

2023

Serbian Month

in Great Britain

British Serbs *part three*

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

Credit Darko Savić



- FULHAM KITCHEN -

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Serbian Month in Great Britain Catalogue

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on behalf of the Round Table of Serbian community organisations in Britain.

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The Serbian Month Catalogue

The Serbian Month Catalogue was first produced in 2018 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Serbian Month in Great Britain. It featured the programme, a summary of Serbian community organisations active in Britain and short biographies of prominent Serbian artists, academics and sports men and women. It was such a success that it was decided it should be a regular feature of Serbian Month.

In 2021, the Round Table agreed that the Serbian Month Catalogue should be expanded and have themes that would be of interest to the Serbian community and the wider British public. In both 2021 and 2022 the theme was 'British Serbs', with a focus on Serbian communities in Britain and Ireland, their histories and how they have developed over the years together with articles by young people about growing up in Britain with a Serbian heritage. In 2022 there were new sections which showed the relationship between Serbia and Britain over the years and gave examples of prominent Serbs who lived or studied in Britain and British people who helped Serbia and the Serbian community in Britain.

This year we are building on the themes of last year's catalogue, but with some interesting new sections which include: what it is like to be married to a Serb, to be a Srpski zet; what it is like to grow up in Ireland with a Serbian heritage; and what it was like to grow up with a Serbian heritage in Britain in the 60s and 70s.

However, we have an exciting new theme Serbian Food and Customs, with articles written by experts in the area. Knowing how important food and customs are to Serbs, especially those in the Diaspora, we know that this will be of interest to British and Irish Serbs and to the wider British public. It has the added advantage that you can explore the theme by going to Serbian restaurants or buying Serbian food and drink from food suppliers, some of whom feature in this catalogue. We hope you enjoy reading the catalogue, exploring the themes and attending Serbian Month events.

We could not have done this on our own and would like to thank those who have contributed so generously to the catalogue. They are Nicholas Allan, Ivana Bajić-Hajduković, Professor Dejan Djokić, Ada Džamić, Lazar Džamić, Nick Ilić, Oliver Jordan, Rob Joslin, Mirjana Jovanović-Lazić, Nataša Kočiš, The Very Reverend Milun Kostić, Jason MacCarthaigh, Tahir Mahmutefendić, Dr David Norris, Zoran Novaković, Professor Slobodan Markovich, Vesna Petković, Dr Nebojša Radić, Olivera Ristanović-Santrač, Jelena Stanojlović and Dejan Zagorac.

Serbian Month

Now in its fifteenth 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 artists from Serbia and 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, sponsors and advertisers, and all the Serbian organisations and individuals who have contributed to this catalogue and the success of Serbian Month in Great Britain.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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THE DIASPORA AND SERBS IN THE REGION

Events will be available for viewing on the
YouTube channel: **Serbian Month**

More programme details www.serbiancouncil.org.uk

Serbian Customs and Food



Feasting, fasting and remembering: Celebrations of Christmas, Easter and family patron saint days among Serbs

By Dr Ivana Bajić-Hajduković / Anthropologist and author

Food was a serious business in our family while I was growing up. Like many other women in socialist Yugoslavia, my mother worked double shifts. A full day's office work continued with a second shift at home. Food shopping, batch cooking and planning family meals for the second half of the week when we reached the bottom of a seemingly endless bean soup she cooked on Sunday. Would it be cabbage or pea soup on Thursday? My heart would sink at the thought of another week of cabbage. Not again, please, mum, could we have something different? Preferably something that wasn't a soup? Of course, but mum had a ready spiel about the health benefits of a meal eaten with a spoon over anything eaten with a fork or, God forbid – with fingers, like fast food!

Similar to the traditional British Sunday roast, Sunday meals offered a respite from weekday dinners. We seldom had a chance to share a family meal during weekdays. Both parents worked full-time, and my sisters and I had different schedules during the week, which made family meals impossible on most days. However, Sunday was a day when we got to eat together as a family. A typical Sunday meal included an inevitable chicken soup, a filo pastry cheese pie, meat and potatoes and a homemade cake. The Sunday lunch ('nedeljni ručak') involved hours of cooking, all exclusively done by my mother. The kitchen was small and could not fit more than one person. But even if it could, I doubt my mother would allow anyone into her kingdom. Behind each dish stood mum's careful planning around each family member and our preferences. It was a way of showing her love and affection to family members.

Years later, during my PhD research study about the impact of the 1990s emigration from Serbia on family relationships, food turned out to be one of the most important means of keeping families alive for Belgrade mothers. From passing on their recipes to sending food from home and cooking feasts for migrant children and grandchildren, food was the most important communication channel for mothers and grandmothers in Serbia. Food carried more significance than other communication channel such as phone calls and Skype. Food is socially and culturally constructed by various traditions – national, religious and family, among others. Through the process of consumption, food becomes the most intimate expression of tradition that passes through our bodies. We incorporate these interconnected traditions by deciding what we will eat or not. From a young age, we discover that we can control what we want to eat. Therefore, food is a battleground between our personal preferences and free will on the one side and culture and other traditions that shape how and what we eat.

During early childhood, our food choices are shaped by what our parents and carers feed us and our preference for specific tastes. In other words, we are mainly growing up not questioning the ethnic background of our food. When we start to share our food traditions with others, we discover that only some people eat the same as us. Often these discoveries are positive and lead to creating bridges between cultures. However, these occur more often in adults than in young children, who tend to be more conservative in their food preferences.

As we go through life from childhood into adulthood, we discover the power relation to food. Refusing to eat can be a way of exerting control over one's body. As soon as a baby starts to eat solids, it discovers that if it does not like something, it can be hard to force it to eat. Likewise, not eating some foods or refusing to eat entirely effectively sends a message about a particular cause. Food gives us power – whether through consumption or production. The power that food production bestows on the cook is most notable among family matriarchs. Our grandmothers, mothers and aunts who cook for their families often decide what they consider is best for everyone. Reading a beautiful story by Milka Sholaya in last year's Serbian Month Catalogue brought tears to my eyes. It reminded me of my family's matriarchs and their unwillingness to accept that not everyone can or will eat everything they would cook. These remarkable women created and exerted power through their cooking. Planning family meals and cooking was a way of connecting with family members and showing them love. It was also a way of establishing a place in society.

While flicking through my mother's recipe book, I noticed that other women created at least half of the recipes she'd written. I recognised some of the authors' names, like those of my grandmothers, aunts and neighbours. Many more belonged to my mother's friends and work colleagues. These women shared foods, talked about cooking and exchanged recipes with one another. They built a reputation in their social circles by doing so. Reading my mother's recipes tells stories about the women behind them. For example, in my paternal grandma's recipe for a hand-made filo pastry pie, my mother added tips on what to do in case of a filo sheet breaking while it's being stretched. The advice was a consolation for a novice cook as much as admiration for a master baker like her mother-in-law. In other words, these recipes told stories about the women who created them. I learned who they were, why they were the authority for a particular recipe, who they baked or cooked for, where they or their recipe came from and so forth. Admittedly, I have spent more time reading the recipes than making the actual dishes.

These recipes are a testament to a time gone by, to the dedication and skill of the women who created them, seasoned with a copious amount of admiration and a tiny hint of envy. Exchanging recipes for women of my late mother's generation was much more than just thinking about food. It was a way of remembering one another and the women who mattered to them – their mothers, mothers-in-law, aunts, neighbours and colleagues from work. These handwritten recipe books were storytelling expressed through food – from how to prepare a feast with abundant ingredients to comforting recipes for illness, as well as pauper and wartime recipes; because one never knows what the wheel of time will deliver. Wise women who shared their recipes have seen it all, either first-hand or vicariously, through their ancestors. They have mastered surviving, thriving and celebrating. So how and why did they celebrate our culture's three most important festivals?





Celebrating Christmas while growing up in Belgrade in the eighties and nineties was quite different from my experience of Christmas in the diaspora. Presents, if there were any, were more symbolic than anything else. The emphasis was on rituals surrounding Christmas and traditions passed down from grandparents. While there was some overlap in Christmas traditions between my paternal grandparents hailing from the urban part of Serbia, and my maternal grandparents, who emigrated from Herzegovina to Serbia via Macedonia more than a hundred years ago, the differences in their traditions were quite prominent. While the grandparents were alive, their home was the centre of family gatherings for Christmas. Following my grandfather's death, my eldest uncle took over this role for a while, emulating the power dynamic of an extended family known as 'zadružna porodica'. It took a few more years for my parents to 'secede' from these extended family celebrations and start celebrating in their own home.

The celebrations in the lead-up to Christmas are not only a connection to the culture of our ancestors for members of the diaspora, but they also provide a different perspective on Christmas celebrations. Instead of celebrating only one day, the celebrations start several weeks before with a ritual called 'Detinjci'. As in any exchange ritual, its aim is reinforcing the balance in a relationship and affirming every family member's place and significance within the family. Moreover, while the elders often represent authority, these rituals remind them and everyone else about the life cycle and constant change. Once upon a time, the elders, too, were children. They had a chance to tie their elders' legs and ask for compensation to untie them, just like their descendants are now doing the same with them.

One of my earliest childhood memories was a sense of surprise when my mother tied my legs on the day of 'Detinjci', three weeks before Christmas. To untie my legs, I had to gift her something. The discovery that children had to give a gift to their parents was a surprise and a beautiful start to Christmas preparations. The following Sunday, it was the children's turn to tie their mother's (or grandmother's) legs, marking the festival called 'Materice'. Mothers, grannies or aunts prepared gifts or cakes for the children so that they would untie their legs. Finally, on the last Sunday before Christmas, a ritual called 'Očevi' was repeated with fathers and grandfathers. These rituals strengthen the bonds between family members, particularly the older and younger generations. They aim to restore balance and prepare the family for the most peaceful time of the year, Christmas.

Religious rituals have merged with pagan traditions, bringing us today the so-called 'magic of Christmas'. Despite the retail industry telling us that they are creating this magic nowadays, the rituals around the Serbian Christmas celebration are inherently magical. While protestant churches banished many pagan rituals from religious festivals, Serbian Christmas rituals have preserved the structure of pre-Christian magical elements. Furthermore, the Serbian Orthodox church was not always within reach of all the Serbs who lived divided across different empires for hundreds of years. These circumstances contributed to the strengthening of family traditions in religious celebrations. Historically, families became the guardians of Serbian Orthodox traditions.

During a forty-day lent that precedes Christmas, family members come to peace with one another. On the morning of Christmas Eve, a family elder would usually go out with the eldest son to cut a branch of an oak tree ('badnjak'). The family would then gather around a table for Christmas Eve, sharing a Lenten meal. Each dish for Christmas Eve dinner has a symbolic meaning – from fish to beans, nuts and dried fruits and red wine. Fish and red wine announce the birth of Jesus, beans symbolise prosperity, and walnuts and dried fruits stand for abundance and joy. Other rituals include throwing hay on the ground and rolling walnuts in four corners of the room. After dinner, the family would burn the 'badnjak' while chanting – 'may there be as much abundance as there are sparks'. All these rituals symbolically invoke prosperity, health and wellbeing for all family members for the year ahead.

The ceremonial burning of a dried-out oak resonates with a Celtic myth about a battle between the King Oak and the King Holly at the winter solstice. According to this myth, the Holly King presides over nature in darker months, and at midwinter, the Oak King is born again. The Oak King starts to regain power over nature as the light grows stronger from midwinter through to midsummer when it gives its crown back to the Holly King. These myths have survived in the folklore and mythology of the British Isles. However, they have disappeared from the Christmas rituals in British culture and have been replaced with other traditions.

In Serbian culture, Christmas brings a family together through rituals and food. Traditionally, a Christmas feast would start with a prayer. Then, family members would turn the bread called 'česnica' in a circle while saying 'Our Father'. Finally, they would finish the prayer by breaking up the festive bread. The lucky family member who finds a coin in their piece of 'česnica' is considered to be blessed with prosperity and luck that year. While there are regional differences between dishes served for the Christmas feast, the staples include a 'česnica', a roast, or some meat served with potatoes or other vegetables. Christmas Day is a celebration of the birth of Jesus by breaking up the forty days of fasting. Depending on the family chef, different sweet treats and cakes will feature in the Christmas feast, especially when children are around.

In the diaspora, the local context influences decisions about food prepared and eaten for Christmas and Easter. While ancestors in Serbia or elsewhere in the Yugoslav region might cook a whole roast piglet to celebrate these holidays, their diaspora descendants must adapt to the local context and use the ingredients and foods available. It may not always be the same taste as one remembers it in their mother or grandmother's home. Still, it never really is, whether in the diaspora or homeland. Memories of Christmas and Easter festivities are always edited versions of tastes remembered. The flavour of our mother or grandma's 'česnica' or roast becomes an elusive sensory memory we are trying to recreate. Instead, we find an echo of the experience that lingers like a hologram in the present moment. That remembered taste is never quite there when we try to evoke it, no matter how skilful a chef one may be.

Easter feast

Like Christmas, Easter is preceded by a forty-day lent. Unlike Christmas lent, though, Orthodox Easter lent is stricter. A more sombre atmosphere marks the lead-up to the Easter Sunday celebration. On Good Friday, Orthodox Serbs cook and colour eggs, mainly in red, that symbolise Christ's blood, with either natural or artificial colours. Traditionally eggs were cooked in the skins of brown onions that would give them a deep reddish brown colour. Some will dye the eggs in different colours or wrap leaves or flowers around the eggs and then soak them in brown onion skins to create beautiful eggshell patterns. Creativity knows no bounds when it comes to Easter egg decorations.

Good Friday is a day of strict fasting, and together with Easter, Saturday represents the end of mourning for Christ. Chocolate eggs and bunnies, a part of modern-day Britain's Easter tradition, are not part of Serbian Orthodox Easter celebrations. However, as with any religious festival in the diaspora, there is always some amalgamation of traditions. Therefore, children of the Serbian diaspora growing up in Britain will most likely experience a mix of traditions.

Easter Sunday is the first non-fasting day following a period of forty days. The Easter feast includes eggs, dairy products and meat, celebrating Christ's resurrection. The dishes cooked for the Easter Sunday feast will differ based on the region and family traditions, but hard-boiled coloured eggs are a staple. There are different traditions regarding the egg that is kept until next Easter, the so-called 'čuvarkuća'. Some consider the first egg that is boiled and coloured to be reserved aside as 'čuvarkuća'. According to other traditions, 'čuvarkuća' is the egg that survives all the cracking between family members – the unbeatable egg. Family members gather around the festive Easter table for a prayer followed by a competition to find the next 'čuvarkuća'. Each family member turns to the person sitting next to them and cracks the egg's top against another's. The egg that has remained unbroken on both top and bottom is the winner. The winning egg becomes a guardian of the family and home for the next year – 'čuvarkuća'. The egg is kept in a particular place within the house until next Easter.

Family patron saint day ('Slava')

Orthodox Serbs' third most important celebration is a family patron saint day – 'slava'. Unlike Christmas and Easter, 'slava' is passed down the patrilineal side from father to son. Once married, a woman would switch to celebrating her husband's family patron saint. If there were several sons in the family, traditionally, only the eldest son inherited the right to celebrate 'slava' from his father.

Unlike Christmas and Easter celebrations, which aim to bring together the existing family members, 'slava' connects family along ancestral lines. When celebrating 'slava', one commemorates the patron saint but also pays respects to the ancestors. By celebrating 'slava', a family remembers ancestors who passed them the patron saint tradition. Some patron saints are more prominent in certain areas, anchoring family lineage to a particular locality. No matter where one lived, they and their family would remember and pay respects to their ancestral land by celebrating their patron saint. For example, my maternal grandparents celebrated St George's, a typical patron saint day among Herzegovinian Serbs. Although the grandparents had lived most of their lives in Serbia and Macedonia, they never forgot Herzegovina, no matter where they lived. The family patron saint celebration anchored them in their ancestral land and lineage during their lifetime of migrations.

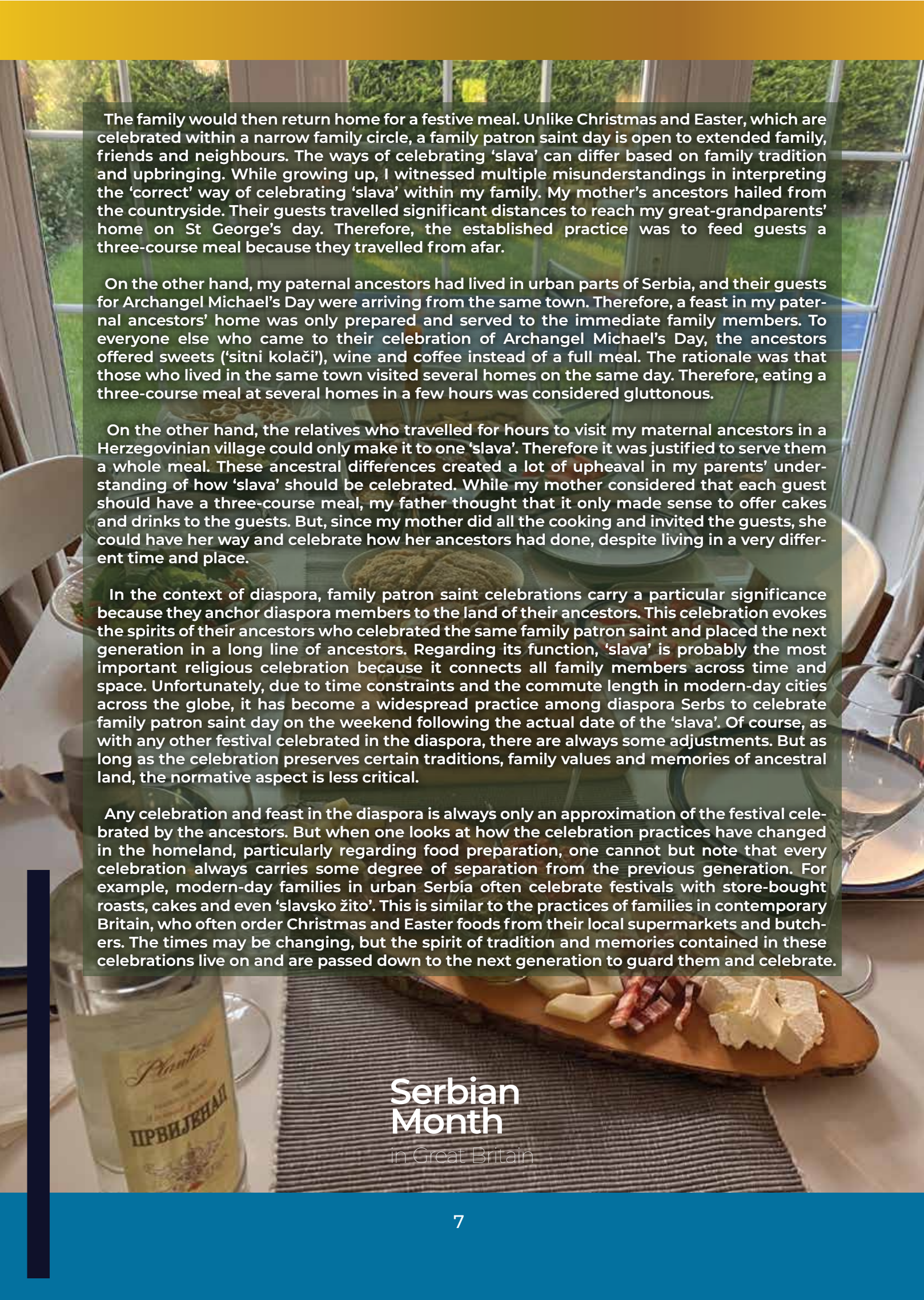
The connection with ancestors is also strengthened through a selection of food prepared for the 'slava' feast. The staple items for 'slava' are a votive candle called 'slavska sveća', cooked wheat called 'slavsko žito', and a special bread called 'slavski kolač'. The last item's name can be misleading because it translates literally as cake. Still, this type of bread can be prepared as sweet or savoury, depending on each family's tradition and practice. On the morning of the patron saint's day, traditionally, a father of the family attends a service and brings along a cake to the church to be blessed. The priest would bless the 'slavski kolač' by cutting a cross on the bottom of the cake and sprinkling it with red wine.



Credit Nenad Obradović



Credit Nenad Obradović



The family would then return home for a festive meal. Unlike Christmas and Easter, which are celebrated within a narrow family circle, a family patron saint day is open to extended family, friends and neighbours. The ways of celebrating 'slava' can differ based on family tradition and upbringing. While growing up, I witnessed multiple misunderstandings in interpreting the 'correct' way of celebrating 'slava' within my family. My mother's ancestors hailed from the countryside. Their guests travelled significant distances to reach my great-grandparents' home on St George's day. Therefore, the established practice was to feed guests a three-course meal because they travelled from afar.

On the other hand, my paternal ancestors had lived in urban parts of Serbia, and their guests for Archangel Michael's Day were arriving from the same town. Therefore, a feast in my paternal ancestors' home was only prepared and served to the immediate family members. To everyone else who came to their celebration of Archangel Michael's Day, the ancestors offered sweets ('sitni kolači'), wine and coffee instead of a full meal. The rationale was that those who lived in the same town visited several homes on the same day. Therefore, eating a three-course meal at several homes in a few hours was considered gluttonous.

On the other hand, the relatives who travelled for hours to visit my maternal ancestors in a Herzegovinian village could only make it to one 'slava'. Therefore it was justified to serve them a whole meal. These ancestral differences created a lot of upheaval in my parents' understanding of how 'slava' should be celebrated. While my mother considered that each guest should have a three-course meal, my father thought that it only made sense to offer cakes and drinks to the guests. But, since my mother did all the cooking and invited the guests, she could have her way and celebrate how her ancestors had done, despite living in a very different time and place.

In the context of diaspora, family patron saint celebrations carry a particular significance because they anchor diaspora members to the land of their ancestors. This celebration evokes the spirits of their ancestors who celebrated the same family patron saint and placed the next generation in a long line of ancestors. Regarding its function, 'slava' is probably the most important religious celebration because it connects all family members across time and space. Unfortunately, due to time constraints and the commute length in modern-day cities across the globe, it has become a widespread practice among diaspora Serbs to celebrate family patron saint day on the weekend following the actual date of the 'slava'. Of course, as with any other festival celebrated in the diaspora, there are always some adjustments. But as long as the celebration preserves certain traditions, family values and memories of ancestral land, the normative aspect is less critical.

Any celebration and feast in the diaspora is always only an approximation of the festival celebrated by the ancestors. But when one looks at how the celebration practices have changed in the homeland, particularly regarding food preparation, one cannot but note that every celebration always carries some degree of separation from the previous generation. For example, modern-day families in urban Serbia often celebrate festivals with store-bought roasts, cakes and even 'slavsko žito'. This is similar to the practices of families in contemporary Britain, who often order Christmas and Easter foods from their local supermarkets and butchers. The times may be changing, but the spirit of tradition and memories contained in these celebrations live on and are passed down to the next generation to guard them and celebrate.

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Family recipes in the diaspora

In the context of diaspora, homeland cooking or recipes from ancestral lands take on an entirely different meaning. The first generation may lovingly embrace these recipes, or at least some of them, and recreate them on special or less special occasions to reconnect with our heritage, lineage and ancestors. When the generation before us has passed away, we become the generation passing on the memory to our children and their children. The task of sowing the seeds of remembering the homeland's tastes and smells rests heavily on the shoulders of first-generation migrants. The subsequent generations may or may not feel these recipes so close to their heart for various reasons. Perhaps they never learned how to cook, do not have someone to ask, or cannot read their mothers' or grandmothers' handwritten cookbooks in Serbian.

On the other hand, we live in the era of social media, where one can find inspiration and instructions for everything and anything on the Internet. There is no excuse for any generation not to make whatever dish or recipe they hold dear to their heart. But the clue is in words 'recipe they hold dear to their heart'. Someone needs to introduce the second or third-generation migrants to homeland and family cooking tastes. Once they have tasted and liked the dish, it will be easy to find a recipe online.

Linguists argue that in homeland language acquisition, the emphasis should be on functional rather than normative grammar. For example, a diaspora student of their homeland language does not need to know the names of cases as they would learn at a school in Serbia but rather be able to use the cases correctly. Likewise, homeland cooking in the diaspora is a dance between constant adaptations to the circumstances and reality of having a hyphenated identity. Any attempt to recreate homeland recipes is always an adaptation. Yes, there are apparent differences in soil and climate that determine variations in food taste. But the act of recreating the homeland's traditions, customs and recipes bring the diaspora closer to their ancestors and their land. Choosing to eat the identical (or similar enough) dishes as the rest of a group differentiates this group from another. It brings its members closer together, reinforcing their shared identity. By eating together, we affirm the boundaries of our group – national, ethnic or religious. And that is why eating together at festivals becomes so crucial in the context of diaspora. Through this process, we not only celebrate a particular festival, but more than that, we remind ourselves of our identity and affirm that we belong to a community that spans generations before us.



Gastronomic Journey through Serbia

By Dejan Zagorac

Translated by Olivera Ristanović-Santrač

The gastronomic culture of a country is an inseparable part of its intangible cultural heritage, just like its language, customs and legends. Preserving the gastronomic heritage presents an important task for any society and country. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to fully establish a national identity today, without the gastronomic customs and recipes sufficiently researched and recorded. It would also be impossible without the effort and determination of the people and their communities, local authorities, tourism organisations and agencies, and last but not the least, without the restaurants and kafanas (local taverns serving drinks, food and often featuring live music) that prepare traditional meals (provided, of course, they find it economically viable and are adequately supported). Our gastronomic heritage can help boost our tourism industry and other branches of the economy of our country, while at the same time enriching the cultural heritage both of Europe and the world.

Serbia's gastronomic heritage is very rich. According to tourist guides and travel books, one of the main reasons why tourists love to visit our country is 'its unique and lavish gastronomic offering'. Nevertheless, there are numerous culinary experts and chefs who deny the existence of an authentic Serbian cuisine, claiming that it is actually a mixture of oriental, Austro-Hungarian, German, Greek and other Balkan and European cuisines. Of course, the cuisine of the Serbs and the other peoples living in Serbia is definitely a product of various influences. Our cuisine is not world-renowned like Italian, French, Chinese and Indian cuisines. However, it is this culinary diversity within a relatively small area, enriched by the specific characteristics and customs, native animal species and plant varieties, combined with the firm commitment and determination in preserving the old recipes, particularly in certain parts of Serbia, that make our cuisine so unique and original.

Our hospitality and the pride we take in preparing food for guests (often excessive amounts of food – particularly when it comes to meat), our kafanas with their cordial and relaxed atmosphere, our wines, brandies, accompanied by our famous toasts, the tradition of getting together to prepare fish stews and barbecues, all make up a very recognisable medley that visitors enjoy so much, especially if they come from abroad.

Rephrasing a well-known proverb, one might say that 'he who eats well, means well' and just as we do when we sit down at a table laid with an appetising meal, we should approach this article in good spirits and with an open heart.



Café & Restaurant

KOD PIRKETA

47 High Street,
Acton, London, W3 6ND
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A popular Café & Restaurant, KOD Pirketa is well-known for its authentic interior decorated in the traditional style of the town of Pirot and south-eastern Serbia, with its earthenware dishes, rugs and pottery. Diners can enjoy amazingly delicious Balkan food and plum brandy served in generous portions to the background of Serbian folk music.

It is famous for its great service and friendly staff.

Open every day from noon to 11pm the restaurant offers a wide range of traditional Balkan specialities from grilled and cooked meals to desserts and selection of Balkan beers and brandy at very affordable prices.

