Britain. This is a long-term and important project.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to this section of the catalogue and to the young British Serbs who have shared their experiences of what it is like growing up as a British Serb. We hope that you enjoy finding about who we are, how we got here and what we contribute to Britain and the homeland.

Britain and Serbia before WW2

Britain and Serbia have had diplomatic relations since 1837, before modern Serbia gained international recognition in 1878. However little was known about Serbia and its people at this time. There were only a tiny number of Serbs in Britain, many of whom had come to study at British universities. This changed with the onset of The Great War when Britain did much to support 'gallant little Serbia'.

Women played a prominent role in the support for Serbia since the suffragists believed that by contributing to the war (running hospitals and medical units staffed entirely by women) they would promote the cause of women's suffrage. The idea was spearheaded by Dr Elsie Inglis, one of the first female Scottish doctors and an ardent suffragist. Dr Inglis approached the War Office and suggested that women's medical units should be allowed to serve on the Western Front. She was rejected with the words, "My good lady, go home and sit still." Instead she established the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service and the French and Serbian allies gladly accepted her offer of help.

The first unit was set up in Serbia in January 1915 and of the fourteen Scottish Women's Hospitals established during the war and all but two were in Serbia. Together with other medical missions, run by Lady Paget and Mabel St Clair Stobbs, over one thousand women served in Serbia and did much for injured Serbian soldiers and civilians and those suffering from the typhus epidemic which ravaged the country. Also remarkable is the story of Flora Sandes, a nurse in one of the hospitals in Serbia and the only western woman to enlist as a soldier during this war. She joined the Serbian army in 1916 as a corporal and retired as a second Lieutenant.

In Britain itself a Serbian Relief Fund was established with Queen Mary as the Patron and the fund raised millions of pounds, in today's money, for Serbia. It also organised 'Kosovo Day' in 1916, the only time Britain has celebrated the National Day of another country. The day was commemorated in 12,000 schools; there were public meetings across the country addressed by speakers from Serbia or who knew about Serbia; a 1,000 theatres and cinemas showed a short film about Serbia; articles appeared in the national and provincial newspapers; penny pamphlets on Serbia were sold; more than 20 MPs from all parties passed a resolution expressing their admiration for the valour of their Serbian allies and their profound sympathy for their suffering and there was a service in St Paul's Cathedral, addressed by Bishop Nikolaj Velimirović. This history is little known in Britain but is treasured in Serbia where annual memorials are held for the women who sacrificed their lives in Serbia during the war. The Serbian Community in Britain has tried to increase knowledge of this history in events to commemorate the centenary of the Great War.

Serbian Communities in Britain

The first Serbian communities in Britain were established after WW2 and have grown with subsequent generations of émigrés, particularly in the 1990s following the break-up of Yugoslavia. Whilst Serbs have dispersed all over the country they have tended to settle in the communities set up by the first generation of émigrés. These articles give a history of each community and how they have developed over the years. We have arranged the articles according to the size of the community and so London and Birmingham, as the largest communities, appear first and after this the communities are in alphabetical order.

London

A short history of the Church and Serbian community in London The beginnings

Prior to WW2 there was no organised Serbian community. In earlier years visitors to the UK were private individuals, diplomatic representatives, tourists and students.

Following the outbreak of WW2 Yugoslavia was occupied by Nazi Germany and as a result the Yugoslav Government (on its return from Cairo and Jerusalem) found itself in London with King Peter II and professor and academic Slobodan Jovanovic at the helm.



Within the government there were many officers and officials of the Orthodox Church, often separated from their families. Uncertain about how events would unfold they felt the need to establish a church, regarding it as a spiritual centre around which they could gather. The Serbian Orthodox Bishop was Dionisije Milivojevic, Bishop of America and Canada, was approached by the Serbs in London to send them a priest who could establish a church in London. Bishop Dionisije agreed to their request and sent Father Zivojin Ristanovic, who had an excellent knowledge of the English language and church matters. He was tasked to set up a mission of the Serbian Orthodox Church as soon as he arrived and to build on the good relations that had been developed with the Anglican Church in WW1 by the then Hieromonk Dr Nikolaj Velimirovic, later Bishop of the Eparchies of Zhicha (Zica) and Ohrid.

Archpriest Ristanovic arrived in London from America on 24 April 1942 and a meeting of Serbs was held on 3 July 1942 where the first church committee was established and the Rules of the Church Community written placing it under the jurisdiction of the Serbian Patriarchy and the constitution of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

A place was needed to conduct Divine Liturgies and the matter was resolved when the Russian Prince Vsevolod Romanov (the son of Princess Jelena, the daughter of King Petar I and sister of King Alexandar I) and his wife Princess Jekaterina temporarily gave up their home 12 Lennox Gardens, in Chelsea, to be used as a chapel and for other church requirements. The chapel was consecrated by Bishop German, Archimandrite Virvo and Russian Priest Teoktitov as well as Serbian Archpriest Zivojin Ristanovic and was dedicated to St Sava, the first Serbian archbishop and educator. The Serbian Royal Family attended the first Holy Liturgy and King Petar II gifted a sum of £1,500 to the chapel.



The Very Rev Father
Miloje Nickolic

After the agreement with Prince Svevolod expired the church and municipality, with the help of the Serbian Royal Family, purchased a property at 12 Egerton Gardens in Knightsbridge. A Chapel was set up in the property and consecrated on 2 March 1946 by Sava, Bishop of the Polish Orthodox Church with priests Father Miloje Nikolic and Father Radovan Miljkovic. At the consecration, the Anglican Church was represented by Bishop of Gibraltar, Harold Buxton and John Philip. Present from England were the Duchess of Atholl and Lady Leila Paget, who decorated all the rooms in the house at her own expense.



The Chapel and Egerton Gardens became the Serbian centre in London, accommodating some state institutions such as the Yugoslav Committee headed by Slobodan Jovanovic. Many important events took place in the chapel of St Sava such as the awarding of the cross of St Joannicius, by the Holy Synod to the Archbishop of Canterbury Geoffrey Fisher. The Serbian Patriarch Gavrilko Dozic and Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic served in this chapel when the Allies released them from Dachau concentration camp and when they came to London for the christening of HRH Crown Prince Aleksandar. The Bishop of Dalmatia also stayed here for a while following his release from Italian captivity by the Allies. He served and preached and was lecturer of the Serbian language in Cambridge. Patriarch German stayed here during a visit to see the Archbishop of Canterbury and Serbs in Great Britain. Lavrentije Trifunovic started his episcopal ministry from here. He was elected and appointed as the first Bishop for Western Europe and Australia by the Holy Council of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The arrival of the first emigres in London in the 1940s and 1950s

In 1947 a huge influx of Serbs, at least 10,000, arrived in Great Britain. They came from Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Italy and Germany as well as from other areas. They were mostly anti-communists who did not want to return to Yugoslavia which was now ruled by Tito and the communist party. Amongst the arrivals were former fighters of Draza Mihailovic, Serbian volunteers, Chetniks who fought with Duke Momcilo Djujic and many prisoners of war from Germany and other countries.

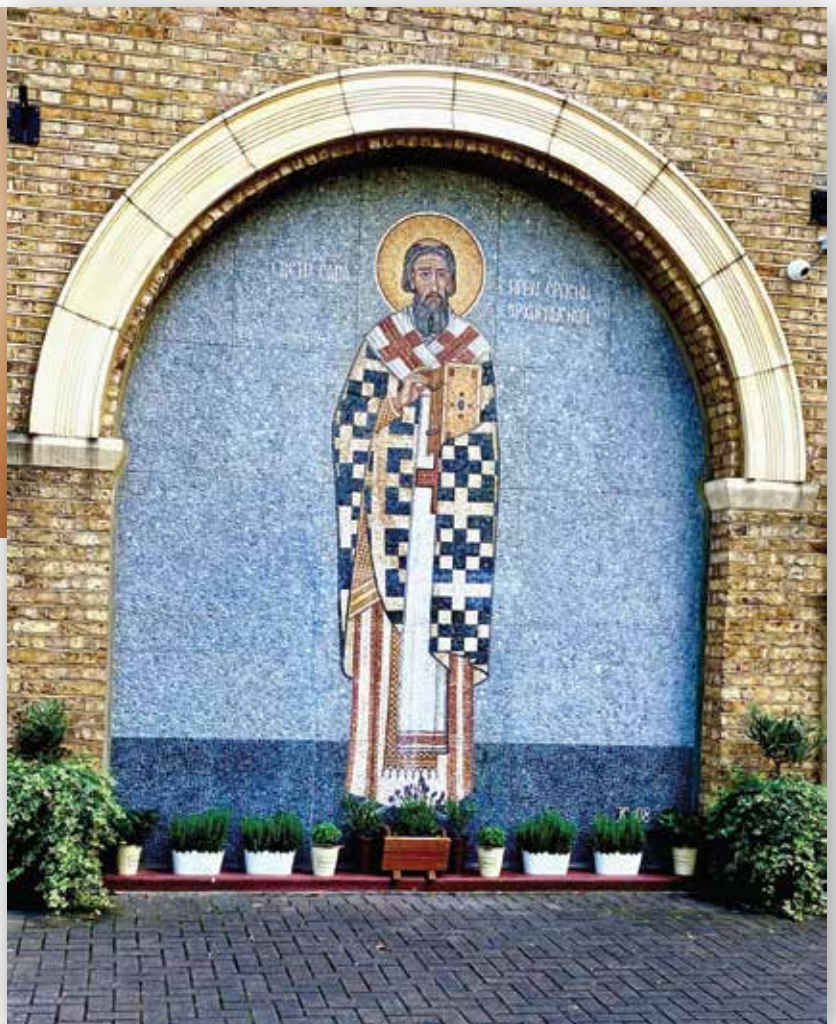
The majority of Serbs were placed in the 130 displaced persons (DP) camps scattered throughout Britain. All had to work for 2-3 years undertaking backbreaking work in mines, on farms etc in order to allow them to change their place of residency and find new jobs in the future. Amongst them were a considerable number of Serbian priests who were employed in these physically demanding jobs.

The Chapel of St Sava in London became too small for the needs of the community and so the Father Nikolic looked for a larger church which would become a permanent place of worship. After much difficulty, the Anglican Church once again stepped in to assist Serbs in Britain and gave them a beautiful and large church to use - St Columba in Lancaster Road, North Kensington. At that time it was stated that "it was to be utilised whilst there are Serbs in Great Britain". The temple could accommodate up to 800 worshippers and was soon adapted with new iconostasis and a considerable number of copies of frescoes from Serbian monasteries in Kosovo as well as with royal and episcopal thrones. The largest benefactors and contributors for this temple were the Serbian Royal Family, Anglicans and Serbs throughout Great Britain.



Bishop **Nikolai Velimirovic**

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The consecration of the Temple of St Sava

On 28-29 June 1952 Bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic travelled from America for the consecration of the Temple of St Sava. This grand occasion was attended by King Petar II, Queen Marija and Princes Tomislav and Andrija, representatives of the Anglican Church and thousands of Serb worshippers from all over Great Britain. Bishop Nikolaj spoke at the ceremony congratulating Serbs and pleading with them for unity and devotion to this holy church.

Up until 1952, Church of St Sava in London was the only spiritual centre for all Serbs in Great Britain. However, as Serbian communities grew across Britain seven parishes were established: London (which also served Bicester, a large camp in Oxford), the Southeast, Central England, the West of England, Wales, and Scotland (later including Derby, Halifax and Bradford).

As time passed the parishes grew in strength and the Serbs community became more organised setting up folklore events and celebrating religious and national holidays. The Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad was founded and presided over by Slobodan Jovanovic and held regular lectures on the premises of the London Church. The Circle of Serbian Sisters named "Kosovka Devojka" (Kosovo Maiden) was founded. The small and old hall were replaced by a brand new building named the "House of Bishop Nikolaj". This building consisted of four floors housing eight apartments, a large hall which could accommodate 400 people and a restaurant. There was also a library, which was unique. The "House of Bishop Nikolaj" was built thanks to the tremendous efforts of Archpriest Miloje Nikolic, the Serbs and even more so - the English. The building was consecrated in 1972.

The Church schism

The church schism which began in America in 1963 soon spread to other parts of the Serbian Church throughout the world. Archpriest Miloje Nikolic and the priestly fraternity played a significant role in maintaining the unity of the Serbian Church, ensuring that churches abroad remained connected to the Serbian Patriarchate in Belgrade. In London an officer of the Royal Army, Lieutenant Colonel Bosko Stanojlovic edited and published the magazine "Nedeljiva Crkva" (Indivisible Church).

The Permanent Bishop

In 1969 it was decided to establish a diocese covering Western Europe and Australia. The first Bishop of this newly established diocese, Vicar-Bishop Lavrentije Trifunovic was elected in London and enthroned in March of that same year. Establishing the episcopate coupled with the arrival of Bishop Lavrentije meant that the Serbian church grew stronger day by day both in Western Europe and Australia.

Following 20 years of episcopal service in the "diaspora" the Holy Assembly of Bishops from the Serbian Orthodox Church elected Bishop Lavrentije to serve as Bishop of Sabac and Valjevo. This took place in May 1989 when he returned to Serbia. He was replaced by His Grace Dositej Motika - Bishop of Great Britain and Scandinavia, a position he holds to this day.

Recent history

When Archpriest Miloje Nikolic decided to retire, the Bishop brought Archpriest Milun Kostic and his family over from Australia to London on 31 May 1977. Archpriest Miloje Nikolic continued in his role as deputy to Bishop Lavrentije whilst Archpriest Milun Kostic and Archdeacon Djordje Cekerevac regularly served both the Temple of St Sava in London and the parish of Waltham Cross.



In 1982 the Temple of St Sava was finally purchased outright from the Anglicans. The church and organisations around it flourished including the folklore groups “Rastko” and “Nemanja”, led successfully for many years by choreographer Nada Grkinic, and the church choir of the Temple of St Sava, of which there have been many choristers and singers over the years and which is currently led by Zorka Maksimovic and the St Sava Sunday School. As the number of students attending Sunday school steadily increased, four more classrooms were built over the large hall at the “House of Bishop Nikolaj”. Both Sunday school students and folklore groups in the London parish and other parishes throughout the UK have always participated in all church and national celebrations in Britain and abroad.





In 1993 Archpriest Milun Kostic started a series of lectures and discussions relating to religion taking place at the church every Thursday. A large number of both believers and listeners attended on a regular basis and lecturers included visiting bishops, writers, psychologists and people from other professions. What initially started as simple talks has since evolved into a spiritual community named "St Alypius the Stylite at the temple of St Sava".

The church community also purchased a plot for a Serbian Orthodox cemetery. This was situated at Brookwood, just outside London where burials have been taking place since 1985. Trustees for the cemetery are Ivan Aleksic former President of the church community and Archdeacon Djordje Cekerevac.

During the last war in the 1990s the Serbian Information Centre was established at the Church of St Sava in London. This was very active throughout the war and informed both individuals and institutions about the illegal bombing of Serbia and Montenegro by the NATO military alliance.

In 2002 St Sava's Church in London celebrated 50 years since its consecration and this anniversary was attended by Patriarch Pavle who came from the fatherland to preside over the Divine Liturgy. Also in attendance were many bishops, priests, representatives of sister Orthodox Churches and the Anglican Church. Patriarch Pavle also visited St Paul's Cathedral and the Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres. This celebration was also attended by Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princess Katherine who came over from Serbia for this occasion. Students of the church school, folklore groups and actors prepared and performed a special, successful and joyful programme of ceremonies in honour of Patriarch Pavle's visit.

On 5 March 2011 and after many years spent in London as the parish priest Archpriest Milun Kostic decided to take (a well-deserved) retirement. Two years later Archpriest Radomir Acimovic and Archdeacon Djordje Cekerevac also retired. They were replaced by Goran Spaic, Head of the Church and the Archbishop's deputy for Britain and Dragan Lazic, Head of the Church School and parish priest. They continue the good work on behalf of the parish and the Serbian Orthodox Church in Britain.

Reflections

Perhaps, it is appropriate to end with a reflection on the relationship the Serbian Orthodox Church in Britain has developed with the established church in Britain, the Anglican Church which is encapsulated in the visit to the church and parish of St Sava in London by Serbian Patriarch Irinej in 2016. He came from Serbia at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the most Reverend Justin Welby to mark the centenary of the historic Vidovdan speech made by hieromonk Dr Nikolaj Velimirovic at St Paul's Cathedral in 1916 during the difficult years of World War 1. Hieromonk Nikolaj Velimirovic was the first Orthodox Christian to preach from the pulpit at St Paul's Cathedral. During his visit Patriarch Irinej served in the Church, spoke in St Paul's Cathedral and visited the Archbishop of Canterbury.

By Father Milun Kostic

Full articles in English and Serbian on St Sava website <https://spclondon.org.uk/sr/>

London

The Serbian community of today in London is active, vibrant and diverse. The community has changed significantly in the last thirty years with the arrival of a new generation of émigrés from the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

In earlier years the life of the community focused on traditional Serbian culture without input from the fatherland. The Serbian community came together around the church, Kolo Srpskih Sestara (The Circle of Serbian Sisters), folklore ensembles, the Chetnik organisation, political allegiances or the regions of Yugoslavia from which families came.

The 1990s and the wars in the former Yugoslavia was a very difficult time for the Serbian community in Britain. Serbia and Serbs were demonised by British politicians and the media and the Serbian community in Britain felt under threat. The community did what it could to encourage a more balanced view of what was happening in the former Yugoslavia by establishing the Serbian Information Centre and the community rallied round its existing organisations.

The 1990s brought a new generation of émigrés to Britain and the community grew exponentially to around 70,000 people nationwide. Many settled in London but others ventured off to other Serbian communities around the country, particularly if they had family there. Whilst this new generation supported existing community structures and organisations they had a different perspective and started to organise in very different ways.

Stan Smiljanic (Britic magazine) explained in an interview for 'A Cup of Stories'

'The nineties and early noughties brought Serbs as economic migrants or asylum seekers due to war in former Yugoslavia. Some just wanted to assimilate into a new society, trying to forget a tragedy that war brought to Serbia and their lives. Others felt a need for an even stronger connection with fellow Serbs, either to 'fight' our cause and dispel media injustice or in some cases to influence Serbians to a more westernised way of thinking.'

The first organisation that was established with input from this new generation, was 'The Serbian Society', a registered charity, founded in 1995 by Vesna Petkovic, assisted greatly by Petar Jankovic. At the inauguration meeting the first Committee was elected: Zoran Mitic, Misa Gavrilovic and Zarko Gakovic. The aim of the organisation was to integrate the Serbian community into the mainstream of British multi-ethnic society; to work for the well-being and advancement of the community; to promote education, culture, employment and social justice; and to enhance pride of being Serbian in Britain. The team of dedicated founder members included Miki Stoilkovic, Gordana Miller, Olga Gakovic, Pale Brozicevic who promoted the Serbian Society widely in the UK and abroad. The Serbian Society organised events, courses, travel, developed a better understanding of Serbian culture and arts and of the Serbian community in Britain.

For the first time, the cultural life of the community was enriched by contemporary Serbian culture through staging many plays and concerts from Serbia, organised single-handedly by the late Gordana Miller (Gara Entertainment).

Additionally, amongst the new émigrés there were many musicians who came to England to study. They used their talents to promote Serbian culture as individuals or as part of projects like the 'Sounds of the Balkans' or events organised by Laza Kostic Foundation which was established at the time. This new injection of cultural activity enhanced the existing rich cultural life of the community in Britain and was an important way of bringing the old and the new communities together.

As time went on new organisations were founded, often driven by new arrivals.

These new organisations aimed to promote the interest of the Serbian community in Britain and Serbia, or Serbian culture and heritage, or professional and specific interests. These organisations were mainly based in London but tried to attract members from across Britain. They include the Serbian Council of Great Britain, Britić, The Serbian Library in London, Pro Art@Co, the Serbian City Club, Medicus (now British-Serbian Medical Association), The London Sports Society, Jasenovac and Holocaust Memorial Foundation, EXER and others, many of which are listed in this catalogue.

With the rapid growth of the community, its greater diversity and the increasing number of Serbian community organisations, there was a danger of the community fragmenting and so a desire grew to draw the community together and celebrate its richness and diversity.

There were several ways in which this was done. One way was through the 'Britic' magazine which was established in 2009 by Bedford-based Serbs, Aleks Simic and Stan Smiljanic. Britic promoted the idea of 'British Serbs', provided news about community events from across Britain and stories that were of interest to British Serbs. In the 'Cup of Stories' interview Aleks said :

'It was a case of trying to define a version of being Serbian that was just as valid but pertained to being born in this country and having this lifestyle. There were a lot of unique attributes that Serbs in this country have. There are ways that we have evolved as British Serbs which are just as valid to the concept of being Serbian as is being born in the middle of Belgrade and living there our all lives and being educated there. That is how we tried to communicate'.

Another way was through 'Serbian Week in Great Britain' which first took place in 2009. The aim of the week was to coordinate the many cultural events that were taking place and enhance their impact in promoting the Serbian community both to itself and the wider British public. After a few years, one week felt too short and the festival grew into Serbian Month. And like they say 'The rest is history!' This history includes twelve Serbian Months which have grown in size from year to year. Now, numerous organisations and individuals have joined this celebration of Serbian culture and heritage in many cities around Britain.



The final way was through the Round Table initiative. It started some years ago to encourage cooperation and collaboration between Serbian organisations for the benefit of the community. It also provides a forum for the community to discuss issues of interest and to identify priorities to be taken forward on behalf of the community. Successful projects include Serbian Month and the teaching and learning of the Serbian language.



Serbian GCSE students with
Nemanja Matić, Branislav Lečić and
Roksanda Ilinčić



However, if our community is to flourish it is essential that our young people feel that their Serbian culture and heritage is important and worth preserving and are willing to engage with the community, its organisations and develop their own ones.