Service options: Dine-in · Kerbside pickup · Delivery

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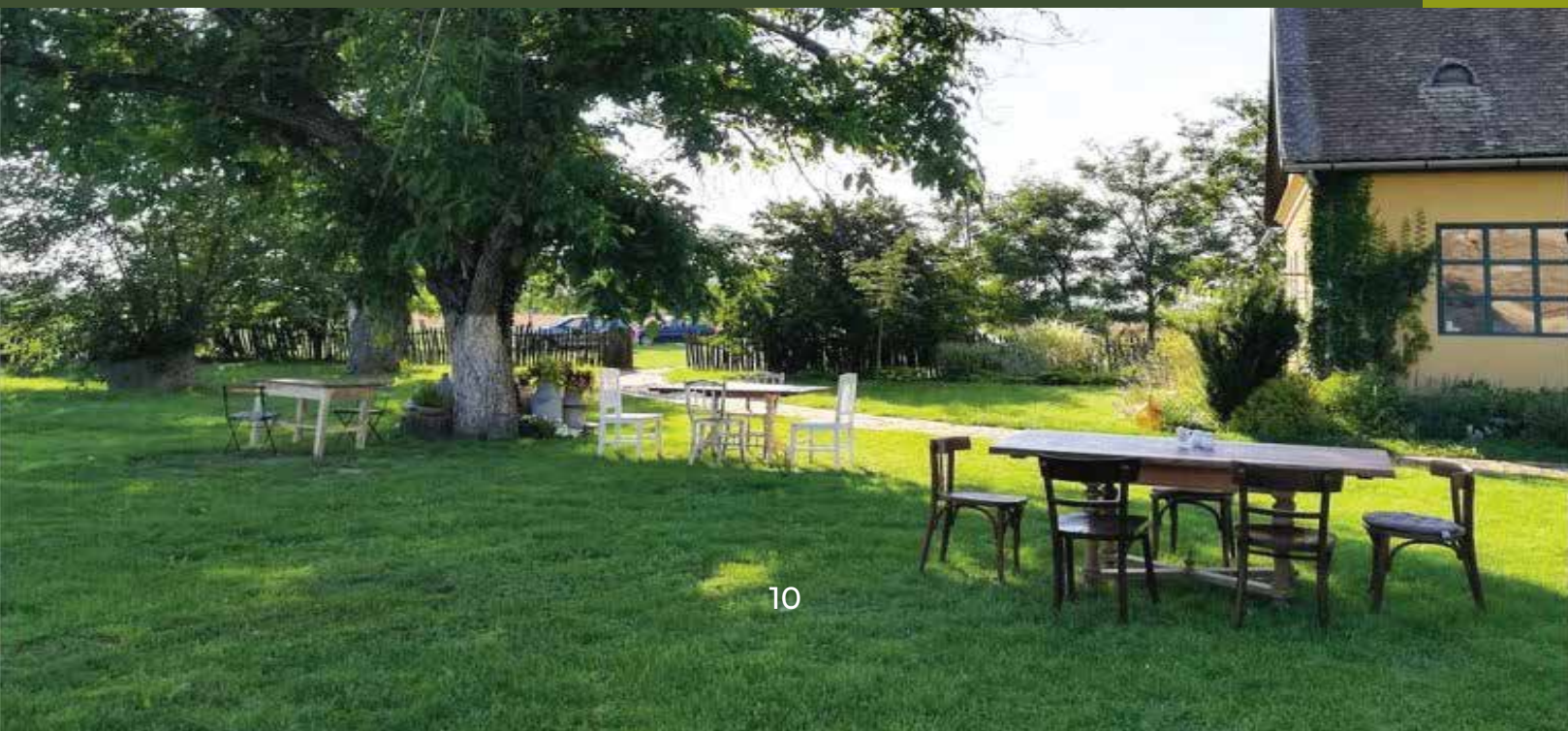



Vojvodina



This gastronomic journey through Serbia starts in Vojvodina, more precisely in an area called Bačka. When it comes to the cuisine of this northernmost and flattest part of Serbia, one can't help but remember two well-known songs – one by Balašević (a famous Serbian singer-songwriter) 'Oh, how well we ate back then' (*Al' se nekad dobro jelo*) and a popular song 'There's a logical structure to every dinner in Bačka' (*Bački ručak običan ima red logičan*). This illustrates how important food is to the people from Bačka, and the fact these songs are so popular goes to show how other parts of Serbia are fascinated by the gastronomic habits and amounts of food that people from Bačka can consume. Bačka is located in the middle of the Pannonian Basin, on the fertile land where 'if you plant a button, a coat will grow' (as the saying goes). The people from Bačka were famously rumoured that during World War II they had a really hard time because they had to eat ham and bacon on its own, without any bread. The nature and landscape of this area may seem monotonous only to an untrained eye; the soil is fertile, offering bountiful yield. There are hardly any forests in this area (except for some along the Danube), but there are loess deposits, black soil rich in humus and the Subotica Sandlands ideal for the production of wine. You can find unspoiled nature reserves such as the Upper Danube Valley near Apatin, and of course, rivers like the Danube and the Tisa, among others.

Nevertheless, these favourable conditions would be nothing without hard work, good organisation and love of the land – all things that the people of Bačka abound in! That's why it only feels right they should eat well, enjoy every morsel and drink good wine and brandy, at leisure, without hurrying. Many different peoples live in Bačka – Serbs are the most numerous, then come the Hungarians, Slovaks, Croatians, Bunjevci, Rusyns, Germans and many others who were moved there (an area that was once wetland) in an organised manner by the former monarchy and socialist Yugoslavia. Today, many people from the less developed parts of Serbia come to Bačka, and they all grow to love this plain and its cuisine, they become good neighbours who exchange recipes and 'steal' from each other the cooking skills they witness at special occasions, such as Christmas or Easter holidays, patron saints' or name-day celebrations. But, as described in the two songs previously mentioned, there is a particular order in which meals are served – soup, cooked meat with vegetables and sauce, stewed or roasted meat with stewed vegetables, floating islands and strudel, all delicious, sumptuous and filling! The reason why meals here are so ample is to provide the people with enough strength for all the manual work required in the fields. Fertile soil and factory floors mean nothing without manpower. And life is so much more pleasant and joyous with wines from Palić and Temerin; kulen sausages and cheese from Sombor; sausages from Turija and broth and shepherd's stew from Alas; along with poppy seed rolls or pumpkin pies made from a specific type of pumpkin called 'Bugarka' grown in the fields around Odžaci.





Banat, one of the 'three heroes' hearts' of Vojvodina, is located in the north-east of Serbia. Geographically, the biggest portion belongs to Romania and a smaller portion to Hungary. At the time of Austro-Hungarian Empire, it stretched from Vršac to Timisoara, from Pančevo to Ujszeged, and from Novi Bečej to Novi Arad. There were no borders and no need for passports. Even today, in the Serbian part of Banat (as well as in the Hungarian and Romanian parts), many Habsburg influences still remain, and can be traced in the architecture of towns and villages, in the multi-ethnicity of the population, but most of all in the food. Most of the specialties or gastronomic terms in Banat bear the names that are actually Serbian transcriptions of German or Hungarian names – 'schupfnudeln', 'pörkölt', 'rindfleisch', 'knödel', strudels and 'frühstück'.

The basis of all food in Banat is the 'holy dyad' – pastry and meat. Banat was never the 'region's engine of industrial progress' (apart perhaps during the times of socialism), but hard-working farmers have always managed to get the most out of the natural features and weather conditions that surround them. Fertile soil in Banat worked in their favour, but was also the result of organised and painstaking work that lasted years. Originally it was marshy and sandy terrain like the Deliblato Sands, which is now a protected nature reserve. It's the same nowadays, people from Banat (the men are called 'Lala' and women 'Sosa') continue working diligently, while waiting for the better times, in line with the old belief 'slowly but surely'. And while they wait, they don't worry too much thanks to their gentle nature. They eat a substantial breakfast, ample lunch and a supper that is not light either. The different peoples have adopted each other's dishes, so Serbs eat pörkölt, Hungarians eat mamaljiga (a type of polenta from the east of Serbia) and Romanians drink plum brandy. There are also Slovak, Czech, Macedonian, Bulgarian specialties, as well as the specialties introduced by the Serbs who came from Dalmatia, Lika, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Montenegro and by the other peoples who live here. This combination creates an exquisite cuisine, which is perfectly complemented by the excellent wines from the vineyards of Vršac or the semi-sweet Black Stallion ('Ždrepčeva krv') that goes so well with quince jelly ('kitnikez') or noodles with poppy seeds. Although they have lived through some hard times, the people from Banat still manage to maintain their quiet way of life and preserve a diverse yet unique culture, which is probably best expressed through their splendid gastronomy.

Srem, the smallest of the 'three heroes' hearts', with its unique position, rich cultural-historical heritage and natural phenomena, represents not only one of the most beautiful parts of Vojvodina but Serbia as well. Tucked in between the Sava and the Danube, with numerous ponds and swamps – home to some rare and protected birds – Srem borders the forests and gentle hills of Fruška Gora covered in deciduous trees and vineyards: proof that it was perfectly created for enjoying life. Of course, enjoying life would be unimaginable without the lavishly set dining tables, good wine and tamburitza players singing, with their hoarse voices, the unofficial Bohemian anthem of this part of Vojvodina 'Beautiful Srem' (Divan je kićeni Srem).

Srem is usually divided into two parts – one known for its pork and the other for its wine, and the 'border' between the two is the motorway that connects Belgrade with Europe. To the south are fertile lands: pastures where (as in Zasavica) one might find a breed of pigs called Mangalitsa with its curly coat of hair and meat that is believed to have good cholesterol; Balkan sheep and donkey, in whose milk Cleopatra was believed to have bathed to enhance her beauty. The most famous specialties of southern Srem are sausages, kulen and other pork products, but also a cheese specific to Srem, similar to cottage cheese and excellent for noodles and sweet strudel. Here cheese was used for desserts long before tiramisu and cheesecake came into fashion. The part of Srem north of the motorway is famed for its vineyards and excellent wines, both red and white, light and full-bodied, young and oak-aged, drunk on its own or in spritzers, Italian Riesling and Chardonnay, dry and sweet. Of course, Bermet wine takes precedence. It is believed to have been served on the Titanic and to the Archduchess Maria Theresa. Needless to say, there's good and ample food in this part of Srem as well – from noodles, roasts and stews to dumplings and bundt cakes. Although the food and way of life in Srem have been influenced by former Austro-Hungary, it is the Balkan cuisine that has the strongest influence as a result of its proximity and migrations from the south. In the last decade of the 20th century, many people from the former Yugoslav republics moved to Srem, thus enriching the already diverse and versatile ethnic and cultural make-up of this region.

The division of Srem into its wine and pork parts is not the only one. There are the newcomers vs native people, people from the mountains vs people from the plains, farmers vs townsfolk, brandy drinkers vs tamburitza players, people preferring bacon vs people preferring cakes. But they all form one beautiful mosaic. This is something you can appreciate when going west, as you reach the first Belgrade suburbs, or on the slopes of Fruška Gora or in the hunting grounds thick with hundred-year-old oak forests by the river Bosut.

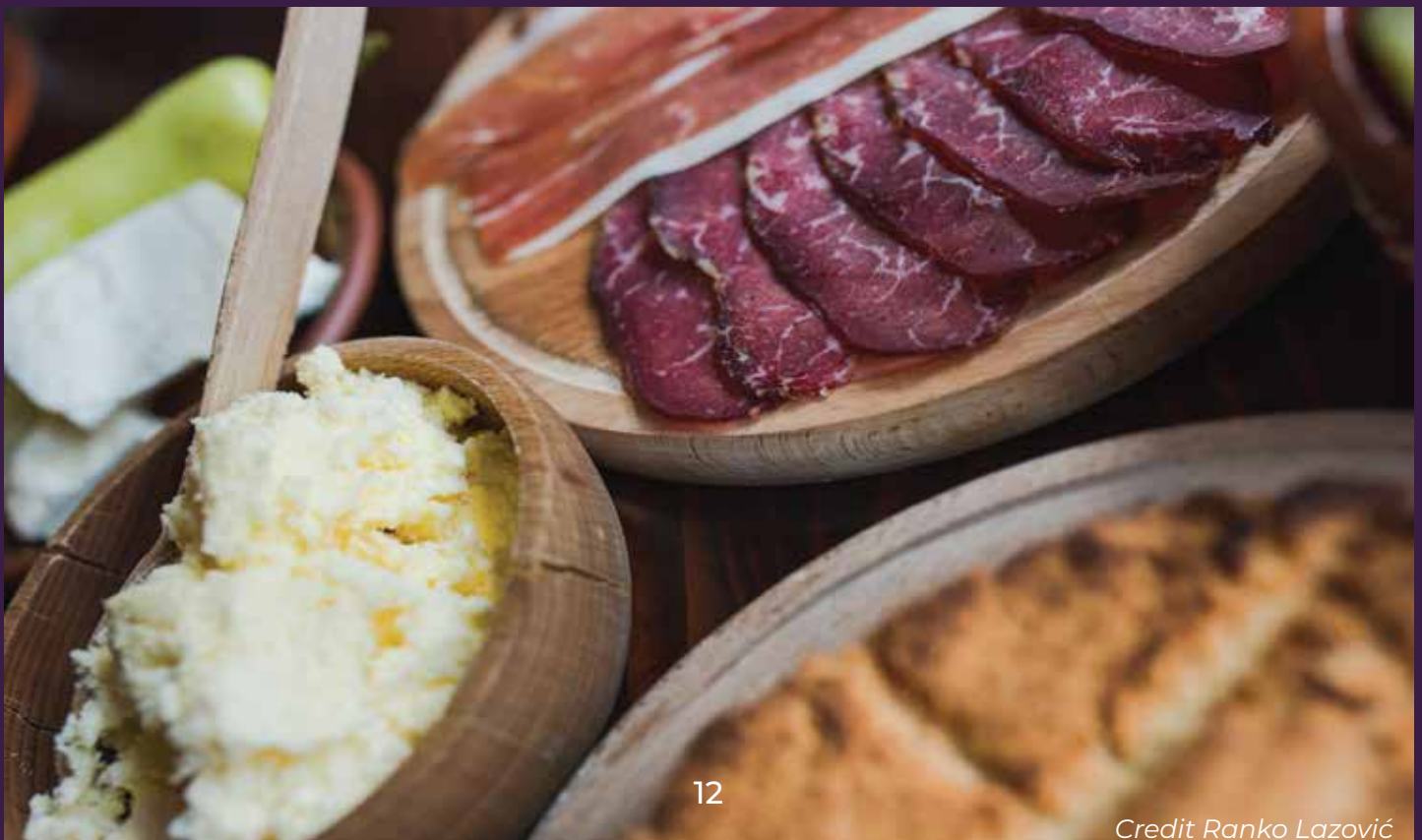
Šumadija and Western Serbia

Šumadija has always been considered the very heart of Serbia from an administrative, cultural and geographical sense. In the past it often provided a refuge for the many Serbians who lived further from Serbia's geographical centre; being so centrally positioned it was less susceptible to external influences. Therefore, you could say that the cuisine of Šumadija is the most authentically Serbian. After the unfortunate 1990s, Western Serbia also remained at the centre of the ethnic Serbian corpus, because it was predominantly Serbs who lived on either side of the border. The greatest ethnic diversity can be found in Sandžak or the Raška District, where the oriental influence on food is considerable (although oriental influences are also strong elsewhere in Serbia). Another distinct feature is that in these districts, where the population is predominantly Bosniak, pork products are not consumed for religious reasons. However, when people from the rest of Serbia try the delicious kebabs and meat pies from Novi Pazar, smoked lamb meat ('stelja') and spicy beef salami ('sudžuk'), they are unlikely to miss pork. So, we can see that in Šumadija and Western Serbia, there are not many external influences or a large ethnic diversity to shape the cuisine as in the other parts of Serbia. In Stari Vlah, which geographically extends along Western Serbia, the population had several centuries ago predominantly come from Herzegovina, Bosnia and Montenegro, i.e. from the mountainous regions. This is why their eating habits are much more those of 'cattle herders' than 'vegetable growers' and why milk and dairy products have an almost cult status. They are eaten with everything except the cakes, of course. Renowned are the cheese and kaymak from Kraljevo, the cheese from Sjenica, Zlatar and Zlatibor, and the prosciutto and air-cured loin typical of the Užice and Zlatibor area. These two foods go so well together and are usually offered as a starter to guests, along with the famous plum brandy, mulled in winter, and juniper brandy in the Drina river region. Its presumed medicinal properties ease one's conscience for consuming it! Over the last ten years, an increasingly popular brandy is made from another typically Serbian produce – raspberries.

The type of food served here is determined by geographic location, weather and soil conditions, rather than by ethnical or cultural features. In the Morava Valley meals are made from vegetables and offal. In the mountainous regions, predominantly Golija, Zlatibor, Zlatar and the surrounding mountains, where buckwheat and corn are cultivated, buckwheat pies and corn bread are very popular. It's up to you to decide where the best buckwheat pies are made – in Ivanjica, the Golija villages above Raška, in Nova Varoš, in the magnificent Kamena Gora or in Brodarevo next to the river Lim.

Mačva, Pocerina, Tamnava, Rađevina and Jadar have excellent fruit, most of all raspberries, and more recently, blackberries. Along the Drina and other rivers in this part of Serbia fish is consumed in large quantities.

Although not so varied, the food and drink of this part of Serbia has been the most publicised, particularly in the area of Zlatibor, Kraljevo and Kolubara. Numerous citizens' – predominantly women's – associations organise gatherings and initiate creative projects in which gastronomy features an important part.



Eastern Serbia

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

Bordering the Danube in the north, Romania and Bulgaria in the east, the Homolje Mountains in the west, and Knjaževac and its surrounding area in the south, Eastern Serbia is the part of our country often associated with the mysterious and fantastic folk traditions and customs. Here, Serbs and Vlachs live together harmoniously, and their gastronomic tradition is the result of these two cultures and elements of their spiritual traditions intertwining. Just as the numerous folk customs and beliefs in this area attract the interest of ethnologists and sociologists, so does its unique cuisine draw the attention of gastronomes, gourmands and all those who love the tradition, aromas and flavours of olden times. The food is simple and healthy, with more emphasis on grains and vegetables than on meat. Initially the consequence of poverty, it eventually became the preferred and recommended diet. Although Serbs and Vlachs prepare their food somewhat differently, there is a bigger difference in the way food is prepared in urban and rural areas. Unfortunately, city habits are spreading to rural areas as well. There's hardly anybody still boiling milk on a hot stone, keeping fruit and root vegetables in semi-dry sand in a cellar, dried meat in fat and eggs for winter in sacks filled with beans and wheat, placed in a cold cellar. Along with the disappearance of games that the shepherds played, so too have cornelian cherries, sorb, medlar, blackthorn berries, wild cabbage, sorrel and orache spinach. Bread has an almost cult status here. Back in the day, it was mostly made with rye flour, but now it's usually made with corn and wheat flour, with the addition of nettle, wild herbs and grains. Corn is also used abundantly, mostly for polenta (the Vlachs call it 'mamaljiga') which is served for breakfast, along with good-quality mature sheep or goat's cheese, or as a side with the meat or vegetable dishes. Understandably, in the area close to the Danube, a lot of fish is eaten, mostly sheatfish and carp. In the past, caviar from Kladovo and specialties made of eel and sturgeon used to be very popular. These dishes stopped being served at the taverns in Vinac and Tekija when the Iron Gate I Hydroelectric Power Station ('Đerdap') was built. The region along the banks of the Danube is ideal for wine-making; wine cellars/bars are becoming increasingly important for our gastronomic and wine tourism.

In Eastern Serbia, even when someone dies, a meal is prepared for them. The custom of taking food to the cemetery, something which is discouraged in other parts of Serbia, if not altogether banned, still takes place as a sign of respect both for the deceased and for the food. The people in Eastern Serbia are well known for their hospitality. There's a saying – if a guest visits, welcome them, if they appear to be thirsty, give them something to drink, and if they appear to be hungry, give them something to eat. Therefore, facial expressions can be related to food – something to keep in mind when you decide to visit this beautiful part of Serbia.

Southern Serbia

In a geographic, cultural and gastronomic sense, Southern Serbia is an area with its own particularly distinguished identity, traditions and culture. Let's assume that Southern Serbia covers the area from Kruševac in the north to the Macedonian and Bulgarian borders in the east and south. As the joke goes, Southern Serbia begins where grammatical cases are only used selectively. This part of Serbia has some of the least developed areas, but that has nothing to do with the happiness of its people. In fact, the southerners' mentality and cuisine are anything but sorrowful and monotonous. The uniqueness and vividness of the language in Niš, Leskovac and particularly in Pirot, only add to the southern charm. The old saying that 'true pleasure has no price' still holds true here. In any kafana in Niš, Leskovac or Prokuplje, once the meal is over and the music starts, people put their hands in the air, jump to their feet and start dancing and having fun. Both at home and in a kafana, meals in the south are hearty. In winter, there are pickled vegetables, 'ajvar' (red pepper and aubergine relish), pressed, boiled and dried peppers filled with various ingredients. In spring, summer and autumn, there are delicious vegetables, several local varieties of peppers, such as the ones from Aleksinac, Leskovac or Bela Palanka. They are often fried with onions and pulpy, succulent tomatoes and eaten with cheese from Soko Banja, Svrlijig or Pirot – a meal called 'prženija'. Of course, southerners love their meat too, especially when ordering in the kafanas. When a vegetarian lady from Belgrade visiting a famous kafana near Niš asked the waiter if they had anything without meat, he replied – 'Sure, a plate!'

However, apart from their famous grill, or as they call it 'skara', everyday, traditional food in the south predominantly consists of vegetables. Another thing is that roasting meat is not so popular here. When a southerner orders meat, it's normally grilled pork loins, ground pork and/or beef kebabs ('ćevapi'), lamb burgers and beef tails, along with the typical salads (called 'šopska' and 'moravska'). Cooking meat under a hot iron pan for hours (popular in other parts of Serbia) has still not caught on in the south. The cuisine of Vranje in particular has very strong Turkish and oriental influences, which makes this food more in line with the modern Asian trends in restaurants. There are also influences from Bulgaria and Northern Macedonia, particularly regarding meal names. Where drinks are concerned, in the past there were some famous wine-growing regions in the south, such as Malča and Sićevo close to Niš, famous vineyards in Vlasotince, as well as in the area surrounding Vranje and Prokuplje. However, it will require a lot of effort before this part of Serbia is restored to its old wine glory and its old wine 'brands'.

The south is also famous for its people's hospitality, and for very reasonable prices and ample portions in restaurants and kafanas. Whether you are visiting someone in Kuršumlija or Babušnica or making a slight detour on your way to Greece in order to take a break in a restaurant along the motorway Vladičin Han – Surdulica, you will end up feeling very satisfied and full. A trip to this part of Serbia is rewarding not only emotionally, but also financially, even though the roads may be in a rather dilapidated condition and the pathways and streets unmarked.

Credit Nenad Stanković Sredar



Kosovo and Metohija

In Kosovo and Metohija food is both healthy and tasty. Typical meals consist of potatoes, beans (mashed beans called 'papula' and a bean casserole called 'tavče na gravče'), peppers, meat, dairy products, legume vegetables, rice (for pilau and lamb stews) and pastry (various types of pies called 'mantije', 'obaruše'). Food is usually baked in the oven rather than boiled or fried.

In this part of our country, food is quite often prepared in earthenware pots. It illustrates how age-old skills and gastronomy, crafts, a traditional way of life and pure enjoyment of food are all intertwined. Food prepared in earthenware pots proves the ability of our people to adapt to local geographic and weather conditions, as well as their desire to add flavour and joy to their monotonous and impoverished daily existence. Despite all the modern trends in life, including food, they wish to preserve the traditions, intangible heritage and age-old wisdom found in their cuisine.

In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, we've discovered plastic, insulated stainless steel, teflon and other modern and 'perfect' materials. However, it's only when we see beans baked in a hand-painted earthenware pot, or garlic-marinated peppers on a clay plate decorated with ethnic motifs, do we feel our ancient traditions and connection to our ancestors who used to make plates like these. They lived in harmony with the environment, adopted influences both from the West and the Orient, and gave each dish their own, authentic signature.

Just when it seemed they'd been completely forgotten, earthenware pots made their comeback in our ethno-restaurants. They are used to serve 'tarator' (garlic, cucumber and yoghurt salad/soup), 'belmuž' (cheese and corn flour polenta) and 'šopska' salad (tomatoes, cucumber, peppers, onion and cheese). Nobody worries about a chipped plate here or there, or that the excessive hygienic requirements by various HACCPs may not have been met. Instead, everyone remembers the forgotten flavours and aromas of their childhood and wishes, once again, to dip a piece of bread into the gravy left at the bottom of that earthenware pot.

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**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

On Coffee

From the book '*Putevi oko znakova*'
(*Paths Among the Signs*) by Lazar Džamić

Translated by David Norris and Lazar Džamić



Coffee is a fluid time, both in Britain and in Serbia. But in Britain, it's a time that rushes by; in the Balkans, it drips along, trickles, a lazy time not too precious about itself - or, perhaps the opposite, a time which takes itself very seriously, and for that reason it is undertaken with a passion set to last.

British coffee is taken standing up, on the go, in a hurry. It's a nervous, winning, somewhat aggressive coffee of success, or the promise of success; a coffee of energy, a legal substitute for cocaine or some other psychoactive substance which can push the individual through one more exasperating, exhausting day...

It's a functional, utilitarian coffee that provides "lift off", the part of the rocket system for launching yet another warrior from the capitalist arena into the orbit of the world of achievement, affirmation and recognition; yet another more-or-less useful satellite circling the planet Money. That's why the British coffee - like its siblings in New York, Frankfurt or Zurich - is predominantly the badge of status, of *intention*, the prop which marks the dance and the myth of the *busy* man. Even the manner of holding the tall plastic cup is part of the choreography: the stiff hand attached to the hurried body, as if their whole personality is gripping the cup in a spasm of possible redemption, holding on to the promise that if they play according to the rules and the stereotype of success, it will indeed happen.

British coffee, like the whole society, is a verb, a metaphor for action, movement, energy, focus, for a specific, measurable outcome. It is a scientific, *exact* coffee, which can be put on a scale of functionality from 1 to 10, and which can easily be given a set of instructions for use in particular situations, followed by other, also measurable, parameters. It's the coffee of a presentation, of a sales pitch - either personal or collective - the coffee of a meeting, of a deadline, but it's also often a silent, non-communicative, individualistic coffee, a private, rather selfish coffee. It's a branded coffee, with a logo on the cup, with the role to contribute to the theatre and dance of an achievement, or to mark the drinker's taste, status or solvency.

Balkan coffee is, essentially, the ideological enemy of the British, almost Marxist in its naive lack of clear objective. It is, above all, coffee which is made at home, coffee made from scratch; a thing made with a craftsman's pride and with a completely different idea of achievement. In contrast to the British variety, which uses either an Italian machine or a French pot - or is fundamentally stripped down to water poured over instant granules - the Serbian coffee is "ours", in the same way that chicken soup is Jewish, strudel is Viennese, *coq au vin* is French: care wrapped up in artistry.

Even outside the home, Serbian coffee is rarely taken standing up, in a hurry or impatiently. The main ingredient of our coffee is a slow, seated time. Our coffee doesn't rush headlong. It's a coffee of chatter, a meandering river unlike the Anglo-Saxon laser beam. It's a coffee that sacrifices itself, subordinate to the occasion of having good company, a coffee as an excuse rather than the reason - even when the place for meeting is chosen because of the quality of its coffee. The closest the English get to the social function of our coffee is when they say "Shall we have a nice cup of tea?" Sometimes, not always, their tea becomes our coffee.

On the surface, Balkan coffee is purposeless, often without any excuse, it seems a frivolous, impulsive act which to the Anglo-Saxon eye may look like an unforgivable waste of time. Taken with a cigarette, it's becomes an activity in its own right which need not be accompanied by anything or anyone else. It is, of course, nothing like that. Our coffee is the stuff which glues our community together, it's the oil which lubricates our personal and social relationships, it's one of the important cogs turning the wheels which keep us together. One of the lesser heard sentences in Britain is "Come round for a coffee". For that you need time, things to talk about, energy, and the desire to share your private space...



On Cakes

From the book '*Čaj od šljiva*' (Damson Tea) by Lazar Džamić

Translated by David Norris and Lazar Džamić



When you've seen one English cake, you've seen them all. So it appears, at least, to Serbian eyes accustomed to Viennese gourmet indulgences or Turkish syrupy filo pastry decadences. Every English cake, a poor entry in their meagre dictionary of desserts, looks as if it has come from the same patisserie: identical in size, colour, texture, consistency, sweetness. A same recipe... National standards, like carrot cake or Victoria sponge, are literally cloned, whether taken in London, Manchester or Leeds Castle. The main reason is that they have, in a way, come from the same shop. Few cakes are made at the place of sale; rather, they come from common types of industrial kitchens which use the same machines and ingredients and follow the same tautological marketing principle that since there are already many of the same cakes on the market it means the customers like them, so we should make even more of them. Next time you're in London, try to tell the difference between carrot cakes in Starbucks or Costa, or in the National Gallery and the Tate.