By Maya Jordan and Olga Stanojlovic

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham

There are many strategies the growing Serbian diaspora might adopt to resist assimilation. Sometimes, a Church is enough to keep a community together. That's the story of Lazarica, in Birmingham which is half a century old and is the pillar of the Serbian community in the heart of England.

Birmingham with its hills and fields resembles Šumadija and so it is no surprise that the Serbian community found its home here a hundred years ago. While in Serbia, chocolates and biscuits have become synonymous with Takovski kraj, the same is true in England for Bournville (a suburb of Birmingham) and in particular, the Cadbury family.



The Church elder and parish priest Father Nenad Popović explains that Serbs and English people were first acquainted in Birmingham after the outbreak of the First World War: "At that time, over 300 Serbian boys, war refugees came to the UK – Oxford and Cambridge. Twenty-five of them ended up here in Birmingham under the patronage of Elizabeth Cadbury".



Sir Duncan Cadbury, who is a descendant of Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, explained that she paid a great deal of care and provided accommodation for about 25 Serbian boys. "That's how family interest and support for Serbs started".

"Elizabeth Cadbury was a pacifist and for the time a woman of very broad horizons. She helped not only Serbian, but also Belgian children. She provided them with an exceptional education here in Birmingham at Kings Norton and Bournville School, as well as at Birmingham University. Afterwards, all of these young men returned to Serbia in 1926. King Aleksandar Karađorđević, in gratitude to the family of Cadbury, donated a bell to the Birmingham Carillon", explains Father Nenad.

That would have been an end to the story of the relationship between the philanthropic family of English industrialists and the Serbs were it not for the Second World War. As the war ended, the demand for labour in the Midlands was huge, primarily in industry and agriculture, and Serbs returned from displaced persons camps in Germany.

BIRMINGHAM

"In 1948, about 10,000, political refugees, came to Great Britain. They came from refugee camps in Germany, mostly from Munster, through the Eboli camp in Italy, and began a new life here, knowing that returning to Tito's Communist Serbia would bring certain death to them and their family", said Father Nenad.

The first seeds of a Church-based community burgeoned in 1955 when a property was purchased for newly-installed priest Radovan Miljković. His efforts at that time were concentrated on finding all the Serbs in this region, who had slowly begun to return to their former professions.

He found them in local hostels and rented rooms. Soon after, the first chapel was built on the plot. However, the congregation was mostly men. Women had remained in Serbia without a passport or the opportunity to join them.

After 1952, when Tito visited Queen Elizabeth, Father Nenad explains, more than 4,000 Serbian women came to Britain and began to raise families.

"A good number of Serbs worked at the Cadbury factory. George Cadbury, who founded the Bournville Village Trust in 1890, lived in the Birmingham city centre and taught literacy to young adults. He visited their homes, which were cramped and squalid. That's why he decided to move the factory from the city to the countryside. At that time, this space was countryside. He built a new plant and around it a village. He insisted that every garden must have trees. He wanted the workers to have the feeling they were in a park and lived in a beautiful place. This spirit has been kept alive to this day", Sir Cadbury explains.



In the meantime, Father Radovan had been replaced with Prota Milenko Zebić whom Serbs in Birmingham still hold in high regard. He became the main driving force, which would lead to the construction of Birmingham's Lazarica.

Sir Duncan recounts:

"Over 50 years ago, the Serbian community in this region grew. They were very keen to build a church. They asked Sir Adrian Cadbury if he would sell them this plot of land so they could build a church on it. Adrian Cadbury replied 'Show me that you are serious about collecting money for this venture. Then come back and we'll talk'. They collected between five and six thousand pounds in a very short space of time. They re-mortgaged their own homes and successfully raised the funds. They returned to Adrian Cadbury and told him, 'We've collected money for the church'. He was so impressed that replied 'Here is your land. Now use this money to build a church.'"

CLAM

The foundation stone was laid in 1965. Architect Dr. Dragomir Tadić designed the church in the Moravian style. A part of the Serbian community built it with their own hands. The patron of the construction was Prince Tomislav Karađorđević. The core idea was that the church would become a symbol of all the sacred places in the motherland.

“Everything you see here was brought in from Serbia. The marble floor came from Dečani, Sopoćani and Studenica. The wood was carved in Šumadija. As was the iconostasis. The icons were painted in Belgrade, by the hand of Živko Stojisavljević, so everything that was done here in the church and around the church belongs to Serbia, Serbs and the Serbian Orthodox Church”, says Father Nenad.

Lazarica, the hidden jewel of Birmingham

Fifty years later, both the Church and the Serbian community have become an integral part of Birmingham. On websites dedicated to places to visit in this part of the country, the English are full of praise for Lazarica, especially for its painted frescoes, which had been banned from local churches since the first English Protestant monarch, King Henry VIII.

“One Guardian correspondent singled out our Church as ‘the hidden gem of Birmingham and the West Midlands’ and indeed, we have groups on a daily basis, who visit and admire the beauty of Birmingham’s Lazarica”, said Father Nenad.

Pensioner and amateur photographer John Timmins visited Lazarica last August on an open day.

“I was so impressed by its beauty that I proposed to our amateur photographers’ group that we visit for the first time. Today there are 25 of us gathered. There are not many churches in England with such frescoes. It is impressive that the church was painted by one man who worked for 10 years. The priest here is wonderful. Today, he allowed our group to photograph the interior of the Church before doors officially open for its open day. It’s really wonderful”, says Timmins.

In addition to Lazarica, there is also the House (Dom) of Prince Lazar, a place where third generation Serbs congregate. Weddings, celebrations and holidays are celebrated under the watchful eye of the local Circle of Serbian Sisters (KSS). As befits the name of the Church, this organisation is also called “Empress Milica”.



“We are all equal here. We all roll up our sleeves and help out. We prepare for Vidovdan and other major holidays. Everyone is here. We’ve held it together thus far, and let’s see what the future holds”, says Bojana Tomić, President of the Circle of Serbian Sisters.

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

Half a century of Lazarica in Birmingham

Lazarica celebrated its 50-year anniversary some months ago. The late Serbian Patriarch Irinej served a special Divine Liturgy for this occasion. A documentary about the construction of the church was also shown, but there would be no celebration without a traditional programme of Serbian folk dances and songs.

The third generation of Serbs in England do not mind long drives from the surrounding cities to attend folklore dance practise.



"I was born here. My parents were also born in England, so I'm third generation. We try to get together for rehearsals as often as we can, but at least once a week. However, we're not all from Birmingham. People travel from other cities including Leicester...myself I'm from Halifax, for example, up in Yorkshire", says Rajko Jovanović, a plumber.

"Both my parents have been dancing for years, so my sister and I grew up around folklore. In older generations, every family had at least someone who continued the tradition of folk dance, so it had been handed down from generation to generation", says Katarina Simikić, a member of the ensemble.



Rajko says that his children now attend college and have other responsibilities so that they cannot dedicate themselves as much to folklore: "At one time we were around 30 members, but now we have, I would say, fifteen. My favourite kolos have to be the Vlačke kolos."

"My favourites are the traditional songs, which three of us sing together in acapella harmony. Sometimes, the dialect in a few of the lyrics might throw us a bit, but when the time comes for us to perform all of the prep work we have done comes into its own. We have suppliers from Serbia, who provide us with authentic costumes and opanke (footwear). Sometimes our mums duplicate some detail from the costumes or our grandmothers take in the skirt hems. The result is a mixture of everything", explains Katarina.

"We are fortunate to have a Serbian-language school, as well as a faith-based school, choir, traditional dance ensemble to nourish our culture and tradition. Every Sunday our church is full. Between 150 and 200 people worship every Sunday, which is a sign that the Serbs have not forgotten God. And when they have not forgotten God, neither He forgets them", concluded Father Nenad.

Click here to watch the full report (in Serbian):

<https://www.rts.rs/page/magazine/ci/story/501/zanimljivosti/3453431/%20po-cemu-birmingem-podseca-na-sumadiju.html>

Bedford

Located on the banks of the River Ouse, 50 miles north of London, Bedford is a pretty market town, steeped in history and with a multicultural population that includes a significant Serbian community.

In the late 1940s, early 1950s Serbs were one of the first groups of immigrants to settle in a town that had previously not known foreigners. An initial influx began to settle in that area attracted mainly by jobs provided by brickworks in villages on the south-west side of the town.

The WWII royalist military veterans gradually spread to the town taking advantage of the more varied job opportunities that it offered. Slowly these men were able to begin to invite their wives and children that they had left behind in the former Yugoslavia to come and join them.

The roots of the Bedford Serb community were well and truly being established. From the mid 1950s onwards families were reunited and the first British born baby Serbs were arriving. Numbering over 100 households, the community started to have regular church services conducted by Father Uvalić and in 1955 a "Kolo Srpski Sestara" (KSS) was set up. Vera Lazarević was a founder member of that Serbian Sisters Circle and she is still alive today.

Whilst it may not be the case today, all community life then was centered around the Church. Father Srbo Bulić became the priest for a parish that was based on Bedford and included Corby, Northampton, Peterborough and Letchworth. Serbian cultural life in the town was cultivated with the arrival of Mika Djordjević who organised a Folklor Group and a Drama Society, and in 1963 the community purchased 62 Kimbolton Road, in Bedford as a "Crkveni Dom" and home for the priest.

When in the late 1960s Father Bulić left the parish he was succeeded by a quick succession of priests Father Živko Babić and then in the early 1970s by Father Milan Čekerevac. The situation stabilised in 1976 when Father Vido Vuković arrived and was to stay for more than 30 years.

In those years the community was still expanding through natural growth and also via additions of a smaller wave of economic migrants from Yugoslavia. The Church continued with its activities of regular liturgies, and annual celebrations of the parish Slava St. Andrew, and the school children's Slava St. Sava as well as the KSS Slava St. Petka. There was a time up to about the mid-1980s when attendance at Church services and social functions was high. There was the real spirit of a healthy and active community.

From then on this gradually changed. Young Serbs would finish schools in the town and go away to further education opportunities elsewhere and rarely return to live in the town again. Bedford's proximity to London was a large draw for jobs for that generation and soon the effects on the local community could be seen.

The tragic wars in the former Yugoslavia brought an unexpected boost to the Serbian Community in Bedford. In the late 1990s and early 2000s. Around one thousand young Serb men, women and children came to the town as asylum seekers. Most of them were able to secure long term stay and eventual residency and were warmly welcomed by the older community.

Still today, under the guidance of our parish priest, Father Radmilo Stokić the Church continues to be the main hub of the wider Serbian community. In recent years we have seen Serbian pubs, clubs, cafés and restaurants come and go in the town indicating that the community is alive and that the Serb identity has a long-term future in the cultural landscape of the town of Bedford.

By Aleks Simic



Berkshire and Reading

The Serbian community in Berkshire is the result of several waves of migration. The first, after the end of the WWII, was predominantly a large group of members of the “Vojska Kraljevine Jugoslavije” force, who did not wish to return to a communist-ruled Yugoslavia. After spending time in Displaced Persons camps in Italy and Germany they came to Britain in the late 1940s under the European Volunteer Programme to meet labour shortages in Britain. They were temporarily settled in Displaced Persons camps in Britain, until the early 1950s, after which they were free to move on their own and find new jobs. It was after this that families began to move to Berkshire to work in various factories or similar places, and particularly to Reading which was famous as “biscuit town” because of the strong food industry in the area. Since then, there was a smaller influx from the 1960s to the 1980s and a much bigger one in the 1990s during the break-up of Yugoslavia.

It is estimated that there are around 50 families living in the area, but it could be more than that. Whilst, the community is tight knit it has always welcomed new members. Each generation has produced many remarkable and notable individuals and is united in cherishing common values, regardless of heritage or social status.

Today, the Serbian community in Berkshire has several organizations which actively work and function, within their social environment and culture, all trying to make a difference to individuals and families of Serbian heritage.

Although each one of them has its own area of activities and goals, they truly complement each other and together they preserve the Serbian cultural heritage and national identity, as well as keeping close ties with the homeland and other local Serbian communities which share similar values.

Three of them that keep making a difference and have worked hard and steadily over a long period of time, generation after generation, focusing on the most important values that matter to the community are:

- The Serbian Church, Parish of the Holy Ascension Oxford (Oxford, Reading and High Wycombe parish) which was established in 1974 by Bishop Lavrentije. Regular services in Reading every 4th Sunday each month.

- “Kolo srpskih sestara” (The Circle of Serbian Sisters) a charitable voluntary organization that helps children and people most in need in the homeland as well as locally.

- The Serbian school, “Srpskaonica” which mainly since 2011 helps the youngest to learn and nurture Serbian language and culture, develop greater awareness of the national and cultural identity and organizes many other extracurricular activities.

Together they make a true cultural and spiritual hub and contribute to existing and new members having a shared emotional connection, feeling loved and having a sense of belonging. They support each other and new generations, helping with community development every day. There are many notable individuals in each generation of British Serbs, but the thing that makes the community prouder than anything else is that the new generations are better than the existing ones and that itself is a true testament of the community's hard work, be it individually, in the family or through some of these organizations.

The community looks forward to welcoming more people in the future.
For more information, please contact us on the following facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/srpskaonica/>

By Sasa Perovic



Canterbury

There is a growing Serbian medical and pharmaceutical community in Canterbury and the south east of the county of Kent, mostly around local hospitals as well as Pfizer pharmaceutical site.

Dr Sergije Jovanovic, Consultant Anaesthetist was the first to come in 1993 as a junior doctor. The following year he was followed by his wife Ksenija, a paediatric nurse. Dr Nikac Tomanovic, Associate Specialist in Anaesthetics joined them in 1994 as a junior doctor together with Dr Mirjana Vuckovic Tomanovic, a scientist at Pfizer.

Others were to follow them and base themselves in Canterbury. Dr Zika Petrovic, Consultant Anaesthetist and his wife Mirjana, a GP, Dr Dijana Milanovic, Dr Goran Milosavljevic, Dr Srdjana Trajkovic and more recently Dr Dragan Nenadic and Dr Nemanja Mijajlovic, all anaesthetists and medical technicians Nikola Curuvija, Mirjana Curuvija and Marija Nenadic. Dr Aleksandra Fox, GP from Margate, is also part of the community.

As well as Dr Mirjana Tomanovic, Director of Global Regulatory Affairs at Pfizers, Predrag Krsmanovic, a computing expert, also works as a contractor for Pfizer.

Dr Aleksandar Popovic, a vet, works for a local company.

All members of the community are highly regarded in their respected fields in the companies and organisations in which they are employed.

We regularly meet privately celebrated Slava's or on other occasions.

Dr Zika Petrovic is President of the BSMA (British Serbian Medical Association) and Dr Aleksandra Fox is the Vice president. BSMA is a professional and charity organisation for medical professionals, mostly with connections between Britain and Serbia. It is a valuable part of Serbian community in the UK. It is hoped that the community will grow in the future, both in number and strength.

By Nikac Tomanovic

Corby

The Serbian community in the north of England can be traced back to 1948. In December 1947 the first group of Serbs, who decided not to return to communist-ruled Yugoslavia, arrived from a camp in Germany under the Voluntary European Workers Programme, a programme which recruited displaced persons and other refugees from Eastern Europe to work in areas where there were labour shortages. They settled in various parts of the north England and agreed to spend the three year period of the agreement working in coal mines, textile factories or farms. Those who chose to work in textile factories or coal mines came to Yorkshire. Most of them originated from patriarchal Serbian families and Corby.

The first Serbs to come to Corby, around 75 in number, arrived in late 1947 from Eboli in Italy to Munster lager in Germany and then to Market Harborough. They came to Corby to work in the steelworks run by Stewarts & Lloyds (S&L). They were housed in old army or POW camps. The majority of these men came from around Knin and were mainly followers of Vojvoda Djuić. There were no family members, women or children with them. Needless to say the jobs they undertook were difficult and dangerous. In 1950 they were joined by others from Wales and Scotland where they had been working on the land, farms and forestry work. They had been released from their contract with the European Voluntary Workers Service.

Those who were married and had families that were still in Yugoslavia were able to send packages to their loved ones periodically. They also tried to bring their families over but the Yugoslav authorities prohibited this. Around 1953 the Yugoslav authorities relented somewhat and allowed some families to be reunited after almost 10 years of separation. For example, in my case my maternal grandmother was allowed to come to England in 1953 while my paternal grandmother was not allowed to come to England until 1963, almost 20 years of separation.

This small community was divided later by the schism in the Serbian Orthodox Church. Others left to make a better life in America, Canada and Australia.

In the late 1960s early 1970s the Yugoslav authorities allowed people to seek work abroad, mainly to bring money back into the country. This resulted in a second influx of Serbs into the UK. Many came to family and friends in Corby and ultimately managed to bring over other family members. The majority of these were again from around Knin.

In 1985 around 50 locals and a few further afield managed to collect £40k to purchase the old Methodist Hall. This was fitted with an old iconostasis from London and served as both a Church and community centre. In the late 1990s the building was adapted and a separate Chapel was constructed. This has a new iconostasis and is ornately decorated. The Very Rev Father Vido Vukovic was the Parish Priest from 1976 – 2016 and was instrumental to the initial purchase of the church from the Methodists and for building the second purpose built Serbian Orthodox Church in the UK. Services are held by Father Radmilo Stokić from Bedford twice a month. While attendance figures have seen better days large numbers still gather at Christmas and Easter.

In the early 1990s the disintegration of Yugoslavia led to another influx of Serbs. They again came mainly from around Knin. There are also many from Eastern Slavonia. The exact numbers are hard to determine but are likely to be in the region of 2,000-3,000.

By Sava Chimbur



Lazar Vukovic with John Challis prior to filming *Boyce in Belgrade*



Coventry

The famous phrase "Sent to Coventry" can easily be related to Coventry's Serbian community, as they were literally sent to Coventry from Scotland, after World War Two.

The phrase originally referred to the hostile reception that was given to Royalist prisoners who were captured during the English Civil War and imprisoned in Coventry, a Parliamentary stronghold. However, most of the Serbian community, according to the stories told, had the opposite reception on their arrival in Coventry.

As Coventry rose from the devastation and ashes left from the war, the need to help rebuild the city and its vital industries brought many men and women from across the UK, Ireland, Caribbean, India and many other places to the city. But a lesser known fact, was that people who came to the UK as prisoners of war, refugees and immigrants from across Europe, including Yugoslavia, also played a crucial role in rebuilding and revitalising the city.

The first and only wave of Serbs who spent their first few years after WW2 in camps in Scotland, working in mines, were transferred and dispersed in and around Coventry and West Midlands.

Soon after settling in Coventry, many men, especially those who reached out to offer their skills and became proficient in speaking the English language, were able to progress in their jobs, mainly manual labour work involving factories and mines. This then enabled them to move out of their cramped, shared accommodation and get on the property ladder. Soon after, in the 1950s and early 1960s, many of them brought their wives and families from Yugoslavia to join them in the UK. At the same time, many younger Serbian men also settled down and married English, Italians, Germans and women of other nationalities. Their new life in a new city became home to many who were trying to keep hold of their national identity, language and traditions whilst at the same time trying to integrate in their new way of life.

The Serbian community grew stronger over the early years. It was very well organised and sought to keep its religion, language and folklore alive. Close friendships were kept alive by regularly organising coach trips across the UK, the most popular being seaside trips. Christmas and Easter community celebrations were a must!

Serbian community life was thriving up until the 90s. Unfortunately, the breakup of Yugoslavia and the resulting bad media coverage was mirrored within the community which started to crumble. Many lobbied for the Serbian cause but others hid under the assimilation curtain. Since then, more Serbs settled as refugees or professional immigrants and began to call Coventry home. During difficult times, the community tried its best to keep going, at the very least, organising Christmas and Easter celebrations. Sadly, lack of interest and a drop in the numbers of those attending events meant that the community came to exist on paper only.



Today, assimilation or individual activity and friendships are more prominent than the activity of the community. We still live in hope that the community will once again re-establish itself as the proud and thriving community it once was. However, we still have a good mix of first, second, third and even fourth generation people of Serbian origin living and/or working in the city, who could form the spark that could revive the community.

The city, is twinned with Belgrade and for the last 17 years, Slavica Stojavljevic has worked tirelessly to revive the links with many civic exchange visits, cultural events such as Joy of Europe in Belgrade and the Godiva Sisters, Positive Images and a Peace Festival in Coventry. Slavica regularly visits Coventry schools to teach children about life in Belgrade and through Princess Milica's legacy promotes Serbian history and heritage to the citizens of Coventry and more widely. Apart from receiving the Queen's Award as part of the Godiva Trust activities, in 2018 Slavica has also received a Special Queen's Award, endorsed by Coventry's Lord Mayor and Godiva Trust for her dedication in keeping Coventry and Belgrade links alive.

By Slavica Stojavljevic



Serbian Month

in Great Britain



Halifax

The Serbian community in the north of England can be traced back to 1948. In December 1947 the first group of Serbs, who decided not to return to communist-ruled Yugoslavia, arrived from a camp in Germany under the Voluntary European Workers Programme, a programme which recruited displaced persons and other refugees from Eastern Europe to work in areas where there were labour shortages. They settled in various parts of the north of England and agreed to spend the three year period of the agreement working in coal mines, textile factories or farms. Those who chose to work in textile factories or coal mines came to Yorkshire. Most of them originated from patriarchal Serbian families and had been brought up in the Christian Orthodox faith and in the Serbian tradition. As soon as they had begun to settle they soon felt the need to organise their spiritual life. They did all this very modestly, with the limited means that they had at their disposal, but always with a strong faith in God, and a firm hope of a better future, which is characteristic of the Serbian people.