'Something sweet' at the end of an English lunch is limited: sponge cake with sugar icing in 'natural' fluorescent colours (or drizzled with lemon or orange juice), chocolate brownies with or without different types of nuts, and various cheesecakes. The English baking tradition has travelled different routes from the Serbian: one has been passed down through local traditions; another has been imposed by the Norman occupiers (then voluntarily adopted for the status it confers); a third, in modern times, has been copied from America. So, on an English dessert menu, the traditional spotted dick (the source of numerous innuendos), French *crème brûlée* and American baked Alaska sit happily side by side.

Despite different origins, they tend to have something in common: Protestant simplicity and restraint. English cakes prefer speed, they are cakes for a busy society, plain and bready, cakes which go well with tea. They complement the restrained civilization of England, they are the proletariat of metaphors: they don't require rich and grand words to explain themselves. And, for us, they also represent a particular kind of confusion: the English call every dessert at the end of a meal 'pudding' – but not in the sense of the jelly concoction which is taken from a Dr Oetker sachet, as is the case in Serbia, more in the sense of 'something sweet'.

If the old stereotypes about English cooking are no longer relevant (with a fantastic richness of cooking and excellent restaurants available in London), they are still somewhat valid for cakes. Serbia is, in relation to England, a cake superpower. Cakes are their Yugo in comparison to our Mercedes, the Morse code in relation to the internet. In this case, the internet is the multimedia explosion evident in the variety of our cake menus.

Serbian cooking draws on several great and sumptuous cake-making traditions. On the one hand, we have the endless floral variations from the endorphin garden that is the Viennese café, with their creams and fillings, soft meringue and frosting, generously crammed *between* and smoothly spread over the layers of the cake dough, which in itself is soft and airy like clouds; an innovative baking construction material, unknown to Anglo-Saxons, produced only with the aid of typical Balkan ingenuity: baking it on top of baking trays turned upside down!

Decadence and culinary skills rule in the empire of the torta, that undisputed queen of the Serbian cakes. Exaggeration is its fundamental characteristic: time, expense, kilos of walnuts and hazelnuts, quantities of eggs, packets of butter are not spared to produce these flights of imagination. There is not enough cream in the icing bag to fix the edges and attach the roses and other decorations. *Torta*, as a word, is a concept which the English are just discovering, but not with the same meaning: it's a relatively new word, usually referring to a Spanish or Portuguese sandwich. Go figure!?

Our second celebrated cake tradition is from the Orient: sticky, masculine, moustachioed, heavy; the tradition of summer and heat, of the chaotic Levant, and of a hand gently sweeping through a full fridge to catch another mouthful with a lemony tang. While Viennese delicacies are the aesthetic domain of fine dining, of linen tablecloths and fancy doilies, of silver spoons and neat slices cut thin – the Turco-Greco-Egyptian baklava, syrup-soaked biscuits and *kadaif*, packed in their metal tins resembling ammunition cases, are the domain of struggle and temptation, dynamic, always in flight, always in movement, always ready to strafe our greedy stomachs.

The third Serbian cake tradition we find in the delicacies we make for our '*slava*', a smorgasbord of *petit fours* in the shape of rectangles, rolls, crescents and balls. The diminutive adjective reveals them: cakes made for the soft tongs of our thumb and forefinger, for a relaxed munching, as an accompaniment, as a second violin to the Austro-Hungarian *torta* energy bombs with their 20 eggs, kilo of walnuts and plutonium-grade concentration of pleasure. These kinds of cakes are the only thing which can overcome the taste shock of the stuffed cabbage leaves (*sarma*), baked sauerkraut (*podvarak*) and roast meats which precede them. Offering a Victoria sponge after a *slava* lunch would be like offering to fill in a tax return after successful dating. A huge disappointment.

Little *slava* cakes are probably the only example in the world of dining when the main dessert, a Viennese *torta*, claims its own kind of garnish, a complementary addition: the equivalent of a vegetable or a mash for a breaded *schnitzel*. The dessert is doubled, hedonism in stereo – in fact, more than that, it's the surround-sound system hedonism! – for a people who, at one and the same time, are very impatient and have all the time in the world...

Serbian customs and beliefs

The Wedding

When guests arrive in front of the groom's house, they are greeted by young girls who decorate them with rosemary.

The *Barjaktar* (a flag bearer) will lead the way for the wedding party by waving a banner with an apple on top of it, along with being adorned in towels, rosemary, and flowers.

"Buying a bride" on a wedding day is among the most entertaining events in Serbian weddings. The *Dever* (bride's eldest brother/male relative) negotiates a price with groom's brother, but keeps falling short of money. Once they've reached an agreement, the bride is then brought out and the groom's father says a short speech to welcome the bride into the family.

A bride at a wedding should wear something new, something blue, something borrowed and something old.

During the wedding ceremony, as the couple says their vows, the bride has the option to step on the groom's foot meaning she will supposedly be in charge, and run the house!

After the ceremony the godfather pulls out a bag filled with coins. The crowd waiting outside the Church or Registration Office yells that his bag is on fire (*Kume izgore ti kesa!*) and the godfather throws the coins at the crowd.

Child birth

The shirt of the new father is ripped up by his friends when his baby is born and each friend will keep a small piece of his shirt as a token of good luck! This custom relates to long ago times when torn parts of a shirt were used to wrap new-borns for the first time and it is believed that ripping an old shirt off liberates the father from the past and gives him strength for his new role.

When a baby is born a small red thread is wrapped around its wrist to protect the baby from bad luck.

Babine - When a baby is born no one should visit the family and see the baby until the baby is 40 days old. It is believed that it is good to bring a '*pogača*' (handmade bread), a cheese or apple pie and a chicken with a head (so the child will not "run as if without a head" through life). The mother should take a piece of everything brought to her and drink a sip of wine or brandy. The most common gifts are money and gold.

BIRTHDAYS

In Serbia on your birthday, you pay for everything (food, drinks). You treat others on your big day. On their birthday children are pulled by their ears, as many times as their age, so that they grow.

VISITS

Traditionally, honoured guests in a Serbian home are greeted with bread and salt and/or a spoonful of Slatko (fruit preserve). Furthermore, it is common for guests to bring something sweet to their host, even if they're only stopping by for a short time.

GOOD LUCK

Spilling water for good luck after someone leaves the house is usually practised by older women. It is believed that this drives away possible obstacles and that after spilling water, everything goes "smoothly". You should not turn around and look behind you after spilling the water as the ritual loses its meaning and beneficial effect!



‘POMEN’ (Memorial) and ‘Daća’

When someone dies, the family of the deceased person prepares a gathering for everyone who wants to pay their respects. These memorials are held on the day of funeral and the morning of the day after. Further memorials are: 40 days or the Saturday that falls before that date, marking the departure of the soul to heaven (according to Christian belief), 6 months and the last one a year after the funeral. Wheat and wine, as well as candles, censer and incense, are brought to the grave. In later years only ‘Zadušnice’ (special days dedicated to the dead) are celebrated. There are four ‘Zadušnice’ (memorial services) during the year.

COMMON BELIEFS

It's not good to enter the house with your arms crossed.

If you hiccup, someone is talking about you.

If you bite your tongue, someone lied to you.

If your left palm is itching, you will get money, but if it's the right one then you will give money.

If you are moving into a new house, you should move in during the full moon, to have a house full of kids.

If you are building a new house, it should not be built at the same place where the old house was.

If you hit a male child with a broom, on purpose or accidental, he will stay short.

Never whistle in your house, you are inviting mice.

You shouldn't borrow anything from a pregnant woman.

You should never say no to a pregnant woman, all her wishes need to be fulfilled.

Serbian Communities

Telford
Cambridge

Telford and the History of the Yugoslav and Serbian Community

The origins of the Yugoslav and Serbian community that settled in the town of Telford, in the heart of Shropshire, is in many ways no different to that of the rest of the United Kingdom. The original settlers were former officers of the Royal Yugoslav Army (who were prisoners of war liberated from Nazi prisoner of war camps in occupied Europe), or members of the Yugoslav Army of the Homeland and other anti-Communist forces who managed to reach Italy in May 1945 and came to Britain between 1947-8 as part of the Voluntary European Worker Programme.

Telford, as a town, did not actually exist before 1963 and was only officially named 'Telford' in 1968 – after the famous civil engineer Thomas Telford (9 August 1757 – 2 September 1834). Its creation was part of the post-war reconstruction of the West Midlands, which saw several 'overspill' towns built from scratch in predominantly rural, or semi-rural, areas, but also merging market towns. In Telford's case, these were places like Dawley, Donnington, Hadley, Ironbridge, Madeley, Oaken-gates and Wellington.

One of the government's main aims was to offer affordable and modern accommodation for the mass re-housing of city dwellers who previously were housed in urban slums – or, in the case of immigrant labour, temporary prefabricated camps. Telford was created to provide such an environment within the West Midlands due to its close proximity to Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

The first Yugoslavs to settle in the area were those who were sent to work, or later took up the offer of working, in a large British Army logistical base in Donnington from 1951. The base was known as the Central Ordnance Depot (C.O.D. Donnington) and continues to exist to this day.

The workers were employed due to the labour shortage following the mass demobilisation of the army after the end of the Second World War and the introduction of National Service in 1949 (for able bodied men between the ages of 18-30). The Yugoslavs, and other eastern Europeans such as Poles and Ukrainians, who came to Donnington had previously worked for three years as agricultural workers, coal miners or labourers in other government ministries. They were initially housed in what became named as 'O Camp' in Donnington, next to C.O.D. Donnington, with a second camp built in nearby Wellington. The Yugoslavs made up the bulk of the workforce: 230 arrived in 1951 – with some 500 working there between 1951 and 1963. As the majority were single men, they were housed in so-called 'Nissen Huts' that resembled a large 'baked bean' tin dug into the ground – with doors at each end and windows along the side. Between two and four men occupied each hut and were kept warm by a central fossil fuel stove.



Life in the camps was relatively comfortable and the work was paid. Life was also very organised for them – with each ethnic group having their own ‘Camp Leaders’. The Yugoslav camp leader for ‘O Camp’ was a capable former Yugoslav Army Officer, Captain Miodrag Krsmanović, who was critical in ensuring that the welfare of the Yugoslav residents was of a high standard. Miodrag Krsmanović was instrumental in getting the British Army to fund the construction of new modern accommodation at the site. It became known as Barclay Lodge after Brigadier Neil Barclay who at that time commanded the Ordnance Depot. For his work supporting Telford’s Yugoslav community he was awarded an MBE in 1973. In May 1974, the residents’ move into their new accommodation was featured in a news report on ATV Today and can still be seen on the internet.



While most of the men who came to the area at that time were single, some were accompanied by their wives. ‘O Camp’ accommodation was only for males and if any man arrived with a wife or got married, then they would have to move out. This usually meant moving into local council housing until they could afford to purchase their own home.

Some of the men, including Miodrag Krsmanović, married British women whom they worked with in the camp. However, it was in the late 1950s that life for the Yugoslav community in Donnington was to change dramatically. Wives and children from Yugoslavia were finally able to leave the country to join their menfolk in Britain.

Many of the young single men took the opportunity to marry the daughters of their older comrades – dramatically reducing the number living in the camp, as they too purchased their own homes or moved into council housing. At the same time new opportunities for employment became available locally as well as further afield. Both men and women were beginning to be employed in large factories in the area, such as GKN Sankey and the Russell’s Rubber Works, both very close to C.O.D. Donnington.



Nevertheless, ‘O Camp’ still provided the focus for the Yugoslav Serbian community. Families were able to visit those still living in the camp and the larger huts were used for formal religious or national celebrations. One of the ‘Nissen Huts’ had already been established as the Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Nikola and was served by the local priest based in Derby. Other huts were set aside for other purposes such as a social centre, library and a classroom for local Serbian children.

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in Great Britain

Life for the Serbian Orthodox community was also significantly impacted by the conflict between Serbs who continued to recognise and accept the canonical and hierarchical authority of the Holy Council of Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Yugoslavia, and those who rejected their authority as they believed the mother church was heavily under the influence of the Yugoslav Communist regime. The establishment of the independent or 'Free' Serbian Orthodox Church that allowed Serbs to practise an independent religious existence spread to what is today Telford. As a consequence, a former Methodist Chapel and hall in Muxton near Donnington, were purchased and renovated between 1966-68. It too was consecrated as the Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Nikola, by Bishop Dionisija, in August 1968.

As a result of this religious schism Serbs in Telford effectively lived a split religious existence. With the demolition of the 'Nissen Huts' in the old 'O Camp', Orthodox Yugoslav Serbs, who remained loyal to the mother church in Yugoslavia, moved into a converted building in the centre of Barclay Lodge that was consecrated in May 1974.



The end of Communism in Yugoslavia brought about an official end to this schism; however, both churches are still in use by their respective loyal parishioners. While numbers attending services are greatly reduced, there is still no appetite to come together in a single religious community. Today both churches are also used by the Greek Orthodox and Russian Orthodox communities in Telford.

As the veterans of the Second World War began to pass away, they were buried in the tranquil surroundings of the graveyard of St. Matthew's Church in Donnington Wood, which set aside a plot for Telford's Eastern European community. Meanwhile, other Yugoslavs and Serbs came to join their families in Telford. The wars in Yugoslavia during the 1990s also saw an influx of Serbs to Telford to make a new life in the West, replacing, in numbers, the children of those who originally came to Telford in the 1950s who had moved elsewhere. The last of 'the originals', Nikola 'Nikica' Novković passed away in September 2022 – at the age of 101.

It is interesting to note that Petar Ilić, the grandson of Stevan Ilić and the son of Miloš Ilić (both veterans of the Dinaric Division of the Yugoslav Army of the Homeland, who both worked in C.O.D. Donnington as a part of the original labour force), recently retired as the most senior civil servant in charge of C.O.D. Donnington. There is no greater tribute to the industriousness of the Serbs who came to Telford, that one of their descendants should rise to the 'top of the tree' in the very location that they once worked at the very bottom of it.

*Written by
Colonel Nick (Nikola) Ilić MBE QGM (son of Ilija Ilić – former barman/steward in the C.O.D.
Donnington Officers' Mess)*



Cambridge

Cambridge is a town 60 miles north of London and easily reachable from the capital by train and road (M11). The town has two rivers, the river Cam, hence the name Cam-bridge, and the river Granta that turns into the Cam in midtown next to Darwin and Queens' Colleges and the University Centre.

With a population of 145,000 (census 2021), Cambridge has the feel of a typical English town; it was granted city status by the Crown in 1951. Cambridge does not feature an impressive cathedral such as the ones at Ely or Peterborough, but a humbler Great St Mary's church that adorns the very centre and sits comfortably between the market square and the University's Old School administrative buildings. The sumptuous cathedral-like building that is often used to represent Cambridge is the chapel of one of the colleges – King's College.

Cambridge is famous for its university. The story goes that for uncertain reasons a group of scholars fled Oxford and found refuge on the banks of the river Cam. It was the year 1208 and this year is regarded as the beginning of the University of Cambridge. It celebrated its 800th anniversary in 2008.

The University of Cambridge is a collegiate university like Oxford and unlike London University which is a confederation of universities. In a nutshell, the University of Cambridge is the overarching structure that provides research facilities, the library, lectures, organises examinations and issues degrees. There are 31 colleges, and these are independent from the University. Students enrol in colleges. They live in college accommodation; they have their meals as well as small group supervisions and social activities in the college. All students belong to colleges and develop their Cambridge identity around a collegial culture. So, colleges are much like families rather than rigid administrative units.

The University of Cambridge prides itself on being associated with no less than 121 Nobel prizes out of the 600 awarded in the past 120 years. To put this into context, no other country, except for the USA and UK, has had that many Nobel prizes. Germany, for instance, has 13 and France 72. The University of Oxford can associate itself with 70 prizes.

However, before we say 'only' 70 prizes, we must consider the fact that Oxford is slightly more tilted towards the humanities as opposed to natural sciences like Cambridge. Most Nobel Prizes, of course, are awarded in the fields of natural sciences. We must also note that nearly all the post Second World War British Prime Ministers studied at Oxford and none at Cambridge. That is again, evidence of the primacy (slight) of humanities in the 'other place'.

One famous exponent of Serbian ethnicity is also one of the oldest – Mihajlo Pupin. The famous inventor and winner of the 1924 Pulitzer Prize for his autobiography, *From Immigrant to Inventor*, came to Cambridge in 1883 having declined a generous scholarship from Columbia University in New York. His stated reason for moving to Cambridge was that its School of Mathematics was considered, at the time (and not only then) to be the best in the world.

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Pupin made his mark at King's College, Cambridge but found the standardised mathematical tripos and teaching methods to be unchallenging. We can add here that a 'tripos' is a Cambridge term for undergraduate course and/or exam, eg someone taking a tripos in mathematics or literature. The etymology probably leads back to the small three-legged stool that, in the early days, candidates had to sit on while being examined.

Over the centuries there have been Serbian students at Cambridge, but in the last 15 years or so, we have seen an increase. As well as a dozen or so scholars and other employees of the University, there are typically some 35 to 40 students. This increase is possibly due to the activities of the Pexim Foundation which offers postgraduate scholarships to students from Serbia and North Macedonia. Apart from offering scholarship, the Foundation has promoted studying at Cambridge and through its work demystified to some degree the character of Cambridge. It was like saying to the Serbian public, 'No, this palace is not just for rich students, it's for the best students and you might be one of them!'

Apart from the University, two interesting professions were or are associated with Cambridge. In the early 2000s when JAT could fly due to western sanctions being lifted, a group of pilots found employment at Ryanair based at Stansted airport which is halfway to London. As many as twenty Serbian pilots moved to the area. Given that Cambridge can offer probably somewhat cheaper accommodation than London and features excellent schools many settled here. About ten years ago they went on to fly for different airlines in Africa and Asia and moved away, but they are still remembered.

Another interesting group of Serbian professionals (between 10 and 15) is made up of hardware engineers who work at Arm, the biggest employer in the technology sector.

So, the Serbian community in Cambridge includes probably over one hundred people, but we do not have a common point of reference or meetings. We have Wizz air flights to Belgrade from Luton airport, some 40 miles to the west which makes it easy to pop back home. This might be the reason we don't have a formal society to bring us together. It must also be said that the nearest Serbian Orthodox church is at Lancaster Road in London. However, Cambridge does feature a Greek Orthodox church.

Written by Dr Nebojša Radić

**Webinar**



Lični i profesionalni razvoj tokom studija i značaj master studija u inostranstvu

Sreda 25.11.2020. u 20h
Obavezna registracija

ISKUSTVO DELE



Tijana GajićOgnjen MilićevićJelena TodićDušan SavićJovana Rubežić

Young British and Irish Serbs

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain



Ada Džamić, 19 years old, London

Growing up Serbian in London has always been a very interesting experience for me. I was born in London and ever since day one, my parents have been speaking both English and Serbian with me. At primary school, I was very reluctant to speak Serbian with my parents. They would pick me up from school and I would always begin talking to them about my day in English. I remember them saying to me that if I didn't speak Serbian with them, I wouldn't be able to speak with my family when I went there. We usually went twice a year in October and April for about a week and we would travel between four different cities visiting the family we have over there.

One of my experiences I had as a Serb in London is that people could never get my surname right and I see now that they still can't. The top two pronunciations are 'Dazmik' and 'Zamik'. This however doesn't discourage me from being a Serb. In fact, it makes me even prouder to be Serbian.

Another experience I had was being raised in London surrounded by a whole community of family friends from Serbia. They would often organise Slava's and New Year parties and we would go to their houses every time and celebrate together. This has always been one of my favourite experiences, since it is a really good way to get together as a community and have fun. It is also a good way of catching up with people that we don't get to see very often, considering the time it takes to travel across this city.

Something that I particularly like about living in London as a Serb is that I have two Christmases, two New Years and two Easters.

Just before I turned 13, I moved to Belgrade, the capital of Serbia with my family. My parents had three main reasons for this, the first one being because of Brexit at that time. The other two reasons were because they wanted my sister and I to get to know our country even better and to be more fluent in our language and generally to have a more relaxed life; especially since my dad began to feel very tired of work in London. I spent 6 years living in Belgrade and have just moved back with my family in August. I feel that these past six years in Serbia have helped me gain a better understanding of our culture and be more fluent in the language, although English is still my first language.

Many people have asked me where I prefer living and to be honest, I don't have a preference. Both countries have their pros and cons. One of the main pros about Belgrade is that it is much smaller than London and it takes less time to travel around the city to get to different places. In that sense, it is more relaxed. However, a main con for me, especially in the area of life that I would like to work in is universities and job opportunities. This isn't only in Belgrade, but throughout the whole country. I am a musician who plays both piano and violin. I have spoken to many students as well as professors at the music academy in Belgrade and they all said that I am much better off in London. Overall, I have really enjoyed living in Serbia. It has become my second home and I have made many strong connections over there, however at the end of the day, I know that the country is not a good place for me to live and work in. What I like about London is that it is a very culturally diverse city, and I don't have to think at all about who I am and where I come from.

As a musician, I have always been interested in discovering new genres of music as well as music from all over the world. It was only when I was 6 years old that I began to sing songs from Kolibri and Čarolija choirs. That was really the only Serbian music that I was listening to as a kid in London. In year 7 when I was still in London, there was another Serbian girl in year 10 at that time who went to my school, and she loved listening to Serbian rock bands, so I asked her for some recommendations. Her top one was Partibrejkers, which I became extremely fond of and still listen to today. When I moved to Serbia, I asked everyone for their favourite Serbian musicians and that's the time when I properly began to listen to music from our country. Many of my peers were very fond of turbofolk music, which is most popular among teenagers, however when I heard that for the first time, I really disliked it. Instead, I began to listen to artists such as Bajaga, Djordje Balašević, Nikola Vranjković, Stefan Milenković and Nemanja Radulović which are among my favourite. My fitness coach was especially into these types of artists. At every training he would play a song by one new artist that I hadn't come across yet. I thanked him very much for doing this, as I now have a whole list of Serbian artists that I like to listen to on a daily basis.



Oliver Jordan, 21 years old, Crowborough

I was raised in South East England by my English father and Serbian mother. In the area I live, there's no Serbian community, so the only Serbian people I know are family friends. This has given me a unique view of the Serbian community; most of the Serbs I know aren't from my generation. This has affected my feelings about Serbia as I am able to relate more to the older generation and culture of Serbians instead of the newer younger generations.

I feel like the biggest impact my Serbian heritage has had on my life is in my acting career. I studied acting at university and learnt a lot about the Western (English and American) style of film making and acting. However, having a Serbian mother, I began to watch Serbian movies such as *Who's Singin' Over There* (Ko to tamo peva), *Underground*, *Skinning* (Šišanje), *Gypsy Magic*, *Before the Rain* and others. Through this I discovered a different style of acting and genre of film. I love the dark humour and the bittersweetness of the movies. It typically starts light-hearted with a jolly atmosphere and typically turns into something dark and serious by the end. Serbian movies also made me appreciate and remember the creative artistic value in film making in order to express oneself, compared to many Western movies, which are made purely for money and mind-numbing entertainment, not touching on topics relating to serious world issues. I honoured my Serbian blood in my final university project where I decided to speak a paragraph in Serbian.

Visiting Serbia and learning about the history of the country gave me a different perspective on Eastern Europe and other cultures and alternative arguments on historical events, which most English people don't have. I am able to see the world from a different perspective, which has allowed me to develop my character. In my final university project, I showed a different perspective on global political issues. Having a different perspective has allowed me to educate and widen the minds of many people who might not have considered how other countries view the world.



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SERVICES

English to Serbian translation, proofreading, editing, subtitling, localisation
Certified translation of official documents (court translator's seal or ITI seal)
English to Serbian & Serbian to English interpreting (consecutive, simultaneous)



Mia Brzaković, Student in Dublin

My experience as an international student studying in Ireland was nothing but a wonderful journey! I was glad to join Trinity College Dublin in 2019 and have been fortunate to meet a lot of interesting people in Dublin and Ireland since then. I believe that as a girl, with a background in the Serbian educational system and used to working hard for every opportunity to volunteer and take part in as many societies, organisations and humanitarian activities as possible, Ireland was the best place for my next step. I am so thankful for all the welcoming people who ensured my transition was so smooth and pleasant.

Since arriving in Ireland, I have been studying my MAI degree in Biomedical Engineering. As one of the countries with the most developed biomedical sector, I've had the chance to attend conferences and learn from some of the most famous European professionals in the industry. What this country offers to all of us is definitely endless opportunities for professional development, through internship and part-time positions as students, ensuring that we are more than ready to launch our successful careers upon graduation!

In addition, Trinity as one of Ireland's historical landmarks was an experience in itself. I remember walking into the Trinity Long Room with my parents on the first day of college and seeing books a couple of hundred years old, feeling that I was right where I should be – in the home of Irish history! Walking around this campus and seeing all the buildings where some of the leading scientists of European history have worked is invaluable.

I also believe travelling around Ireland and seeing the Emerald island's most beautiful scenery was something that brought so much inspiration and motivation to my studies. Visiting Galway, Cork, Kerry and Limerick and meeting people with their diverse life stories were some of the best experiences I had. I also personally believe Dublin was the perfect choice for me. Such a vibrant city with so many nice little restaurants and pubs with traditional music, but also with its modern corporate buildings, felt just the right balance that I needed. People from all across Europe come here to experience something different and Dublin is always there to welcome them and ensure a unique experience.

What I believe made this experience so incredible were the people I met along my way and who helped me develop and pursue my dreams. I had a chance to work with some of the most prestigious professors and mentors with successful start-ups and companies that ensured all the support that I needed as a young professional. Studying and living in Ireland opened so many doors and enabled me to join some of the most competitive labs as one of the first international students. I have received prestigious scholarships which gave me the momentum to take my projects forward and slowly build the staircase to the future that I always wanted.

I absolutely fell in love with this country and would recommend considering it to any student that wants to ensure quality education with extraordinary life experiences. There is no better place than this lovely country of Ireland!

Older British Serbs

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain



Jelena Stanojlović

My parents, Boško and Vera Stanojlović, were both émigrés who arrived in the UK after World War II. They came by separate paths, full of hardship, bravery and adventure; stories about which my sister Olga and I never tired of hearing. We heard how they had been introduced to each other and got married two weeks later in time for my father to be posted by the RAF to Singapore, where I was born. Despite this briefest of introductions, their marriage was a very happy and fruitful one that formed a strong foundation for our family.

Since my parents were political émigrés who escaped from Tito's communist régime, they did not go back to their beloved homeland of Yugoslavia – never in my father's case and only in her eighties in my mother's case. This decision came at great personal cost to both of them. They missed their home and family terribly. For my father it was even more difficult because all but one of his immediate family had died. Thus, for Olga and myself, Yugoslavia was a distant, almost mythical place cloaked in loss and yearning, and to which we were bound by the strongest of emotional attachments. Our spirit, our family life, language and cultural traditions were Serbian whilst our physical home and childhood friendships and language outside the home were English.

My first contact with family from Serbia was when my 65-year-old grandmother came to England for the first time. When my father went to pick her up from the station in Devizes, he had to hire two taxis to transport all her luggage. Baka Dara knew that it was difficult living in an England where rationing was in place, so she brought enough food for a year – amongst other things 100 eggs, bacon, jars of home-made jams and pickles, cakes – and a wool-filled duvet. It is still a mystery to me how she made the train journey from Belgrade on her own and speaking only Serbian. On a subsequent visit, this time by plane to London, my father and I went to pick her up from the airport. After waiting a long time for her to appear, we asked if we could go through to look for her. We found her speaking in Serbian to a perplexed customs officer, her numerous items of baggage in front of him. As we arrived, he put his hand into her black holdall only to pull it out covered in fat – we explained that she had brought the roast suckling pig as well as the 12 bottles of homemade plum brandy as it was Serbian Easter. By then he'd had enough and told us just to take her home!