Once the three-year working agreement had expired, they were able to seek whatever employment they could find. Those who settled in the larger towns and cities in the north of England asked their relatives, friends and neighbours to live closer to them and they began to form Serbian communities in Halifax, Huddersfield, Manchester, Leeds, Wakefield, Rochdale, Bradford and Oldham. As their financial situation started to improve, the idea of purchasing a church was first discussed, and in 1952 a Purchasing Committee was established. People were appointed in various places to collect funds from the local Serbian Community and a decision was made to purchase a building in Boothtown, Halifax.

In 1952 the former Mount Carmel Methodist Chapel was acquired and in 1953 Father Valerijan Štrbac was appointed to serve as the priest for the north of England and he played an instrumental part in renovating the building which was in a dilapidated state. After much renovation work and adaptation for Christian Orthodox practice, the church was finally consecrated on 26 September 1954. From thereon, this was officially the start of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Yorkshire. His Majesty, King Petar II of Yugoslavia attended the opening with various other civil and clerical dignitaries.

The present parish church of St John the Baptist in Halifax, another former Methodist church, was purchased in 1965. Again, with much financial input and hard renovation work, the interior of the church was adapted to accommodate Serbian Orthodox Christian services. In addition to the church, the property has two function halls, an office and a vicarage for the Parish Priest.

Since the early years, life in the Serbian Community has evolved gracefully, always maintaining a dignified presence in Yorkshire and the north of England. The jurisdiction of St John the Baptist parish comprises South Western and Eastern Scotland, and Northern England: The counties of West Yorkshire; East Yorkshire; and South Yorkshire; the towns and cities of Halifax, Huddersfield, Bradford, Leeds, Wakefield, Mexborough and Doncaster; Manchester, Rochdale and Bury in the county of Lancashire; and Merseyside in and around the city of Liverpool.

A significant part of the Serbian culture and tradition has always been the Serbian Folklore dance. The first group in the parish was Oplenac, established and run by Moma Radovanović with the unwavering support of his wife Branka. Their energetic and magnetic dance routines made Oplenac one of the best Serbian dance groups in the UK. Oplenac provided real joy and pleasure to its audience wherever it performed in the UK and abroad. To many children and teenagers, Oplenac gave a sense of achievement, an opportunity to make friends for life, and most importantly it taught them the art of Serbian dancing, singing, recitations and acting at an extremely high standard. Although it later expanded into the Midlands region, its base and the spiritual home was at St. John's.

Some 20 years ago, a few parishioners of St John formed a new folklore group - Hilandar for young people from the age of 5 to 18 and a couple of generations have been through it. The members of the folklore group are very enthusiastic and work very hard, trying to learn all the kolo steps and Serbian songs from their teachers. Every parishioner, friend and guest to our Serbian Community loves their dancing and singing. There is no doubt that they can be as good as any other group and St John's is very proud of them and their bright future.

From the time it was decided to establish a new St John the Baptist parish, the parishioners have worked tirelessly, with great dedication and donated a great deal to their Serbian Orthodox Church. Their love for their faith and community has made a big difference. All matters concerning the life and work of our parish are administered by the dedicated team of people. The current church Trustees, The Kolo Srpskih Sestara and the Management Committee are very grateful to all the parishioners, friends and supporters of St John the Baptist for their support over the years.

Britic, updated by George Tokos



**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

Leicester

Under the European Voluntary Workers Programme by the end of the 1940s a group of Chetniks from Lika and Dalmatia had been sent to the environs of Leicester, in the Midlands, and they managed to lead a modest but decent and self-respecting life. This group's living conditions, while far from lavish, were tolerable. They were accommodated in well-insulated barracks at Bruntingthorpe airport, alongside a large contingent of Poles belonging to Gen. Anders' army. The two groups soon established good rapport. With the Polish contingent there was an Orthodox priest so that for seven months of their stay in the area the Serbs were granted the unexpected gift of regular liturgy. One barrack was even allocated to them as a chapel, in which on July 18, 1948, a memorial service was held for General Mihailovic. More Chetniks moved to Leicester after 1950 when they were finally given the freedom to choose their employment and place of residence. In Leicester they found employment in the shoemaking and light industry.

On Easter Day, April 5 1953, veterans from all over England and Wales held a meeting in London and decided to establish the Chetnik Alliance of Great Britain, soon thereafter to be renamed the Movement of Serbian Chetniks of Ravna Gora in Great Britain. And the first congress was planned to take place in September in Leicester.

Over one thousand Chetniks attended the first congress at which the two wartime leaders, Vojvodas, Djuić and Jevdjević, delivered keynote speeches. The new Movement would rely on the spoken and written word, on political and cultural work, on good deeds and charity, and on nurturing the traditions of epic poetry and folklore, as a means of achieving its objectives.

Since that first congress the Ravna Gora Movement – together with the Serbian Orthodox Church – has been the foundation of social life and personal identification for thousands of Chetnik veterans all over Britain. Congresses continue to be held on the first weekend of September. The Movement's top elected officers, local branches and sections present detailed reports on their activities. Following the working session, the day usually ends on a festive note, with live entertainment, music and dancing. They are held in Leicester in the Tromedja Hall which the movement bought in 1962 and which has subsequently been the main centre of all Chetnik activities in Britain. Following extensive renovation completed in 1982 it also houses a bed-and-breakfast hotel. In addition to regular public meetings and banquets, this is the location where folklore groups practice, families gather to celebrate and mourn, where young people meet to chat, flirt and dance, and old veterans discuss politics over a drink. Another significant investment was made in 1988, when the Movement purchased the building that has been renamed Dinara Hall.

Extracts from article by Srdja Trifkovic

Full article available at:

<https://www.pogledi.rs/en/movement-of-serbian-chetniks-ravna-gora-in-great-britain-a-brief-history/>



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Tomislav,
Princess Katarina, Princess Margarita,
Prince Nikola, Vojvoda Djuić



One of the oldest Serbian seats in Britain

Serbians have lived in Oxford since the Great War when a group arrived from Serbia as refugees. Hundreds of thousands of Serbians were made refugees after the occupation of Serbia by The Austro-Hungarian Empire and their allies Germany and Bulgaria. Many of these refugees found safe haven in Britain and France who joined the war on Serbia and Russia's coalition. This particular group arrived in Britain in April 1916 where the London Serbian Relief Fund took responsibility for 300 souls upon their arrival at Southampton docks. Largely through the intervention of Sidney Ball, a Fellow at St. John's College Oxford, some of these including 50 theological students and their professors came to Oxford. They were put up in Wycliffe Hall (a college at Oxford) and were later moved to St. Andrew's Lodge by St. Andrew's Church on Linton Road in North Oxford. Serbian schools were set up in classrooms provided by Mansfield College and later some of the young men attended various Colleges at the University of Oxford. These Serbian students' names were added to names such as Prince Paul of Yugoslavia and Bishop Nikolaj Velimirović who too were University of Oxford alumni. In January 1917, St. Sava's Day (the patron saint of Serbia) was celebrated as was St. Vitus Day on June 28th or known in Serbian as Vidovdan which commemorates the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. St. John's College permitted the Serbian Orthodox Christian community to use St. John's chapel for the religious ceremony. In January 1918 St. Stephen's House, a theological college in Oxford, temporarily became the Serbian Orthodox theological college as it had a strong connection to Bishop Nikolaj Velimirović.

A new contingent of Serbians arrived in the UK in 1947 after the second world war as political opponents to the communist regime in Yugoslavia. St. George's Barracks, MOD Bicester was the new but temporary home for over 2,000 Serbians. They were soldiers of the Dinara Chetnik Division and soldiers of the regular Royal Yugoslav Army and with them some civilians. This was quite an impressive number as the village of Bicester then had a population of less than 5,000. Many military personnel arrived in Bicester and the surrounding area like RAF Upper Heyford which housed the US Air Force Strategic Air Command. Walking through Sheep Street in Bicester, one would hear Serbian, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian and American accents so for the locals this may have looked like some kind of foreign invasion of Slavs and Americans.

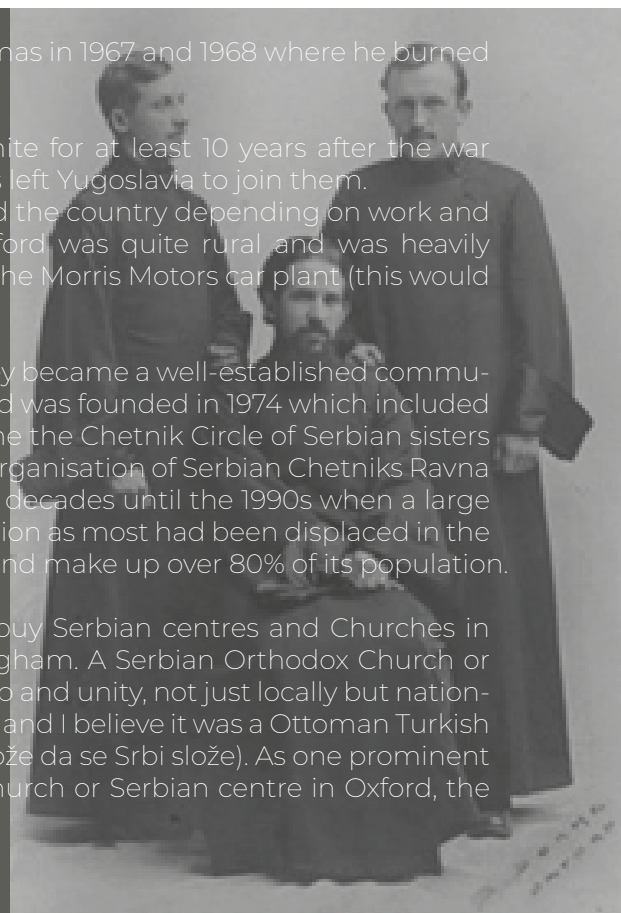
King Peter II visited the camp several times including Christmas in 1967 and 1968 where he burned the yuletide badnjak.

Tito's policies would not allow many of the families to reunite for at least 10 years after the war ended. However sooner or later many of the soldiers' families left Yugoslavia to join them. On reunification, the families left Bicester and moved around the country depending on work and opportunity and some made Oxford their new home. Oxford was quite rural and was heavily dependent on the university but many Serbs found work at the Morris Motors car plant (this would later become Austin Rover).

The Serbian presence was once again felt in Oxford when they became a well-established community to this day. The Serbian Orthodox Church Parish of Oxford was founded in 1974 which included Bicester, Reading and High Wycombe. Around the same time the Chetnik Circle of Serbian sisters and Serbian Folklore group Kosovo were formed under the Organisation of Serbian Chetniks Ravna Gora. The community remained quite stable in numbers for decades until the 1990s when a large influx of Serbs came to the UK and Oxford to escape persecution as most had been displaced in the Yugoslav civil war. Oxford's Serbs are mainly from Dalmatia and make up over 80% of its population.

In the past, the old Serbian community helped build and buy Serbian centres and Churches in other parts of the country especially in London and Birmingham. A Serbian Orthodox Church or centre has never been built in Oxford largely due to leadership and unity, not just locally but nationally. This seems to be a common problem amongst the Serbs and I believe it was a Ottoman Turkish Sultan who once said, "God forbid the Serbs unite", (Ne daj Bože da se Srbi slože). As one prominent Oxford Serb has said on many occasions; if there is not a Church or Serbian centre in Oxford, the community will eventually disappear.

By Dušan Parojčić



Us and Them

I first found myself in Great Britain in 1978. I was 17 years old and my parents had sent me on an English language course. My impressions and the desire to live in Britain never left me until, in 1993, I moved to London with my husband and a two-year old son.

Since then we have both worked as medical doctors in the NHS. We had another son; our sons are grown up now, one is a mathematician, and the other a doctor.

These are the bare facts of our life in Britain. But let me tell you about the culture clash we lived through while striving to build our lives in Britain. I believe it is fair to say that my focus will be on things that, at least in my opinion, function better “over there” (in Serbia, that is) than here in Britain. For sure, there are countless things that we can only envy them for.

One of the first discoveries was why the Serbs say “he/she pretends to be English”, meaning someone who plays a fool, but knows very well what is going on! It is easy to see that people here do not stare at you, as they might do “back home”. They do not size you up. If your looks cross each other, a gentle smile, almost an apology, follows as if meaning to say “I’ve no issues with you”. As a rule, if you fail to smile back, then you are either rude, or even hostile. Similarly, when seeing something different, say, a friend turns up in a torn shirt, or barefoot, or she just has a new hairstyle...most of the time this won’t raise any comments. Some people do appreciate you not poking your nose into their business, but others may actually expect you to comment because, what good is a new hairstyle if nobody notices it?

I don’t think I will ever get used to their impeccable manners, such as minding one’s Ps and Qs! I could never understand why you have to thank the bus driver for stopping and opening the door to let you off, at a compulsory bus stop. Even today, I wince when my children thank me for some trifle. Well, I am their mother, aren’t I...What are they thanking me for!? However, just imagine the opposite scenario: the bus driver did not stop the bus at a compulsory stop and, instead of an unnecessary “Thank you”, a compensation suit follows...No such thing as “ ‘stop the bus, ‘stop the bus” as portrayed in the Serbian movie “Who’s singing over there?”. Having said that, I must admit how much I miss those good manners when, for example, someone in the fatherland (Serbia) lets the doors slam in front of my nose.

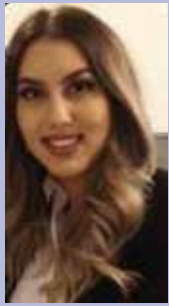
Raising children in this country has been a challenge, too. When children here have a runny nose, no one wipes their noses endlessly, leaving everything to its natural course. The verse “Pass me a hankie mummy, for I must wipe my nose, I have caught a cold now, walking around with no shoes” (daj mi mama maramicu da obrisem nos, dobio sam kijavicu jer sam is'o bos) by the poet (and doctor!) J.J.Zmaj, must sound incomprehensible and fall on deaf ears. Nobody here bothers to wipe kids’ noses, much less frets about them walking around without slippers (an object almost unknown in this part of the world). Imagining my future grandchildren in that way, barefoot with a stream of snot running down to their mouth, is my worst nightmare! Therefore I admire our sons’ tenacity in reminding their girlfriends, for the umpteenth time, to wear slippers in our house. Similarly, I find it incomprehensible to allow children to wallow in the mud or leap in puddles (wellies offer no protection at all!), until they are soaked through and covered in mud, regardless if it is winter or summertime. Watching their children having great fun (of which our children were totally deprived), I wondered if there was a role for social services there? My impression was that nobody takes care of those kids....the free children of Summerhill...Was I wrong to deprive my own children of a piece of happiness by not allowing them to act (behave) freely... Opinions on this are divided, perhaps even mine is....but, no, on second thought, no!

Examples of different approaches to everyday matters could go on forever...sometimes they bring laughter, other times questions about what makes “us” so different from “them”. In the end, we adapt to their ways most of the time, yet sometimes, albeit much less often, we stubbornly stick to our time-honoured ways, and resolutely refute theirs. Be it as it may, we are richer for a new life perspective, which we can ponder, choosing what to accept, striving to “Keep on advancing ourselves, every day, in every aspect”.

By Dr Angela Mijovic

Young British Serbs

Bedford, Zeljana Krtinic, 23 years old



Growing up in Bedford, I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by quite a large Serbian community. This played a vital role in ensuring that I remained in touch with my Serbian side, rather than drifting away from it. Throughout my school years, this was a little complicated because I always had to explain to my peers why we celebrate Christmas on a different day, explaining what Slava is and why it is so important to our culture and religion etc. At times, I faced judgement from individuals who would stereotype Serbs as “war criminals” and associate us with violence. However, this only encouraged me to prove them wrong. The majority of Serbs residing in Bedford migrated here in the 90-s, meaning people in Bedford were not so educated on the history of Serbia. This sometimes made it awkward to explain why I identify as Serbian even though I was born in Croatia. The pronunciation of my name was always a challenge too, although now I see it as an excellent opportunity to introduce Serbia into conversation and educate people.

Due to the large Serbo-Croatian community in Bedford, shops sell Serbian foods, which is amazing. My mother always cooks Serbian food, which I am extremely grateful for as she also passed this on to me. This always makes Christmas very exciting, because the food and cake preparations became a tradition for my mother and me from a young age. It just made the Bozic experience that much more special.

One part of being a Serb in Bedford that I really enjoyed was folklore. Joining folklore and attending Serbian events was a fantastic way to bring the communities together and take part in something that is so traditional and heavily appreciated back home. This also opened the opportunity to make friends with Serbs from all over the UK. The influence of being surrounded by other Serbs and having parents who listened to Serbian music and watched Serbian TV shaped me into the person I am today, as I too listen to predominantly Serbian music. This is amazing because whenever I go back home, I am able to fit in. For this reason, I identify as Serbian. It is a huge part of who I am, from friends, to mentality, to hobbies.

Living as a Serb in Bedford had a positive impact on me, as Bedford is a very multicultural town. Being granted the opportunity to be surrounded by people from all over the world and learn about other cultures is amazing and makes me appreciate my own even more. My parents were always advocates of respecting the country we live in, whilst ensuring that we stay in touch with our Serbian roots. This meant that they spoke Serbian to me and my brothers since birth. We are all therefore fluent in Serbian, however, it has been and remains a habit for us to speak English amongst ourselves.

Overall, I would say being a Serb living in Bedford is fantastic in terms of community, because we thoroughly practice Serbian traditions here, such as; lighting the Badnjak, church, folklor, zabave, cafés and food. It is heart-warming to see so many young Serbs keeping our beautiful traditions alive.



Bristol, Lea Vukovic, 18 years old

Cultural heritage as a concept is often seen as traditions and ways of living which have been passed through generations. Coming from a multi-cultural family I have struggled with finding myself and identifying with any one culture. Beliefs and traditions are a beautiful and unique aspect of a nation's past, and I could never restrict myself to identifying with only one, as it would be like looking at only one chapter of my life.

For most of my childhood I lived on the outskirts of Belgrade, and it is where I mostly resonate with my roots (if I had to choose). There is a vast contrast between the sense of unity and connection between the people there, and where I live now, in Bristol. Moving to the UK at the age of 12 and being used to such a close - knit community, saying that the transition was a shock would be putting it lightly. It is not to say that one person's lifestyle is better than another's, but it is definitely different.

Both my mum and I quickly realised how different countries are. Straight away I was put into an all-English secondary school. At first the adaptation from the Serbian curriculum to English was difficult and challenging, however I got to appreciate the advantages that an English education could offer me in the future.

Luckily, most of my wider family live all over the world - so in a way, everyone being in a different country made us closer. I am extremely appreciative of the fact that in today's era it is easier to stay in contact and keep in touch with my relatives. So, whenever I felt like I was missing out, I had the support of my family all over the world to reassure me and make me feel like my Serbian identity won't be lost, in a way we are our own small community. England has exposed me to many beautiful things that I might have not been able to experience if I stayed in Serbia. Personally, I feel like Bristol is a very ambitious and progressive city, and living here has widened my knowledge and given me certain skills that I will be able to carry with me for the rest of my life. My interpretation of a community is not restricted by borders or geographical positioning, but through my experiences and those around me it has shown me that a sense of community comes from within. I plan to take my community and my past and carry it on in whatever country life takes me to next...

Canterbury, Milena Petrovic, 25 years old



Growing up as a kid of immigrants is a huge privilege. As a small child, I didn't quite understand why we spoke a different language at home, ate different food and celebrated different religious holidays from all my English school friends. I had the constant reminder that my name was unpronounceable or unspellable to the average Englishman, and I didn't understand how the music of Goran Bregovic which I loved so much wasn't listened to in England! The close ex-Yugoslav community in my hometown Canterbury was a lovely backdrop to my childhood.

Nevertheless towards the end of my teenage years, surrounded by mainly white English school friends still, I had a slight identity crisis realising that I was indeed not English. Yet going back to Serbia made me realise I was definitely not Serbian either: I didn't get the cultural references, my Serbian language skills were stuck at the level of a primary school child, and perhaps I'd taken on too many English mannerisms.

Attending university in London was a blessing. Here was a multicultural heaven with people from all over the world, sharing cultures and worldviews. I studied identity politics, made many other diaspora friends and even convinced my diverse group of friends to join me on some Balkan music nights out (great fun!). I finally realised that I was a hybrid, a "British Serb", a global citizen who belongs to all and none. A hybrid identity is brilliant - I speak two languages, I can tap in to the culture and music of multiple countries, and I am privileged to hear and discuss history and worldviews from very different parts of the world. I'm very proud of my Balkan roots; I'm in the process of writing up my family history and I fully intend to keep the music, food and passion of the Balkans alive throughout life.



Guilford, Sofia Mashanovich, 21 years old

There are a few places I have referred to as 'home' in my lifetime: my student house in Bristol where I am currently studying, my grandparent's home in Valjevo where some of my best childhood memories stem from, Belgrade where I was born, and Guildford, a place that if asked about I would no doubt refer to as my real home. A town recognised as the centre of Surrey, Guildford's proximity to London makes it an attractive place to live, yet lacks the hustle and diversity that city life entails, and so has never been home to a large Serbian community. Having moved here from Serbia as a young child, it took me some time to adjust to the culture, and primarily the language, when I started school.

I vividly recall going up to other children in the playground and not understanding the blank expressions on their faces when I spoke to them. I had clearly presumed that everyone around me also spoke Serbian, the only language I'd ever known till then. However, the ability of a child's brain to mould and adapt at an exponential rate, led to English very soon becoming my 'mother tongue'. In an environment that lacked a large Serbian community, particularly children my age, it had the potential to become all too easy to forget my roots, language and culture. For that I am thankful to my parents, who were fairly strict with ensuring that only Serbian was spoken at home, and encouraged us to spend long summers in my grandparent's hometown where I established some of my longest-standing friendships to date. This was all in addition to attending Serbian Sunday school and later the 'Azbukum' course in London every week.

In a small Surrey town, which lacked classmates from multicultural backgrounds, my strong connection to family and friends back in Serbia, led to me only becoming prouder of having a second home to fall back on. Although I have always felt very integrated into the society and culture here, the knowledge of my bilingual background was always warmly received by my friends, who were intrigued to learn about these differences. They even went so far as to start playing the Serbian national anthem, and attempting the Serbian folk dance 'kolo'. To me, this accentuates that no matter where you are, or how small the community may be, with a bit of effort it is possible to preserve and cherish the language and culture that you originate from. Something that I no doubt take for granted is the opportunity to take the best parts out of both cultures that I have grown up with, and blend them together to create my identity.

Halifax, Ana Tokos



For me, Serbian culture is rooted in community. Living in Britain, there are naturally smaller concentrations of Serbian people in different areas – with even fewer and far between when living up north. It seems that the togetherness that this brings seems to be part-survival, part-habit. Even the more anglicised Serbian families live within minutes of each other, a hangover from the learned patterns when families lived on the same streets in villages in the old country.

In the North of England, the Serbian community is spread across the whole region – congregating at a very small number of Serbian churches and community centres. When I was growing up, families from Manchester, York and Wakefield were all coming together for Christmas in Halifax or Bradford. When our communities get together, the distance between families doesn't make us less connected; in fact, we're all the more excited to see each other. The idea of 'it takes a village' is never more obviously enshrined in the Serbian community than when you can walk into the kitchen at Church and every baba will treat you as her own – offering you anything from a seat to sit in, to a tiny, sugary sweet cup of coffee. Having a Serbian family isn't just having your grandparents, aunts and uncles and cousins.

The great big Serbian family also includes the following – irreplicable - members:

1. Your mum's best friend that she's danced with since she was three but only ever sees every other Bozic when the snow isn't bad enough to ground all cross-Penine travel
2. Your baba's long-time rival-slash-friend at church who offers up every male family member within a 10-year age gap for you to marry (even though half of them live in Serbia and you've repeatedly told her you already have a boyfriend).
3. Your friend-from-folklor's uncle who mans the bar every Badnje Vece and challenges ever teenage boy in a 3m radius to keep up with his drinking (ever-so-slightly out of date) Jelen Pivo

Food is perhaps my favourite part of coming together as a community – which, to all other people familiar with the wonders of Serbian cooking, I don't think comes as much of a surprise. All of my Christmases, Easters, and family meals are dominated by Serbian influences, and while a British Sunday meal might not necessarily call for masses of pickled vegetables, they are an essential at ours. Gibanica is an acceptable starter, side, or dessert at all times of the day. You never leave Baba's house hungry, and if you don't eat, she always sends you on your way with at least one ice cream tub stuffed full with something other than ice cream. And there is always, always, bread. Even with all manner of potatoes, rice, and dumplings, there will always be a loaf of bread on offer to mop up all the oily saucy goodness – how else are you going to scoop up the lost grains of rice making a break for freedom from the confines of the sarma?

As objectively delicious as Serbian food is, it's always made better with company. Even if it's just for that one meal a year when every member of the family is available. Those family meals when your Deda has to go into the loft to get those three mis-matching chairs from last year's slava and you all squeeze onto the far-too-small table filled with food that your Baba missed the church service to get started on at 9am. There's always the catching up, asking each cousin what they ended up choosing for their GCSE subjects (they are now 22 with a completed degree and a full-time job). There's always everyone telling Baba to sit down and eat instead of rushing around with drinks and extra bread. And there are always the bets on how long it will take for your dad to fall asleep on the sofa after the meal. When families come together like this, the food is just a bonus.

As someone who would describe herself as a British Serb, it's sometimes hard to pin-point my cultural identity. I used to think I was a bit of both, and one side took over from the other depending on where I was or who I was with. As I've grown up and considered it more, I see myself as a complete mix all of the time. Both sides make up the whole of my experience, and while I do live more of an anglicised lifestyle than that of my parents or grandparents, the Serbian community plays a huge part in my life. I'm brought back to my Serbian heritage whenever I come home from the pub and crave a chunk of cheesy gibanica and a sickly sweet, grainy coffee made by one of the Babas in the church kitchen.

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

London, Vuk-Alexandar Bogdanović, 18 years old



Growing up Serbian was an interesting experience. Even though I grew up with many Serbian relatives and I would go to Serbia every summer, I didn't have many Serbian friends or people with a good understanding of my culture. When I was younger - especially in primary school - many people my age didn't have a good understanding of my culture. I had to correct students and even some teachers, reminding them that I am not Siberian or Syrian. My parents have told me that the reason why I was called Vuk is because it was my grandfather's last name and how it "isn't too hard for the British to pronounce". Even though I have such a short name it is still somehow mispronounced wrongly, I've been called 'Vak', 'Buk' and quite surprisingly even 'F*ck'!

I could've so easily forgotten about my culture since most people around me were very British - none of my close friends are even Serbian. In school I was taught that our people started WW1 and committed terrible acts such as the War during the 90s and people would start discussing such things as soon as I tell them I'm Serbian. For example, on the news I would read how we are racist, violent, etc. However, this didn't discourage me at all. In fact, it's made me prouder to be Serbian. When I look back at our history I look back with pride, we have always fought for what's right and have always held onto our religion, culture and traditions even if it would be better to not to. Growing up Serbian in Britain would mean I have two Christmases, two NYEs and two Easters. Then when summer would start, I would spend my summer in Serbia.



Oxford, Philip Grotjahn, 15 years old

Apparently, when I was little I used to say that I was half-Serbian, half-German and half-English. My parents used to tell this as an anecdote but I think it describes my identity well. There weren't many foreigners in my primary school and my background would have been quite exotic if there wasn't a fact that only another foreigner in my year group was a Serb - my best friend Stefan. We both learned English as a second language but are now talking among ourselves in English. Still, we are able to exchange secret messages in Serbian when we don't want others to understand us. Our English friends were accepting of that, but were a bit more envious of us having a second Christmas in January and also of lovely Serbian food we would sometimes share with them.

Being bilingual or in my case three-lingual came gradually. My parents tell me of my horror when I started school and was about to meet the headmaster, which from my limited English vocabulary at the time I thought was a monster with a big head. My Serbian started fading a bit over time, but luckily the Serbian school in Oxford started. I wasn't too keen on going to a school on Sunday but I am now so glad I did it. I might take up teaching some of my English friends to speak it too.

Reading, Marko Blanusa, 16 years old



My name is Marko Blanusa, and I'm a Serbian teenager born and based in Reading, UK. My mother is from Belgrade and my father is from Kruševac. Though I would consider myself a local here, I still very much see myself as Serbian. At home, we speak Serbian and watch Serbian shows and TV. We make regular contact with friends and family in Serbia. We usually visit Belgrade twice a year and occasionally go skiing on Kopaonik mountain, and these trips are almost always one of the highlights of my year. My everyday life in England does not change significantly as a result of my heritage, rather enhancing it by giving me both an insider's and outsider's perspective. I am currently a sixth form student, and at the weekends study recorder and oboe at the Junior department of the Royal Academy of Music in London. Music has already opened many new doors for me, most notably opportunities to travel across Europe both alone and with orchestras. My dual heritage 'resurfaces' when I'm travelling, as I'm used to having an outsider's perspective in England, and therefore feel comfortable wherever I go.

A few years ago, I completed my Serbian GCSE exam at the 'Srpskaonica' Serbian Language school in Reading, with an A*. Funnily enough, to this day I still remember most of my overly eloquent speech I prepared for the speaking section of the exam (on the topic of recorders!), and have fond memories of my teachers Dobrila Kostić, Mirjana Lazić and Sladjana Stevanović.

My (in)formal Serbian education, however, began all the way back in 2011, in teacher Snežana Ćurić's living room in Reading, where a small community of Serbs met up weekly to both learn and enjoy time together.

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

The Round Table

The Round Table network was established some years ago to encourage cooperation and collaboration between Serbian community groups and organisations across the UK and Ireland (UK&I). It also provides a forum to discuss issues of interests and importance to the Serbian community. Over the years the main priorities of the Round Table have been the promotion of the teaching and learning of the Serbian language. Another success of the Round Table has been Serbian Month, now in its thirteenth year, which is recognised as being one of the most significant festivals of Serbian arts and culture in the Serbian Diaspora. The Round Table has continued with the practice of electing two people to represent the community to, but at the moment there is only one representative, Lazar Vuković. Other issues the Round Table has include the organisation of an event to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Nato's war on Yugoslavia, the use of the proposed Creative Embassy in London and the disenfranchisement of Serbian voters in Britain in the elections in Serbia. The Round Table continued to meet virtually during the last year and this has enabled more people from outside of London to participate in meetings. For further information on the Round Table contact the Round Table Steering Group on rtsteering-group@google.com.

Britic

Britic is an online magazine for Serbs in Britain.

britić | THE
BRITISH SERB
MAGAZINE | [WWW.
BRITIC.
CO.UK](http://WWW.BRITIC.CO.UK)

We are the editors; Aleks Simić and Stan Smiljanić.



Britić shares stories from our communities here in the UK. We also present a news wall of the very best Serb-interest stories from sources across the world. Our What's On guide is a comprehensive listing of the biggest events in towns and cities nationwide.

All of this is available without subscription at www.britic.co.uk.

We are independent of any political affiliation and publish opinion pieces across a wide spectrum of views.

Britić is as old as Serbian Month itself, which we regard as a world-class forum for our arts and culture.

When we founded the magazine, we wanted to engage our whole community of every generation in a debate about what it means to be a Serb in Britain today. We share opinions and stories about our identity and culture in the hope you can see something of yourself reflected too.

We've recently revamped the site - we hope you like it. We'll keep on improving.

Once or twice a week we send our eBritic newsletter to thousands of email addresses. We welcome new writing talent and invite anyone to suggest a story. Just email us at editor@britic.co.uk.

Serbian Schools

The Round Table Working Group on the Serbian Language and Azbukum Serbian Language course

The Round Table Working Group was set up to promote the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain, to standardise the way it is taught and to obtain a recognised qualification in Serbian at GCSE and A Level.

The Working Group has taken forward these priorities by entering into a partnership with the Azbukum Centre in Serbia to deliver the Azbukum Serbian language course at GCSE and A Level in London. The course offers qualifications which are accredited by the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and are recognised across Europe and beyond. Students on the course can receive a Certificate of Knowledge of the Serbian Language and Confirmation of Attendance, official documents which can be used for registration at universities in Serbia, and throughout the world or used to show knowledge of Serbian when applying for employment.

The programme for learning Serbian as a non-native or second language is designed for students of Serbian heritage aged between 12 and 18 years of age. It is delivered online and so can welcome students from across the UK. The programme is delivered over one academic year and is designed to accommodate different linguistic abilities.

In 2020, following a request from the Round Table an online course was started for younger learners who are unable to attend existing schools because of where they live.

For further information contact olga.stanojlovic@btinternet.com.



St Sava Church Sunday School

ROOTED IN THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

PAST

Almost 60 years ago in May 1962, after receiving the Church Council's permission and Very Rev. Miloje Nikolić's blessing, Dragomir Nikolić and two other teachers established the Saint Sava Church in London founded the St Sava Sunday School. Generations born in the UK grew up learning the Serbian language, history and Cyrillic alphabet, reading Serbian literature and adopting Orthodox catechism, customs, tradition, and folk dances of the Serbian people.

PRESENT

Today, more than 100 pupils are children or grandchildren of those who attended the school in the previous half a century, or those who have relatively recently left their homeland and settled in the UK. Our teachers proudly continue the work of their predecessors and they try to teach with kindness, hope and belief that their own example can show future generations how one can help their homeland through education.

FUTURE

We teach the Serbian language by following the tradition of the Sunday School but also by adapting to the needs of the modern society. We aim to align our teaching to UK standards and to use best teaching practices from the homeland.

Dear Parents,

You have a great responsibility for your children's education. Please allow them to learn your mother tongue, and to find out more about Serbian tradition and culture, and who they truly are. The Serbian Orthodox Church School of Saint Sava offers a friendly environment where your children can learn all that, whilst making new friendships.

More information about the Sunday School can be obtained by visiting the school web site: <http://stsava-sundayschool.uk> or via email: skolaspclondon@gmail.com.

Dopunska Škola in Britain Bedford, Corby, Leicester and London

Through joining Serbian organisations Serbs in Britain maintain connections with their home country, their language, culture and traditions. Also, many try to teach their children Serbian culture, customs and language.

From October 2019, after a break of twenty years, in response to requests from parents, and thanks to the support of the Serbian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Science and Technological Development and the Serbian Embassy in Britain, a 'Dopunska Škola' began teaching Serbian once again and is making a significant contribution to the learning of Serbian in Britain.

The Dopunska Škola's programme of elementary education in the Serbian language began being taught to thirty pupils of Serbian origin with temporary or permanent residence in Britain, whose parents had expressed an interest for this form of teaching. The programme has been successful and the number of pupils increased to 100 in four cities: Corby, Leicester, Bedford and London. Although the children attending are of different ages interactive teaching and games help with the learning. Old friendships are maintained and new friendships formed both between pupils and their parents.

The success of this school is very much thanks to the dedication and help of parents. The collaboration with the Parish of Bedford is exemplary. The Priest and his wife welcome the pupils and often participate in joint activities.

The school also has a very good relationship with the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia as exemplified by the visit to the school in London by Aleksandra Joksimović, the Serbian Ambassador to Britain. The pupils and parents expressed their gratitude and satisfaction with the school and thanked the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development for re-establishing the programme after twenty years. They were pleased with both the content of the programme and the method of teaching.

The pride of our programme lies with our pupils who in addition to their normal commitments are completing the work set by the 'Dopunska skola'. The pupils gladly learn the Serbian language and are interested in the history, culture and traditions of Serbia. At present, due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic in Britain, teaching and learning is conducted on-line.

January is the month dedicated to national customs - the celebration of Christmas, Saint Sava – the School Slava. By doing so we continue the customs of our heritage, our culture and we develop and strengthen our ability to maintain our national identity. The School Slava, Saint Sava will be celebrated this year with an on-line performance which will include all pupils together with their drawings and writings on the subject.

Srpskaonica School in Reading

"Srpskaonica" is a Serbian language school for children from Berkshire or nearby areas. The school was established in 2013 and classes are held in Reading. It was founded, first and foremost, to meet the growing need to enable the children of the Serbian community in Berkshire to learn as much as possible about the language, culture and tradition of their native country. This goes hand in hand with the wish to contribute, in a joint effort, to the preservation of our national identity in the UK. Children attending the school are aged 5-16 on average. Classes are organized in 4 groups (mostly based on children age) with their own timetable. Lessons have been taught online during the pandemic but face to face teaching will be restored as soon as possible.

For more information about the school and its day to day activities, please follow us on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/srpskaonica/>

Oxford Church School

At the beginning of the school year in October 2018 the Church School in Oxford re-opened on the initiative of Bishop Dositej. The school operates under the auspices of the Oxford Parish Council, and thanks to the unselfish hard work and of the school co-ordinators, Mr Bojan Prodanović and Mr Dušan Parojčić, with the enthusiastic support of Otac Stefan, after he took over from Otac Nikola when he retired.

When the school restarted there were over twenty students, of various ages and different levels of knowledge of the Serbian language. In the 2019/20 school year there are 11 students, divided into three age groups – pre-school, first year and third year. They were taught by two dedicated teachers, Dobrila Kostić and Mirjana Lazić, supported by parents who act as teaching assistants when they can.

The school has remained closed during the pandemic but hopes to re-open for the next academic year.

If you are interested in your children attending this school please contact
Dušan Parojčić 07872 575-202 or
Bojan Prodanović 07838 084-101

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain





Azbooka Education Centre, Redhill Surrey

Azbooka Education Centre aims to promote and teach Serbian and other South Slavic languages, literatures and cultures that emerged from Serbo-Croatian Language and a geographical region of former Yugoslavia. Whilst respecting our differences, we aim to work on our linguistic and cultural similarities that connect us.

We offer online sessions via Zoom application to small groups or to individuals. Our 45 minutes long lessons provide students with exciting and varied content, including ekavian and ijekavian variants of the language, cyrillic and latin alphabet, extensive, dual vocabulary, phrases, clear grammatical explanations and rigorous language drill with homework included. This approach ensures that our students, across UK, Europe and USA, receive an inclusive, enriching learning experience, as well as solid knowledge and ability to speak and understand Serbian language and its variants. Tuition and materials are tailored to meet individual needs of our students and adapted to their age and pace of learning.

We welcome all language learners, but especially beginners and learners of Serbian as a Foreign Language. Our groups do not exceed four students. The first session is free and the fee for following tuition sessions starts from £5-£20, depending on number of students. Sessions are conducted on Saturdays at times agreed with students. Fees are payable either half termly or on pay as you go basis via UK bank transfer.

On Saturdays, at 1pm, UK time, we offer conversation session FREE OF CHARGE to those who would like to practice speaking with the other students. We aim to provide a variety of educational and cultural topics, including literature, tradition, customs, music or films, for those who want to practice and expand knowledge of the language and region.

Contact us via Azbooka Education Centre FB page or via our website contact page if you are interested in learning with us and for further details.

Email: info@azbookaeducationcentre.com

Phone number: 07815901156

Find out more, including examples of our lessons for different levels at the website below or use the contact page to get in touch:
<https://azbookaeducationcentre.com/>

The Saint Sava church choir

The Saint Sava church choir was established in 1952 through an initiative of Mrs Maria Rozdyanko. She had been conducting the choir until 1968. Mr Djordje Nesic took over the role for a short period after Mrs Rozdjanko had left. When he moved from London, Mrs Milica Jovic became the conductor. From 1983 to 2006, the St Sava choir was led by Mrs Aleksandra Sasha Smiljanic. Her family has been the backbone of the choir for all these years. Mrs Bratislava Barac-Djukic was in charge from 2006 until 2012. Her expertise and hard work improved the choir's repertoire and they recorded their first CD during that period. The St Sava choir is currently led by Zorka Maksimovic.

Despite all the changes in members, the choir has been active for more than 60 years, with the same aim: to sing during St Liturgies, and to help priests together with the faithful to praise Our Lord.

Today, the choir has 20 members and sings on Sunday Liturgies, weddings, funerals and other occasions. A regular practice session is on Mondays at 7pm at 89 Lancaster Road, London, W11 1QQ. We welcome new members, either gifted beginners or experienced singers, and we particularly need male voices. For all additional information you can contact Zorka Maksimovic after the Liturgy or by sending an email to choir@spclondon.org.

Folklore

Dance Groups



Folklore Ensemble Rastko

The Folklore Ensemble Rastko had its origins in the St. Sava Orthodox Church in London aims to bring young people together to nurture folk dancing, which is an important part of the rich cultural tradition of the Serbian people.

During its existence Rastko has achieved great success in Britain as well as in Europe, Canada, America and Australia by performing at various celebrations and festivals.

Rastko participated in the European Folk Dance Festival in Banja Luka in May 2018 and celebrated an important and significant 35th Anniversary in November 2018. In addition to preserving, nurturing and promoting the growth of folk dancing, Rastko achieves what it does by hard work and practises every Tuesday evening.

Our school of folklore organises lessons every Sunday from 3pm for children and children from 6 and over can enrol. For information, please contact the choreographer and director Mrs. Nada Grkinić on 07984247963



Folklore Group Oplenac

The Folklore Group Oplenac was formed in London in 1947 and by The Royal Yugoslav Army Combatant's Association 'Draža Mihailović' (Udruženje Boraca KJV Draža Mihailović) as a focal point for the Serbs in the UK to meet and to celebrate Serbian traditions and Saint's days. The group was led by Čika Moma Radovanović, and had its main base in Halifax, and in 1972, the group in Peterborough was formed.

Oplenac has continuously performed for 73 years with different generations of dancers, the ensemble has grown to include members from four more cities including Birmingham, Leicester, Bedford and Derby. The current generation of Oplenac have been performing for 19 years, and although born in Britain, their roots stem from Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia and of course Britain. We have endeavoured to keep our traditions alive through our folklore, consequently Oplenac has a wide repertoire which includes dances from Serbia, Vojvodina & Macedonia to Vlačka and Piroć.

Facebook page: Folklorna grupa Oplenac – Engleska



Folklore Ensemble 'St. Eliah' Corby

The folklore ensemble 'St. Eliah' Corby gathers all those who are interested in nurturing Serbian customs and traditions, therefore enabling the development of creativity in the field of art and culture.

Over the years we have performed in many towns here in England, including Serbian events as well as taking part in charity and competition events here in Corby. Also our groups have performed in Disneyland Paris and in Thessaloniki Greece where they had a great and unforgettable experience. Anyone interested, of any age is welcome to join us.

We also opened a web page with Local Giving for gift aid donations to our organisation www.localgiving.com/serbiandance



Circle of Serbian Sisters – Kosovo Maiden

Following the Second World War, a number of Serbs settled in London and the women of our diaspora came together to help our Church of St Sava and our community. Initially the group was called "Ladies at the Church" and in 1963, they officially founded the Kolo Srpskih Sestara (KSS), and in 1984 this branch of the KSS became "Kolo Srpskih Sestara - Kosovka Devojka" (Circle of Serbian Sisters – Kosovo Maiden). Our patron saint's day is St. Constantine and Helena, celebrated on 3rd June. We have also built friendships with other branches of the KSS in the UK, including annual visits to our Birmingham sisters.

The KSS has worked tirelessly helping our church, community groups, community members over the years as well as, people, churches and monasteries in our homeland, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and across all the ex-YU countries and we plan to continue working to help our community and fellow Serbs wherever they need our help.