We moved from Wiltshire to London in the mid-1950s. The London of those days was not the multicultural melting-pot that it is today. I can remember the arrival of the first black pupil in my primary school and the sensation that it caused. My own sense of being foreign came not from the colour of my skin but from my long, unpronounceable surname. In my later professional life as a teacher, I received mail that had various attempts at it, my favourites being Stanojlonc, Oranglovic and even Strangelove. My students and their parents resorted to calling me Miss Stan. Most people who asked me where I was from could not place Yugoslavia on a map: 'Is it in Australia or America?' The sense of otherness also came from having parents who spoke like Russians in a cold war spy film.

My father spent much of his spare time writing and editing a monthly newsletter that he sent out to his former classmates from his military academy. The stamps I collected from all the letters he received were a record of how the Serbian Diaspora had been scattered in all four corners of the world. My mother ran the household and kept us fed with wonderful Serbian food, all prepared from scratch. Her shopping expeditions were certainly different from those of my friends' mothers. Even as a young child I was aware that it was not the 'done thing' to complain to your butcher every time he sold you a piece of meat that you did not think was good enough. I also remember the embarrassment as a teenager when you hear your mother being told off for squeezing the tomatoes at the market stall. Many items were not available in local stores then and Vera would make the long journey to Soho to buy 'exotic' items such as garlic, peppers, calves brains, pickled cabbage and slanina (a pancetta style cut of bacon).

Language and my mother's many slips of tongue and misunderstandings were the source of much merriment in the family. My daughter even has a book of 'Baka's sayings'. Among our favourites are when she said there were a lot of 'midgets' around the swimming pool, or that she had seen a man wearing 'flippers' in winter. However, on a more profound level, speaking English was sometimes a source of frustration and even anguish. My mother felt that she couldn't express herself fully and that her personality and intelligence were somehow limited. Whilst we, her daughters, could pass invisibly, as soon as she opened her mouth to speak, her accent marked her out as a 'foreigner'. People would ask her where she came from or when she was going back home. This gave her a deep sense of insecurity and in the toxic culture of Brexit she was frightened that she could still be 'sent home'.

However, this reluctance to speak was infrequent. If anything, the opposite was true. Serbs are rarely constrained about offering their opinion; they have an unabashedness and sense of freedom that is at times exhilarating and at others mortifying for children brought up in an English environment. My mother was rarely lost for words and many's the time we wished the earth would swallow us up. On one occasion, while my sister was trying some clothes on, she could hear Vera asking the shop assistant to tell her that she should wear a corset to stop her bottom wobbling. On another, Vera broke off her loud conversation with our aunt to shout out to my sister who was on the top deck of the bus that she needed to get off at the next stop. My sister could see from the faces of the other passengers that they were surprised to see a teenager come down and not a young child. But this freedom of expression and belief in telling the truth was at the same time a source of bravery and political commitment to ideals and values that was shared by the émigré community and one which I have always admired and valued.

But above all it was the generosity and the warm hospitality that was part of my Serbian upbringing. Our house was always open to guests; they were offered food and drink without being asked. Unlike most of my friends, I was allowed to invite friends round whenever I wanted. Food was my mother's main way of keeping alive her ties to her homeland and our immediate way of experiencing Serbian culture. Even when I went to university, Vera still wanted to make sure I was surviving without her. One day she cooked a pot full of sarma (stuffed cabbage leaves) and took it to Paddington station, where she asked the train driver if he could take it to Exeter where I would be waiting for it. And amazingly, he agreed! My mother's cooking was famous amongst my friends and her cheese pie (pita), chicken soup (čorba) and moon cakes (kiflice) were big hits. My daughters' collection of Baka's recipes and their own love of cooking are the true testimony of their deep affection for her and their heritage. My English husband, Rob, was always amazed at the amount of food that was prepared for different celebrations and feast days, even-so called fasting days! I think back with great fondness to the days spent preparing for these feast days, when all the female members of the family would gather to prepare the food against a background of chat, discussion and argument. From listening to them, I learnt about their life in Serbia before World War II and the stories about family and friends. When my sister and I eventually went to Yugoslavia in 1970 and met some of them, it was as if we had already met.

Since the Diaspora living in London after World War II was quite small, it was a very tightly knit community centered around the Serbian Orthodox Church in Ladbroke Grove. Going to church meant seeing familiar faces, experiencing the smell of incense, hearing the beautiful choral singing and the melodious chanting of the priests. It was a key to link us to our cultural heritage, particularly in relation to the big holidays of the Slava, Easter and Christmas – my English friends continue to be bewildered by the fact I celebrate two of each. The Church community hall was the scene of many reunions and parties full of noise and joy, with food and drink and talk and song and laughter. I loved these get-togethers; they were far more vibrant and fun than any of my generation's parties – even in the 1960s. I loved that generation of émigrés who had lost and suffered so much but who were so full of energy, enthusiasm and vitality.

When my sister and I visited Yugoslavia, we were able to experience the warmth and hospitality first-hand. It was moving to see the places we'd heard so much about: my parents' birthplace, my grandmother and the town of Lazarevac where my mother spent her childhood, the graves of family members. It made me aware of the immense fracture the war caused in my parents' lives; their yearning for a homeland that had changed beyond recognition; the rich lives they had built for themselves in a country that had welcomed them but where they didn't quite fit. It was a fracture made even more painful after the war that saw the breakup of Yugoslavia with all the horror that it brought, the simplistic apportioning of blame and the bombing of Serbia.

I have to admit that it is not always easy living with the conflicting pulls of two cultures, that feeling of loss, of not quite belonging in either culture, of divided loyalties. But it has also been a gift to have the privilege of being immersed in two different ways of life, of speaking two languages, of being a participant in life with two perspectives and of benefitting from the richness of both.



Zoran Novaković, aged 66, Reading

I grew up in the 1960s and 1970s – an era somewhat distant from today's – when attitudes to everything, including 'foreigners', were very different. But in some ways, I suppose things were more straightforward. You were simply expected to be like everyone else, and that was that!

My parents came to England in 1947, as émigrés, having opposed the communist regime that came to power in Yugoslavia after WWII. They were grateful to come to England. However, being forced to leave their homeland in their twenties meant that they always felt a sense of 'exile' in England and always yearned for their beloved country. I was born in the UK, and didn't experience that pain, nor the jarring clash of cultures that my parents must have felt when they arrived.

The first memories I had of being slightly 'different' was when I started primary school in 1960. WWII had only finished 15 years beforehand, and 'foreigners' were still a bit of a novelty. Like most of the stories in this series, my name was the first thing people noticed. No-one had a first name that began with Z, let alone a surname that was impossible to pronounce. I was regularly called 'Zion' or 'Zorba' or 'Zebedee' by people that just couldn't cope with my name. My older sister, Vesna, had the same problem. I remember her announcing to my parents one day, very seriously, that she was to be known as 'Helen' henceforth. Thankfully, it didn't last.

The puzzlement and mirth at my strange name and background continued throughout my school years, despite the fact that I was just like all the other kids in every other respect. But it didn't really bother me that much and I compensated for it by playing on the mystery and intrigue that an exotic name evoked. In any case, I wasn't alone. There was quite a large foreign community in Reading, centred around the BBC Monitoring Service in Caversham, where my father worked. So I had a few friends who were the offspring of immigrants from other countries.

Like many Serb exiles, my parents were very strict in ensuring that Vesna and I grew up speaking Serbo-Croat (as it was called at the time). I am eternally grateful to them for that. I think being raised bilingual gave me an understanding and love of languages and cultures that has stayed with me throughout my life. I ended up studying French and German at university and spent many years in later life working abroad in Germany, Belgium, Russia and elsewhere.

In Reading, the Serbian community wasn't huge, but it was very closely knit. I remember a regular stream of visits to and from Serbian friends of the family. As a child, I often got a kindly smile and a shiny shilling or two pressed into my hand. There wasn't a Serbian church in Reading but the priest came from London every few weeks and held an Orthodox service in St Bartholomew's Anglican church where we saw the other families.

We always went up to London for Božić and Uskrs which was always a fantastic celebration – and we got a day off school! Of course there was Slava too, which became quite legendary. Our quiet suburban cul-de-sac was invaded by a host of visitors and was buzzing until the early hours. One year our next-door neighbour came round in his pyjamas to ask my parents to keep the noise down. Needless to say, it didn't happen.

From quite an early age, I went to Yugoslavia with my Mum in the holidays and stayed mainly with relations in Belgrade. Life wasn't easy for them during the Tito era – money was short and there were constant shortages. But the less-than-welcoming side to life in the Socialist Federal Republic was made up for by the amazing warmth and enthusiasm of the people there. It was a stark contrast: almost the polar opposite of life in England.

As a second-generation Serb, I suppose a lot of 'Englishness' has rubbed off on me. But I have always appreciated what my parents did for me and I value my Serbian roots. I think that having a foot in both camps has given me a unique cultural insight that has held me in good stead as I've grown older and gone through life. I strongly recommend it!



Serbian son-in-law Srpski Zet

Memories of a Serbian marriage or the Srpski zet

Over 30 years ago I embarked on a voyage of adventure: a journey to a strange and fascinating world. Reader (to paraphrase Jane Austen), I married a Serb.

On paper it sounds quite straightforward, and as it turned out, it was, although the journey involved navigating and understanding a different world. I would add that becoming part of a Serbian family has been a life-enriching experience which has deepened my grasp of the history and rich culture of an amazing society. However, as this is a personal note, I'll put history aside and focus on my own experiences, and in particular on two central aspects of Serbian life – family and food. At times it has been difficult to untangle them, but in my case the central force has been Baka, and in this case Baka Vera, my mother-in-law.

Baka Vera was an amazing cook, through her I was introduced to such dishes as pita, gibanica, čorba, pasulj, djuveč, sarma and punjene paprike, and the way in which food is embedded in Serbian culture, particularly the Slava and fasting. The Slava is fantastic and something I had never experienced before. We enjoyed many meals but quite early in my 'Serbian Experience' I remember Baka Vera apologising before a meal because the family was fasting. I knew what 'fasting' meant in English and I suppose I expected a bowl of soup or a piece of bread. I soon found out that fasting involved not eating some things (for example meat, dairy products) but you certainly were not going short of food.

And food, of course, brings me back to Baka Vera and the many lovely and amusing memories of her. She planned food, thought about food, worried about food and enjoyed food and she never stopped cooking. I remember that when she was 97 and on her final family holiday in Brittany, Baka helped prepare the vegetables for a bolognese sauce! In Greece, again on holiday, she came back from market with two huge carrier bags of vegetables and told her daughters we were having running beans that day (her sayings were legendary).

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As well as loving the kitchen Baka loved gardening when she came to stay in Somerset. She was a tireless gardener well into her eighties, but this enthusiasm was not without its problems. I had planned a large new border which was doing well but needed weeding. This was the perfect task for Baka Vera. I was pleased because I had found a nursery with a sign outside announcing 'unusual plants for sale' and had bought four which were pricey but doing well in the new border. When I arrived home Baka told me she'd spent all day weeding so I walked down to inspect and praise her work. It was amazing! Not a weed in sight. Weeding perfection. But there was a problem – where were the 'unusual plants'? Diplomacy was called for and I asked Baka what had happened to some new plants in the border. Well, they were unusual, Baka didn't recognise them and had presumed that they were weeds. So, they were weeded, earth beaten from the roots and neatly placed on the compost heap. I quietly replanted them and prayed for them to survive! Baka never knew.

You had to accept that Baka Vera was an unstoppable force and loved to be out in the garden. I guess that she was around 90 so weeding was difficult. Her solution was to get a chair and sit and weed. Perfect... One day I pulled the car into the drive and heard a voice shout "Rob! Rob!" I could see no one but then as the voice cried out again, I recognised Baka Vera. Eventually I found her behind some large bushes sitting on her chair. As she had weeded the chair had gradually sunk into the earth and Baka Vera was at ground level. It was quite a job to get her back on her feet again!

There is so much more to tell with regard to my Serbian adventure. The church, ceremonies, the unique tradition of kumovi, your unusual calendar, trips to Brookwood cemetery and the warmth and pride of Serbian family and cultural life. It has been such a pleasure and an honour to be a small part of all of this but perhaps one final memory helps me understand things more. The first time I visited Belgrade with the family for a christening I suddenly realised that in a restaurant everyone was laughing at me! It was affectionate laughter and they explained why – my name Rob means slave in Serbian.

"Ahh!" I said "Now it all makes sense".

Rob Joslin

Do you like this compass from the Second World War?

A story from the Serbian community - Old compass

It was found by my father as a sixteen-year-old boy, next to a dead German soldier he came across lying in the woods in 1941. These woods were on the land of a farm owned by my grandfather in Yugoslavia. My father's job as a young boy was to protect the sheep from wolves that came out of the forests during the night. He could not have known at the time, but this compass was to save his life.

Later the German soldiers called at every household in the village to take the oldest sons to work in the forced labour camps. One morning they knocked on the door of his farmhouse, yet the oldest son (his brother Stojan) had injured his arm in a farming accident. My father volunteered to go in his place and was pulled from the arms of his mother (my grandmother) who thought she would never see her son again. He was taken to a town called Bor close to the Bulgarian border.

For me there is a beauty in listening to the words of someone whose English is not their native tongue and the words they choose when they are describing things. My father would very rarely talk about what happened to him during these times, in common with many who went through the horrors of WWII. Yet on the very rare occasions when he did, he told me that at that camp, he felt like a frog in a pan of water, where every day the water was getting gradually hotter.

He had to try to escape one way or another and get free from that awful place. He and his older cousin managed to escape together, but his cousin was leading him the wrong way and straight into heavily fortified German positions. With the help of that compass and some brave people who risked their lives to assist them on their way, they travelled under cover of darkness. After many days, half starved, these two young cousins made it home. The look of joy on his mother's face when she saw him walking up the path to their little house, was to stay in his heart for the rest of his days.

Later he would again have to leave his home, his mother, his family and his country – but this time he would never see her again. As the Communists took over Yugoslavia, he and over a million others would become displaced people and passed from transit camp to transit camp.

I suppose he could be classed as “fortunate” for he survived, and he and his compass made it to England. Otherwise I would not be here to tell you this story today. Yet the plight of the ones who escaped and were then sent back to the Communists, was to be the reason I wrote my book. I couldn't forget what happened to them. Before he passed away in 2007, my father gave me that compass, which still works to this day. The pointer is luminous, and this helped him navigate under the light of the moon.

One day when it's my turn to shuffle from this mortal coil, I will pass this compass to one of my sons, and hope he cherishes it as I have done, with my memories of all those men who survived and made a new life so far from the family and home they loved.

Written by Philip Pavlović

HM Queen Elizabeth II, Serbia and Yugoslavia



(Extracts from *British – Serbian Relations From the 18th to 21st Centuries*, Edited by Professor S. G. Markovich, University of Belgrade)

In the history of the British monarchy, Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022) was the longest-reigning sovereign. She was the queen of the United Kingdom and Commonwealth realm for more than 70 years. During her long life and reign, she took part in several events relevant for British-Serbian and British-Yugoslav relations.

Her father, Prince Albert, Duke of York (1895-1952) became King George VI in 1936 and reigned till 1952. He was the first person from the British Royal family to establish close relations with Serbia and Yugoslavia and participated in at least five symbolically important events that linked Serbia and Yugoslavia with Britain. In the early spring of 1916, Crown Prince and Regent Alexander of Serbia visited Britain. On that occasion, Prince Albert received the Prince Regent at Charing Cross station in London and escorted him to see his father King George V. That was the first visit of Serbian head of state to the United Kingdom. The Times reported that: "the reception accorded the Crown Prince outside the station was magnificent, and no foreign visitor has been more warmly received." (The Times, 1st April, 1916). This was a u-turn in mutual relations since the Belgrade regicide of 1903 had produced a particularly negative impression in Britain and even led to a three-year-long break in diplomatic relations. The Great War turned everything around, and British public opinion became the champion of its small and heroic ally, Serbia. The British court endorsed this kind of appraisal during the visit of the Prince Regent to London.

31.03.1916,
REGENT ALEXANDER AND
THE DUKE OF YORK



After the end of the Great War, Prince Albert twice visited Belgrade. On 8th June, 1922, Prince Albert acted as 'kum' (chief witness /godfather) at the royal wedding of King Alexander Karađorđević and Princess Marie of Romania, great-grand-daughter of Queen Victoria. On that occasion, Prince Albert represented his parents, the King and the Queen. (The Times, 9th June, 1922). In October 1923, he came again, this time to attend the christening of the infant son of Queen Marie and King Alexander. On 20th October, the Duke and Duchess of York were greeted in Belgrade, in front of the royal palace, where "in spite of the cold, large crowds awaited the arrival of the Koom and Koomitsa [Godfather and Godmother]." The Duke of York held the baby throughout the service, as Christian Orthodox tradition demands, and Serbian Patriarch Dimitrije conducted the ceremony. (The Times, 21st October, 1923). It is important to mention that the Serbian word "koom" (or kum in more modern spelling) can denote both a best man at a wedding and a godfather or godmother at a christening. The Duke of York represented his father as the best man of King Alexander in 1922 and was godfather to his son in 1923. The baby was named Peter, after his grandfather Peter I the Unifier. The Duke of York also acted as the best man at the wedding of Prince Paul two days later. Prince Albert was the second son of King George V, who was succeeded by his eldest son Edward VIII (r. January-December 1936), and only after his abdication did the Duke of York become the king of the United Kingdom as George VI.



BAPTISM OF HRH CROWN PRINCE PETER,
21ST OCTOBER, 1923.
KING ALEXANDER, PRINCESS ILEANA,
ROMANIAN KING FERDINAND AND
QUEEN MARIE (SITTING),
DUCHESS AND DUKE OF YORK

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

On 20th March, 1944, King Peter of Yugoslavia married Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark. On that occasion, King George VI and King George of Greece acted as witnesses. Finally, on 24th October, 1945, the christening of Crown Prince Alexander took place at Westminster Abbey in London, in the presence of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. King George VI and his daughter Princess Elizabeth were godparents to the Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia. The ceremony was conducted by Patriarch Gavrilo and Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. (The Times, 25th October, 1945) Princess Elizabeth was 19 at the time of this ceremony and held the Crown Prince in her hands. The event made such an impression on her that, many decades later, she vividly described that moment to several Serbian diplomats.



Serbian Month

in Great Britain

1945,
BAPTISM OF CROWN PRINCE ALEXANDER,
WESTMISTER ABBEY

Although the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was an official British ally until 1945, the victory of the Yugoslav communist-led Partisans in the civil war led to the suspension of the Yugoslav monarchy in November 1945. In the first years of communist Yugoslavia, its relations with both the U.S. and the UK were fraught with tension. Everything changed suddenly in June 1948, when the Soviet Union expelled Yugoslavia from the association of communist countries. After that, Yugoslavia found unlikely allies in the Western countries. In the 1950-53 period, communist Yugoslavia received assistance from the U.S. and UK, and the Yugoslav leadership visited Britain in March 1953. It was the first meeting of Yugoslav leader Josip Broz Tito and Queen Elizabeth, but since the Queen had not yet been crowned, it did not have the rank of an official visit, but rather "private own". Nevertheless, Yugoslav President Tito was received with full pomp, which was very important for him because, at this time, Yugoslavia was making efforts to build bridges with Western states.

The rapprochement between the two states proved rather short-lived. The Suez Crisis in 1956 brought the two countries into a new dispute, which was amplified during the decolonisation of British Africa between 1956 and 1966. Yugoslavia's direct opposition to Israel in 1967 was another low point. Only after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in the summer of 1968 did Communist Yugoslavia try to re-establish warmer relations with the West, including Britain. In the 1970s, mutual relations reached a new high point that included several visits on both sides. In November 1971, the Yugoslav President made his first one-day official visit to the UK and had lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The visit was organised under "unusually stringent security precautions." (The Times, 8th November, 1971).

In October 1972, Queen Elizabeth, accompanied by Prince Philip and their daughter Anne, made a four-day visit to Yugoslavia. It was the first communist country she visited, and that very fact was not received favourably in some quarters in the West. In Britain, the visit was seen "as yet another step in the readjustment of the British monarchy to the requirements of present-day realities." (The Times, 17th October, 1972). At that moment, Yugoslavia was going through a deep crisis due to the re-emergence of ethnic tensions and the persecution of intellectuals, students and dissidents by the Yugoslav communist regime, which prompted criticism in many circles in the West. Under such conditions, Belgrade gave the Queen an "enthusiastic reception despite the political crisis". British journalists were somewhat surprised that the Queen's host, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito, who was "unusually stern", could not wait with his announcement about the withdrawal of his support from the Serbian Party leadership till the visit was over.

During their visit, the Queen and Prince Philip laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Hero at Avala Mountain. The Queen also planted a tree in the Park of Friendship and visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery and the University of Belgrade. She spoke "of the traditional respect and understanding between Britons and Serbs and of the sincere admiration the British have for the long and courageous Serbian struggle, first to achieve freedom and then, with other constituent republics of the Yugoslav federation, to build a united nation." The Queen also mentioned the dangers of neglecting the environment in the age of modern technology: "You cannot feed the beauty of the countryside into a computer and statistics cannot themselves make clean air, sparkling rivers or contented community." (The Times, October 19, 1972).



1972, AVALA
1972, PARK OF FRIENDSHIP

The Queen was awarded the golden plaque of the City of Belgrade by its mayor. On that occasion, she said at the Belgrade City Hall: "Some 50 years ago, my father and mother were in a position to visit Belgrade and therefore I am particularly happy to be here with my husband and daughter." (Politika, 18th October, 1972). This was a discreet reminder to the Queen's hosts of the relations her family had had with the Yugoslav royal family.

During her trip, the Queen also visited Zagreb, where "a crowd of 15,000 people applauded", and spoke of the close contacts between Britain and Croatia. As Dessa Trevisan of The Times noted: "The toast was addressed to the Serbs in Belgrade and to the Croats in Zagreb, reflecting the Queen's awareness of the delicate relationship between the two largest nations of Yugoslavia." (The Times, 21st October, 1972).

Visits continued in the 1970s, and President Tito paid a short visit to the UK in March 1978, then in October that same year, Prince Charles visited Yugoslavia. At the funeral of the Yugoslav President in May 1980, the British delegation included Prince Philip, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington.

The official visits in the 1970s happened in the period when Josip Broz, the Yugoslav life-long president, after he met with Brezhnev in Belgrade in 1971 and again in June 1972 in Moscow, was seen in the West as getting too close to the Soviet Union. In retrospect, one can see that the Queen's visit to Yugoslavia took place between Tito's visits to Moscow in 1972 and 1973.

What happened in the early 1950s when communist Yugoslavia came closer to the West is nowadays known in historiography as a "Cold War anomaly". A new climax in British-Yugoslav relations took place in the 1970s. In 1988, one of the last British ambassadors to Communist Yugoslavia, Andrew Wood, aptly summarised the process begun in 1948: "A British-Yugoslav marriage of convenience had nevertheless begun - and marriages of convenience are often the most durable."

Communist Yugoslavia collapsed in 1991 and the Wars for Yugoslav Succession followed. The Queen never returned to Yugoslavia or Serbia after 1972. In 1995, she attended the 50th birthday celebration of Crown Prince Alexander in London and danced a waltz with the Crown Prince, whom she had baptised half century earlier.

Finally, in 2016, Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, made regional tour and visited Zagreb, Belgrade, Priština and Podgorica. During his visit to Belgrade and Serbia, Prince Charles, in addition to official meetings with the officials of Serbia, had special meetings with the Serbian Patriarch and the Friends of Mount Athos (FOMA) and paid a visit to the Temple of St. Sava in Belgrade and Kovilj Monastery. He also visited Crown Prince Alexander and was shown an exhibition on the mutual contacts between the two dynasties. On 17th March, 2016, in his address in the National Assembly of Serbia, he singled out some historical and public figures that symbolised relations between the United Kingdom and the region, including Father and Bishop Nikola Velimirović, Flora Sandes, Fitzroy Maclean, Rita Ora, Novak Đoković and Mother Theresa.

What emerges from this short review is that, in one hundred years spanning from 1916 to 2016, the British Royal family gave a very important contribution to the development of British-Serbian, British-Yugoslav and British-Balkan relations.

Jelena Miladinovic-Delic

PHARMACIST
AND FOUNDER
OF BEAUTY CORE
COSMETIC BRAND

It's probably fair to say that many Serbs in Britain are natural risk-takers. Whether through aspiration or desperation, our first generation made their way to the polar edge of Europe to carve a new life.

It was 1995. Jelena was close to completion of her pharmacy studies at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Belgrade. She was a young mother with big dreams. She decided to take the plunge and continue her pharmacy studies at King's College in London, uprooting husband and a young child in their shared new adventure.

Jelena graduated at King's college London in 1999 and qualified as a pharmacist in the following year. She continuously updated her knowledge, skills and expertise to be the best pharmacist possible. Jelena always believed in lifelong learning and confidence it gives to empower individual to seek fulfilment of their dreams. In 2008 Jelena undertook a teaching post as a Senior lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire where she gained a set of new skills in teaching and mentoring as well as inter disciplinary research in pharmaceutical technology and social pharmacy.

In year 2014, Jelena left her job at the University to start-up her own cosmetics brand, Beauty Core London. Using her pharmaceutical knowledge, expertise and skills she created innovative, science-driven cosmetic products, for the most prevalent skin concerns people are facing.

Since then, her company has grown, an enviable choice of skincare products for health and beauty, face and body.

Jelena explains that it typically takes 2-3 years of work to create a new cosmetic product, from formulation through to regulatory approvals and production. So it's a testament to her dedication and perseverance that within such a short time she has put 15 products on the market with few more in the R&D phase.

Despite the dynamic pace of product development Jelena says that quality of the product, it's safety and efficacy as well as attention to detail are her company's essential values. She sources the highest quality raw ingredients and thoroughly tests products to ensure they are safe to use and don't cause undesirable effects such as skin irritation. Beauty Core boasts several different lines of products with different active ingredients to promote anti-aging. The ALGENA range contain extract of red algae, a rich source of microelements which help nourish and regenerate skin. The PEPTIDA range are based on bioactive peptides that helps create a rejuvenated appearance with the added hyaluronic acid reducing the appearance of wrinkles.

Jelena chose Immortelle as the base fragrance for Beauty core products (smilje in Serbian). She says the fabulous Immortelle scent reminds her of the aromas surrounding Trebinje in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where her family roots hail from.

As well as being an entrepreneur and director of several companies, Jelena is also a dedicated mother of three to her family. They are blessed with daughter and two sons, aged 27, 21 and 20 years old who each have unique and different personalities. Beauty Core sells directly from its websites into markets in the UK, Europe, Serbia and the region.



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Great British Serbs

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

Vane Ivanović devoted most of his life to the idea of Yugoslav unity. A well-known athlete in the 1930s, a leading shipowner, one of the founders of the European Movement and Consul General of Monaco in London, he primarily saw himself as a democratic Yugoslav-in-exile, whose views belonged to a "mini-minority" (as he liked to say), both in Yugoslavia and in the Yugoslav diaspora.

He was born in 1913 in Osijek, present-day Croatia, to a Croat father and a Serb mother. His father, Rikard Ivanović, was one of the founders of the National Progressive Party (NNS) and a deputy in Croatia's Sabor (Assembly). His mother, Milica, was a sister of Dušan Popović, a leading Serb politician in the ruling Croato-Serb Coalition, which also included the NNS. Svetozar Pribićević, the other leading Serb in the Coalition, was the best man at Rikard and Milica's wedding, while Ivan Lorković, the NNS leader and the leading Croat in the Coalition, was Vane's godfather.

After his parents' divorce in the early 1920s, Vane moved to London, where his mother's second husband, Božo Banac, lived and ran a shipping business, which included Yugoslav Lloyd, then Yugoslavia's largest shipping company. Banac, a native of Dubrovnik and a believer in the Yugoslav unity, had in 1914 placed the whole of his mercantile fleet under Serbia's flag and had helped the creation and activities of the Yugoslav Committee, a group of Habsburg Croat, Slovene and Serb politicians and intellectuals based in London.