In order to continue and develop our work we are always looking to expand our membership and if you'd like to join us in our humanitarian endeavours please contact us at kss.kosovkadevojka@gmail.com.



The Serbian Library in London



On the 13th January 2015, The Serbian Library in London was officially registered as a not-for-profit organisation in the UK. It promotes education, culture, literature, art and the historical hereditary and traditional ethnic legacy of the Serbian people. It promotes speaking and writing in the Serbian language through various events, to inspire the Serbian community to participate in learning and enriching their Serbian language skills. Our main supporter from Serbia, is the National Library of Serbia, Narodna biblioteka Srbije which donates books to our library annually, for which we are deeply grateful.

The Serbian Library collection is in London at Fulham library, where we organise an annual Mini/Book Fair in February and publish the book of the works of the winners of the Annual Poetry and Prose competition, which is open to Serbian speakers from around the world. Events are at Fulham Library at 598 Fulham Road, London SW6 5NX which also hosts our book collection. All people are welcome and it is free.

Srpska biblioteka u Londonu je osnovana 2010. godine a 13. januara 2015. godine je registrovana kao neprofitna organizacija (9386650). Sedište biblioteke kao stalne kolekcije srpskih knjiga i dela iz srpske književnosti je u Fulham biblioteci i čini deo svetske literature biblioteka sa opštine Ham-mersmtih i Fulham. Vlasnik knjiga je Srpska Biblioteka u Londonu a administracija, izdavanje i prijem knjiga su obaveza LBHF biblioteka. Ova saradnja je uspešna i predstavlja jedinstven dogovor između LBHF biblioteka i jedne lokalne organizacije - Srpske biblioteke u Londonu.

Vesna Petković, osnivač i Olga Gaković ko-osnivač su bile prvi direktori i odbor Srpske biblioteke u Londonu. Olga Gaković (+2018), advokat iz Beograda je bila i pisac i pesnik. Srpska biblioteka organizuje godišnji mini sajam knjiga svke poslednje subote u februaru i dodeljuje nagrade pobednicima godišnjeg konkursa za Poeziju i Prozu. Gosti sajma su renomirani pisci i pesnici.

Virtual Memorial service for Women in foreign medical missions in Serbia and related fronts during the Great War

In the time of Covid pandemic it is appropriate that the seventh annual commemoration will focus on those women who died in Serbia in 1915 nursing Serbian sick and wounded soldiers and civilians during the horrific typhus pandemic.

The liturgy on 6th February 2021, at St Sava, Serbian Orthodox Church in London, will be followed by Zadusnice. We will remember those heroines who sacrificed their lives - Dr Elizabeth Ross (First Reserve Military Hospital, Kragujevac), nurse Louisa Jordan, orderly Margaret Neill Fraser, nurses Augusta Minshull and Bessie Sutherland (Scottish Women's Hospitals (SWH)) and two members of Mabel Stobart's Field Hospital in Karagujevac - nurse Lorna Ferris and orderly Mabel Dearmer. Their graves are in Kragujevac and at the Military Cemetery in Nis.

Last year Glasgow's emergency coronavirus hospital (the SEC) was named after a Scottish Women's Hospital's nurse - Sister Louisa Jordan. Not many people in Britain, even in Scotland, knew who Sister Louisa was. She joined the SWH's First Serbian Unit with other 40 women, mostly from Scotland. Amongst them was a famous Scottish and British golfer, Margaret Neill Fraser, and several doctors and nurses from Glasgow University - the youngest one Dr Katharine MacPhail. The unit arrived at Kragujevac, a military key point near Belgrade, on the 6th of January and although it was geared up for a 100 beds, immediately it had to admit 250 patients and soon 650. The magnitude of the disaster was everywhere. Kragujevac was really one large hospital, as was Valjevo and many other Serbian towns in spring 1915.

Only a month after her arrival, on the 14th of February, and on her 37th birthday, Dr Elizabeth Ross died, followed by Sister Louisa Jordan and Madge Fraser. In spring 1915 famous painter Nadezda Petrovic, died of typhus in Valjevo in one of these hospital tents she painted. The same tragic fate was shared by many Serbian nurses and doctors, like Draginja Babic, one of the first Serbian woman doctors who died in Valjevo in February 1915.

When in July 1915 young nurse Lorna Ferris and Mabel Dearmer, famous illustrator and children's author, died in Kragujevac, everybody was shocked. Mabel's husband, Percy Dearmer came as a chaplain with the Stobart's hospital. Both of their sons were on the fronts and Mabel was adamant that she wanted to help the war effort and join the hospital as an orderly.

Dr Elizabeth Ross, Lorna Ferris and Mabel Dearmer are buried in Kragujevac where every year, on 14th of February people in Serbia organize commemoration for these and all other women who were in Serbia during the Great War. We remember them all, not only those who died in Serbia, but those who supported Serbian people during the war - like Dr Elsie Inglis and Evelina Haverfield. Even after the Great war, Lady Louise Leila Paget and Dr Katherine MacPhail continued their support.

In their desire to help the war effort, to prove their worthiness and gain the right to vote after the war, Dr Elsie Inglis united suffrage and surgery. The hospitals were sent where they were most needed and showed what women were able to achieve in the most challenging situations - as doctors, nurses, orderlies, ambulance drivers or as soldiers, like Flora Sandes. She was the only British woman officially to serve as a soldier in WWI, but in Serbia Milunka Savic and other women soldiers were already well-known for their bravery. The histories of these brave determined and altruistic women and that of Serbia are woven closely together. We will always remember them.

For more info please contact Zvezdana Popovic: zvezdana15@hotmail.co.uk

Organisations

Serbian Council of Great Britain

Српски савет Велике Британије

The Serbian Council of Great Britain (SCGB) was founded in 2004 as an independent, not for profit and non-political organisation to promote the interests of the Serbian community in Great Britain by:

- Co-operating with other Serbian diaspora organisations in Great Britain and worldwide.
- Assisting members of the Serbian community to maintain and develop ties with Serbia and other territories with Serbian historical and cultural heritage;
- Promoting good relations between the Serbian community and wider British society
- Raising awareness of Serbian culture, history and heritage within the Serbian community and amongst the wider British public
- Representing and promoting the interests of the Serbian community in Britain to governmental and non-governmental organisations in Serbia and in Britain.

We have focused our efforts on projects which deliver these aims and objectives. We have played a significant role in establishing and maintaining the Round Table which encourages cooperation between Serbian community organisations in Britain and provides a forum for the priorities of the Serbian community to be discussed and taken forward. Through the Round Table Working Group on the Serbian Language we have played a leading role in promoting the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain. We managed the design and delivery of the Working Group's Serbian GCSE Level course which was delivered successfully over four years. In 2019 the Working Group entered into a partnership with the Azbukum Centre in Serbia which enables us to offer courses with a recognised qualification at GCSE and A level, which have been taught online during the pandemic. In collaboration with the Serbian Society and Serbian City Club we initiated Serbian Month, which we now manage on behalf of the Round Table and which, now in its thirteenth year has grown into the largest festival of Serbian culture in the Serbian Diaspora. During the Covid pandemic the Serbian Council has continued to operate virtually and used this as an opportunity to develop new initiatives that have attracted an audience from across Britain and beyond. Such events include a fundraising concert for the health care systems in Serbia and Britain, quizzes to raise funds for our work in the Serbian language and a 'A Cup of Stories' series of interviews with prominent members of our community.

For further information about SCGB contact: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk or visit www.serbiancouncil.org



Serbian City Club



SCC Team
Ivan Miletić
Igor Becić
Miloš Stefanović
Jelena Krzanicki
Slavjana Ulph
Nataša Kočiš

The **Serbian City Club** is a not-for-profit apolitical organisation established to promote the interests of Serbian professionals in the UK and in Serbia. Our aim is to provide a networking platform for professionals in the City of London and those who have returned to Serbia.

The **Serbian City Club** was founded in the late 1990's by a handful of enthusiastic Serbs working in London's financial institutions. Their idea was to bring to life an informal club that would gather young Serbian professionals who live and work in the UK. Since 2004, our membership base has increased steadily and today the Club is close to 2000 strong.

Our members are mainly London-based and work in all walks of professional life as scientists, doctors, bankers, engineers, lecturers, civil servants, etc. in renowned British and global institutions. The typical Club member is characterised by a high level of education and cultural awareness which, tied with their linguistic skills, ensures their seamless integration into British society. Whilst retaining strong links with their families and friends in Serbia, with a view of transferring their knowledge, skills and experience, they strengthen Serbia's European identity and its key role in the Balkans.

With this in mind, our main project is one of 'circular migration' through which we are enabling Serbian professionals to return to Serbia. We provide professional CV guidance and we aim to match the needs of the employers in Serbia with the potential candidates in our database in the UK and around the world. Finally, we also offer specialised advocacy services on a variety of issues relating to our members.

The Club regularly organised networking events in London and in Belgrade thus enabling continued contact amongst the existing members and an opportunity to welcome new ones. **Since 2020, Club has created a stream of live and recorded Zoom events in order to keep the membership base engaged.**



**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



The Serbian Society is a member organisation based in Fulham, registered as a charity on 21 September 1995.

The aim of the Society is to work for the wellbeing and advancement of the Serbian community in London and the wider UK, and to enhance the pride of being Serbian in our multi-ethnic society.

The objective is also to present our community, its intellectual and other achievements and culture, to encourage a better understanding of the Serbian national minority.

We organise events which promote Serbian culture and art and we participate and contribute to social gatherings and events organised by other communities.

We welcome any new ideas that you might have and would be very happy to make them happen. We also welcome any new members, volunteers and donations to help us with our future work.

We are proud to announce that on 21st September 2020 the Serbian Society turned 25, however, due to the current Covid situation birthday celebrations have been postponed until better times and when opportunities allow.

For further information about the Serbian Society contact office@serbiansociety.org.uk or visit www.serbiansociety.org.uk

Committee Members
The Serbian Society London

The British Serbian Chamber of Commerce



The British Serbian Chamber of Commerce (BSCC) has promoted and facilitated trade and investment between the United Kingdom and Serbia and represented the views of the business communities in both countries for over a decade. While the past year has been a challenging one, it has also been a period of great productivity at the BSCC. It has been very encouraging to see the BSCC membership grow, as both Serbian and British businesses look to take advantage of future opportunities. We have welcomed several new members this year, British and Serbian, large and small, and we are now in our strongest position for many years. In 2021, we hope to see more new members, but equally ensure that all members recognise the benefits of being part of the Chamber.

Alongside membership growth, we have focussed on providing our members with all the information we can regarding Brexit and its impact on UK-Serbian trade. Through webinars and events, we have endeavoured to help businesses remain as productive, secure and efficient as possible. In addition, we have been involved in schemes such as the UK TechProsperity Bridge Competition in partnership with the UK Department for International Trade. The scheme helps start-up companies through providing seminars, events and (for the winners of the competition) assistance in entering the UK market.

We look forward to continuing this productivity in 2021, with further growth and revitalisation of economic activity. If you are interested in learning more about our organisation go to: BSCC (britserbcham.com). For membership enquiries go to BSCC | Become a member (britserbcham.com), or for general enquiries go to BSCC | Contact Us (britserbcham.com). For regular updates on the BSCC go to our LinkedIn or our Twitter and subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter.

British-Serbian Medical Association



Originally founded as the British-Yugoslav Medical Association, the first meeting of the Association was held on 16 December 2000. It was initiated by a group of Serbian doctors in the aftermath of the tragic civil war years in former Yugoslavia, and the subsequent sanctions and NATO military campaign against Serbia.

The Association's goals are to help medical professionals in Serbia and Montenegro to re-establish their position in the world medical community and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience between medical professionals in Serbia and the UK.

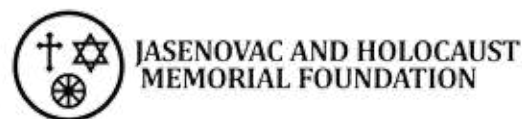
Achievements of the Association over the years include multiple exchanges of doctors and nurses between Serbia and the UK, bursaries for young doctors and nurses from Serbia for educational study in the UK, sponsoring renowned UK lecturers to participate in medical meetings in Serbia, sending medical journals and medical equipment to hospitals in Serbia, organising charity events and other similar projects.

The Association has grown in strength over the years and the number of active members has risen to between 50 and 100. Members are not only doctors and nurses but also allied medical professionals – psychologists, dentists, pharmacists and biologists. The Association continues to be open to medical professionals from all over former Yugoslavia with no boundaries.

However, as the political climate changed, so did the name of the Association, becoming Medicus, and in the last decade the British-Serbian Medical Association (BSMA).

The BSMA, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2020 collaborates with other Serbian organisations in the UK and strives to be a valuable part of Serbian diaspora in this country.

Jasenovac and Holocaust Memorial Foundation



Jasenovac & Holocaust Memorial Foundation is a UK registered charity which promotes the culture of remembrance on genocides committed in Independent State of Croatia during WW2 against Serbian, Jewish and Roma people.

Our annual event, Holocaust Memorial Day is the opportunity for people from all walks of life to reflect & remember those people who lost their lives; as well as to challenge prejudice, discrimination & hatred today in our communities.

If you would like to support our work in financial or any other capacity, please get in touch with us today. Email: info@jhmf.org.uk Tel: 07912 170 866



Unspoken Genocide Book and Gallery Exhibition, JHMF & David Sladek

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



ROD

The Movement of patriots from Serbia and the Diaspora- ROD was initiated by a group of former Diaspora Assembly delegates and Serbian patriots from a number of countries worldwide and within Serbia. The goal of the Movement is to make a difference in the relations between Serbia and Diaspora, in line with the Serbian government`s Declaration which states that such relations are in Serbia`s highest national interest. 4-5 million Serbs living outside Serbia must have their voice heard in the countries where they live and within Serbia. Our knowledge, experience and financial abilities can and must contribute to all matters of importance to Serbia as a country operating in the global environment. The Diaspora must be involved in Serbia's political, economic, social, legal, cultural and educational life, as well as national defence strategies. The Diaspora is a strong factor in keeping Serbian traditions alive and representing Serbia at the highest level in the countries where we live. The Diaspora is the best ambassador for Serbia.

Contact: Zeljko Vranes, CEO Movement ROD, London +44 (0) 7950385217

Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association

The link between Norwich and Novi Sad was set up almost 60 years ago. In 1960 Norwich was invited to the Yugoslavian Embassy to agree upon a City with which it could be twinned and Novi Sad was chosen. This was a Foreign Office initiative and done through Norwich City Council who were represented by the City Clerk and City Engineer. Student exchanges followed in the late 1960's. Further student visits followed again in the 1970's.

It was felt that twinning between the two countries would flourish more if an Association, based on friendship, was formed. The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association was then formed in 1985. The Association initially had some members who had been part of the former British Yugoslav Society.

The Honorary President of the Association is always the Lord Mayor of Norwich.

The Association has been very active in providing a programme of talks, outings, concerts, and other events. There have been several successful holidays based in Novi Sad.

Our aim is to promote informal links between people and organisations in Norwich, Norfolk and in Novi Sad and Vojvodina.

Every January there is a concert organised in Norwich, the proceeds of which go to help the Milan Petrovic School for children and young adults with special needs in Novi Sad. The performers for the concert often come from Novi Sad and the surrounding area.

Like Novi Sad, Norwich has many important Churches; two Cathedrals; University of the Arts; the University of East Anglia; Medical School; Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and many Museums and Art Galleries. Norwich also has many Theatres such as the Theatre Royal, the Maddermarket Theatre, the Norwich Playhouse and the Puppet Theatre.

In recognition of the friendship links between the two Cities a bridge was constructed over the River Wensum named the "Novi Sad Friendship Bridge".



The Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad (ASWA)

Udruženje Srpskih Pisaca i Umetnika u Inostranstvu

e-mail: ASWA1951@zen.co.uk

Formed by: Slobodan Jovanović, London 1951

First President: Miloš Crnjanski Current President : Sonja Besford

2021. should be the year in which we celebrate 70 years of ASWA's existence, during which time we have organised many seminars, lectures, literary evenings and interviews by/with invited Serbian writers. Among many others our guests were: David Albahari, Milan Danojlić, Matija Bečković, Slobodan Selenić, Ivan Lalić, Vida Ognjenović, Vladislav Bajac, Mihajlo Pantić, Predrag Marković...We honoured and commemorated Borislav Pekić's, Miloš Crnjanski and Dusan Puvačić's lives and work. Lately, we interviewed Predrag Slijepčević and Verica Vincent-Cole.

ASWA has published five books in translation from Serbian into English and has assisted in promoting many works published by Serbian writers abroad. Three Serbian writers have blue plaques/memorial stones in London: Dositej Obradovic, 27 Clemen's Lane, London EC3; Slobodan Jovanovic, junction of Queen's Gate and Cromwell Road, London SW7; Milos Crnjanski, 155 Queen's Ct, W2.

We welcome new members, Serbian writers and artists. ASWA has no membership or subscription fees and it is entirely non-profit, private-donation based, organisation.



Sonja Besford



Pro Art & Co



Pro Art is a non-profit organisation working in the fields of multidisciplinary education, innovation and the development of informal, non-formal and multicultural learning, e.g. about joint European heritage through the engagement of governments, institutions, museums, libraries, theatres and EU funded organisations. Our activities range from cultural to scientific projects, business-related inclusion in talks about e.g. the circular economy and environmental protection. We also work to increase the competence and proactive engagement in active citizenship, gender equality and social inclusion, through collaboration with partners from the UK and other countries. Pro Art is promoting Serbia through European projects with similar themes.

Pro Art & Co je neprofitna organizacija koja radi u oblasti multi-kulturnog obrazovanja, inovacije i razvoja neformalnog, formalnog i multidisciplinarnog učenja o zajedničkom evropskom kulturnom, naučnom i društvenom nasleđu kroz angažovanje vlada, institucija, muzeja, biblioteka, pozorišta i EU fondova. Takođe radimo na učešću inovativne tehnologije u svrhe zaštite životne sredine, uključujući ulogu umetnosti i na socio-kulturnim temama. Naš cilj je kooperacija između partnera i postavljanje protokola i programa koji će na novi način da uključe raznovrsne zajedničke projekte, događanja i programirane kurseve sa našim partnerima. Pro Art radi i na promovisanju Srbije kroz evropske projekte sa sličnim temama.

Pro Art & Co Reg. No 5262487

Plaza 319, 535 Kings Road, London SW10 0SZ proartandco@gmail.com +44(0)2073517555



Around the Globe Music & Arts

www.agpianomusicfestival.co.uk

AGMA is a not-for-profit company aiming to advance the development of contemporary classical piano music from different parts of the world and strongly supports other forms of music and music education. The organisation pursues its goals in holding public performances and other cultural and educational events, open to musicians of all ages and levels, including children, amateurs and adult professionals.

It aims to bring multicultural diversity through music to the public in the UK and beyond. In its way, AGMA hopes to contribute to better cultural understanding, social cohesion and sustainable personal and societal development.

Even in these burdensome and extraordinary times caused by the global pandemic, the organisation was very proactive. It hosted a very successful series of virtual concerts and an international Around the Globe Online Piano Competition 2020 for Junior and Adult amateur pianists in November/December last year.

AGMA is organising many cultural and educational events and producing many publications.

Annual Music Festivals and Piano Competitions

Concerts

Masterclasses

Workshops

Seminars

Lectures

Annual Music Magazines and Brochures



Subscribe to AGMA Newsletters: <http://agpianomusicfestival.co.uk/newsletter/>
Join us on Facebook: AGMA – Around the Globe Music & Arts



For 16 years so far, EXER Party is considered to be the most popular party in London for people from the Balkans. It is a great opportunity for the Balkan people (and for people from all over) to have fun and enjoy some of the best sounds from the region. EXER Party is famous for playing very diverse musical styles, as there is always something for everyone's taste. From familiar pop and rock music, through dance, to famous trumpet and modern folk music. The only condition is that it's upbeat.

EXER Party has, during all these years, changed its location several times. Amongst those were some of the most elite locations in central London. Currently, EXER Party takes place at Blag Club in Kensington. It always attracts a large number of guests, and the parties are famous for the uniquely lively and uplifting atmosphere and very friendly people. A real treat, Balkan style.

Apart from the famous parties, EXER Events also organise a number of events connected to the Serbian Diaspora. These include live concerts, art exhibitions, literary evenings and poetry readings. But most people remember EXER Events for recent and very memorable concerts of Serbian bands Riblja Corba and Bajaga & Instruktori.

So, while we wait for upcoming EXER parties, gigs and events, we would like to say to you all WELCOME!



London
Sports
Society

The London Sports Society

The London Sports Society (LSS) was founded in 2010 and is a UK registered not-for-profit organisation with a charitable status.

Through sport, our objective is to create and support a variety of sport associations, clubs and a range of events taking place within the community. LSS also aims to be the focal point for up to date sports related information within the community.

We work to bring together as many people from the Western Balkans and other local communities as we can in order to encourage their physical activity in the UK, particularly in London. The plan is to offer an extensive sports programme.

For all information visit <https://www.facebook.com/LondonSportsSociety/>



Lifeline Humanitarian Organization

Despite the fact that Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Alexander and Crown Princesses Katherine lived in exile for many years, Crown Princess Katherine always had her country in her heart.

During these difficult years, Crown Princess Katherine provided a very large amount of humanitarian aid that was distributed throughout the former Yugoslavia. The Crown Princess believes that there are no borders in suffering, since race and ethnicity do not matter.

In 1993 Crown Princess Katherine founded the Lifeline Humanitarian Organization with offices in the United States (Chicago and New York), Canada (Toronto), United Kingdom (London) and Greece (Athens).

When Their Royal Highnesses returned to Belgrade in July 2001 it was natural for the scope of their humanitarian activities to expand. At the beginning of August 2001, the Foundation of Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine was established.

The Foundation of HRH Crown Princess Katherine's daily work includes contacts with the following ministries that have a crucial role in the development of projects: the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economics and Regional Development; the Ministry of Privatisation, the Ministry of Labour and Employment; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Health and Environment; and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

Activities have been expanded to cultural institutions, schools and universities by including scholarships and improving communication between students and experts from foreign countries.

Other important activities include raising money for medical equipment that has been delivered to numerous hospitals. Thousands of children from orphanages throughout the country are guests at the Royal Palace every Christmas and Easter when they receive presents. Help is also provided to many refugees in Serbia.

"We work for the benefit of all those in need, regardless of ethnicity or religion since we believe that there are no borders in suffering."

Lifeline Humanitarian Organization was founded in 1993 and HRH Crown Princess Katherine Humanitarian Foundation was founded in 2001 with the aim of helping:

Children / Sick / disadvantaged children / Refugees / IDP's / The Elderly

With the intense cooperation of all relevant ministries, we provide aid for medical institutions in the form of:

New equipment / The implementation of reconstruction projects and extension of capacities / Medicine and medical equipment / Beds and covers to those in need
We also facilitate material and medical equipment for:

Mentally and physically disabled children / Children with special needs / Orphans /
Children of internally displaced parents / Help for abused children

We help people who are socially endangered and in a state of poverty.
We supply refugee camps with:

Clothes / Food / Provide help to old and disabled people

We cooperate with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Education, embassies, international organizations, international health care institutions/hospitals/universities as well as and many other entities.

The British Serbian Benevolent Trust



The British Serbian Benevolent Trust is a British charity, registered with the Charity Commission, established in January 1997. It is built on the legacy of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, established in August 1914 and which operated until its dissolution in 1924 to provide much needed aid to Serbia during the Great War.

The violent breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s resulted in a significant crisis with refugees and displaced persons and The Serbian Benevolent Society was established to alleviate this problem in January 1997 thanks in the main to the efforts of Dr Rebecca Beaconsfield and Mrs Zora Payne. It was based on the principles of the Serbian Red Cross Society of Great Britain and utilised the residual funds from that organisation and governed by the Charity Commission.

On the advice of the Charity Commission the name was changed to The British Serbian Benevolent Trust. The Trust gives financial support to projects involving children who are resident in Serbia. In particular the Trust is pleased to support:

- initiatives bringing relief to children who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress as well as those who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm.
- the education (including social education and physical training) of children resident in Serbia.

Typical funding levels approved by the Trust are usually in the region of £2,000 to £10,000. Larger sums are occasionally approved. The Trust is sympathetic to projects which purchase equipment for institutions and/or provide for the building infrastructure of institutions.

For further information or applications please contact Mr Peter Beckley on orns@btconnect.com

The Raymond Nicolet Trust for Education and Child Support in Serbia

The Raymond Nicolet Trust (RNT) is a Cambridge-led international educational charity, with teams of volunteers in the UK and Serbia, but also represented in France, Greece and Bulgaria.

Its website <https://www.raymondnicolettrust.com> provides routes to news of its various activities, newsletter and annual report.

RNT is still in a phase of evolution and growth but in its first full year of operation it was able to raise £12,000 for the supported causes which is matched by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The first year of Covid-19 was very difficult for charities and their fund-raising. RNT has responded well, for an organisation with modest resources and no paid staff, to the need to put most activities online and conduct them virtually, just as many schools and universities have done. The funds raised have been used for refurbishment, desks, computers and books, and a minibus for transporting disabled children between two inconveniently separated sites. The schools benefiting have been: Vuk Karadzic Centrr, Sombor; the Jovan Jovanovic Zmaj school in Pancevo; and the Children and Youthhood Centre Miroslav Antic-Mika in Sombor.

The Trust also collected 32 crates of toys which were transported free by BeepBeep Express Limited to Serbia over Christmas 2020. In many towns around Serbia the Princess Katherine Foundation distributes toys to orphans over the Christmas period and this year those from RNT made a major contribution.



The Raymond Nicolet Trust
Support Childhood in Serbia

www.raymondnicolettrust.com
info@raymondnicolettrust.com

The charity has four themes, two already developed in 2020. Theme (1) is Living while Giving, which emphasises healthy but essentially normal activities such as Yoga and Running, where individuals can share some company and also donate in association with the activity. Theme (2) is The Creative Industries; this embraces not only music (fund-raising concerts) and the visual arts (art sales), through which funds are raised, but also now fashion and jewellery. These creative industries provide much economic activity and many jobs in normal times, but they also gladden peoples' lives, so the charitable link is appropriate for them.

Themes (3) and (4) have been planned in 2020 for development in 2021. These are (3) Science and (4) Entrepreneurship for Business. These will be advanced via webinars and mentorship programmes.

The Trust is always glad to act as channel for donations, and also to receive expressions of interest from people of any nationality who might be interested in volunteering, especially if they have some specifiable amount of spare time and relevant practical skill (eg teaching, administration, translation, previous fund-raising, event management, data management). It also welcomes associations with sponsoring companies, including those which may be prepared to put a donation facility (eg for a small percentage of sale prices) into their commercial websites.

info@raymondnicoletttrust.com

TWITTER: @NICOLETTTRUST

FACEBOOK: @RAYMOND NICOLET TRUST

INSTAGRAM: @RN_TRUST

LINKEDIN: @RAYMOND NICOLET TRUST

Hospices of Hope

Hospices of Hope is a UK based charity that has been supporting its Serbian partner, **BELhospice**, since 2006 to develop palliative care services for terminally ill patients and their families. Currently, BELhospice cares for patients and families in their own homes and in a new Day Care Centre which was opened in October 2018. Doctors and nurses, together with a psychologist, social worker and chaplain provide medical and holistic support to 500 patients each year. These services are now fully licensed by the Serbian government. However, Belgrade is one of the few European capitals that still has no specialist hospice in-patient facility, where patients can come for respite or to have their pain and other symptoms controlled. We are working towards the goal of establishing a 12 bedded in-patient unit once we have overcome the legislative problems relating to NGO's running in-patient medical services. We are also planning to pioneer a specialist service for children with terminal and life-limiting illnesses.

Graham Perolls, who founded the charity said:

"We rely a lot on the Serbian expatriate community to help us. Many have had experiences of loved ones dying back home in Serbia and receiving inadequate care at the end of life. BELhospice is pioneering this type of care and our mission is to ensure that every terminally ill patient in Serbia has the right to dignity in the advanced stages of their illness".

There are many ways to help

Hospices of Hope holds a number of fundraising events throughout the year in the UK and details can be found on their website: www.hospicesofhope.co.uk.

BELhospice (www.belhospice.org) also runs a range of fundraising events in Belgrade, including their very successful charity Ball each November. They also have the biggest team in the Belgrade marathon, which usually takes place in April. Both Hospices of Hope and BELhospice are always pleased to hear from anyone who feels they can help establish the first hospice in-patient unit in Serbia.

Further information

Email: graham@hospicesofhope.co.uk or
vera.madzgalj@belhospice.org



Academics in UK



Bojan Aleksov is an associate professor (senior lecturer) in Balkan history at the University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, where he also regularly organises events on Serbian/Yugoslav/Balkan topics. In his research Aleksov explores historical factors, causality and agency that led to the identification of confessional affiliation and national identity among almost all Balkan nations in the wake of the demise of two Empires (Ottoman and Habsburg), which ruled the region over centuries. Among his many publications there are articles on Dositej Obradović, Jovan Jovanović Zmaj, British women in Serbia and St. Sava Cathedral on Vračar.



Dr Aleksandar Brkić is a scholar and lecturer in the fields of cultural/arts management and cultural policy, working at the Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship (ICCE), Goldsmiths, University of London. Prior to joining Goldsmiths, Aleksandar was a lecturer and researcher at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore, and University of Arts in Belgrade. Together with Audrey Wong, he was a coordinator of Asia Pacific Network for Cultural Education and Research (ANCER), the first network of its kind in the region of Asia Pacific. His area of professional practice is arts management with significant international experience as a creative producer working in the intersections of performing arts, visual arts, and design. He worked as a theatre producer/manager with a number of inspiring theatre organizations (i.e. YUSTAT and BITEF) and artists. Aleksandar is currently working as a creative producer of LP Duo from Belgrade. His new book, »The Routledge Companion to Management and the Arts« that he co-edited with Professor William Byrnes was published in October 2019 by Taylor&Francis.



Dr Jasna Dragović-Soso is Professor of International Politics and History and a former Head of Department of Politics and International Relations (2017-2020) at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is the author of 'Saviours of the Nation': Serbia's Intellectual Opposition and the Revival of Nationalism (Hurst and McGill-Queen's University Press, 2002/03) and the co-editor of State Collapse in South-Eastern Europe: New Perspectives on Yugoslavia's Dissolution with Professor Lenard J. Cohen (Purdue University Press, 2008), as well as many articles and book chapters on Yugoslav history and politics. She is currently working on memory and transitional justice processes in relation to the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. Her teaching at Goldsmiths includes an MA course on 'Memory and Justice in Post-Conflict Societies'.



Milan Grba is a curator of Southeast European Collections at the British Library in London. Grba has a research background in history and experience in curatorship. His main research interests are the social and cultural history of the South-east Europe and the history of the British Library Slavonic and East European collections.

Recent publications include:

"British Writings on Romania: From Travel Accounts to Studies" Slavic & East European information resources. Volume 18: Number 3/4 (2017); pp 152-164.

"The emergence, spread and suppression of typhus epidemics in Serbia 1914-1915" (In Serbian) In William Hunter, Serbian epidemics of typhus and relapsing fever in 1915. Novi Sad, 2016, pp. 11-79.

"Britain and Serbia in the WWI: British policy, public responses and humanitarian aid" People say: Journal of literature and culture, Year 8, 23/24, 2015, pp. 22-34.

Further details and publications available on the British Library website: <https://www.bl.uk/people/experts/milan-grba>



Ranko Lazic was born (1975) in Belgrade, Serbia, where he attended Matematicka gimnazija and Petnica, and was a member of Arhimedes. From 1992, he spent 8 years at Oxford University, obtaining a BA in Mathematics and Computation (1994) and a DPhil in Computing (1999), and as a Junior Research Fellow. During that time, his colleges were University College, Merton College and Christ Church. At Warwick University, he has been a Lecturer (since 2001), Associate Professor (2006), Reader (2015), and Professor (2018).



Jasna Martinovic is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to taking up a position in Edinburgh, she spent 10 years at the University of Aberdeen. Dr Martinovic received her first degree (Dipl. Psychol.) from the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Belgrade, Serbia in 2001, followed by an MSc in Neuroscience from the University of Liverpool, UK in 2003 and a PhD in Experimental Psychology from the University of Leipzig, Germany in 2007. Her main area of expertise is colour perception and cognition, but her research also concerns perceptual organisation and attention, as well as the ageing of the human visual system. She is the author of 34 peer-reviewed articles in international journals, 1 book and 2 entries in the Encyclopedia of Colour Science and Technology. Her work has been funded by the DAAD, British Academy, Leverhulme Trust, ESRC, EPSRC and BBSRC.



Goran Mashanovich is a Professor of Group IV Photonics and a former Royal Society Research Fellow (2008-2016) at the Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC), Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Southampton. He received Dipl. Ing. and MSc in Optoelectronics from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia, and PhD in Silicon Photonics and MSc in innovative teaching from the University of Surrey, UK. He is head of the ORC Mid-infrared silicon photonics group. His research interests include both passive and active devices in Si and Ge and their integration for communication and sensing applications. Prof. Mashanovich is author of 400 publications in the field of Silicon Photonics, including 7 book chapters, and he is currently investigator on grants totalling £20 million, awarded by EPSRC and industry. Goran is also a visiting professor at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia. He has won several teaching prizes. Email: g.mashanovich@soton.ac.uk



Zoran Milutinović is Professor of South Slav Literature and Modern Literary Theory at University College London, Member of Academia Europaea, Honorary Research Associate of the Graduiertenschule für Ost- und Südosteuropastudien of the University of Regensburg and Ludwig-Maximilians-University in München, and Distinguished Research Fellow of the Balkan Studies Center, Beijing Foreign Studies University. He taught at University of Belgrade and held visiting appointments at University of Nottingham, Wesleyan University, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Graduiertenschule in Regensburg. His publications include *Bitka za prošlost. Ivo Andrić i bošnjački nacionalizam* (2018), *Getting Over Europe. The Construction of Europe in Serbian Culture* (2011), *Susret na trećem mestu* (2006), *Metateatralnost. Imanentna poetika u drami dvadesetog veka* (1994) and *Negativna i pozitivna poetika* (1992). Milutinović is a member of editorial boards of *Slavonic and East European Review*, *East European Politics & Societies and Cultures*, and *Balkanica*, and co-editor of Brill's book series *Balkan Studies Library*.



Dr Alexandra Perovic is an Associate Professor in Clinical Linguistics at University College London (UCL). She studied at the University of Novi Sad, University of Greenwich and UCL, and carried out her postdoctoral research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Her research focuses on developmental disorders of language, including autism, specific language impairment/developmental dysphasia, Down syndrome and Williams syndrome. She is particularly interested in raising awareness of rare disorders: in October 2019 she organised the very first scientific seminar on Williams syndrome for clinicians and educators in Novi Sad, Serbia, with the support of European Williams Syndrome Foundation, attended by families from Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Croatia. She is the founder of the first association for Williams syndrome in the Balkans, with the headquarters in Novi Sad, that provides support to children and adults with this rare disorder and their families in the region (www.vilijamsovsindrom.com).



Olivera Petrovich is a developmental psychologist with research interests in the issues on the interface of scientific psychology and religion. After completing undergraduate and MSc degrees in the University of Belgrade, Olivera came to Oxford on a British Council scholarship for one year. Further scholarships and grants enabled her to begin doctoral research in the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford and remain in the field through both teaching and research. The courses taught covered topics in the psychology of religion across life span and in different cultures, focusing specifically on the origin of the concept of God in early human development. The research with British and Japanese children and adults was published in 2018, titled Natural-theological understanding from childhood to adulthood

(<https://www.routledge.com/Natural-Theological-Understanding-from-Childhood-to-Adulthood/Petrovich/p/book/9781138939479>). A further research project involving children aged 5 to 7 years from different faith schools in England is due to be published in 2021 (with some inevitable delay due to Covid-19) under the title Developmental Psychology and young children's religious education: A multi-faith perspective.



Dubravka Pokrajac is Professor of Engineering at the University of Aberdeen. She has received BSc, MSc and PhD from the Faculty of Civil Engineering, University of Belgrade, where she also initially worked. In 1998 she joined the School of Engineering, University of Aberdeen as a Lecturer. Dubravka does research in Fluid Mechanics with the focus on boundary layer flows over rough and permeable boundaries such as gravel beds of natural streams, and gravel beaches. She combines theoretical, experimental, and numerical methods to study small scale phenomena that occur at fluid-porous interface. Dubravka has published over seventy journal papers, co-edited a book ("Advanced simulation and modelling for urban groundwater management – UGROW", Urban Water Series, UNESCO), and supervised eighteen PhD projects. She is the Director of Research in the School of Engineering and an Associate Editor for two academic journals.

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Dr Predrag Slijepčević is a geneticist and philosopher. Predrag's research interests include genetics of ageing and cancer, philosophy of evolution and philosophy of science. After completing a PhD in Radiation Biology at Sarajevo University in 1991, he was awarded three post-doctoral scholarships simultaneously: a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of California, San Francisco, a British Council award to study at St Andrews University and an EU Tempus scholarship for Leiden University, Holland. He decided to remain in Europe. After completing studies at St Andrews and Leiden, Predrag moved to Cambridge University, to work with Sir Bruce Ponder, the world leading authority on cancer genetics. Since 1998 Predrag is employed by Brunel University London. His research is funded by various British and European research agencies. Predrag published over seventy research papers, edited a book *Telomeres & Telomerase* (Karger), and participated in several patents. He is the author of *The Saint and the Sinner* and *Re-Minding the Earth* (Akademska knjiga) in Serbian. He writes philosophical essays for Serbian and British media. Predrag's biography was included in the Marquis edition *Who's Who in the World* for 1998.

Academics and artists in UK



Dr. Nela Milic is an artist and an academic working in media and arts. She is a Senior Lecturer at London College of Communication, UAL.

Nela has delivered creative projects for the Royal Opera House, Barbican, Arts Council England, John Lewis, Al Jazeera, Oxo Tower, LIFT... Working in intersection of time and space brought her to many multi-media and mapping projects where she's dealt with memory, narrative, digital archives, city and participation. She is a recipient of the European Cultural Foundation Artistic grant for the project *Wedding Bellas* after years of engagement with the work of refugees and asylum seekers and Southwark community arts award for her project *Here Comes Everybody*, which she wrote about in the book *Art and the City: Worlding the Discussion through a Critical Artscape* (2017).

Her PhD project 'Balkanising Taxonomy' researched the city as a site of spectacle and the culture of protest. She continues working in Belgrade through Kulturklammer, centre for cultural interactions. Nela evaluates EU COST network applications in humanities and is a consultant for the Science Fund of Republic of Serbia. She is a Senior Fellow of Higher Education Academy and a member of Space and Place and Design Activism research hubs at LCC.

Nela is part of the AHRC's Arts and Reconciliation research project and post-socialist arts network at University of the Arts, London, funded by the British Society of Aesthetics. Nela is writing a book about Serbian sculpture Olga Jevric with the support of UK Association for Arts Historians.



Duška Radosavljević is a writer, dramaturg and academic currently employed as a Reader in Contemporary Theatre and Performance at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London.

As a dramaturg Duška has worked for Northern Stage, New Writing North, Dancecity, NSDF, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Circomedia, Accidental Collective and in 2015 with Robert Icke on his Oliver Award-winning production of *Oresteia* at the Almeida / West End. She has also worked in the education department of the RSC and, for thirteen years, as a member of the Stage Newspaper's Edinburgh reviewing team and panel of judges for the Stage Awards in Acting Excellence.

She is the author of the award-winning *Theatre-Making: Text and Performance in the 21st Century* (Palgrave, 2013) and editor of *The Contemporary Ensemble* (Routledge, 2013) and *Theatre Criticism: Changing Landscapes* (Bloomsbury Methuen, 2016). In 2015 she initiated and led the AHRC-funded public engagement project *Mums and Babies Ensemble: Making Theatre with the Early Years* and in 2020-2021 she is the AHRC Leadership Fellow with the project entitled *Aural/ Oral Dramaturgies: Post-Verbatim, Amplified Storytelling and Gig Theatre in the Digital Age*.



Dr Tijana Stevanović is an architect, educator, and artist, working as a Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory at the University College London (2015–). She is currently a Research Fellow in Architecture at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. In the past decade Tijana taught architectural design and architectural history and theory at Newcastle University, University for the Creative Arts, and the University of East London. Her work has been published and presented internationally. As a part of her interdisciplinary practice, Tijana regularly initiates, and collaborates in art and curatorial projects in GB, Serbia, and Sweden; she exhibited her work at international exhibitions such as the Venice Architecture Biennale and in art galleries across Europe: Baltic (Newcastle), Grad (Belgrade), Tenderpixel (London), District (Berlin), KTH (Stockholm), etc.

Tijana started her academic career at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, while still studying for her degree. She then worked in architectural practice in Austria, and was awarded an OSI/FCO Chevening Scholarship for MA cultural studies at the University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies. She received her PhD from Newcastle University, with the thesis titled: 'Incorporating Self-management: Architectural Production in New Belgrade'.

Writers in UK



Sonja Batinic-Besford is a Serbian writer born in Belgrade. She has fourteen books published. She is the author of many short stories, poems and reviews of contemporary literature published in various magazines in UK, USA, Serbia, France etc. Some of her work has been translated into various languages. Sonja is the president of the Association of Serbian Writers and Artists abroad. She is married to a dentist and lives in London.



Vesna Goldsworthy is an internationally bestselling and prize-winning writer, academic and broadcaster. She is Professor in Creative Writing at the Universities of Exeter and East Anglia. Goldsworthy writes in English, her third language. Her novel *Gorsky* (2015) – a reworking of *The Great Gatsby* featuring Russians in London – was translated into fifteen languages, long-listed for Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and serialised on BBC Radio 4. It was a Waterstones Book of the Year and the New York Times editors' choice. Her second novel, *Monsieur Ka* was one of the Times Best New Novels for 2018 and the Times Best Paperback Fiction for 2019.

Goldsworthy has authored three other much-translated books, including a best-selling memoir, *Chernobyl Strawberries* (Atlantic, 2005), serialised in the Times and read by Goldsworthy herself as Book of the Week on Radio 4; a Crashaw-prize winning poetry collection, *The Angel of Salonika* (Salt, 2011), which was one of the Times' Best Poetry Books of the Year; and *Inventing Ruritania: the Imperialism of the Imagination* (Yale, 1998), which remains a set text in the study of Balkan representations at universities worldwide.



Nikola Cobic was born in Belgrade (Serbia), but for quite a long time he has been living and working in London (UK). He is a writer of poetry and short stories, and until recently the editor of UK based poetry magazine *The Wolf*. His work has been awarded a number of poetry prizes in Serbia, United Kingdom, France and Germany. Nikola writes in Serbian, but translates his work into English. His works are being published in numerous anthologies and periodicals.



Svetlana Meiehofer was born in Belgrade, lives in London for the last three decades.