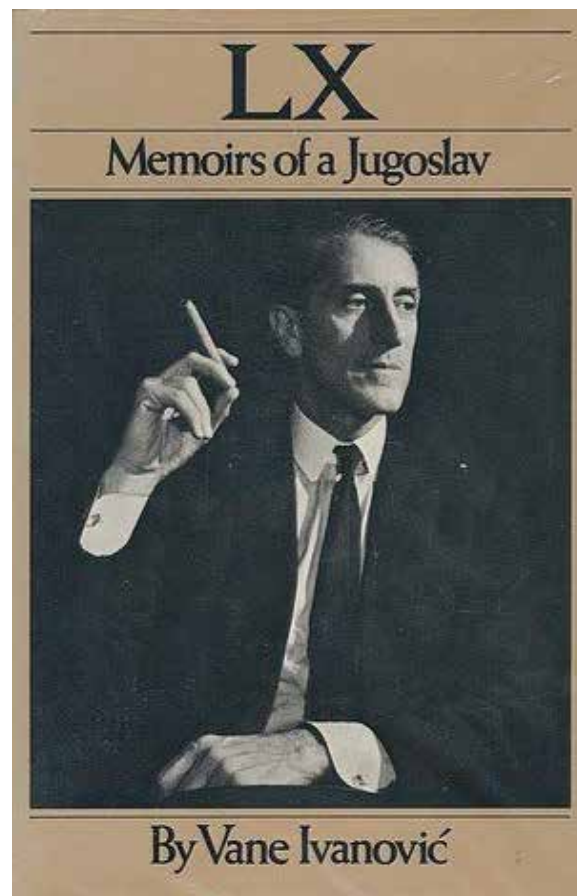
Because most of his family participated in the creation of the first Yugoslav state, formed on 1 December 1918, Vane Ivanović was a living proof that Yugoslavia was not artificially created by the Great Powers at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919-20, as it is today tempting to claim. The family background clearly contributed to Ivanović developing a strong Yugoslav identity, while life in Britain and the education he received in Britain (Westminster School and Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he read Economics) made him a staunch Anglophile.

He was a member of the Yugoslav team at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin, running the 110-metre and 400-metre hurdles. He was the undisputed Yugoslav champion in both disciplines throughout the 1930s. In 110m he reached the semi-finals in Berlin and in 400m hurdles he held the Yugoslav record for 17 years, from 1936 until 1953.

When the Second World War broke out, Ivanović had, acting on behalf of his ailing stepfather, placed 10 out of the 22 steamers owned by Yugoslav Lloyd in the service of the British. Thus, Banac and Ivanović were the first shipowners from a neutral country to join the Allies. After Yugoslavia was invaded by Germany, Italy and their external and internal allies in April 1941, Ivanović organised other Yugoslav shipowners in the Yugoslav Shipping Committee. Its aim was to prevent the capture of the Yugoslav mercantile fleet still in neutral waters by the Nazis.

In the summer of 1943 Ivanović joined the Yugoslav section of the Political Warfare Executive (PWE), as most of the Yugoslav Lloyd fleet had either been sunk or captured. In his memoirs (LX: memoirs of a Yugoslav, 1977), which should be a compulsory reading for anyone studying the history of Yugoslavia, Ivanović explains why he did not return to the occupied country to join Tito's or Mihailović's resistance movements: "I had no desire to forget the enemy and engage in a fratricidal war among my fellow countrymen, especially as I did not wholly agree with either side."

Vane Ivanović
9 June 1913 - 4 April 1999



He spent the rest of the war between London, Bari and Cairo and was demobilised as a Major in the British army. Because of the Communist seizure of power in Yugoslavia, Ivanović remained in Britain as a political refugee. The irony is that the same country Ivanović joined in 1939, when Tito was a little-known General Secretary of the small and illegal Communist Party of Yugoslavia and a puppet of Moscow, then allied to Germany, had provided a sustained help to the consolidation of the regime which had proclaimed him an "enemy of the people".

After the war Ivanović resumed a successful career in shipping, despite most of the pre-war fleet being destroyed or nationalised by the new Yugoslav authorities. He was the founder and the first president of the Association of Free Citizens of Yugoslavia, a charity, financed mainly by himself, designed to help other Yugoslav emigres. He continued to help his fellow countrymen until his death, sponsoring a number of postgraduate students who fled the 1990s conflict in Yugoslavia.

Vane Ivanović was one of the founders of Jean Monnet's European Movement, heading the Yugoslav Committee for the European Movement for more than three decades. In 1967 he was appointed to the post of Consul General of Monaco in London. He also wrote several books on spearfishing, of which the 1975 edition of *Modern Spearfishing* remains a classic. Yet he will most likely be remembered by historians for his role in a group of Yugoslav emigres who advocated democracy as the alternative to Tito's Yugoslavia. The Democratic Alternative, founded in 1963, included, besides Ivanović, well-known inter-war Yugoslav politicians, such as Božidar Vlaić of the Democratic Party, Ilija Jukić and Branko Pešelj, both of the Croatian Peasant Party, as well as a group of younger, pro-Yugoslav emigres, such as Desimir Tošić and Adil Zulfikarpašić.

Ivanović was the *spiritus movens* and one of the key members of the group. The final memorandum of the Democratic Alternative, produced in 1982, argues that Yugoslavia can only survive as a democratic community of sovereign nations, and that any other scenario would almost inevitably lead to a civil war. Vane Ivanović lived long enough to witness the awful fulfilment of this prophecy. Fortunately, he was not conscious during the last two weeks of his life, so he remained unaware of the latest Yugoslav tragedy. It is sad and symbolic that Ivanović died at the time when the final remnants of his former country are being destroyed in another brutal civil war and by Nato bombs.

His last wish was to donate a large private library and numerous paintings and sculptures to the former Yugoslavs. Yet, neither Zagreb nor Belgrade were particularly interested in what would have been a memorial to Ivanović's tolerant and democratic Yugoslavism. The Yugoslavia of Vane Ivanović's ideals never materialised, but it was never given a proper chance. All those who knew him will be immensely saddened by his death. They will remember him as the most charming, generous and tolerant person and will feel honoured to have known him and to have belonged to his "mini-minority".

Obituary by Professor Dejan Djokić published in *The Independent* on Thursday 8 April 1999

Vera Stanojlović

14 October 1920 - 15 July 2022



Vera was born on 14 October 1920 in Lazarevac, a small town some 60 kilometres south-west of Belgrade. Her father was a priest, the 14th generation in his family, and her mother was a primary school teacher, one of the first female teachers in Serbia. She loved the freedom that being brought up in a small town gave her to roam the surrounding countryside, swim in the Kolubara river and play football with the town's children.

After completing primary school in Lazarevac, Vera went to secondary school in Belgrade and had just completed her first year of a pharmacy course at the University when war broke out. Vera returned to her home in Lazarevac for the duration of the war where she and her family had their home requisitioned by the German and then Russian armies. In these difficult times her father used his position to try and protect townspeople from the excesses of the occupying forces, at times putting himself and his family at risk.

Once the Communists gained power after the war the family were regarded as anti-communist because of their activity in the Democratic Party and Vera spent a short period in prison. Due to their precarious position Vera and other younger members of the family decided to leave the country during the elections in 1945, believing that they would return after a couple of weeks. On her second attempt Vera managed to escape to Trieste where she remained for a few months before moving to the refugee camp in Eboli and then to Naples. When the British left Italy, she and other refugees were moved to a camp in western Germany. During her time in the camps, Vera found work not only for herself but other members of her family. She worked in the camp administration, a hospital and a library.

In 1947 Vera came to Britain under the European Volunteer Workers scheme, where the British government recruited displaced persons to meet the need for labour in key occupations in industry and farming, as well as in the new National Health Service. Vera was recruited to work as a nurse in a children's hospital in east London, while her sister was sent to a cotton factory in Preston and her brother-in-law to agricultural work in the west country. Vera was a hard worker and because of this the matron in the hospital where she worked used her influence to bring the family together in London. Vera became part of the small Serbian community in London which consisted largely of members of the government in exile and people who came to Britain as volunteer workers. The Serbian community congregated around the Serbian Orthodox Church in a house in Egerton Gardens in Knightsbridge, which Queen Marija had bought and donated to the Serbian community. The Church and community were ably led by Father Nikolić who became a close life-long friend. Initially there were only a dozen people in the congregation, but it grew considerably over the next few years with the arrival of more displaced people, voluntary workers, ex-prisoners of war and Chetnik families who had been led out of Croatia by Vojvoda Djuić.

In 1950 Vera married Boško Stanojlović, a serving member of the British Royal Airforce and travelled to join him when he was posted to Singapore, where she gave birth to her daughter Jelena, and then to Wiltshire where her second daughter Olga was born. The family returned to London in 1955 when Boško was posted to the War Office.

Upon their return, Vera and Boško became prominent members of the Serbian community in London, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s when the community was establishing its permanent roots in Britain, epitomised by setting up the St Sava Parish Church in Lancaster Road and then building the Bishop Nikolai Community Centre. While Boško was a well-known member of the community, Vera was equally active and played a significant role in setting up the Kolo Srpskih Sestara 'Kosovo Maiden' and was its Secretary for a number of years. In this capacity she helped raise funds for building the Bishop Nikolai Community Centre and for many other community projects. In addition, when it was not appropriate to call upon the Kolo Srpskih Sestara, she and Sara Gomilanović often helped prepare food for the slavas and church celebrations for Father Nikolić, Bishop Lavrentje, Prince Tomislav and Princess Margarita and other members of the community who were not in a position to undertake these preparations for themselves. Vera became the Honorary President of the Chetnik's Kolo Srpskih Sestara. After Boško died in 1985, she took over editorship of *Vazduhoplovni Glasnik* magazine which she continued issuing for over ten years.

In the 1990s during the wars in the former Yugoslavia, Vera was an active member of the Serbian Information Centre which aimed to encourage a better understanding of the Serbian position, counterbalancing the negative reporting in the British press. She complained to the BBC about biased reporting on numerous occasions, wrote letters of complaint to the then Prime Minister Tony Blair, appeared on Radio 4's 'Any Answers' and was quoted by Tony Benn at a protest march in Trafalgar Square.

Vera had a fantastic memory and was always interested in history, politics and current affairs. As Father Milun said in his obituary for Vera, 'She was always reading books and newspaper articles both in English and Serbian and often phoned me up to tell me what she had discovered in her reading. It was a pleasure to talk to Vera, whatever the subject of our conversation. She was so perceptive in her analysis of matters and the conclusions she reached, that I was always full of admiration.'

Despite her years, and a serious fall in 2018, Vera remained active and interested in everything to do with Serbia and the Serbian community in Britain. She spent most of her time with her daughters, Jelena and Olga, her son-in-law Rob, her grand-daughters Alexandra and Katherine and her wider family. Vera continued to instil in them a pride and love of their Serbian heritage. She died peacefully in her sleep on 15 July 2022 at the age of 101.

Olga Stanojlović

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Đorđe Novaković

3 March 1923 - 8 November 2016



Đorđe Novaković was a Serb who cherished his Yugoslav homeland and did everything he could to uphold its culture and heritage while he lived his life in exile in Britain. He was a devout parishioner of St Sava church where he worshipped regularly and worked on a voluntary basis in his later years. His career at the BBC saw him hold a unique insight into the world of politics and news – knowledge which he used to help the causes he loved. His opinion and advice were sought by many in the Serbian community, and he acted in an advisory capacity for a number of organisations and institutions including the Serbian Royal Family.

Born in Dubrovnik on 3 March 1923, Đorđe was the youngest of three children. His father, Simeon, was a Serb from Knin who was an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Navy. His mother, Margarita, was from an Italian-Croatian family from Zadar. Đorđe was proud of his mixed heritage and felt that it reflected the newly formed Yugoslav nation, which he strongly believed in. Đorđe lost his father in tragic circumstances when he was not yet four years old, with his mother left to bring up her three children alone. But despite the family tragedy, Đorđe had a very happy childhood. He loved the Adriatic Sea and the Dalmatian coast. He attended High School (gimnazija) in Šibenik, where he particularly enjoyed history and Serbo-Croat literature, but his education was cut short by the invasion of Yugoslavia in April 1941. In 1942, not long before his nineteenth birthday, Đorđe decided to leave Šibenik and go to Serbia to join the Serbian Volunteer Force (Dobrovoljci). Towards the end of the war, he was wounded as the troops withdrew from Yugoslavia into the hands of the Allied Forces in Italy.

The end of the war marked the start of his exile from Yugoslavia, and the start of a period of hardship and displacement as a war refugee. Life was not easy for him and his many fellow Serbs in the various Displaced Persons Camps, most notably in Eboli near Naples. But at least they were safe, unlike some others who were handed back to the partisans. Then, in early 1947, Đorđe was invited to be part of a group of Serbs who were given the opportunity to study theology in England. The journey through war-ravaged Europe took several days, but finally Đorđe and a group of a dozen or so Serbs arrived in England. The studies at Dorchester College near Oxford lasted until 1949 when Đorđe received his diploma. After a short time, he managed to secure a job at the BBC Yugoslav Service in Bush House, London.

In 1951, Đorđe married Milanka 'Seka' Ivković whom he had first met in Eboli and who had also ended up in England. Seka was born in Valjevo and had studied to become a teacher like her father. Đorđe was transferred to the Monitoring Service in Caversham where he worked as a Serbo-Croat monitor. They made their home in Reading where they brought up their children Vesna and Zoran. They made sure they both spoke Serbo-Croat fluently and were aware of their Serbian heritage and culture. Although Đorđe himself did not return to Yugoslavia until the 1970s, Seka and the children went back frequently to see family and friends.

Đorđe and Seka were always involved with the Serbian community locally in Reading, organising activities for them and attending the orthodox services at St Bartholomew's Church. But they also maintained contacts with the other Serbian communities in England, especially those in London and Leicester. Đorđe's career at the BBC went well and he rose through the ranks to become the head of the Reception Department and deputy head of the Monitoring Service. He was instrumental in the BBC's reporting of a number of significant news events, including the rise of the *Solidarność* movement in Poland. This gave him the hope that positive change might also be possible in Yugoslavia.

When he left the BBC in 1983, Đorđe was able to devote himself more fully to the causes he was passionate about. He felt strongly about Human Rights and started to promote the cause of political prisoners in Yugoslavia. He was actively involved with Amnesty International in supporting political prisoners, including the 'Belgrade Six' group of dissidents who were put on trial in 1984. He wrote several articles for *The South Slav Journal* as their Human Rights editor and contributed to the London periodical *Index on Censorship*. He was tireless in supporting the democratic evolution of Yugoslavia and contributed to the *Democratic Encounters* forum which was set up to promote greater freedoms in Yugoslavia through the post-Tito years.

In July 1991, Đorđe was a founding figure in the creation of the Serbian Information Centre, set up during the Balkan War in response to the perceived one-sided reporting of Yugoslav affairs in the British media. Its aim was to acquaint the British public with various issues the Serbian people had to face in the period following the break-up of the former Yugoslavia and to provide more accurate information about Serbs and Serbia to the media. It was an independent, non-official body, completely self-financed and staffed by volunteers. It ran for almost ten years, during which time Đorđe and the other members did their best to present the Serbian case to the British public and correct some of the misperceptions which had arisen during the war.

In 1992, Đorđe was invited by HRH Crown Prince Alexander to become a member of the Privy Council, advising The Royal Family on matters of state and helping them to navigate the aftermath of the break-up of Yugoslavia. He continued his work for The Royal Family well into his eighties. In 2007, Đorđe was awarded the Order of the White Eagle (Orden Belog Orla) for his services. In a message of thanks to The Crown Prince, he said: 'It is a great honour for me and my family to receive such recognition for services to the Karadjordjević Royal House. I have only done what I thought was my duty. What is paramount is the national interest of the Serbian people...'

Đorđe was always keen to help the most needy in Serbia and in 1997 he joined the Board of Trustees of the Serbian Benevolent Society, the oldest British charity helping orphans and other children in need in Serbia. This work brought him into frequent contact with HRH Crown Princess Katherine, wife of HRH Crown Prince Alexander, who sponsored activities to raise funds for St Sava's Church and for the Children's Hospital in Belgrade.

Đorđe also initiated the setting up of the Diaspora Council in Great Britain in 2002 and was one of founding members of the Serbian Council of Great Britain in 2004, which is still very much active and brings us this publication today.

Despite the hardships and difficulties, Đorđe had an eventful, fruitful and active life. He was always happy to help the Serbian community, to give advice and guidance to anyone who needed it and to stand up for the causes he believed in. He held his beloved Yugoslavia at the centre of his thoughts to the end. He died peacefully in Hove in 2016 aged 93.

Zoran Novaković

Nemanja Marčetić

16 January 1926 – 25 November 2018



I met Nemanja in 1993 at the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies in London. It was after one of the sessions on Yugoslavia, which were regularly held during the war in the former Yugoslavia. We spoke briefly. I espoused in a nutshell my vision of the political solution for the Yugoslav lands; a federal Bosnia and Herzegovina, a decentralised unitary state of Croatia, with five autonomous provinces, and a confederal arrangement for the Yugoslav states.

He completely agreed with me, adding that someone needed to coordinate this arrangement, and that he could not see anyone better than His Royal Highness, the Prince of Yugoslavia, Alexander Karadjordjević. With this statement he declared himself as a Yugoslav and a royalist. Later he arranged my meeting with Prince Alexander Karadjordjević, and we went for lunch in a restaurant, where we discussed possible political solutions for the Yugoslav lands.

At our first meeting Nemanja asked if I could write something for the South Slav Journal. I said I was busy, but I would contact him when I had some more time.

Our next meeting occurred at Nemanja's house in May 1996. I returned from Belgrade, where I had a viva of my doctoral dissertation. I asked Nemanja if he could publish an article of a friend and colleague of mine from Belgrade in the journal. He promised to do it, and at the same time offered me the opportunity to join the journal by introducing Economics and becoming its economic editor. The journal was already multidisciplinary, publishing articles and book reviews in History, Politics, Sociolinguistics, Sociology, Philosophy of History, Military affairs, etc. I gladly accepted, which marked the beginning of our friendship. From 1996 until I left England in 2015, I became a regular visitor to their home. My visits usually happened at weekends, due to my work commitments. I enjoyed delicious food and drink, prepared by their housekeeper Vukica, and intellectually fulfilling and academically inspiring conversation with Nemanja, his wife, Pat, and his brother, Rastko. All three of them were brilliant intellectuals with immense knowledge in various social sciences and literature. In addition, Nemanja and Rastko were multilingual, speaking fluent English, French, German, Italian and Russian.

Nemanja and Pat's house contained a rich library with possibly thousands of books and articles on literature, history, philosophy and other disciplines. Before I left their house and after eating a square meal, I would go to the library and collect a couple of books, with the quip: 'First comes material basis (food) and then intellectual superstructure (books), referring to the Marxist statement regarding his historical materialism. Once during the Great Recession, I sent Nemanja the following email: 'Neither capitalism, nor communism can resolve the fundamental issues of humankind due to their inherent weaknesses. The future of humankind lies in alcoholism'. Nemanja replied with: 'Drinkers of the world, unite', referring to the famous slogan 'Workers of the world, unite', and ironically referring to Nemanja's anti-communist past.

writing book reviews in History, Politics, Economics, even Literature. Later I moved on to writing articles in Economics. I turned these articles into two books: *The Impact of Transition and Global Economic Changes in the South-Eastern European Countries 2001-2010*, and 'Economic Performance in the South-Eastern European Countries after the Fall of Communism'. I turned most of my book reviews into a book, *The Balkans Over Years: History and Politics*. I am eternally grateful to Nemanja and Pat for giving me the opportunity to express myself intellectually in a written form and for helping me to hone my skills in writing academic texts in English.

Nemanja was a genuine idealist and romantic as regards the Yugoslav peoples. At a certain point he established intensive communication with Svetlana Broz, Tito's granddaughter. His father was a district prosecutor in 1923 in Bjelovar in Croatia when he arrested Tito. A communist had died and Tito delivered an inflammatory speech at the funeral. Tito was released from prison after two days. Nemanja wanted to link up Svetlana Broz and Prince Alexander Karadjordjević so that they could work together for the benefit of the Yugoslav peoples: 'He can work from the right, and she can work from the left, and they might find themselves in the middle'. I asked Nemanja: 'Could you ever imagine that you would have such intensive communication with Tito's granddaughter?' Nemanja shook his head: 'I could have never imagined such a thing'.

I was not in London when Nemanja passed away. Nataša, his niece, informed me about his death. I arrived in London three months later and visited their house for the last time as it had been sold. I collected quite a few books. The remaining books were packed in a lorry, to be distributed to various libraries in London. A sad feeling engulfed me as this marked the end of an epoch.



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Prof. Dr Vojin Šljivić

14. August 1931 - 30. November 2021

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain

Vojin Šljivić was born in Belgrade in 1931 and was descended from two distinguished intellectual urban Serbian families. At the age of sixteen, his father, Professor Sreten Šljivić, was part of the Great Serbian Retreat in 1915 and was educated in France, receiving his PhD in physics from the University of Nancy in 1926. During World War II, he was a prisoner of war in the Nuremberg camp. He became a full professor of physics at the Faculty of Natural Sciences in Belgrade and later founded the department of physics and maths at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences where he became the Dean. He authored all the standard physics textbooks used in Yugoslav education at the time for middle school and university. Vojin's mother, Dr Jelena Radovanović Šljivić, received her undergraduate and doctoral degrees in chemistry from the University of Lausanne. She was one of the first ten women in Serbia to acquire a doctorate in chemistry before World War II. Vojin had a younger brother, Ljubomir.

Vojin graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade in 1957 ranking in the top three students in a class of 600. After National Service, he joined the Radiobiological Laboratory at the Boris Kidrič Institute of Nuclear Sciences in Vinča where, in collaboration with Prof. Miroslav Simić, he studied the radiation effects on antibody responses in rodents. This research resulted in various publications for which he and Simić were awarded the prestigious October Award of the City of Belgrade and nurtured what became a lifelong friendship.

In 1964, he received his PhD from the Faculty of Medicine in Belgrade and left for the UK on a fellowship from the International Atomic Energy Agency. He took up a research post at the Radiobiological Research Unit at Harwell, where he continued to pursue his interest in radiation and immune response. In February 1966, he married Bojana (known as Maya) Crnjanski in Paris. Maya came from the extended family of Miloš Crnjanski, the renowned author, and she graduated from the famous ballet school in Belgrade run by Nina Kirsanova. She performed at the National Theatre in Belgrade and danced with the Zagreb Ballet Company.

In 1967, Vojin and Maya moved permanently to the UK, and Vojin spent the next twenty years (1969-89) teaching immunology at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in Paddington, first as Lecturer and later as Reader. He continued his research at St Mary's and became a well-known expert on the role of macrophages in the innate and adaptive immune responses to infection. He moved to the United Arab Emirates in 1989 to join the newly established Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Al Ain University. There, he developed and delivered all the Immunology teaching in the new medical curriculum and was also a Consultant Immunologist at the local hospitals. He remained in the UAE until his retirement in 1996.

He authored or co-authored more than 40 original research publications, several books and book chapters and was a PhD examiner for the Universities of London and Aberdeen. He also supervised several PhD, masters and undergraduate theses. He was highly popular with students and regularly voted as the students' favourite professor at the Faculty in Al Ain. Some of the tributes from his former colleagues at St Mary's described him as: "Such a great man, a great sense of humour, very wise, affable, and a fount of knowledge." "He was someone who always had time to talk to you."

Upon retirement in London, Vojin was one of the founders of the British-Serbian Medical Association and acted as its Secretary for many years. The goal of BSMA is to collaborate with humanitarian organisations in providing medical assistance to Serbia.

Although born in Belgrade to Serbian parents, Vojin's mother tongue was French and this was the first language spoken at home. He remained fluent in French throughout his life and also spoke Russian well as a young man. Vojin's upbringing was filled with music. His father played the violin, as did his brother, and Vojin himself played the piano. His linguistic and musical background was imparted to his two daughters. Sandra studied modern languages at Oxford University and became a linguist, fluent in five languages. Ana studied piano at the Belgrade Faculty of Musical Arts and then music at King's College, Cambridge.

Vojin's childhood home in Belgrade was in the Professor's Colony and housed a vast library of thousands of books in Serbian, French, German, English and Russian. The majority of the books were donated in September 2021 to Adligat, the Museum of Books, in Belgrade.

Vojin had many hobbies, including chess, reading and DIY. He was a skilled carpenter and could turn his hand to virtually anything from woodwork, wallpapering and painting, to replacing guttering, laying new floors, installing a fitted kitchen and rewiring a house. His expertise at fixing broken things was put to good use even at age 90 in Greece.

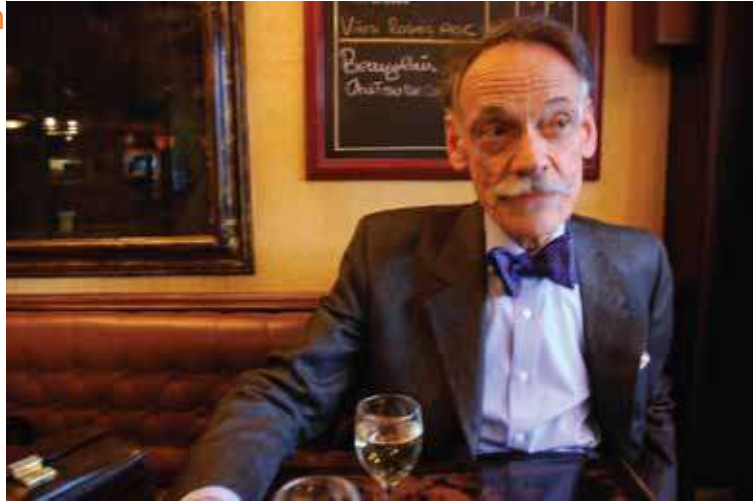
When Vojin was 78 years old, Maya had a stroke. For the next 10 years, he devoted himself to her and her needs. He took over all the responsibilities of running the household, including cooking. He single-handedly prepared dishes for the family's annual Slava, on the feast day of St. George, celebrated according to Serbian tradition on May 6, well into his 80s.

In 2017, in his mid-80s, Vojin and Maya moved to Greece to live with their elder daughter Sandra and her family. Vojin died on November 30, 2021 and is buried next to Maya in the shade of a large pine tree in a quiet village cemetery overlooking the city of Thessaloniki. They are survived by their two daughters, Sandra and Ana, and three granddaughters, Lara, Audrey and Stefania.



Professor Stevan Pavlowitch

7 September 1933 – 24 January 2022



Professor Stevan Pavlowitch: he described himself as Yugoslav by birth, Serb by family background, British by residence and French by culture

Stevan Pavlowitch, who has died aged 88, was the doyen of South-East European historiography; though Yugoslav by birth, his work stood apart from, and remained above, the ideologically driven and nationalist historiographical trends of the Cold War era and the 1990s Yugoslav wars.

A cosmopolitan intellectual and a genuine European, Pavlowitch used to say that he was Yugoslav by birth, Serb by family background, British by residence and French by culture.

Stevan Kosta Pavlowitch was born on September 7 1933 in Belgrade, then capital of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. He spent his childhood in Bucharest and in London, where his diplomat father Kosta was stationed with the exiled Yugoslav government, which fled following the invasion of Yugoslavia by the Axis powers and their local allies in April 1941.

Stevan's grandfather and namesake was a member of the Yugoslav delegation at the 1919-20 Paris Peace Conference, as foreign minister Ante Trumbić's secretary.

After the war Kosta Pavlowitch became a Serbo-Croat language tutor and Slavonic Studies librarian at the University of Cambridge, and the author of works of diplomatic history. His son graduated in history from the universities of Lille, Paris-Sorbonne and King's College, London in 1956.

At King's he was taught by Michael Howard, later Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, who recalled Pavlowitch in his memoir *Captain Professor* (2006) as one of his early students who went on to forge successful academic careers.

Pavlowitch continued with postgraduate studies at London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, but in 1958 he accepted a job in public relations for the Swedish company Atlas Copco; he was at the Brussels World's Fair for them and lived in Stockholm and then for several years in Milan at the time the company was digging the Mont Blanc tunnel.

The job did not allow him to spend the statutory period of time in registration for a London PhD, so he submitted his thesis on Anglo-Russian Rivalry in 1830s Serbia as an MA. A doctorate in all but name, it was published in Paris in 1961.

The inspiration for the topic came from the elderly Slobodan Jovanović, a leading historian of 19th-century Serbia and, in 1942-43, prime minister of the Yugoslav government-in-exile. Pavlowitch was supervised by Hugh Seton-Watson ("our supervisions mainly consisted of discussions about French and Italian art and Byzantine history," he recalled) and Phyllis Auty, who "improved my English".