Author of four novels:

"Pazi gde ides, stao si mi na srce"

"Stvarno sam te volela"

which is translated and published in Spanish "Te queria de verdad"

"Bez tebe ne mogu da disem"- spanish translation "Sin ti no puedo respirar"

"Nekoliko metara ljubavi"

Also author of four children books:

"Masa i Zuta – pravilo broj 1" translated in English

"Masha and Goldie – rule number one"

Translated in Italian "Masha e Goldie - Regola numero uno"

"Masa i Zuta- pravilo broj dva" Serbian and Croatia edition

"Jez Marko" - translated in English "Marko the hedgehog"

"Pomirisi Kisu"

Svetlana Meiehofer is founder and director of *Artem* magazine which is published in Serbian and English language and presents the culture and art.

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Artists in UK

Drama



Maya Barcot is a bi-lingual (Serbian-British) actress based in London. Maya trained at LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) and since graduating she has worked extensively in Theatre and TV in the UK and has also performed in Serbian theatre. Maya has completed Shakespearean workshops with Cicely Berry and has a good knowledge of performing classical Shakespearean text. She is also a workshop leader and an acting teacher.

Theatres Maya has worked in include: The Royal Shakespeare Company, The Arcola Theatre, The Print Room, Battersea Arts Centre, Wilton's Music Hall, Hull Truck, Nuffield Theatre Southampton and Vuk Karadžić Theatre in Belgrade. Television credits include: BBC TV (Happy Valley, Doctors), Sky TV (Critical, Fortitude, Cobra), ITV (Emmerdale, The Widow). Film credits include: In The Cloud. Radio credits include: BBC Radio 4 (The Archers, Wives and Daughters).



Maria Pavlovich Allport studied at Westminster University with a major in film production before completing drama training at The Drama Studio London. She was involved in British film and TV productions behind and in front of the camera, including a support character in The Bill, the drama Lady Audley's secret and James Bond. As a member of the children's Drama Group Radio and TV Belgrade she was in a popular series Bolji Zivot (Better Life).

Maria has been regularly invited to read poetry and prose in both Serbian and English at book promotions including events at the Serbian Embassy in London, Serbian Library as well as working closely with Vesna Petkovic (Pro Art & Co) and pianist Maya Jordan. Maria is also a voice over artist.



Vesna Stanojevic is an Actress and Senior Lecturer in Acting. Since 2006 she has been responsible for the acting training at the BA Acting MT course at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Professionally trained in the Stanislavsky Acting Method and the Acting Technique of Étienne Decroux, Vesna has developed her own methodology of coaching acting over the years.

Her Screen work as an actress includes: Chanel 4 TV Series The Traitors, BBC2 TV series The League of Gentlemen, Serbian National TV series Cvat Lipe na Blakanu, Crna svadba, Necista Krv, Ubice moga oca, Greh njene majke, Samac u braku, Dome slatki dome... Films Senior, The Last Lap in Monza, The Tree Tickets for Hollywood, The Night Is Dark, Absolute Hearing, Hotel Belgrade, The Path Strewn with Roses...and numerous leading roles on Stage.

<https://www.cssd.ac.uk/staff/vesna-stanojevic-ba>

<http://www.spotlight.com/9410-7869-7507>



Maja Milatovic-Ovadia is a theatre director, facilitator and visiting lecturer. She had directed numerous productions for the principal national theatres of Serbia, Montenegro and Slovenia as well as for various theatre companies in the UK, working in a range of context including devised work, classic and contemporary text-based theatre, music theatre, experimental opera and community theatre. Further aspects of her work have resulted in the developing socially engaged art projects, focuses on the use of comedy and humour within collaborative theatre practice, that support process of reconciliation. She studied Directing at the University of Belgrade (BA), obtained MA in Advanced Theatre Practice from Royal School of Speech and Drama and further trained at the National Theatre Studio in London and Directors Lab West in Los Angeles. Maja is currently PhD researcher at RCSSD in London. Her articles on theatre making were published in several theatre and peacebuilding journals. <http://www.majamilatovicovadia.com/>.



Sasha Milavic Davies works as a director, choreographer, and dramaturg. She was a founding member and inaugural Artistic Associate of the Yard Theatre. She was awarded the Muci Draskic award for best director in Serbia in 2018. Her dance show for 200 women Everything that rises must dance is touring international festivals. She is an Associate at Complicite. Recent work as a choreographer includes The Murder of Halit Yozgat (Hannover, Germany), Shoelady (Royal Court), The Antipodes (National Theatre), Touching the Void (Duke of York, West End).

As choreographer/movement director, theatre includes:

Murder of Halit Yozgat (Hannover Staatsoper), Shoelady (Royal Court), The Antipodes (National Theatre), Touching the Void (Bristol Old Vic/ Duke of York), Our Town (Regents Park OAT), Merry Wives of Windsor (Shakespeare's Globe), Berberian Sound Studio (Donmar Warehouse), Pity (Royal Court); The Writer (Almeida), Jubilee (Royal Exchange, Manchester/Lyric, Hammersmith), The Suppliant Women (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh/Actors Touring Company/Young Vic).

As director, theatre includes:

Language of Kindness (Wayward Productions), She Ventures and He Wins (Young Vic), Pet Života Pretužnog Milutina, Moja Ti, Constellations (Atelje 212, Serbia) One Side to the Other [installation] (Akram Khan Company/The Lowry).

As choreographer and associate director, dramaturg - dance & opera includes:

upcoming Wozzeck (Aix-en-Provence), upcoming Overflow (Sadler's Wells), Weimar Nightfall (LA Philharmonia), Everything That Rises Must Dance (Dance Umbrella/Complicité), La Bianca Notte (Hamburg Opera), Von Heute Auf Morgen, Sancta Susana (Opera de Lyon).

Dance



Milica (Mil) Vukovic Smart is a London-based dance and performance artist, writer and choreographer. Born in Novi Sad, Milica holds a BA in Philosophy from Belgrade University, an MA in Modern European Philosophy from Middlesex University, an MRes in Choreography and Performance (with distinction) from Roehampton University, and is currently a PhD candidate in choreography and spatial design at Chelsea College of Arts. Milica creates theatre-based and site-specific works across dance, performance and visual art. In parallel, Milica has a career in policy, advocacy and fundraising for arts, culture and heritage organisations.

Music



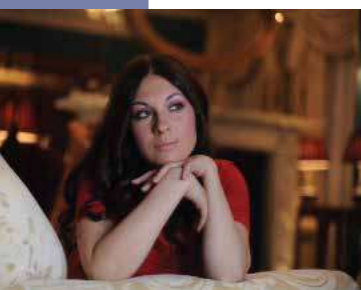
Jovana Backovic is a Serbian - born composer and vocalist whose work primarily centres on exploration and reinterpretation of ethnic music traditions of the Balkans. With her project Arhai she has performed widely across Balkans and the U.K. She has 3 releases under name Arhai, with fourth due to be released autumn 2021. Jovana also composes music for theatre, feature and documentary movies and her current interest lies within the field of electro-acoustic music and live improvisational performance – exploring the process of the creation and development of individual music identity through improvisation and the use of technology. Jovana completed her PhD thesis at the University of East Anglia 2014, with the subject 'Between Two Words: Approaching Balkan oral tradition through the use of technology as compositional and performance medium'. Further info www.arhai.com



Bratislava Barac Djukić graduated from the Faculty of Music in Belgrade majoring in conducting in the class of Professor Darinka Matić Marović. She studied music pedagogy at Trinity College in London. She has been a successful leader and conductor of many Serbian and English choirs including “Holy Prophet Elijah”, “All Saints” and “Saint Simeon the Outpourer of Myrrh” in Serbia and the choir “Saint Sava” in London. In 2003 Bratislava received the prestigious Best Conductor Award at the annual competition of Serbian choirs. With the blessing of his Grace Bishop Stefan of Zicha of blessed repose, Bratislava and her sister Olivera Sekulić Barac recorded “Eight Tones” (the Octoechoes) written down by the famous Serbian composer Stevan Mokranjac.



Viktor Bijelovic is a Serbian born pianist and teacher, living and working in the UK. A graduate of The Purcell School of Music and later The Royal Academy of Music in London (for both the Undergraduate and Master’s Degrees), he has travelled extensively, enjoying learning about different cultures whilst sharing his love of music with audiences and students. Both as a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in many countries, including in front of HRH Prince Charles twice. Viktor has a busy teaching practise, split between Oxford and London. He has recorded several CDs and to find out more, please refer to his website: www.viktorbijelovic.com



Nevena Bridgen is an international soprano born in Belgrade. She holds MMus from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London where she studied under the guidance of Sue McCulloch and Rudolf Piernay. Bridgen is a principal soloist of the National Theatre of Belgrade where she performed *Susanna Marriage of Figaro*, *Angelica Sister Angelica*, *Bastienne Bastien and Bastienne*, *Tatyana Eugenie Onegin*, *Lauretta Gianni Schicchi*, *Zerlina Don Giovanni*, *Mimi La Boheme*. Recently she appeared as *Mimi La Boheme* in the National Grand Opera of Uzbekistan where she was unanimously praised by critics and audience for her powerful dramatic stage presence and beautiful warm voice which brings the music and story telling to life. Bridgen made her American debut in the National Opera Centre of America performing the role of the Countess *Marriage of Figaro* under the conductor Benoit Renard directed by award winning director Louis Walker.



Ivana Ćetković, an exciting, expressive and inspiring British-Serbian violinist has maintained a wide and varied career as concerto soloist, recitalist, orchestral and chamber musician. Born in Belgrade, Serbia to a musical family she has received Bachelor’s degree (HONS) in Violin Performance from Faculty of Music Arts in Belgrade. Shortly after Ivana moved to London, UK to study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with David Takeno and Rachel Podger. She frequently appears as a guest leader of orchestras in UK and Austria. As a soloist Ivana has performed with Manchester Camerata (UK), Slaithwaite Philharmonic (UK), Marcel Sinfonia (UK), Da Salo Soloists (US), Tirolean Chamber Orchestra Innstrumenti (Austria) to name a few. As a passionate chamber musician Ivana is a member of a violin-piano duo Elmbourne Ensemble as well as the up and coming ensemble Camerata Alma Viva with whom she has recorded for NoMadMusic label.



Pianist **Maya Jordan** MA, has performed throughout the former Yugoslavia, Italy, Cyprus, France, Germany and England and recorded for various Radio and TV programmes. Her performing career has been extended through her interest in bringing music and artists of different countries together. Maya has been co-founder of the project 'Sounds of the Balkans' and Artistic Director of numerous events and projects, promoting Serbian culture and encouraging artists of different origins to work together. She was also a Secretary of the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe for many years. At present Maya is a Secretary of The Serbian Council of Great Britain and has been involved in numerous charity projects in aid of Serbian people and children. She is also a co-founder / Arts Director of the Around the Globe Piano Music & Arts and Programme Director of the Serbian Month in Great Britain.



Elena Kostova is a Classical Music Artist Agent based in central London. Elena works at IMG Artists' division for international conductors and instrumentalists with responsibility for devising and implementing career strategies and running busy concert, touring and recording diaries, with over two hundred concerts per year worldwide, of a select roster of artists including South Korean pianist Yeol Eum Son, New York based Emerson String Quartet, Spanish violinist, arranger, play-director and conductor Roberto González-Monjas, American conductor Case Scaglione and Spanish conductor Pablo González. Elena is particularly passionate about the identification, nurturing and development of emerging artists, whom she judges will make the broadest contribution to artistic and cultural life. Prior to career in Artist management, Elena earned her BA degree in Cultural Studies from Erasmus University in Rotterdam, studied Classical Piano Performance at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich and graduated from Music college Dr. Vojislav Vučković in her native Belgrade. Email: ekostova@imgartists.com



Prize-winner of many awards, **Mina Miletic** established her career regularly appearing in recital, as a chamber musician and concerto soloist in concert halls across Europe, Asia and the USA. She completed a PhD on 'Interpretation of Impressionistic Piano Music' and is regularly engaged as an adjudicator for festivals and competitions. Mina is passionate about education and learning and she currently teaches piano at Eton College and Harrow School. Further details may be found on her web-site: www.minamiletic.co.uk



Accordionist **Milos Milivojevic** from Kragujevac, Serbia was awarded full scholarships from the Royal Academy of Music for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Master Degree studies. In 2014 he was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music ARAM for his contribution to the music. As a result of Miloš's diverse musical interest he is actively performing as a soloist and as a member of eminent opera companies and leading ensembles around UK. Milos is playing classical music as well as tango and Balkan music. His debut solo CD "Accord for life" is available on Nimbus label and from www.milosmilivojevic.com.



Zivorad Nikolic is a London based accordionist and a graduate from Royal Academy of Music. He has performed all around the globe and is a member of Fugata Quintet, Balkan group Paprika, AccordDuo and the best Klezmer and award winning ensemble She'koyokh. Zivorad has recorded on the albums of several artists including David Gomez, Aiden Love & Forty Thieves Orchestra, Marti Pellow and featured on Channel 4's How Music Works and in a live performance for the BBC Radio 2 programme, Friday Night Is Music Night. He has also recorded soundtracks for films and some of the most recent collaborations are with Anne Nikitin and Michael Chanyi- Wills. www.zivoradnikolic.com/



Viktor Obsust started his studies in Novi Sad and graduated at the State Conservatoire in Bratislava, Slovakia. He was awarded a scholarship for double bass masterclass at Dartington International Summer School and subsequently came to London as an Aurelius scholar for postgraduate studies at the Trinity College of Music, where he obtained Postgraduate Diploma in Performance (PGD), Licentiate Trinity College London (LTCL) and Fellow Trinity College London (FTCL). A recipient of scholarship from the Lutheran World Federation Regional Development Programme, he started international jazz workshops in Novi Sad in 2001 and in 2007 his project proposal won the Inaugural Community Music Award from the International Society for Music Education (ISME) amongst competitions from 65 countries worldwide to launch community music workshops in his homeland. Viktor was an Associate Lecturer at University of Chichester and holds an educational specialist title from University of Greenwich and Trinity College of Music. He is the only Yugoslav musician who has become a member of the Royal Society of Musicians of Great Britain (2012). As a performer, an impresario and a speaker he travels around the globe. More info: obsust@gmail.com

www.marinapetrov.co.uk



Marina Petrov MA is a classical pianist and piano pedagogue specialising in piano technique and preventing pianists' occupational injuries. She held seminars, masterclasses and workshops on related subjects at various universities, music colleges and other educational institutions in London and Cork. Since settling in London in 1989, she performed solo recitals and chamber music and accompanying opera singers in major concert halls across the UK and London, including Regent Hall, St John's Smith Square, and other music institutions. Further to performing and teaching career, the versatile Mrs Petrov is also Co-Founder and Managing Director of Around the Globe Music & Arts and AGPMF Piano Competition and Executive Editor of annual Around the Globe Music Magazine. Her contribution to EPTA and ISSTIP journals is also of prominence, and she regularly writes publications for AGMA.

As a child prodigy raised in Belgrade, she has won many national piano competitions in former Yugoslavia, followed by tours and media appearances, including TV and Radio Belgrade shows. She has also won a federal grant to study further at the famous Moscow Music Conservatoire, in 1979. Marina's talents are renowned in the British press including The Times, and she is listed in International Who's Who in Music and British and International Music Yearbook since 1994.

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Rastko Rašić is a Serbian born London based drummer and percussionist. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music, USA. He has performed and recorded with groups, such as Balkanatics, Forty Thieves Orkestar, Round Coloured Note, Damian Draghici, Theodossii Spasov, Arun Ghosh and Polly Paulusma. Rastko is a founding member of the group Paprika. His live performances have included BBC Radio 3, Glastonbury Festival, The South Bank Centre, The Barbican, Ronnie Scotts and has appeared with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cadogan Hall. He maintains a busy schedule as an educator.



Equally at home as a violinist and violist, Serbian **Milena Simovic** is enjoying an illustrious international career of concerto, recital and chamber music performances. Acclaimed for her work in Europe, Asia and America, Milena performs alongside some of the most established personalities of today's music scene. In May 2018 Milena premiered Berlioz's Harold in Italy in Belgrade with Serbian Radio Symphony Orchestra, which was broadcasted live across the country. Milena's performance of Harold in Italy was then praised as "...exceptionally delivered performance, charged with brilliant combination of operatic quality and diversity, which was jaw-dropping at times", "seductive and exciting...with rare artistic sensibility" in the press.

Milena has been a recording artist of Nigel Kennedy between 2015 and 2017, and acts as a principal violist of the Ulster Orchestra since 2019.

Milena has graduated from the Belgrade Faculty of Music and Arts, completed Masters Degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and Zurich University of the Arts.

<http://www.milenasimovic.com>



Božidar Smiljanić - Bass-Baritone

Božidar Smiljanić, 'a honeyed bass-baritone', was born and raised in London. He studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London, on a full scholarship, where he received the Principal's Prize for exceptional all-round studentship. Božidar made his professional debut in 2014 at Glyndebourne Festival Opera as Captain (Eugene Onegin) and returned as Masetto (Don Giovanni) on the Glyndebourne Tour. He has since debuted at several major UK companies including Garsington Opera, Scottish Opera and The Mozartists. As a Harewood Artist of English National Opera, Božidar performed the roles of The Marquis (La Traviata) and Schaunard (La Bohème) and sung the title role in the opening night of the 2020 production of The Marriage of Figaro, before the production had to close because of the Covid pandemic. Božidar is a member of the ensemble at Oper Frankfurt and since his first season at Oper Frankfurt (18/19), he has performed Garibaldo in Rodelinda, Ariodate in Xerxes, Eumée in Pénélope, Sprecher (Die Zauberflöte), Hunter/Gamekeeper (Rusalka), and Zuniga in Carmen. Božidar has a particularly extensive concert repertoire and is a regular on the concert platform, having already developed relationships with a number of key conductors and orchestras including Nathalie Stutzmann and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, John Wilson, Ed Gardner and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Jakub Hrůša with the Bamberger Symphoniker, Hervé Niquet and Le Concert Spirituel, Trevor Pinnock and Das Neue Orchester Köln, and Richard Cooke and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

<http://www.bozidarsmiljanic.com/>



Ljubica Stojanovic started to play piano at the age of 6. She graduated with a Masters from Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, studying with Prof. Caroline Palmer, and subsequently studied on the fellowship programme, with Professor Ronan O'Hora. Her studies were generously funded by the Leverhulme Trust and Guildhall School of Music and Drama's scholarship fund. Ljubica is a 1st prize-winner of over 20 national and international competitions. She is a very active musician who performs regularly as a soloist as well as with European chamber ensembles. Ljubica has performed in the Royal Festival Hall, Barbican Hall, Wigmore Hall, St. James's Piccadilly, St. Martin in the Fields, Mozarteum University Hall in Salzburg, Philharmonia Hall in Ljubljana, Slovenia, Thonex hall in Geneva, and in Kolarac Hall in Serbia. She has collaborated with the Witold Lutoslawski Philharmonia from Wroclaw, soloists from Philharmonia Orchestra in London, Serbian Radio Television Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Belgrade, and with Nicholas Daniel and Andrew Marriner. In 2015 Ljubica became an artist for the KNS Classical record label in Spain. Ljubica would like to thank Ronan O'Hora, Henning Kraggerud and Christian Petersen for their guidance, inspiration and support.



Branco Stoysin, guitarist/composer/tutor/photographer and the rest; From his birth place of Novi Sad town to growing up place of Frogville (Zabalj) village, back to Novi Sad...to London, with one guitar and small rucksack, following his dream, ...the whispers from Sun flow into music... to forming his Sun Recordings label that self-produced 8 acclaimed albums, 1 live DVD and 2 music books all with over 60 original compositions. Branco being a life long aficionado of Nikola Tesla, promoting the knowledge of the Man, dedicating the tunes, albums and books to Tesla, as well as promoting enthralling true trad folk music of Serbia/former Yugoslavia. 2018 celebrated the 20th anniversary of the label with the release of Branco's new solo-guitar album "Above The Clouds". "One of the most lyrical acoustic guitarists around today. His ear for an affecting melody is faultless. His albums are an unalloyed treat throughout." Chris Parker www.brancostoyisin.co.uk



Aleksandra Timarov graduated in piano performance (Bachelor and Masters degree) from the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia. Aleksandra also has a post-masters qualification 'diplome de virtuosité' from Geneva. Aleksandra has won many top prizes in numerous piano competitions in Serbia, Italy and France. She has performed in Serbia, Germany, Italy, France, Switzerland and England as a soloist and with orchestras. Her concerts were transmitted live on the Radio Suisse Romande. Aleksandra has also a passion for teaching. She implements a broad foundation of music history and theory in her lessons. Her teaching methods are playful, energized, inventive and appealing to children of different ages.

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Classical pianist **Nataša Šarčević**, instrumental professor at the London College of Music, University of West London is active on the international music scene performing in Germany, Austria, Holland, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Brazil, the UK, Latvia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, and Italy. She regularly performs at the leading venues in the UK, including the Wigmore Hall, St. John's Smith Square, St. Martin's in the Fields, St. James's Piccadilly and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts, to mention a few. In February 2017 she founded the International Concert Series "An Evening of Armenian, Serbian and Bulgarian Classical Music" promoting the Eastern European cultural heritage and music of 20th century and contemporary composers. Concerts with this repertoire have taken place in London, Italy, Serbia and Spain.



Soprano **Silva Vuckovic McQueen** has toured throughout Europe with Die Münchener Operabühne, and is a regular soloist with the Victorian and Edwardian group The Bold Balladiers, with whom she performs extensively throughout the UK. Other engagements have included solo soprano in Mozart's Requiem Mass, Mozart's Coronation Mass, Villa Lobos's Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 and Haydn's Pauken Messe, as well as solo recitals at St. Martin in the Fields, St. James's Piccadilly, St. Paul's Church in London, SANU, Guarnerius in Belgrade, NIMUS Festival in Nis and the Serbian Cultural Centre in Paris. She also enjoys performing with Philharmonia Chorus - which she joined in 2011.

Visual Art



Serbian born photographer **Nenad Obradovic** is based in Notting Hill, London. His passion for photography started at the end of the secondary school when he got his first digital camera. Although he loved to snap pretty much everything around, portraits were always something that stood out and he enjoyed the most.

Since opening first photographic studio and shop in 2001 in Serbia, Nenad's growing successful business gave him a good reputation. After moving to UK in 2007 Nenad continued as a freelance photographer covering numerous events such as presidential and royal visits, diplomatic events, high religious events, gala dinners, corporate events, concerts, theatre plays and festivals.

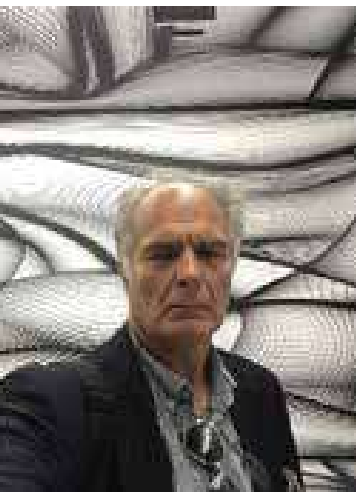
Nenad's photos have been featured on numerous websites such as Songlines, BBC, Daily Post, Wales Online, Metro, Radio Television Serbia, Blic, Serbian Royal family website, Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra etc. etc

In addition to photography and parallel with it, Nenad has developed carpentry and decorating business and he is quite successful with it. He loves working with wood and the passion dates back to his childhood and his father's workshop. Over many years of experience Nenad became an expert in his craft with good skills, eye for precision and good finish, and currently, due to COVID circumstances, he is more focused on this side of the business.

No hard work scares him, and nothing is too much trouble for him. One of his dreams is to have his own workshop where he will be making furniture to order.



WWW.OBRADOVIC.CO.UK



Dr Đorđe Perendia: Starting in 70's as a conceptual artist with exhibitions of graphic works such as ones based on the 1976 music performance "Einstein on the Beach" by Philip Glass, Đorđe gained a Fine Art degree in 1984. His metaphysical sculptural work has been greatly inspired by the contrast between contemporary technology and the arts of ancient Mediterranean cultures and memorial sculptural art, steles. His recent works include memorials dedicated to victims of recent wars and graphic works based on contemporary music (Sono-logies). Đorđe also gained a masters in Computer Graphics modelling of Cubist art, studied Sociology and read on linguistics and its applications in art and design. Inspired by his own art work of 1980s and 1990s based on chaos of natural phenomena and unpredictable behaviour of humans, he recently gained masters of science and a doctorate degrees on stochastic modelling and human behaviour in economics. He also writes essays on culture, language, philosophy of science, sustainability and design.

Recent Exhibitions:

Le Salon des Arts, Paris (Dec. 2015); Exeter Phoenix, 1st – 27th December 2005; London Foundry, March 2005

Texts: <https://wsimag.com/authors/475-george-perendia>; Art: www.perendia.co.uk



Dragana Perisic is a self-declared creative, who by chance, happened to express herself through fashion design.

While studying economics at Belgrade University, she had made a short trip to London to find a part for her motorbike. Upon arrival, she quickly fell in love with the city and made it her permanent home.

After graduating from London College of Fashion, Dragana was noticed by buyers and sold her college collection to a few shops in the UK and abroad. With this, she immediately launched her own, self-funded brand, and she has remained independent ever since.

In 2006, she opened her first shop in East London, where she still lives, works, teaches, collaborates and learns. Dragana is an occasional visiting lecturer and has trained many students. Her brand's distinctive style has evolved over the years, but it has always been an unmistakable blend of her two homes - Serbia and Britain.

www.draganaperisic.com

Painting: Only Love Should Be Global



Slavica Plemić is a London based artist, focused on crucial aspects of human existence and survival in a world where a human being is SIMULTANEOUSLY an individual and an inseparable part of the society, of nature, of the universe. Conceptualist and anti-globalist. Her main interests remain religion, history and philosophy, while her means of artistic expression are essays, painting, sculpture. As a graduate economist (Sarajevo, ex-Yugoslavia), she attended the London School of Technology and Artistic Glass Processing. A longtime member of the Brent Artist Register (BAR), she has had many solo and group exhibitions in London. Also exhibited in New York, San Francisco and Miami (USA), as well as in Monaco.

Blog: www.artglassphilosophy.blogspot.com



Work by Vlastimir Zeric

Vlastimir Zeric from Krusevac is a Serbian jeweller, designer and sculptor based in London. He works with precious metals, silver and gold, joining past and present time, people, customs and different cultures. Vlastimir's work is inspired by women and their beauty. His work Sterling silver dress was selected by invited artist Chris Orr, The Royal Society of British Artists to be exhibited at their Annual Exhibition 2020 at Mall Galleries, St. James's. Apart from his love for art, Vlastimir is also a passionate dancer of tango, salsa and waltz.

More details: www.facebook.com/vlado.batica

Sport



Branislav Ivanović is a Serbian professional footballer who plays for Premier League club West Bromwich Albion. Ivanović began his career with hometown club FK Srem, followed by OFK Beograd. In 2006, he moved to play for Lokomotiv Moscow in the Russian Premier League, winning his first honour, the 2007 Russian Cup. In 2008, Ivanović was signed by Premier League side Chelsea for a £9 million fee. He won nine major honours with Chelsea, including three Premier League titles, three FA Cups, one League Cup, the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League. Overall, he made 377 appearances and scored 34 goals, making him one of only five foreign players to appear in over 300 matches for the club and putting him behind only John Terry in terms of goals scored by a defender for Chelsea. Additionally, Ivanović was twice named in the PFA Team of the Year. He returned to Russia in 2017, joining Zenit on a free transfer. Ivanović was first capped for Serbia in 2005, and has since become the nation's most capped player. He represented the nation at their first international tournament as an independent country, the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa, and was appointed captain of the national team in 2012. He was captain until just prior to the 2018 FIFA World Cup where he also represented Serbia. In that competition he became the most capped player in the history of the Serbian national team, with 105 matches.



Nemanja Matić is a Serbian professional footballer who plays as a defensive midfielder for English club Manchester United and the Serbian national team. Starting his career as an attacking midfielder, Matić shifted to a defensive midfielder during his spell at Benfica. He is known for his consistent performances on the pitch and his combative style of play. Matić began his senior career at Kolubara, before joining Slovak side Košice in 2007. He moved to English club Chelsea for £1.5 million in 2009. Used sparingly during his first spell at Stamford Bridge, he spent the 2010–11 season on loan at Dutch club Vitesse, and in January 2011, he moved to Benfica in a swap deal involving David Luiz. He won the Primeira Liga Player of the Year award for his performances in the 2012–13 season. Matić returned to Chelsea in January 2014, for £21 million. He was named in the PFA Team of the Year for the 2014–15 season. In July 2017, he was reunited with former Chelsea manager José Mourinho after signing for Manchester United. Matić represented Serbia at under-21 level. He made his senior international debut in 2008 and has since earned over 40 caps. He was part of their squad at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

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Luka Milivojević is a Serbian professional footballer who plays as a midfielder for Premier League club Crystal Palace and the Serbian national team. Milivojević's first season as senior was with his home town club Radnički Kragujevac during the 2007–08 season, then playing in the Serbian League West. After moving to the top league club Rad into the senior team playing as right side midfielder, he signed for Red Star Belgrade in 2011. His arrival to Red Star was largely due to the desire of coach Robert Prosinečki, who believed that Milivojević had bright potential. In 2013, Milivojević signed a five-year contract with Belgian football giants Anderlecht and in 2014 joined Olympiacos on loan from Anderlecht. After the 2014–15 season, Milivojević reiterated his desire to stay with Olympiacos, but in June 2015 Anderlecht confirmed that it had reached an agreement with Olympiacos for the permanent transfer of Milivojević. He had spent a season with the club, and joined the Greek champions by signing a four-year contract, for a fee of €2.3 million. In January 2017, Milivojević signed for Crystal Palace on a three-and-a-half year contract for almost €16 million.

Milivojević was a member of the Serbia national under-21 football team. He had been called up for the Serbia national football team squad in 2011, to face Italy and Slovenia in the UEFA Euro 2012 qualifying phase. He made his debut for Serbia in 2012 in a friendly match with Chile. In June 2018, he was included in the final 23-man squad for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.



Aleksandar Mitrović is a Serbian professional footballer who plays as a striker for Premier League club Fulham and the Serbia national team. A youth product at Partizan, he turned professional after a loan at Teleoptik, and was a regular as they won the Serbian SuperLiga in his first season. At the age of 18, Mitrović was named among the top 10 talents under the age of 19 in Europe by a selection of UEFA reporters. He then joined Anderlecht for a club record €5 million, and scored 44 goals in 90 games across all competitions in a two-season spell.

He won the Belgian Pro League in his first campaign at the club, and was the league's top scorer in his second. In 2015, he moved to Newcastle United for £13 million. In 2018, he was loaned to Fulham, and joined them permanently after helping them to promotion to the Premier League.

Mitrović helped Serbia win the 2013 European Under-19 Championship, being voted the best player of the tournament. Since that year, he has also been a senior international player, earning over 40 caps and representing the nation at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Serbian Month in Great Britain Programme

Wednesday 27th Jan 2021

Launch of Serbian Month Catalogue 'British Serbs'

St Sava's Celebration

Exclusive tour of the Temple of St Sava in Belgrade by Father Dragan Sovljanski.

Serbian Council of Great Britain

Enjoy your own personal tour of the Temple of St Sava and learn more about its history, construction, its beautiful frescos and mosaics.

Available to view on the Serbian Month YouTube channel https://youtu.be/Oqvi_R_tZvA

Serbian Orthodox Church, London

89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

10am St Sava's Day Service - Divine Liturgy

7pm St Sava's Academy - ZOOM event

Archimandrite Ilarion Lupulović (monastery of Draganac, Kosovo and Metohija)

Prof. Miloš Ković (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade)

Fresco painter Jovan Atanasković (Belgrade)

Zoom meeting details:

<https://zoom.us/j/95556313930?pwd=S0lSWnFyN24yc1dwUng4OU12dIl0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 955 5631 3930

Passcode: svetisava

Holocaust Memorial Day

Jasenovac & Holocaust Foundation

11.30am Wreath Laying Ceremony at Yalta Memorial followed by a Minute of Silence; Thurloe Place, London SW7 2SL

12pm - St Sava Church candle lighting and silent prayer for those perished during the WW2

St Sava's Church, 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

Those who wish to attend the wreath laying ceremony should confirm attendance on info@jhmf.org.uk so we can follow current Government guidance on Covid rules and if you wish to come to the St Sava church to light a candle and pray please check their website and follow the guidance on Covid regulations <https://spclondon.org.uk/sr/22-raspored-bogosluzenja>

Saturday 30th Jan, 5pm

**Serbian City Club - Zoom event
Dallas Newby, Dominion voting**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.
RSVP is required: Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

Thursday 4th Feb, 8pm

**Around the Globe Music & Arts - Zoom event
An Interview with Vera Milankovic, acclaimed Serbian composer, pianist and
pedagogue**

The topic – the album 'Musical Map of Serbia', inspired by Serbian folk songs from different regions.
To register for this event please email: agpianomusicfestival@gmail.com.

Saturday 6th Feb, 10am

Memorial service (Pomen) for Women in Foreign Medical Missions

The divine liturgy at St Sava, Serbian Orthodox Church in London, will be followed by Zadusnice.
89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ
Those attending should check the church website and follow the guidance on Covid regulations
<https://spclondon.org.uk/sr/22-raspored-bogosluzenja>

Saturday 6th Feb, 5pm

**Serbian City Club - ZOOM event
Centar Zvezda presentation**

Tatjana Dražilović, Centar Zvezda and Chris Mould, Foundation for Social Change and Inclusion.
The "Star" Centre for social integration of children and youth is an association of citizens whose goal is to promote fostering, provide help to older children in orphanages, as well as those who are getting ready for an independent life after leaving the social care system.
Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.
RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

Sunday 7th Feb, 5pm

**Meeting to remember women in foreign medical missions in Serbia
during the Great War**

**ZOOM event with Zvezdana Popovic and guests: Louisa Miller, Ailsa Clarke,
Liz Middleton, Zivorad Nikolic and Maya Barcot.**

In the time of the Covid pandemic the seventh annual commemoration will focus on those women who died in Serbia in 1915, nursing Serbian sick and wounded soldiers and civilians, during the horrific typhus pandemic. We will remember those heroines who sacrificed their lives - Dr Elizabeth Ross (First Reserve Military Hospital, Kragujevac), nurses Louisa Jordan, Augusta Minshull and Bessie Sutherland, orderly Margaret Neill Fraser (Scottish Women's Hospitals) and two members of Mabel Stobart's Field Hospital in Karagujevac - nurse Lorna Ferris and orderly Mabel Dearmer. Their graves are in Kragujevac and at the Military Cemetery in Nis.
To register for this event please email Zvezdana Popovic on info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

Friday 12th Feb, 7pm

Serbian Council of Great Britain - ZOOM event
Book promotion: 'Can you run away from sorrow?' Mothers Left Behind in 1990s Belgrade by Ivana Bajic-Hajdukovic

How does emigration affect those left behind? The fall of Yugoslavia in the 1990s led citizens to look for a better, more stable life elsewhere. For the older generations, however, this wasn't an option. In this powerful and moving work, Ivana Bajic-Hajdukovic reveals the impact that waves of emigration from Serbia had on family relationships and, in particular, on elderly mothers who remained.

To register for this event please email: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

Available from Friday 12th Feb, 8pm onwards

Doubles Digital Concert - Orchestra of the Swan
Craig Ogden, guitarist and Miloš Milivojević, classical accordionist

Duets are explored in this concert through the double concertos of J.S. Bach and Astor Piazzolla. Further details and to purchase a ticket / link for £10 please visit: <https://orchestraoft-heswan.org/shop/doubles/>.

Please note you will only need one link per household.

Saturday 13th Feb, 3.30pm

Serbian Library in London
Conversation with Viktor Lazić

Viktor is one of Serbia's most well known modern travel writers. He is founder and president of the Association for Culture, Art and International Cooperation (Adligat), CEO of Library Lazic (established 1882), the Book and Travel Museum and the Museum of Serbian Literature within Adligat. He is the inheritor of one of the most accomplished book collections in Serbia.

Register for Zoom link to connect: serbianlibrary@gmail.com

Saturday 13th Feb, 5pm

Serbian City Club - ZOOM event
Azbukum, Nataša Milićević Dobromirov

Discussion on learning Serbian as a foreign language (Diskusija na temu učenje sprskog jezika kao nematernjeg)

Language: Serbian

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org.

Monday 15th – Sunday 21st Feb

Serbian Council of Great Britain
Serbian Month FIFA Gaming Tournament, open to players from 13 to 25 years.

Xbox One and PlayStation 4 players of FIFA 20 are invited to join an eSport tournament and challenge their skills. Win a trophy and title, become a first 'Best Serbian Month Gamer'!

The top three players will be recognized and get a trophy or plaques.

Matches will take place during the half-term week, 15th to 20th February. Final on Saturday 20th or Sunday 21st February.

Tournament host: Oliver Jordan.

Deadline for applications **10th February** by 12 noon.

To register your interest please visit: <https://serbiancouncil.org.uk/fifa/>

Wednesday 17th February 6.30pm

Azbuki Klub and Round Table Online Quiz for Young People

Language: Serbian

Open to young people from 12 to 18 years with a working knowledge of Serbian. A chance to have fun, meet other young people, use your Serbian, and test your knowledge of all things Serbian.

To register and receive a link please email: olga.stanojlovic@btinternet.com.

Friday 19th Feb, 4pm

The Raymond Nicolet Trust Winter Warmer

This is a hopeful look towards spring, with an international flavour. The Raymond Nicolet Trust volunteers who raise funds for schools in Serbia impart determination with optimism as they report on past achievements and new aims, interwoven with stirring musical interludes from several musicians who are patrons of the charity - Ljubica Stojanovic, Patrick Hemmerlé, Vasa Stajkic and Marija Jelic.

Moderators: Jadranka Dervišević Kitarić & Tony Taylor

Speakers: Dr.Christine Hilcenko: Introduction to the charity and its mission

Predrag Starcevic, Jovan Jovanovic Zmaj School, Pancevo

Dr. Ana Harvey: "The Legacy of St. Sava: Law, Legal Thought and Education in Serbia"

Living while Giving- Online Yoga classes by Dr Aleksandra Vancevska

Running while Giving: Serbian Fortresses Virtual Challenge by Tomislav Antonic

Natasha Davidov (Davidov London Jewellery)

Florence Bachelard-Bakal: New projects

Prof. Mark Haggard: "An international reflection: the inspiration towards education and some things that get in its way."

Details and the link, in effect joining instructions, will be found on the Trust website

<https://www.raymondnicolettrust.com/>

Saturday 20th Feb, 5pm

Serbian City Club Žarko Trebješanin, psychologist

Psychological implications of Covid ; Nostalgia and trust in institutions (Psiholoski uticaj Kovid-a; Nostalgija; poverenje u institucije.)

Language: Serbian

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org.

RSVP is required! Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org.

Sunday 21st Feb, from 11am – approx. 2pm

British Serbian Medical Association Lecture on Covid 19 by Serbian Doctors in UK

Desa Lilić MD MSc PhD FRCPPath – Immunology of Covid 19

Nemanja Stojanović MD FRCP – Evidence-base treatments for Covid 19 infection

Žika Petrović MD FCARCSI DEAA – Clinical presentation of patient with Covid 19 and their journey following hospital admission

Dejan Maras MD PhD FESC – Cardiac Disease and Covid 19

Ana Pokrajac MD MSc FRCP – Chronic Disease Service re-structuring during Covid 19

Milena Petrović MD Senior Clinical Fellow Obs & Gynae – Pregnancy and Covid 19

Aleksandra Fox MD DFFP MRCGP – General Practice and Covid 19

Nikola Petrović Psychology BSc Forensic Psy MSc Applied Psy MSc - Mental Health and Covid 19

Marko Kerac MD MPH MFPH PhD - Covid 19 Pandemic 2020: Myths and Truths

To register attendance please email: zika59@doctors.org.uk

Tuesday 23rd Feb, 6.30pm

Serbian Council of Great Britain - ZOOM event
Book promotion: Paid to Predict: Duplicity, Deceit and Dishonesty among 'Allies' by Ewen Southby-Tailyour

Paid to Predict is the un-redacted diaries of Ewen Southby-Tailyour, a British monitor with the European Community Monitoring Mission (and the SIS) in the Republic of Serbian Krajina and Croatia from the autumn of 1993 to the Spring of 1994. He resigned from his post in 1994 after being asked by his EU superiors to falsify his daily reports concerning the breaking of UN arms embargo 713 which was then in force. This illegal rearming of Croatia was the prelude to Operation Storm which started on 4th August 1995 and led to the ethnic cleansing of 200,000 Serbs from the Republic of Serbian Krajina where they had lived for over 500 years.

To register for this event please email: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk.

Thursday 25th Feb, 7.30pm

AGM Serbian Council of Great Britain on ZOOM

Members and non- members are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting to find out about the work of the Serbian Council over the past year and to learn about future projects.

To register and receive link please email: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

More details at: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021 - Serbian Council of Great Britain

Friday 26th Feb, 12 noon

Palaeologian Renaissance and All That or How to Steal a History

Lecture: Serbian Heritage in Danger – Dr Dragana Lazarević and guests.

Pandemic or not, the attempts to take over Serbian historical and cultural heritage still dominates political, academic and cultural discourse both within and outside the Balkans. Recent announcements from the political leadership in Priština about their plan to submit a new application for UNESCO membership conveniently coincided with the conclusions of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee members stating that the time has come for Serbia to recognize Kosovo as an independent state. The previous attempt by Priština to enter UNESCO as an independent state in 2015 was unsuccessful; but only just. Ever since, activities aimed at justifying the appropriation of Serbian land and its heritage have been multiple and varied; one of the most dangerous was the production of historical narratives openly revising Serbian history on an industrial scale. At the event, we will discuss the methods used by both Albanian and, even more worryingly, Western intellectuals in an open attempt to plunder Serbian heritage.

To register for this event please email: lamasquel@yahoo.co.uk

**Serbian
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Saturday 27th Feb, from 1pm

Serbian Library in London Eight Annual Mini Book Fair

Vesna Petkovic presents Serbian authors and their works. Participants will be announced at later date. Register for a Zoom link: serbianlibrary@gmail.com

Sunday 28th Feb

World Record attempt 'Punjene paprike' on a Zoom

You are invited to join this attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records by making a record of number of stuffed papers on one day. The event will be hosted on ZOOM platform. To register your interest in participating: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

Sunday 28th Feb, 6pm

Serbian Council of Great Britain 'A Cup of Stories' live with Serbian artists in UK

Maya Jordan in conversation with Serbian artists will host an evening of music, poetry and fun. Listeners are invited to join in and the best British Serb outfit will be voted at the end of a programme.

To register for this ZOOM event please email: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk.

Tuesday 2nd March, 7.30pm

Round Table ZOOM Meeting

Organisations and individuals are invited to join RT meeting to discuss issues of interest and importance to the Serbian community and to agree ways forward.

The aim of the Round Table is to encourage cooperation and collaboration between Serbian community groups and organisations from across the UK and Northern Ireland (UK&NI) for the benefit of the Serbian community in UK&NI.

In order to join the meeting please confirm your attendance by email to: rtsteeringgroup@gmail.com

The London Clinic

STELLA IVAZ

CONSULTANT UROLOGIST

APPOINTMENTS TEAM:

0203 797 6252

APPOINTMENTS@THELONDONCLINIC.CO.UK

ADMIN TEAM:

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