Pavlowitch returned to Britain in 1965 to take up a lectureship in history at Southampton University and remained there, becoming Professor of Balkan History and firmly placing Southampton on the global map of Balkan studies. He took early retirement in 1996, as one of only two professors of Balkan history in the UK, alongside Richard Clogg.

A pioneering history of Yugoslavia, published in 1971, established Pavlowitch as a leading scholar in the field. The aptly named *Unconventional Perceptions of Yugoslavia, 1940-1945* (1986) was followed by *The Improbable Survivor: Yugoslavia and its Problems, 1918-1988* (1989), and a short, critical biography of Tito, published in 1992, culminating in *Hitler's New Disorder: The Second World War in Yugoslavia* (2008), his last book, recently published in a new edition



Apart from English, he wrote in French, Italian and Serbo-Croat, and read Bulgarian, Romanian and Spanish. His little-known French masterpiece *Bijou d'art* (1978), a study of Bozidar Karadjordjevic, a "Parisian artist and a Balkan prince", is also a social and cultural history of 19th-century Europe told from the perspective of Balkan émigrés, artists and students in Paris.

For anyone who wishes to engage seriously with Yugoslav history, which he always situated in the wider European context, Pavlowitch's work will remain a standard reference.

Pavlowitch returned to Belgrade in the 1990s on the invitation of the historians Andrej Mitrovic and Branko Petranovic, and several of his books were translated into his native language.

The 2004 launch of the Serbian edition of his erudite and elegantly written *History of the Balkans, 1804-1945* attracted scholarly and media attention.

Ultimately, however, Pavlowitch was consigned to the margins of the former-Yugoslav historiography, where romantic-nationalist and other ideological interpretations predominate. Neither he nor the late Traian Stoianovich, another French-educated Serb historian of the Balkans who built a stellar academic career in the West, have been recognised officially in their native country.

Pavlowitch was intellectually formidable, modest and kind; his erudition inspired but never intimidated. Tall and impeccably dressed, he would walk, cane in hand, every morning to his office or to a local newsagent to purchase *Le Monde*, raising his hat to passers-by.

Pavlowitch continued to examine doctoral theses following his retirement. His health deteriorating, he stopped writing in his final years. He bequeathed Dejan Djokic – a former student, now Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Goldsmith's College – his large private library, part of which Djokic donated to Goldsmith's, home to the Centre for the Study of the Balkans, of which Pavlowitch was a key external member.

Obituary by Professor Dejan Djokić The Telegraph, 7 March 2022

Milica Miša Brozović

30 September 1937 - 3 December 2021



Milica Miša Brozović was one of the leading figures in the medical field of haematology. Her work resulted in better services and improved quality of life for patients with inherited blood diseases, such as sickle cell disease, and their families. Her work resulted in better treatment, information, management and screening services for these patients.

Born in Belgrade, Serbia, Miša was the daughter of Jelisaveta (nee Vuković) and Filip Vasić, the Chief Scientist at the City's Institute for Economic Investments. She lived happily within a loving and caring family until World War II engulfed Serbia in 1941. The years during and after the war were difficult and harsh, and in many ways shaped her beliefs and attitudes in later life. While attending the Second Gramme School for Girls in Belgrade she decided to become a physician.

While studying at the Medical School at the University of Belgrade Miša started to work as a research student in the Laboratory of the Department of Haematology at the University's Clinic 'B' for Internal Diseases. At that time the head of the haematology department was Professor Radivoje Berović. Doctors Rajko Ruvidić and Zoran Rolović, dedicated and enthusiastic young haematologists, later to become professors, were introducing the latest innovations and techniques into the clinical and laboratory practices, which they brought from their studies in France and the USA, respectively. They were the role models who inspired her to take up haematology as her speciality.

On graduating in medicine from the University of Belgrade in 1962 and completing an internship, Miša went to London in 1964 as a research assistant in the Department of Haematology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. After appointments at Hammersmith Hospital and St Bartholomew's Hospital she obtained membership of the Royal College of Pathology in 1968. The appointment as a scientist in the Division for Biological Standards and Control at the National Institute for Medical Research followed from 1969 until 1974 when Miša was appointed as a consultant haematologist at the Northwick Park Hospital.

There she collaborated with Dr Tom Mead, head of MRC Epidemiology and Clinical Care Unit, on several aspects of thrombosis in the general population. In these last two posts Miša honed her research and clinical skills in the field of haemostasis and thrombosis. In 1975 Miša was invited to become the first consultant haematologist and head of the department at the Central Middlesex Hospital, where she stayed until her retirement.

There she encountered patients and their families who were severely affected by sickle cell disease. Medical and social services did not exist for these patients. In 1979, with the help of her colleagues, medical and social workers, Miša established the Brent Sickle Cell Centre, providing treatment, information and advice. The group also established services for neonatal screening and later regional centres for screening of abnormalities of haemoglobin synthesis.

The department became a model whose influence spread nationwide and provided impetus for the creation of the Sickle Cell Society, a charity established in 1979. Miša was a founder member and Medical Adviser of the Society. She remained a member until her death.

Miša was a leader as well as a physician, teacher, researcher and administrator. As a leader she led by example. She was always happy to provide advice, support and help to all in her team. She was open to argument, ready to listen and willing to accept advice.

As a teacher for undergraduate and postgraduate students at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, and the Central Middlesex and St Mary's Hospital Medical Schools, her dedication inspired several young doctors to embrace and later become professors in the subject.

As a researcher, she developed in parallel two streams of clinical and laboratory investigation. First, in sickle cell anaemia, and secondly, in the field of haemostasis and thrombosis. She published more than one hundred peer-reviewed scientific papers. She was a co-author of many standard reference books including Blood and its Disorders, Practical Haematology and Bleeding Disorders. She wrote a Manual of Clinical Blood Transfusion (with B. Brozovic, 1987). She regularly attended many national and international meetings where she presented the results of her work.

As a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathology she served on the committees of several societies and institutions, the British Society in Haematology, the British Committee for Standards in Haematology and the British Standards Institute. She was involved in writing up, fundraising for and reviewing many research projects. And as an administrator, she held the post of a Director of Pathology Department in the Central Middlesex Hospital.

After 'retirement' in 1993, Miša continued to work as a visiting consultant haematologist in the university hospitals of the Medical School of Abu Dhabi, the Medical School of Cape Town and the Medical School of Otago University in Christchurch, until she finally retired in 1999. In the 2010s and back in the UK, Miša studied astronomy, obtaining a diploma from the University of London. Her thesis was on 'Extremophiles and extraterrestrial life'.

Throughout her professional life Miša remained in contact with haematologists in Belgrade and followed their work and developments in haematology. She attended several meetings and workshops organised by her alma mater or Serbian Medical Society. She was a founder member of the British Serbian Association. In London she was always ready to advise and help young haematologists from Serbia visiting or settling in the UK.

Miša loved life. She liked to entertain, she was an avid reader and shared her interests in art and music with friends. She liked to travel, especially if travelling was adventurous. She loved walking and hiking in the mountains. As a young doctor and medical officer in the Mountain Rescue Service in Serbia she climbed many peaks in former Yugoslavia. Miša was an avid explorer: trekking in the Northwest Himalayas and scrambling the Knife Edge Ridge on the Table Mount in South Africa. As a PADI certified advanced open water diver she explored coral reefs in the Maldives. She crossed the sand dunes of the Arabian desert, swam with penguins in the False Bay on the Cape of Good Hope. But above all, she cherished the time she spent with her grandchildren, Daniel, Helen and Nina.

Miša met her husband Branko in Slovenia during a snowstorm in July 1955 and they married three years later. She is survived by her husband, her son Nikola, her grandchildren and her brother Voislav.

Branko Brozović

Gordana Miller

4 December 1947 - 14 November 2014



I always think about Gordana when our winter celebrations arrive. She was a tireless organiser of the Serbian cultural events and social gatherings where we happily remembered the culture of the country we came from and our cultural background. Goca, as we called her, was from Belgrade but also from former Yugoslavia, which gave her a much wider spectrum of cultural identities, helping her to organise and make our celebrations joyful and to remind us of the time when we lived there. Through music, theatre, food events, all held in the Serbian language, we remembered what we missed in our new country and Gordana recognised this.

She passed away too early. We miss her as a person, cheerful and cheeky, and remember the events she organised with performers from all parts of former Yugoslavia who all liked to come to sing, dance, play and eat our home specialities. Nobody else could ever organise events as she had, both social gatherings and for religious celebrations. Her events were sold out because, whatever we thought about Yugoslavia, we all enjoyed the musical programmes which reminded us of home. We celebrated the cultural diversity of the country in which we were born and for which many of us remain culturally nostalgic.

In addition to music, dance and singalongs, we missed 'food for our soul'; aware of this, Gordana started bringing theatre plays with popular actors over from Serbia. It was an amazing achievement, which we all enjoyed, as did other nationalities from former Yugoslavia. It quenched our cultural thirst for the events in our native language. The same feeling existed for books, poetry and music.

What Gordana recognised and delivered to our community in London and more widely in the UK, was the systematic and regular flow of the events which enhanced friendship, communication, nostalgia and the feeling of belonging to both the wider and focused cultural inheritance of our ancestors. We loved it and her way of doing it – which we realised only after her passing away – was irreplaceable.

And then all of a sudden, Goca got sick and quietly left without music and acting, just as she was, turning to herself and her family with a big heart that welcomed us friends and all who loved her for herself. We her friends will remember her as long as we live.

Vesna Petković



Radomir Putniković

Radomir Putniković, author, publisher, and one of Serbia's best fables writers, was born in Belgrade, 1936, into an old Serbian family. His grandfather, Dimitrije Putniković, was a scholar, a Serbian educational innovator and writer, who established a Museum of Education in Belgrade.

Radomir Putniković finished primary school and gymnasium (secondary school) in Smederovo, Užičkoj Požezy and in Belgrade. The first story he published was in Zadrugar, and then his other stories were published in Omladina, Pionirima, Beogradskim novinama, and a satirical magazine Jež, (Hedgehog).

As a student he travelled throughout Europe and North America, and came to Britain in 1970, to London, where he lives today. Here he organised exhibitions to promote Yugoslav art as well that of other European painters. Later he established his own publishing firm Porthill Publishers, whose publications included books for young adults. These books, in which he was author and innovator, were published in Britain, Yugoslavia, Serbia, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, the USA, Canada and Brazil.

Radomir Putniković's first book was published in 1968 in Mladom pokolenju. It was a collection of fables with the title "The flea who travelled round the world". Soon after, he wrote a collection of six fables. Purnell Books published the first edition in 1982 with a run of 35,000 copies, and a second for Marks and Spencer with a run of 100,000 copies. The Creative Centre in Belgrade published an enlarged edition of that book with the title Fables in three editions.

The literary work of Radomir Putniković amounts to more than 40 titles. These include: The Stinging Nettles and Poppies, published in 1990; Fables, Prometej, Novi Sad, 2008; First Among Equals, Prosveta, Belgrade, 2012; On the grave of Karl Marx, Prometej, 2014. Two books in Serbian and English Three Hundred Nightingale Songs, Creative Centre, 2016 and a book of aphorisms Unsavoury Crumbs, Prosveta, Belgrade 2004; a collection of satirical stories Dear God, Prometej, 2007; and a collection of short plays Apple Pie, Bookland, Belgrade, 2008.

In addition to this rich canon of work Radomir Putniković published three very important books: Two Shores, an interview with Miloš Jevtić, 1994, and Sincerely Yours, Prometej, 2012, a book about his extensive political lobbying over many years. In defence of the truth about the civil war in Yugoslavia in 1999, he published in English, History of Serbian Culture in two editions.

Serbian Month

in Great Britain

Radomir Putniković has been awarded some of the most prestigious recognitions: Orden Vuka Karadžića for the promotion of Serbian Culture, an award "Radoje Domanović" for satire, "Dosetejevo pero", and the highest recognition from the Society of Authors Serbia, *Povelja for lifetime work*.

Andrej Bazilevski, Russian writer and critic, said of Radomir Putniković:

"*First Among Equals*" is a collection of fables about the world as it is today. This is an extraordinary zoo where the beasts of our time are presented. Capitalist sharks, opportunist politicians, and our spin doctors, bankers without scruples, flies brain-washed by soap operas, corrupt senators, rat pack journalists. These fables have been written with courage, and it needs courage to read them. Any feeling that we may have left within us examines our moral values which have existed for centuries. The fight for the truth is more important to the author than survival; he believes that by opposing deviation in today's world, in spite of everything it will bring hope, and thereby open a road to a new beginning. Sooner or later evolution will bring a man from the chaos of our material world. Radomir Putniković the author, is a master of fragments. He writes with style, provoking intellect, with wit and irony.

Whilst the late Milovan Vitezović, a distinguished Serbian writer and the former President of the Association of Serbian Writers wrote.

'Radomir Putniković is a writer who has proven with his decades long work that an intellectual is uncompromisingly committed to the truth. The book "*The Light of the Metropolis*" confirms this, and puts him on the literary stage, today, at the top of the world's fable writers. Putniković's manuscript came in the decade of the great real-life drama of his Serbian people. He continuously experienced those misfortunes of the Serbian people as catharsis, bearing them stoically. He did everything to enable the citizens of Great Britain to feel at least a part of those catharsis. In the British Parliament, he keeps the Serbian question open even today. He wrote over 9,500 letters and articles to politicians and the media.'

He is a member of the Society of Authors of Serbia and a member of the Society of writers in England. Seven of his books are in the British Library, in London.



Vesna Goldsworthy

Vesna Goldsworthy is an internationally best-selling and prize-winning British-Serbian writer, academic and broadcaster. She is the first Serb to be elected fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. In a traditional ceremony of acceptance held in June 2022, she signed the Society's roll with Lord Byron's quill, while only two months earlier, in April, she became the first woman to be awarded the Momo Kapor prize for her new novel, *Iron Curtain* at Belgrade Town Hall. These two events, and their ample media coverage, are a reflection not only of Vesna Goldsworthy's standing as a writer but of her rootedness in both English and Serbian literature and culture.

Goldsworthy was born Vesna Bjelogrić in Belgrade in 1961. Her parental grandparents settled in the then royal Yugoslav capital from the borderlands of Herzegovina and Montenegro soon after the Great War. Her mother came to Belgrade to study law from Crljenac, in the hills of Eastern Serbia, where her family had run a kafana and owned vineyards and farmland, much of it seized after the Second World War. The rich family mosaic forms a picturesque backdrop to *Chernobyl Strawberries*, Goldsworthy's bestselling memoir, which was serialised by the BBC in 2005.

A portrait of Vesna Goldsworthy, a woman with short grey hair, wearing a white button-down shirt and a gold necklace with circular pendants. She is seated and looking directly at the camera. The background is a dark, patterned fabric.

**Serbian
Month**

in Great Britain

Vesna Goldsworthy completed most of her education in Belgrade. By the time she entered Belgrade University in September 1980 to study Yugoslav and Comparative Literature, she was already a well-known poet with several noted poetry prizes to her name, and a presenter of a youth radio programme on Belgrade's Studio B. Between 1981 and 1984 she edited the literary magazine *Znak* (The Sign). She graduated in 1985 with the Ivo Andrić scholarship and the highest-grade point average in her year.

Although she started learning English and French in the early 1970s and roughly at the same time, her study of French at the legendary *Association Yugoslavie-France* was much more intensive and enthusiastic. She was in her early teens when she got to know great Francophile Serbian poets such as Desanka Maksimović and Dušan Matić: she was never as proud as when she was asked to accompany Maksimović to the Association events. By the time she was eighteen, she was writing and publishing in French, and she considers it her second language.

She was on the point of accepting a scholarship for postgraduate study in France when she met her future English husband and chose to move to England instead: a turn of events which caused some upset in her Francophile and Anglophobe family, described with a fine sense of arguably English irony in Goldsworthy's memoir.

Goldsworthy has been living in London since 1986. She completed her PhD studies in English Literature as a British Academy scholar at the University of London in 1996, and she spent most of her working life in the British capital, first as editor in two publishing houses, then as a producer for the BBC World Service, and finally, since 2000, as an academic, teaching English Literature and Creative Writing. She is currently professor at the University of Exeter and at the University of East Anglia.

A product of a decade long research into the ways in which British literature and film had influenced Western ideas of the Balkans, Goldsworthy's first book *Inventing Ruritania: the Imperialism of the Imagination*, published in 1998 by Yale University Press, is recognised as one of the key contributions to the study of Balkan and European identity. Described by the *Washington Post* as containing 'enough research to found an academic department', it is a much-translated volume which continues to be taught at universities worldwide. In March 2023, the dramatization of *Inventing Ruritania* will be premiered at the BITEF theatre in Belgrade.

Goldsworthy's second book, the internationally best-selling memoir *Chernobyl Strawberries* (2005) was serialised in the *Times* and read by Goldsworthy herself as Book of the Week on Radio Four. This tale of childhood and youth in the dog-days of Tito's brand of socialism, begun as a story for her then two-year old son when Goldsworthy was diagnosed with cancer, was translated across Europe, from Portugal to Poland, enjoying fourteen editions in German alone. For Goldsworthy, it marked the return to creative writing after an interval of two decades, but now in the language of her adopted country.

She soon returned to poetry too. The Crashaw Prize-winning poetry collection *The Angel of Salonika* (2011) was one of the *Times* Best Poetry Books of the Year, described by J.M. Coetzee as a 'welcome new voice in British poetry'. This book was in fact written translingually and published near-simultaneously in English and Serbian: the title poem had its premiere as the title page spread of Politika culture supplement.

Goldsworthy's first novel *Gorsky* (2015), a tale of the wealthy Russians in London narrated by an impoverished Serbian bookseller, was the *New York Times* Editor's Choice and Waterstones Book of the Month, as well as being long-listed for the Baileys Prize and serialised as Book at Bedtime on BBC Radio Four. It has been translated into fifteen languages, including into Serbian by Goldsworthy herself.

Her second, *Monsieur Ka* (2018) was one of the *Times*' 'Summer Reads' choice of best new novels. This book, set in 1947 and written in rich period English, imagines the life of Anna Karenina's son Sergei as an exile in West London. Goldsworthy's work is especially popular in Romania, and this novel, published there as *Monsieur Karenin*, became a year-long bestseller and inspired a day conference in Timisoara in May 2021. The *Los Angeles Review of Books* described the novel as a delightfully rich puzzle for the lovers of Tolstoy, while Goldsworthy herself has written about the way *Monsieur Ka* was illuminated by Serbian influences, particularly of Miloš Crnjanski's *Novel of London*.

Goldsworthy's third novel, *Iron Curtain*, was published in February 2022 to great critical success. It earned glowing reviews and it was one of both the Times and the Financial Times Best Books of 2022; The Independent Book of the Month; the Tablet Book of the Month; The Guardian Book of the Day; Amazon Kindle Bestseller; Hatchards Book of the Week; LRB Bookshop Book of the Week; LRB Bookshop Best Books of 2022; Daunt Bookshop Book of the Week & John Sandoe Bookshop Winter Choice. It was the summer choice reading of Carnegie Europe and of the French magazine *Le Grand Continent*. The Momo Kapor Prize winning Serbian edition with Geopoetika has been a bestseller since its publication, while the North American edition with WW Norton is scheduled for 14 February 2023.

Vesna Goldsworthy continues to script, produce and present radio work, often with rich and original Serbian angles. Her much repeated "Something Understood: Finding a Voice in a Foreign Country", scripted and produced for BBC Radio Four in 2010, includes not only a fine choice of Serbian poetry but also a moving visit to the Serbian church in Notting Hill. In 2017, Goldsworthy used the honour of being interviewed by the composer Michael Berkeley for his "Private Passions" on BBC Radio Three to introduce works of Serbian music to the British listeners. Her recent story "Natural Wonders", commissioned by Radio Four and broadcast in April 2022, is set amid the miraculous annual dance of the mayflies on the river Tisa in Vojvodina.



Marko Gašić

Boris Johnson: 'Unlike the BBC presenters, the fellow seems to know exactly what's going on.' 'The perfect pundit, having something new and relevant to say and an engaging way of doing so ... I could not help but warm to him as he ran rings around James Naughtie on Radio 4.' Sion Simon MP, *Daily Telegraph*. 'Polished and plausible performer ... fresh-faced and energetic ... the style of a top-flight defence lawyer firmly in control of his brief.' *The Times*, 15 April 1999.

Born and bred in Bradford, raised in West London, with a degree in Modern European History from Sussex University that included a year at the University of Belgrade, Marko Gašić morphed into an able media defender of his ancestral people and its homeland; an engagement which brought him into contact with stakeholders from the A-list of UK public life and beyond. As an international affairs commentator on the all-pervasive global media channels predating today's online alternatives, Marko found he had to perform as a strategist, tactician and spokesperson at the fast-moving, pressure-cooker centre of some of the biggest international crises and reputational challenges of the last three decades – the highest international stakes of their time. Millions affected, hundreds of millions watching. It is in this context that he has made the bulk of his seven hundred-plus broadcast media appearances; explaining complex and controversial political issues to viewers and listeners of the BBC, GMTV, Channel 4, Sky TV, CNN, ABC, NBC, Nova Dutch TV, CBC, FT TV, Bloomberg, British Forces Radio, Channel 5 (Australia), Radio New Zealand, Reuters. He has also appeared on new channels including Al-Etejah, Levant TV, Al-Jazeera, RT and TRT Worldwide.

The trigger for all this was the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, an event which was to dominate the international news agenda for a decade. Along with his colleague Misha Gavrilović and others, Marko turned the fledgling Serbian Information Centre London press office initiative into a media favourite – the voice of choice for print and broadcast media worldwide. In 1994 he also spent several months at the Republic of Srpska (RS) press centre, during which period he escorted, interpreted for and guided a generation of western journalists across Bosnia's frontline warzones, disabusing them of misapprehensions whenever he had the opportunity to do so. He also ran the RS peace plan press conferences, advising the relevant ministers on presenting their case to the media. This was perhaps the only period in which the RS received acceptable media coverage from the international press corps.

In August 1995, during the ethnic cleansing 'Operation Storm' perpetrated by Tudjman's Croatia, Marko brought and worked alongside one of only two international TV crews on the ground to film the exodus of Serbs from the Krajina as they passed through Bosnia. 235,000 people ethnically cleansed from their ancestral homelands in Croatia; 120,000 more from Bosnia (including many from his father's home district of Grahovo). Most would never return.

In the UK, his media engagement intensified. Marko found himself having to rebut constant PR demonisation and accusatory attacks levelled against the Serbian side 24/7 by an extremely powerful PR campaign on automatic pilot, the aim of which was to justify anti-Serbist sanctions and pro-war policies. Marko's position was that the break-up of Yugoslavia was not a product of Serbian political leaders, who had no interest in such an event and could only lose from it, but rather it emerged from the nationalism and supra-nationalism of other leaders, and the Serb response. Those other leaders were to be found both inside and outside Yugoslavia, and they in various ways stood to benefit from Yugoslavia's destruction, whilst not wanting to appear responsible for it. Marko saw his role as being to illuminate theirs: contextualising events, providing rapid reaction, damage limitation and high-profile crisis and issues management on behalf of a targeted nation.

This involved him guesting on BBC 'Hard Talk'; giving half-hour specials on CNN and on Sky TV; featuring in documentaries and being interrogated in countless interviews, such as on BBC 2's *Newsnight* by Jeremy Paxman, on the BBC Radio 4 *Today* programme by John Humphreys, and on Channel 4 News by Jon Snow.

His media engagement also included serving as panellist on many discussion programmes, including BBC World Service Radio's *International Question Time*, and appearing regularly on BBC World Service Radio's *Newshour* (then averaging 140 million listeners across the world). Published in all the major UK broadsheets, Marko also made well-received public speaking appearances at the Oxford Union, Cambridge Union and in the Houses of Parliament. His most intense period of media activity was during NATO's unilateral, UN-deficient, war of aggression against FR Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in 1999, when he also found time to co-organise a permanent antiwar vigil opposite Downing Street. His message was that if these perpetrators get away with it, international law will be in the dustbin. His prediction about the precedent established by NATO's 1999 attack on a sovereign state has proved correct, as can be seen from the chaotic post-99 'legal or not?' arguments between the world's major powers whenever one of these has launched a military attack against another state.

Over the past period, Marko has taken on a more general, less country-specific media role, extrapolating his accrued insight into international affairs across a broader range of contexts. Recently he has also been literary editor, agent and publicist for a critically-acclaimed work on the origins of the First World War: *Folly and Malice: the Habsburg Empire, the Balkans and the Start of World War One* by John Zametica (Shepherd-Walwyn, 2017). A member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), Marko finds time to help the parish council of his local Serbian Orthodox church whilst busy as wide-ranging PR consultant and commentator on international affairs.

A black and white portrait of Roksanda Ilinčić, a woman with long, dark, wavy hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is plain white.

Roksanda Ilinčić

Originally from Serbia, Roksanda Ilinčić studied Architecture and Applied Arts at the University of Belgrade before moving to London to complete an MA in Womenswear at Central Saint Martins.

In over a decade since founding her label, Roksanda has evolved an unmistakable design aesthetic as a woman consciously designing for women. Roksanda's daring use of colour, unabashed femininity, sculptural shapes, modern distinctive cuts, innovative use of fabrics and unerring attention to detail make up what are now pillars of the ROKSANDA DNA. Synonymous with modern and contemporary art influences, Roksanda regularly collaborates with like-minded female artists and arts institutions internationally.

Roksanda has received multiple awards and nominations for her work including Red Carpet Designer of the Year at the Fashion Awards. She is listed in the Business of Fashion 500, a global index of the most important people shaping the fashion industry today.

ROKSANDA was founded with a view to creating a new perception of femininity, while also being a platform that champions, celebrates and highlights other female voices.

Credit Quentin Jones



Anna Tobias - Chef

Anna Tobias, is a chef whose mother is Serbian, and who started her cooking career under the tutelage of Jeremy Lee at the Blueprint Café. From there she went to the River Café and then onto Rochelle Canteen where she had her first head chef role. A period of freelancing ensued, including a residency at the wine bar P. Franco.

She opened Café Deco with her business partners - the team behind 40 Maltby Street - in the middle of lockdown in November, 2020. It has been a wild ride but they survived! She would describe the food they cook as broadly European! The primary aim is to use excellent ingredients and keep it simple. Anna says 'I like to encourage people to appreciate the qualities of classical cooking.

A lightness of touch is always something I try to bring to my food.

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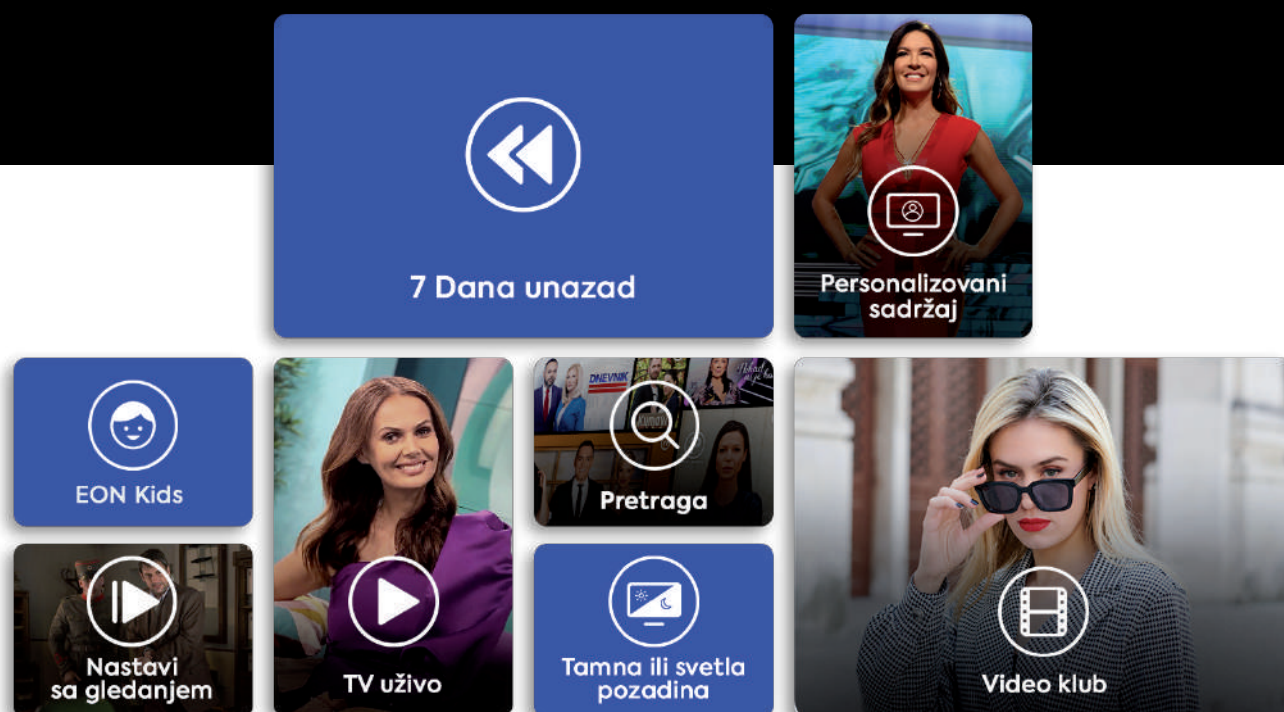
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British Friends of Serbia

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in Great Britain

The Story of Lady Paget

3 May 1839 – 11 October 1929

Who famously said ‘Should it happen that everyone forgets me, I wouldn’t care! But I would not take it lightly should my Serbs forget me!’

When a visitor enters London’s St Sava Church or the Bishop Nikolaj Community Centre, they will see signs that remind them of the great benefactor of the Serbian people: Lady Paget. Inside the church, on the right side of the entrance, there is a bust of General Dragoljub Draža Mihailović which she commissioned. On the left side, there is a display case with an open book with the signatures that Lady Paget received from the medical staff of the Skopje Hospital in 1915. In the Bishop Nikolaj Community Centre, there is a room named after Lady Paget: her decorations are framed on the wall, while her book *With our Serbian Allies* is in the library.

Lady Paget was one of the all-time great benefactors of the Serbian people, and one who saved many Serbian lives during the Balkan Wars and the Great War and who helped the Serbian community in Britain after World War II. Nearing the end of her life she had only one fear – that her Serbs would forget her. ‘Should it happen that everyone forgets me, I wouldn’t care! But I would not take it lightly should my Serbs forget me!’



So, who was Lady Paget? Dame Louse Margaret Leila Wemyss Paget was born into the highest echelon of the British aristocracy on 9 October 1881. She was the daughter of General Sir Arthur Henry Fitzroy Paget and his wife Mary Fiske Paget, (née Stevens), an American. Leila Paget studied in London, Paris, Florence and New York. She married Sir Ralph Spencer Paget, her third cousin once removed, on 28 October 1907.

MISSION IN SERBIA

Her husband, Sir Ralph Paget, was posted to Serbia as the British ambassador from 1910 to 1913 and Lady Paget became friends with many Serbs. When the First Balkan War broke out, Lady Paget immediately started helping at the Circle of Serbian Sisters Hospital together with her sister and some other women from the diplomatic corps. She did not shy away from any kind of work and did her best to look after the wounded. This is what a member of the Circle of Serbian Sisters would later write about Lady Paget: ‘We watched her carefully as she walked slowly out of the operating room, and a little later she went from one patient room to another, but now with a smile on her pale lips and with a bright face, with her gentle hand she adjusts the headboard, puts her white hand on the hot forehead, and like a shadow silently and noiselessly moves from bed to bed, from room to room and watches like a sister over her brothers’ (*Memorial of Lady Paget*, p. 23).

The reason she loved the Serbs so much, treated them in this way and made so many sacrifices, is best told by a Serbian woman who, out of modesty, did not even sign with her full name. She says of Lady Paget: “Often staying day and night in those surroundings, she studied the soul of the Serb and came to a deep understanding of his inner self - she felt through his sufferings and pains and his hardship his love for his neighbours, for his country, and she felt deeply that he knew why he was fighting and for whom he was fighting... through such a man, that generous and self-sacrificing woman came to love our people” (*Memorial*, pp. 23-24) It was not only during the First and Second Balkan Wars, but also during the First and Second World Wars, that Lady Paget remained a true friend of Serbia and the Serbian people.

Lady Paget worked hard and selflessly at the Hospital of the Circle of the Serbian Sisters which functioned non-stop from October 1912 to August 1913. She fell ill there and had to travel to London for recovery and rest. But she didn't sit idly by in London, instead she organised and sent an entire hospital with 60 people to Serbia to help her in difficult times. When the war with Bulgaria started, Lady Paget returned to Serbia, even though she was not fully recovered. She began working in Belgrade, not in a well-organised hospital, but a small neglected one in the Sava Mala. She managed to turn it into a high-functioning healthcare facility. At the end of August 1913, Sir Ralph Paget was transferred from Belgrade and Lady Paget left with her husband. She maintained ties with the Serbs. She wrote from London to Jelena Dimitrijević saying: 'Nothing is more endearing than the simple peasant nature and their loyalty and gratitude to those who nurtured them. I have rarely met such peasants. Indeed, they are natural and true gentlemen' (*Memorial*, p. 27).

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

When the First World War started, Lady Paget together with the Serbian MP Čedomilj Mijatović, Mrs Carrington Wilde, hieromonk Nikolaj (later bishop) and others founded the Serbian Relief Fund in London to help the Serbian people. On 4 November 1914 the first mission led by Lady Paget arrived in Skopje via Thessaloniki. According to official documents, that first mission consisted of four doctors, a secretary and an assistant secretary, a head nurse, a pharmacist, sixteen Sisters of Mercy, six female and fourteen male nurses, an assistant storekeeper and a cook, as well as other additional staff.

When Lady Paget arrived in Skopje, one grammar school had already been turned into a hospital where she installed 275 beds. It was the only hospital that had an X-ray machine.

The first wounded arrived on 24 November and soon 350 operations were performed. In January 1915, they encountered another dangerous enemy: typhus. It infected both soldiers and civilians as well as the medical staff. One Sister of Mercy died while two paramedics and another Sister of Mercy had to return to England due to very poor health. In January four hundred fell ill with typhus, so the Serbian army made two more buildings available for hospitals. One was managed by a doctor from the Serbian Support Fund, Dr Maitland, and the other by a doctor from the British Red Cross, Dr Barry. During March sixteen doctors fell ill due to infection, as well as Lady Paget. With superhuman efforts the typhus was finally defeated over the next two months. Exhausted from work and illness Lady Paget left Skopje in May to recover in Britain. A great number of people turned out to see her off. General Damjan Popović greeted her with a short speech and a personal letter from Regent Alexander. He also handed her the ribbon of St Sava on behalf of King Peter the First. Until then it had only been awarded to Princess Jelena and the Russian empress (*Memorial*, p. 32). The military band played both the Serbian and British national anthems. After a short recuperation, Lady Paget returned to Skopje to continue her assistance to the Serbs.

ASSISTANCE TO THOSE IN NEED

The enemy forced not only the Serbian army, but also the government and people to withdraw. It was via the worst possible route through Albania during winter. When the retreat began, Sir Ralph, representing the British Foreign Office, demanded that the hospital and staff be withdrawn from Skopje. Lady Paget and most of the medical team refused because, in the words of Monica Krippner, these clever and determined women 'considered that they had greater obligations to the Serbs than to the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs'.

Sir Ralph respected their decision and set off with the missions on foot through Albania. The steadfast Lady Paget remained in her hospital with some of the staff and waited for the enemy. Lady Paget would later write in her book *With Our Serbian Allies*: 'For three days before the Bulgarians arrived, we worked under great pressure in different parts of the city, dressing wounds, feeding people, cleaning them from the dirt in which they lay until they were moved to our premises.' She remained under enemy occupation from October 1915 to March 1916, until the last wounded Serb was taken prisoner to Bulgaria. The Bulgarians were not allowed to take any action to threaten the hospital and staff because they knew who Lady Paget was. She also tended wounded Bulgarians in her hospital.

In March 1916, Lady Paget set off with members of her mission across Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and the North Sea to Britain where her family eagerly awaited her. In the same year, Vidovdan was celebrated throughout Britain as Serbian Day. Hieromonk Nikolaj Velimirović, later bishop of Žiča and Ohrid, was the first non-Anglican to preach at St Paul's Cathedral in London. He spoke about Serbs and Serbia to King George and a congregation of over ten thousand people. He thanked Britain and other allies for their help and prayed that this help would not stop. Lady Paget chose to speak in Birmingham on that day, as did Professor Bogdan Popović, because the city had granted refuge to a large number of Serbian children.

After the end of the First World War, Lady Paget remained in London but never forgot her Serbs. She only returned to Serbia for the funeral of King Alexander, asking to be placed in a prominent place from where she would lead the procession. She treasured the two personal letters of thanks sent to her by King Alexander.

The story of Lady Paget did not finish there. Her husband, Sir Ralph Paget, died at the outbreak of the Second World War (1940). When Nazi Germany began bombing London, she did not sit idly by. She turned her 60-room home, Warren House in Kingston, into a hospital for wounded British soldiers. After the end of the Second World War, many Serbs, loyal to the King and the Fatherland, did not return to communist Yugoslavia. Lady Paget started helping them again, as the Serbian people would say 'with a fist and a hand'. She helped many Serbs find work and accommodated them in her home until they found their feet. One of them was the writer Miloš Crnjanski. Lady Paget also procured much of the furniture for the Church of St Sava in London, which had been given to the Serbs by the Anglican Church. She also helped and educated Serbian youth. Having spent much of her fortune, Lady Paget sold her large house and bought a smaller one. She continued to receive her Serbs until her death on 24 September 1958. Five days before her death, she told Archpriest Miloje Nikolić in her house: 'Should it happen that everyone forgets me, I wouldn't care! But I would not take it lightly should my Serbs forget me!' (*Memorial*, p. 57).

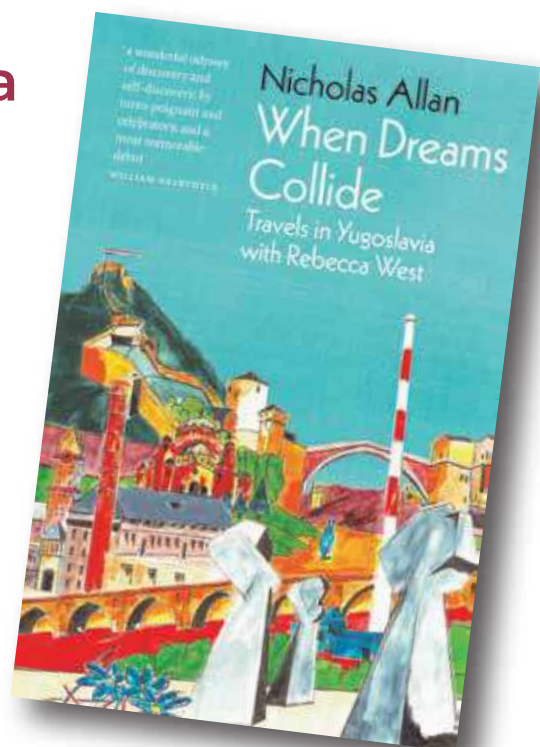
We haven't forgotten her. Nor will we forget her.
Thank you for everything you did for the Serbs and for Serbia!

The text is based on the lecture held on 25 June 2014 in London by Father Milun Kostić.

Translated by Mirjana Jovanović-Lazić

Rebecca West and Serbia

21 December 1892 – 15 March 1983



Curiously Rebecca West's two key early realisations about Serbia (or more accurately Yugoslavia) occurred in hospital beds.

The first was in 1934, while she recovered from an operation in a London nursing home. News came over the radio that King Alexander (Karadjordjević) had been assassinated in Marseille, in West's eyes as a direct result of Mussolini's expansionist ambitions in Yugoslavia. She felt that dangerous events were at work in that part of the world which might threaten her, and by extension Europe's, safety.

Two years later, the British Council sent her on a lecture tour of Greece, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, from which she was also expected to report back her assessments of the people and politics she found en route. She became very ill in Belgrade and had to recuperate in a sanatorium in Austria on her way back. She complained in a letter to her husband that the "country seemed so flavourless" after Yugoslavia and that she wanted to return to the latter. In some ways this is surprising as she had had to fend off persistent unwanted advances from her guide there, the Serbian Jewish writer and head of Yugoslavia's central press bureau, Stanislav Vinaver.

Nonetheless she did return in both the following two years aided by Vinaver, who had evolved into a friend. She stitched her three journeys together to form the basis for *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, her 1150 page magnum opus which was published in 1941. In what is ostensibly a travel book she covers a vast amount of Yugoslav history while digressing freely on a wide range of subjects from the nature of the Roman Empire to Manichaeism or the beauty of local textiles. Ultimately, as her writer friend John Gunther said, it is "not so much a book about Yugoslavia as a book about Rebecca West."

West was undoubtedly a fine writer and must have been a scintillating conversationalist, as evidenced by the devastating turns of phrase in her writing and her numerous friendships with other great minds, among them Lord Beaverbrook, Charlie Chaplin and H.G.Wells. She was in a relationship with the latter for over ten years and he fathered her only child. To my mind her novels, for which she may be best known, have not stood the test of time as well as her non-fiction writing. Her reporting of the Nuremberg trials in *Greenhouse with Cyclamens* is a fine example, capturing images with brilliant economy, and allowing one to see that for all the horrors of the Nazi regime, the legal process may not have been wholly fair to all participants.

From a historical point of view in *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon*, West particularly celebrated the glories of Serbia's Nemanjić dynasty and the startling legacy of great monasteries that they left behind them. She bemoaned Lazar's defeat and the centuries of Ottoman occupation and saw the second coming of the Karadjordjević dynasty in the early twentieth century in glorious terms.

Alexander "... had come a very long way in his thirty-odd years. He had spent his childhood as the son of a pretender almost comic in his destitution, in a poky flat in Geneva, as a youth he had been lifted to a step of the Romanoff throne, and as a young man he had overthrown an imperial dominance that had pressed on his people for five hundred years, and before he was yet a ripe man had driven back another empire, the most formidable of Continental powers, and thereby reincarnated the glory of the Emperor Stephen Dushan. "

However, she was travelling on the eve of war and mysterious threatening German figures appear repeatedly, not least Vinaver's German wife who, holding both anti-Semitic and anti-Slavic views, was in a challenging marriage.

By the time the book was published, Britain had been at war for two years, which appears to have coloured some of her judgements. There is a clear Serbophile slant to the book, understandably when Serbia had been such a loyal ally in the previous war and sought to be so again. There was also a marked sympathy for the substantial Jewish population in the region. Her condemnation of the fascist and self-serving leanings of the pre-war prime minister Stojadinović seem justified, but there is little balance in her vitriolic verdict on the regent Prince Paul. She makes no real attempt to see the impossible position in which Paul found himself as Hitler turned the screws on him, or to consider that the surprisingly favourable deal he managed to extract from Berlin might have served his country better than the carnage that followed his deposition.

West felt deeply about the horrors that the country was being put through. The book is dedicated "to my friends in Yugoslavia, who are now all dead or enslaved." She was fiercely anti-communist as well as anti-fascist, recognising that a Tito government implied absorption by Russia (albeit a short one as it transpired). She admired Mihailović and felt that he had been badly betrayed by Churchill when British support shifted from the Chetniks to the Partisans. She attended the memorial service in London after his execution and kept a photograph of his dead body among her papers. She spoke repeatedly at meetings of the royalist supported Yugoslav Relief Society in London and sought to stop Chetnik prisoners from being repatriated to Yugoslavia, well aware of what sort of fate would befall them. Her vocal support for the royalist cause made her unpopular with elements of the British government.

She remained interested in Yugoslav affairs throughout her life and made a point of trying to support Yugoslav refugees. A notable example is Milan Gavrilović, the leader of the Serbian Peasant Party before the War and Yugoslav Ambassador to Moscow from 1940-41. She wrote numerous letters to try and help him and his family get visas and employment to allow them to settle together in exile. She composed the epitaph for his gravestone.

"Milan Gavrilovitch was one of the wise men of modern Europe, and his wisdom was rejected; and what rejection has cost us can be seen in our present miseries. But he himself kept all the virtues the rest of the world has cast away, and in possession of that treasure he was rich in exile. All those with whom he shared his spiritual and intellectual riches will never cease to feel love and gratitude. He was the very image of the day we threw away when we decided to stay in the night."

West and her husband had offered Vinaver asylum at the start of the War, but he chose to join the Royal Yugoslav Army and ended up a prisoner-of-war. They sent him food parcels but never saw him again. As a royalist his post-war life must have been extremely difficult and he died near Niš in 1955. As an officer and a convert to the Orthodox church he was unusual for a Yugoslav Jew in surviving the War. His aged mother, along with most of the Jewish population had not.

When Dreams Collide. Travels in Yugoslavia with Rebecca West by Nicholas Allan, published in 2022 by Nine Elms Books, is widely available.

Pat Marčetić (née Taylor)

21 December 1921 – 3 January 2015

Pat Marčetić played a remarkable role in the history of the South Slav Journal from the early 1980s until she and Nemanja ceased to edit the publication a few years ago. Pat was born in New Zealand on 13th December 1921. During the Second World War she made a daring and dangerous journey across the Pacific via Fiji and on to the USA where she studied journalism. From the States she came to England. It was here that in 1964 she met and married Nemanja Marčetić a Serbian exile from Yugoslavia who had narrowly escaped being sent back to Tito's regime where he would have faced certain death.

The South Slav Journal came into being in the late 1970s when Nemanja was studying for an MA at the School of Eastern European and Slavonic Studies under lecturer, Alan Fergusson. At the time there existed a little-known Anglo-Serbian magazine called *The Guslar* founded by a Serbian émigré Captain Miodrag Urošević who had recently died. Nemanja, Alan and myself "inherited" *The Guslar* and set about turning it into a more academic publication, which we christened *The South Slav Journal*. Nemanja became the Editor and the main driving force behind the journal, and Pat was soon involved too. Alan Ferguson died tragically soon after its inception and I meanwhile embarked on a new life as a Catholic priest. Having worked editorially for *Spastic News* (now *Scope*) and the *Daily Mirror* Pat was ideally suited to this work. Many of the contributions arrived in quite poor English. It was Pat's job to make sense of the sometimes-garbled texts which were set before her. This was on top of preparing each issue for publication and arranging for its distribution. Before long the Journal acquired a scholarly ambiance, as well as a remarkable range of contributors including, princes, professors and politicians.

The 1980s and 1990s were the heyday of *The Journal*. Many, including Pat and Nemanja were preparing for the post-Tito period. Nemanja was hoping for a restoration of the pre-War Kingdom of Yugoslavia under the royal heir, Crown Prince Alexander Karadjordjević, who visited Highgate on a number of occasions. This may seem fanciful now, but at the time I don't think many foresaw the collapse of Yugoslavia into separate states with the terrible civil wars that accompanied it. This was a difficult time for Pat and Nemanja. They had no time for Milošević, but the NATO attacks against Serbia were painful for the household. I particularly remember the occasion when I was at Church Road, and NATO took out the TV mast in Belgrade. On another occasion I was there when the Croat invasion of the Krajina was taking place while there was a Croatian visitor who had come for dinner. It was from the Krajina that Nemanja and his brother Rastko originated. In a way, the fall of Yugoslavia meant the end of the *raison d'être* of the Journal's founding fathers. The era of the post-war emigration drew to a close, there was a new diaspora from Eastern Europe living in the West, the new republics looked to integrate with Europe and there was much less to fight for. Pat and Nemanja were also getting on and Pat was visibly tired, and I think she was relieved when Dr Eric Weaver took over the editorship.

Although she was a baptised Roman Catholic, and spoke fondly of the Church she grew up in, I think her desire was always that she should be buried according to the Rites of the Serbian Orthodox Church. Thus, she was laid to rest on a chilly January day in the Serbian section of Brookwood Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

Based on an obituary by Ulick Loring in the *South Slav Journal* Volume 34 Autumn 2015.

Organisations



**Schools, institutions,
associations, networks and media**

**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) and to provide a forum to discuss issues of interests and importance to the Serbian community in UK&I. Over the years the main priorities of the Round Table have been the promotion of the teaching and learning of the Serbian language and Serbian Month, which is now in its fifteenth year and is recognised as being one of the most significant festivals of Serbian arts and culture in the Serbian Diaspora. Other issues the Round Table has addressed include commemoration the 20th Anniversary of NATO's war on Yugoslavia, using the census to help identify the number of Serbs living in the UK, submitting proposals for the use of the proposed Creative Embassy in London and protesting against the disenfranchisement of Serbian voters in Britain in the elections in Serbia. The Round Table organised the election of two people to represent the UK&I Serbian community at the Diaspora Assembly, when it was in operation. It has continued with this practice, but at the moment there is only one representative, Lazar Vuković.

In October 2022 the Round Table hosted the first visit by representatives of the Serbian Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region. At the meeting Stefan Morović, Assistant Director and Vladimir Koturović, an independent consultant, were briefed about the Serbian Diaspora in Britain and its achievements. The achievements highlighted included the creation of the Round Table, organisation of a Serbian Month of arts and culture for over fourteen years and the promotion of the Serbian language to children, young people and adults. The visitors then outlined the work of the Office for the Diaspora and its priorities and the meeting concluded with a question-and-answer session. The Round Table was followed by an Award Ceremony, where Vesna Goldsworthy, the acclaimed author, presented certificates to the students who had successfully completed Azbukum Centre courses delivered in partnership with the Round Table and a cultural programme showcasing the talent of British Serbian artists across the generations.

For further information contact the Round Table Steering Group on rtsteering-group@google.com.



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 eBritić 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.



St Sava Church School - Founded in 1962

Located at the parish of the Serbian Orthodox Church in London, St Sava Church School is a vibrant, friendly school which has been teaching Serbian language, culture and fundamentals of Orthodox Christianity for 61 years. It offers classroom and online Serbian lessons to 100+ children between five and twelve years old, spread across age and ability categories, primarily on Sundays with a midweek catch-up to make sure new learning isn't forgotten!

The School also coordinates classroom teaching of Serbian across Britain and Ireland, as well as offering fully online teaching for children living far away from our classrooms in London, Cork and Dublin.

All class-based lessons take place in purpose-built classrooms at 89 Lancaster Road, London, W11 1QQ. Parents bringing their children can relax in the parish or enjoy a coffee nearby in the popular Portobello Road area whilst their children are taught to master Cyrillic and other key aspects of Serbian culture and history.

St Sava Church School's curriculum is rich and broad. It builds on the Azbukum program developed in Serbia and accredited by the Serbian Ministry of Education. These are specially designed programs for teaching Serbian to children living abroad aged 5 to 7, and 8 to 12, and young people aged from 12 to 17 (<https://aos.azbukum.edu.rs/>). The programs are interactive and also provide a platform for children to independently practice their Serbian at home. In addition, the School is fortunate to have teachers that have qualified in both the UK and Serbia. With their collective experience, knowledge, and understanding of child development and language acquisition, the teaching staff supports the diverse needs of pupils from five years onwards, whatever their level of Serbian. All pupils are taught the Cyrillic script, in a style adapted to meet their individual needs. The School also offers singing lessons.

Central to the St Sava School ethos is the continued building and development of our Serbian and extended community in the UK. Friendships are broadened and solidified by school outings and creative opportunities such as the school calendar competition, as well as by performances highlighting the children which happen on special days such as St Sava and Vidovdan in the lovely new church hall. Furthermore, the school is supported by an active and motivated Parents Association whose great work in organising hugely successful cake sales is contributing to the development of already good classroom facilities.

The school's goal is to expand teaching and learning of Serbian language, religion and culture in all parishes across Britain and Ireland and to work with other related initiatives to offer the best possible educational experience to pupils and their parents.

Parents can enrol their children and get more information about the School by emailing info@spclondon.org.uk or by calling the church office at 020 7727 8367.

School web page: <https://spclondon.org.uk/en/school/news>.



**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

The Round Table Working Group on the Serbian Language and the Azbukum Centre's Serbian Language courses



Credit Nenad Obradović

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 in recent years by entering into a partnership with the Azbukum Centre for Serbian Language and Culture in Serbia to deliver their Serbian language courses at beginner, GCSE and A Level. The courses offer qualifications which are accredited by the Serbian Ministry of Education and are recognised across Europe and beyond. Students on the courses 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, or used to show knowledge of Serbian when applying for British universities or employment. The approach is that of learning Serbian as a non-native or second language and is designed for students of Serbian heritage aged between 12 and 17 living in the Diaspora.

Courses are delivered online and so can accept students from across the UK and Ireland. The courses are delivered over three or four terms, depending on the level of the course.

For further information contact olga.stanojlovic@btinternet.com

Visit: <https://serbiancouncil.org.uk/serbian-language/>

Watch: https://youtu.be/Gqh_Zg_T5r4

Dopunska Škola

Thanks to the Ministry of Education, the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the request of parents of children living and working in the United Kingdom, educational work in the Serbian language has been carried out by the Dopunska Škola for a fourth year. The work is organised according to a special programme of primary education in the Serbian language, and the positive experiences of students has resulted in an increase in the number of students. There are currently 130 students in four cities: Corby, Bedford, Leicester and London (Hammersmith and Dulwich). Classes are conducted live and online. The school is free for all students.

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain



Among the numerous activities, those that attracted the most interest and stand out are:

- Celebration of Saint Sava Day, the Slava of schools.
- Statehood Day of the Republic of Serbia when a formal reception was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia in London. The reception, which was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia was attended by a large number of dignitaries. The students of the Dopunska Skola welcomed guests with smiles and bread, symbols of traditional hospitality.

Thanks to excellent cooperation with the Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia in London, Her Excellency Aleksandra Joksimović and the teacher of the Dopunska Skola in the United Kingdom, Vida Milojković, students attending classes were able to experience being part of Serbia and celebrate this important day in a special way.

- Vrbica when folk customs were remembered and celebrated.

It was an honor and pleasure for the celebration to be enhanced by the presence of some of the best folklore ensembles in the United Kingdom, "Saint Ilija" and "Avala" from Corby.

- The workshop with the writer Jasminka Petrovic and friends from "Srpskaonica".
- Participation in the international project "Children of Serbia" with the songs "Mileševo Angels" and "Let's learn from our ancestors".
- Cooperation with the humanitarian organization the Raymond Nicolet Trust to help schools in Serbia.
- Summer in the Homeland

As part of the "Summer in the Homeland" event, organized for the first time in 2022 by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia, a group of children attending classes in Serbian language abroad visited their homeland, free of charge. The goal was to get to know Serbia, renew knowledge about the homeland, as well as acquiring new insights and establishing lasting friendships and connections with the motherland. The event "Summer in the Homeland" was held at the Scientific Educational Cultural Center "Vuk Karadžić" in Tršić and was designed as an educational camp with a focus on the Serbian language, culture and traditions. As part of the stay, visits to monasteries and cities were organized, where students felt the spirit of this part of Serbia in an immediate way. They attended workshops every-day on the Serbian language, art, folklore, recreation, drama, music, culture and tradition. At the end of the stay, a joint event was held where the students showed what they had learnt. Parents and students have only praise for this way of socializing students from the diaspora.

- A party to reward the great efforts of our students.

The greatest pride of the Dopunska Skola is its students who, in addition to their regular obligations in the schools they attend, take on all the tasks set by the school with enthusiasm and dedication. They are happy to learn the Serbian language, and are interested in the history, traditions and culture of Serbia.

Become our student!

Vida Milojković

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 for 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 work together to contribute to the preservation of our national identity in the UK. Children attending the school are usually between the ages of 5-16. Classes are organized in 4 groups, mainly based on the age of the children. Lessons were taught online during the pandemic and this continues to be the case for some groups but others are now being taught face to face.

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

Serbian School at the Church of the Holy Trinity Bradford

From the early days the community of West Yorkshire recognised the importance of teaching their children the Serbian language, culture and history. Supplementary classes were taught in Bradford from the 1950s.

Parents are invited to bring their children to our Sunday school which runs every second Sunday in the church hall school room from 11.00-12.30. We have children from 4 years upwards.

We learn a combination of: Cyrillic, Serbian vocabulary, history and faith.

If you would like any further information or are interested in joining us, you can contact us on the following:

Parish priest, Father Zarko Nedić 07768 582251

Teacher, Dr Marija Krlić 0791 3652166

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 sessions 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/>.

**Serbian
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in Great Britain



The Saint Sava Church Choir

The Saint Sava church choir was established in 1952 through an initiative of Mrs Maria Rozdyanko. She conducted the choir until 1968. Mr Djordje Neshic took over the role for a short period after Mrs Rozdjanko left. When he moved from London, Mrs Milica Jović became the conductor. From 1983 to 2006, the St Sava choir was led by Mrs Aleksandra Sasha Smiljanić. Her family has been the backbone of the choir for all these years. Mrs Bratislava Barac-Djukić 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 Maksimović.

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 7 members and sings on Sunday Liturgies.

A regular practice session is on Friday at 7pm at 89 Lancaster Road, London, W11 1QQ. We currently seek experienced, musically-trained male singers. For all additional information you can contact Zorka Maksimović after the Liturgy or by sending an email to crkva@spclondon.org.uk.



Credit Nenad Obradovic

Folklore

Folklore Ensemble Rastko

The Folklore Ensemble Rastko has its origins in the St. Sava Orthodox Church in London and it 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 Europe, Canada, America and Australia by performing at various celebrations and festivals. Rastko participated in the various European Folk Dance Festivals and this year K.U.D Rastko will be celebrating an important, significant and great jubilee, the 40th Anniversary of existence and hard work.

As well as preserving, nurturing and promoting the growth of folk dancing, "Rastko" achieves what it does by hard work and practising every Sunday evening.

Our school of folklore for children organises lessons every Sunday from 3pm and children from 7 and over can enrol. For information, please contact the choreographer and director Mrs Nada Grkinic on **07984247963**.

For more information please contact us via: Facebook page: KUD "Rastko" London



Folklore Group Oplenac

Oplenac has continuously performed for 75 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 over 20 years, and celebrated their 20th anniversary on Saturday 25th June 2022 at the Vidovdan celebrations in Peterborough. Although our members were 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](#)

Serbian Month in Great Britain

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.



The Circle of Serbian Sisters Kosovo Maiden – London

The Circle of Serbian Sisters, in London, works with dedication and selfless nobility to fulfill its mission, inspired by benevolence and selfless giving. We work relentlessly and diligently to encourage the good in people. Through our charitable work, over the last fifty years, we have raised significant funds for various worthwhile causes – our people in Serbia, the Republika Srpska, Kosovo and Metohija, our children, the old and helpless, also our Church, Church school, folklore group 'Rastko' as well as the people of our Diocese.

Guided by respect for our national traditions, language, customs, and national identity, we have spread our orthodox faith and spirit among the population through support for other churches and monasteries, especially the Saint Sava Cathedral, Vracar, where the name of our Circle is carved on the endowment plaque. The Circle now has about fifty members, most of whom are elderly retired ladies. We would like to encourage younger ladies to join and continue with this worthwhile charitable work.

The Circle of Serbian Sisters is keen to build 'bridges' with other Serbian organisations and societies to work together on shared initiatives for the benefit of the Serbian people. This will enable us to attract new and younger members. This joint cooperation would do much to promote all our organisations and societies through sharing experiences. This would do much to safeguard our traditions and address the strategic issues facing our community in the UK.

For further information contact us
and write to kss@spclondon.org.uk.



Srpska Biblioteka u Londonu The Serbian Library in London



Since 2011 our collection of books in the Serbian language has been an integral part of the International Collection of books at the Fulham Library; it has now been enriched with new books from Narodna biblioteka u Beogradu and the complete collection of Harry Potter books in the Serbian language, a gift from the J.K. Rowling's office.

Our events and face to face activities have been restricted since the Covid pandemic started, but we have held online presentations and Zoom meetings which are available to be watched on the website: www.theserbianlibraryinlondon.co.uk. These include videos of talks about The Serbian Written Cultural Heritage Through Centuries, also discussions with authors at the Mini Book Fair last year and some other events. We invite all people interested in our literature to contact us serbianlibrary@gmail.com.

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 Hammersmith 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 svake poslednje subote u februaru i dodeljuje nagrade pobednicima godišnjeg konkursa za Poeziju i Prozu. Gosti sajma su renomirani pisci i pesnici.



Ninth Annual Memorial Service for Women in Foreign Medical Missions in Serbia and related fronts during the Great War

This year's theme - The Legacy of Dr Elsie Inglis.

The event will cover a talk about Scottish Women's Hospitals after the death of Dr Inglis - mainly the hospitals in Corfu, Vido and the Salonika Front.

Since 2014 we have been organising annual memorial services for women in foreign medical missions, who risked and sacrificed their lives in Serbia and other fronts during the Great War.

Centenary celebrations mainly commemorated battles of the Western Front leaving some nations, fronts, heroes and heroines almost forgotten. The annual memorial services for the unsung heroines of the Great War, held at the St Sava Church are unique events in Britain.

In their desire to help the war effort and prove their worthiness thousands of British women, undeterred by the government's decision to keep them far from the front line, joined the British Red Cross, Royal Army Medical Corps, Scottish Women's Hospitals, V.A.D.s, Mabel Stobart's units, St. John's Ambulance units and other organisations. They found themselves in the middle of the worst war tragedies and many died. Memorials and graves scattered across Europe (particularly in Serbia) are a constant reminder of their heroism and determination.

We remember those women who sacrificed their lives during the Great War, those buried in Kragujevac, Valjevo, Niš, Bajina Bašta and those who continued to support the Serbs after the war ended, like Katherine MacPhail, Evelina Haverfield, Isabel Emslie Hutton and Lady Paget.

We also remember Serbian women who put themselves in harm's way for their country and to ease the suffering of its people. Soldiers, like Milunka Savić, Vasilija Vukotić or Sofija Jovanović, who fought together with Flora Sandes and doctors and nurses, like famous painter Nadežda Petrović, who died of typhus in Valjevo in 1915 or Draginja Babić, one of the first Serbian women doctors, who died in Valjevo in February 1915, almost on the same day as Dr Elizabeth Ross and Madge Neil Fraser.

The histories of these brave, determined and altruistic women from Britain and Serbia are woven closely together. We will always remember them.

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



Organisations

The Serbian Council of Great Britain



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 played a lead role in organising the first visit to Britain from Serbia by representatives of the Office for Cooperation with the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region. Through the Round Table Working Group on the Serbian Language, we have played a major role in promoting the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain and manage the partnership with the Azbukum Centre for Serbian Language and Culture in Serbia. This partnership allows us to offer online courses, with recognised qualifications, for students from across the UK at beginner, GCSE and A level. In collaboration with the Serbian Society and Serbian City Club we started Serbian Month which is now in its fifteenth year and has grown into the largest festival of Serbian culture in the Serbian Diaspora. We initiated the idea of a Serbian Month Catalogue to accompany the festival to provide a history of the Serbs in Britain and celebrate prominent British Serbs and their contribution to Britain and Serbia.

For further information about SCGB contact:

info@serbiancouncil.org.uk or visit www.serbiancouncil.org.uk

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SRBoGB>

YouTube channels: [Serbian Council of Great Britain](#) and [Serbian Month](#)





Serbian City Club

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 interests of Serbian professionals in the UK, Serbia and worldwide through networking and speaker events.

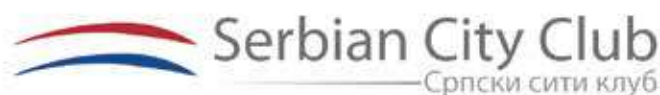
The Serbian City Club was founded in the late 1990's by a handful of enthusiastic Serbs working in London's financial institutions. Their idea was to bring to life an informal club that would gather young Serbian professionals who live and work in the UK. Since 2004, our membership base has increased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

www.serbiancityclub.org





The Serbian Society

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. Amongst our long-term projects is Serbian language course for adults (for people with Serbian partners, those who would like to be able to communicate better with their Serbian relatives or, those who would like to improve their day-to-day communication when travelling to Serbia) and, the very popular, Serbian book-club.

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.

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

Committee Members
The Serbian Society London



BRITISH • SERBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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 2023, 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 2023, 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.

Irish-Serbian Chamber of Commerce Background



From history to business, Ireland and Serbia have a surprising amount tying them together, and the Irish-Serbian Chamber of Commerce seeks to expand on what unites these two proud nations.

The Irish-Serbian Chamber of Commerce was established by Chairman Frank Hannigan and launched on May 26, 2021, at an online event attended by nearly 100 participants who were addressed by keynote speakers H.E. Aleksandra Joksimović, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Ireland, and Simon Coveney, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland.

The aim of the Irish-Serbian Chamber of Commerce is to promote and facilitate trade and investment between Ireland and Serbia, and to represent the views of the business communities in both countries. The objectives of the Irish-Serbian Chamber of Commerce are:

- To facilitate trade between The Republic of Ireland and The Republic of Serbia;
- To provide focussed networking opportunities for its members;
- To provide relevant and timely information about doing business in Ireland and Serbia;
- To notify its members about current and emerging business opportunities;
- To encourage and develop the next generation of entrepreneurs;
- To create a greater understanding of both cultures and heritage.

Since the launch the Irish – Serbian Chamber of Commerce has held several events to promote Irish-Serbian relations, the latest being a business development lunch held in Dublin in July, attended by Ambassador Joksimović, ISCC members and companies with a strategic interest in developing commercial ties with Serbia, including Kingspan, CRH, and Aer Rianta.

For further information: <https://www.serbia.ie>

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 celebrated 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 and Holocaust Memorial Foundation

The Jasenovac & Holocaust Memorial Foundation is a UK registered charity which promotes the culture of remembrance of 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 and hatred in our communities today.

We have successfully delivered lectures to various high schools and universities in the UK and abroad and held lectures in the UK Parliament and and US Senate.

If you would like to join us or support our work by sponsoring the Charity,

please get in touch with us today.

Email info@jhmf.org.uk

Tel: 07912 170 866

www.jhmf.org.uk



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.

Doug Underwood has been the Chairman of the Association since 2008.

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".

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

The Association of Serbian Writers and Artists Abroad (ASWA)

Udruzenje 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

During 71 years of ASWA's existence 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 Bećković, 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 Obradović, 27 Clemet's Lane, London EC3; Slobodan Jovanović, junction of Queen's Gate and Cromwell Road, London SW7; Milos Crnjanski, 155 Queen's Court, 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.

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 213, 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. Based in the UK, it was founded in 2019 by classical pianists and educators Marina Petrov and Maya Jordan, who cooperated for many years on various projects, including running Around the Globe Piano Music Festival in London since 2014.

The organisation pursues its goals to hold public performances and other cultural and educational events open to musicians of all ages and levels, from young amateurs to adult professionals. It aims to bring multicultural diversity through music to the public in the UK and beyond. In its way, Around the Globe Music & Arts 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 is very proactive. It hosted a very successful series of virtual concerts for the last two years, including an international Around the Globe Online Piano Competition for Junior and Adult amateur pianists.

AGMA is managing:

Annual Music Festivals and Piano Competitions

Concerts

Masterclasses

Workshops

Seminars

Lectures

Annual Around the Globe Music Magazines and Brochures



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



Maya Jordan, Draško Božović and Marina Petrov 91

Liberating Cinema

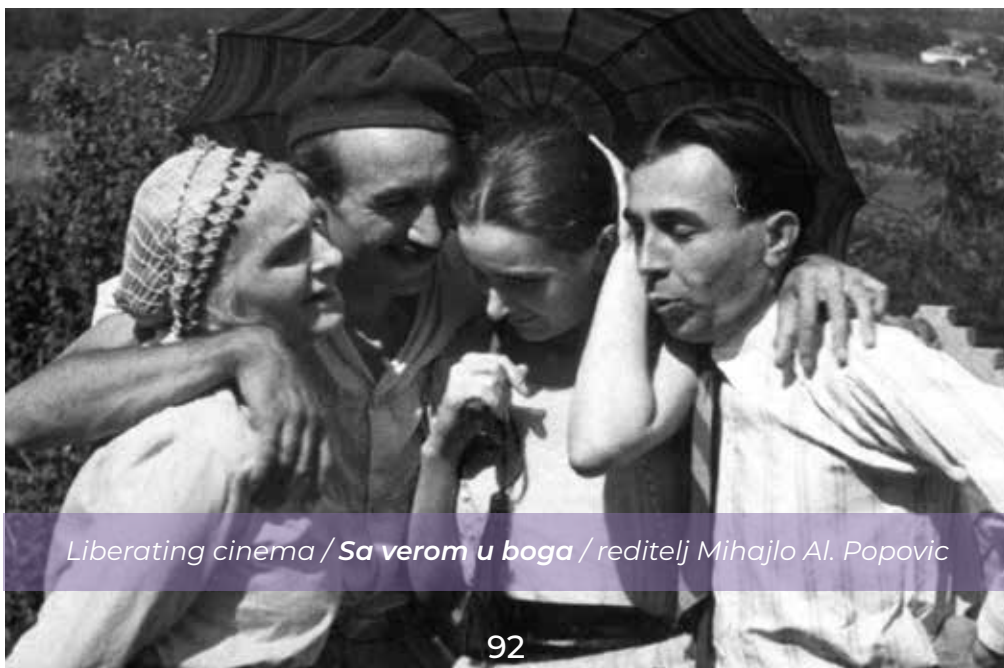
<http://www.liberatingcinema.org.uk/>

Liberating Cinema is a non-profit charitable organisation committed to the representation, restoration, and exhibition of world cinema heritage. Liberating Cinema runs a regular masterclass series and organises international workshops, conferences, seminars, and symposia. The Liberating Cinema Film Series, present at British Universities since 2015, provides a platform for premiering films and bringing in dialogue filmmakers, industry and academia through a variety of discursive panels and interactive events. On 23 October 2021 Liberating Cinema hosted His Royal Highness Crown Prince Aleksandar of Serbia for Karađorđe: The 110th Anniversary of The First Serbian Feature Film. The organisation has hosted first-time retrospectives and special programmes on Serbian and Yugoslav cinema and is developing original restoration projects for preserving film heritage.

Our charitable purposes are:

- 1) The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science through the representation, restoration and exhibition of world cinema heritage by 1) sustainably sourcing, selecting and obtaining films of world cinema for cultural representation in the UK and beyond; 2) initiating, organising and conducting film restoration projects for the purposes of repairing and preserving cinematic works of cultural importance for world heritage; 3) disseminating the films via programming in local, national and international film series, festivals, museums, national picture houses and theatres, and encouraging distribution through digital, and DVD/Blu-ray platforms.
- 2) The advancement of education by providing an educational platform for premiering films and bringing in dialogue filmmakers, industry and academia with the public through a variety of masterclasses, discursive panels, film festivals, and/or interactive events. The Liberating Cinema Film Series is designated the organisation's major and immediate platform for showcasing the films in Higher Education Institutions.
- 3) The advancement of environmental protection or improvement through the restoration and preservation of the films by appropriating proper environmental conditions for and storage of the films respectively.

Liberating Cinema is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with the charitable number SC049680. The organisation was founded by and is directed by Mina Radović.



Liberating cinema / Sa verom u boga / reditelj Mihajlo Al. Popovic



For 18 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!

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>

London
Sports
Society





**NJEGOS
FOUNDATION
L O N D O N**



The Serbian Heritage Foundation Petar II Petrović Njegoš

Trustees:

The Chair of Trustees: Dr Dejan Maraš MD PhD FESC Cardiology Consultant

- Ms Slavica Popović Operational Director Recruitment Agency
- Mr Boris Gajić Telecommunication Consultant
- Mr Vuk Radusinović Building Service Consultant
- Mr Igor Sotrić Vine buyer
- Mr Sergej Dojčinović Political and Strategic Consultant to Governments, Corporation and Individuals London
- Ms Nina Maraš Commercial Lawyer
- Mr Mladen Jovašević BA (ECON) FCCA as our official accountant.

The aim of the Foundation is the prevention and relief of poverty for public benefit in Serbia, Kosovo and Metohija, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia by providing grants, items and services to individuals in need and/or organisations working to prevent or relieve poverty.
<https://njegosfoundation.org/>

Trustees aim to run two humanitarian events per year under the umbrella of our charity.
<https://njegosfoundation.org/> email admin@shfnjegos.org.

As a traditional event we would like to run a Svetosavski Ball every year on the second Saturday of each February.

This time, the Trustees have the great pleasure and honour, to announce that the Patron of the Svetosavski Ball 2023 will be the Hilandar Monastery in the presence of its abbot, Archimandrite Methodius. This event will highlight the continuity of our religious, cultural and educational life as the previous Svetosavski Ball (2020) also celebrated 800 years since our Church was established by St Sava.

The type of second humanitarian event will be a matter of the Trustees' decision every year depending on our diaspora's needs. However, this year the Trustees decided to dedicate the second event in 2023 to young people (aged between 18-35 years) who study or work in London and the UK as an opportunity to meet each other and share their experiences. We will probably announce the time and date next February.



Lifeline Humanitarian Organization



Patron: HRH Crown Princess Katherine



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.

www.lifelineuk.co.uk info@lifelineuk.co.uk

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 of 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 ornsb@btconnect.com

The Raymond Nicolet Trust



The Raymond Nicolet Trust

Support Childhood in Serbia

www.raymondnicolettrust.com

info@raymondnicolettrust.com

The Raymond Nicolet Trust is a UK registered charity that supports education and childhood in Serbia with different teams principally in the UK and Serbia, but also in France, Greece, Bulgaria and Canada. Its website <https://www.raymondnicolettrust.com/> provides access to news of its various activities, such as E-shop, Podcast platform, E-learning, Living while Giving, and also a monthly newsletter and current projects. Famous Trust patrons include Serbian footballers Nemanja Matić and Aleksandar Mitrović, Serbian violinist Nemanja Radulović, Serbian basketball player Nikola Jokić and Chemistry Nobel Prize winner Professor Sir John Ernest Walker.

In 2022, The Trust donated £2,500 to the Jovan Arandjelović in Crvena Reka, near the South Eastern border of Serbia, to refurbish the school library. The new library has greatly impacted the quality of the lives of the students and brought many happy moments to all.

The charity also purchased for £3,700 of sports equipment for the poorly-equipped school playground of the Sveti Sava school in Bajina Bašta that the children use for their sports activities. Children spend a lot of time in the schoolyard before being picked up in the evening by their parents, and the sports equipment brought happy news to all the school children.

In 2021, despite the pandemic, the charity has successfully raised £10,337 which was matched by the EBRD Community Initiative.

In 2021, the Raymond Nicolet Trust financed the purchase of a £10,000 near new van to replace the Vuk Karadžić Center's existing one that was 20 years old and highly unreliable. The van is essential for the transportation of children and meals between the school's two main locations and to external sporting events. The Trust had previously made a donation of £2,000 to the Vuk Karadžić Center in Sombor to renew some of its outdated IT equipment and shipped also some toys and clothes to them.

The Trust also financed the refurbishment of the library at the Jovan Jovanović Zmaj School in Pančevo. The £4,000 raised has allowed the school to restore the wooden floor to its former glory, repair and paint all walls. Some furniture has also been bought to complete the stunning look of the rejuvenated library.

In 2021, the charity installed some sports and play equipment for the Children and Youth Centre Miroslav Mika-Antić in Sombor. The £4,000 raised has bought slides, swings, carousels and benches to refurbish the poorly-equipped school playground that the children use for their outdoor activities. Most of the children live at the Centre's premises all year round and the playground is the only external facility they have for leisure time, activities and sport.

The Trust also shipped a brand-new patient care simulator for the students of the College of Vocation Studies for Preschool Teachers and Sports Trainers (Nurses and Dietitians) from Subotica.

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

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**Serbian
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Hospices of Hope in support of BELhospice

Hospices of Hope believes all deserve access to specialist palliative care services when they most desperately need them. As a UK-based charity, we support our Serbian partner BELhospice in developing hospice care services for terminally ill patients and their families.

BELhospice is the only charity in Serbia providing free hospice care to terminally ill cancer patients. The day care centre provides medical and holistic support to 500 patients each year.

Their home care service was officially recognised by the Serbian government in 2017, but palliative care as a discipline itself is not – so BELhospice receives no government support or funding.

“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”.

This year, BELhospice has set up a specialist service for children, providing comprehensive care of the child’s body, mind and spirit. The service aims to improve the quality of life of both the child and their family, providing psycho-social, psychotherapeutic and spiritual support from the moment of diagnosis until the end of the patient’s life – and beyond for the family.

To support their vital work, Hospices of Hope holds numerous exciting fundraising events throughout the year in the UK – more details can be found on their website

www.hospicesofhope.co.uk



Academics and Artists



Bojan Aleksov

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 Predrag Bjelogrić

Dr Predrag Bjelogrić is a Senior Lecturer and a Clinical skills lead at the University of St Andrews, School of Medicine. His MD qualification was awarded from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade (1992), and his MSc in Histopathology degree from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School University of London (1996). His main area of expertise is the medical education and clinical assessment in the undergraduate curricula. During 25 years of experience working at the oldest Scottish - University of St Andrews, he educated over 3500 medical students.
Email: pb10@st-andrews.ac.uk



Dr Tijana Blanuša

Dr Tijana Blanuša obtained her BSc and MSc degrees in Crop Science and Plant Physiology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade before moving to the UK to complete her PhD in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry between Lancaster University and East Malling Research. This led to a postdoc at the UK's largest horticultural charity, Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), where she now holds a position of a Principal Horticultural Scientist. Her post is based at the University of Reading (School of Agriculture, Policy and Development) where she conducts most of her research and also teaches and supervises undergraduate, masters and PhD students. Tijana leads and delivers RHS research on the environmental benefits of gardens and urban green infrastructure. She is particularly interested in the contribution of plants to urban cooling, rainfall mitigation and air quality improvement. She and her colleagues are working to understand what underlying plant traits are most successful at this so that these plants can be harnessed to deliver multiple benefits. In December 2021 she was awarded a 2-year Fellowship in the Built Environment by the Royal Commission to investigate the application of hedges in the urban context for the delivery of multiple environmental benefits.



Zoran Cvetković

Zoran Cvetković is Professor of Signal Processing with the Department of Engineering at Kings College London. He held research positions with EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland (1996), and with Harvard University (2002–2004). Between 1997 and 2002, he was a member of the technical staff of AT&T Shannon Laboratory. He received the Dipl. Ing. and Mag. degrees from the University of Belgrade, the M.Phil. degree from Columbia University, and the Ph.D. degree in electrical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests are in the broad area of signal processing, ranging from theoretical aspects of signal analysis to applications in audio and speech technology, and neuroscience.



Dr Aleksandar Brkić

Dr Aleksandar Brkić is a scholar in the field of cultural/arts management and cultural policy, with significant experience as a creative producer and arts manager, working in the intersections of performing arts, visual arts, and design. He joined the Institute for Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship (ICCE), Goldsmiths in 2016. Prior to that, he was teaching at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore and the University of Arts in Belgrade. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA) and a guest lecturer at the University of Arts in Belgrade and Ben M'Sik, Hassan II University, Casablanca. Aleksandar is a member of the Regulations Committee of Goldsmiths. Dr Brkić is a series editor of 'Routledge Focus on Global Creative Economy' published by Taylor&Francis and an Associate Editor of The European Journal of Cultural Management and Policy.



Djuradj Budimir

Djuradj Budimir received the Dipl. Ing. and M. Sc. degrees in electronic engineering from the University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia, and the Ph.D. degree in electronic and electrical engineering from the University of Leeds, Leeds, U.K. In March 1994, he joined the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at Kings College London, University of London, UK. Since January 1997, he has been with the School of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Westminster, London, UK, where he is now a Reader of wireless communications and leads the Wireless Communications Research Group. He is also a Visiting Professor with the School of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade. He has published more than 374 papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings, five books/book chapters and software's, 22 Invited papers/lectures, and keynote presentations. He serves as an Associate Editor for IET Electronic Letters (Oct. 2015 - Jan. 2020), and an associate guest editor for IET_MAP (Special Issue on: Applications of short-range waves in IoT applications, April2022). He was a local co-chair of European Microwave Week Conference (EuMW2016)/European Antenna and Propagation Conference (EuCAP2018), will be a General TPC co-chair and a local arrangement chair of European Microwave Week Conference (EuMW2021)/ and member of the TPC of several conferences. He is a Member of the EPSRC Peer Review College, a senior Member of IEEE, a Member of IET and a Chartered Engineer. He has supervised 22 PhD/4 MRes/over 100 MSc theses through to completion and currently supervising 4 PhD theses as the main supervisor.



Dr Jasna Dragović-Soso

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'.



Dejan Djokić

Professor Dejan Djokić's research spans across, and brings together, three main strands: auto/collective biography/micro history of the Yugoslav war; global and cultural history of the Cold War; and history of Serbia and Yugoslavia in regional and transnational contexts.

Dejan is a recipient of some of the most prestigious national and international grants and fellowships. His main current project, a pioneering study of the last generation of Yugoslav army conscripts (1990/91), is funded by the British Academy and The Leverhulme Trust. Prior to joining Goldsmiths in 2007, Dejan held lectureships at Birkbeck and Nottingham (a permanent post) and postdoctoral fellowships at Columbia University, New York and Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC. He was a visiting professor at School of International & Public Affairs, Columbia University (Autumn semester 2010) and has been, since Oct 2020, a guest professor at Chair for South-East European History, Humboldt University of Berlin.

Dejan regularly provides expertise to media on historical and current affairs and engages with non-academic audiences. He has contributed to the BBC, the Guardian, Independent, New Statesman, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, THE, TLS, & spoken at public events.

In 2016/17 Dejan initiated and facilitated the donation of c.600 books, including some rare items, on the Balkans from Professor Stevan K. Pavlowitch's private library to the Goldsmiths Library special collections.

Further info: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/history/staff/d-djokic/>



Dr Željka Krpetić

Dr Željka Krpetić is a Lecturer in Physical Chemistry at the University of Salford, Manchester since 2016, Associate Editor of the Springer-Nature's Cancer Nanotechnology Journal, Principal Investigator and research group leader of Salford's Bionanotechnology lab (www.zknanolab.com). Dr Krpetić is an expert in nanomedicine research designing gold nanoparticles with multifunctional custom surface features and advancing the field of nanoparticle characterisation in situ in biological media enabling novel nanotechnology-based medicines for applications in cancer treatment and fight against antimicrobial resistant pathogens. She is an author of over 30 peer reviewed articles, a book chapter, and lead editor for special collections of articles in Springer-Nature's 'Cancer Nanotechnology' and 'Frontiers: Research Topic' journals. She is a co-editor of the 'Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology' book currently in preparation for publishing in Taylor & Francis CRC Press in 2022.



Ranko Lazić

Ranko Lazić 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 Martinović

Jasna Martinović 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 Martinović 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

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 450 publications in the field of Silicon Photonics, 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.



Nina Milosavljević

Nina Milosavljević is currently a Lecturer in Neuroscience at the University of Manchester. She was born in Belgrade where she finished a 5-year MSc programme in Molecular Biology and Physiology at the University of Belgrade in 2009. During her undergraduate studies, she was awarded a prestigious USAID (United States Agency for International Development) scholarship for a one-year exchange programme for upper-division courses in biology at Georgia State University, in Atlanta, USA. She was also awarded a DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) stipend for an internship at the University of Gottingen, Institute for Human Genetics, in Gottingen, Germany, and the Erasmus Tempus funding for an internship at the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis in Nice, France. In 2012, Nina received her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Interactions, with "highest honours" ("très honorable") from the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, in Nice, France for which she was awarded a prestigious Erasmus Mundus PhD scholarship. For her postdoc, Nina moved to the University of Manchester in 2013, to work in visual neuroscience. In 2018, she successfully obtained an Early Career Fellowship Award funded by the biggest eye charity in the UK and USA, Fight for Sight and in November 2021 she was awarded a Lectureship in Neuroscience at the University of Manchester.



Zoran Milutinović

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 *Phantom in the Library: Is there a Serbian Nationalist Discourse on Ivo Andrić?* (2022), *Bitka za prošlost. Ivo Andrić i bošnjački nacionalizam* (2018), *Getting Over Europe, The Construction of Europe in Serbian Culture* (2011), *Susret na trecem 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*, *New Area Studies* and *Balkanica*, and co-editor of Brill's book series *Balkan Studies Library*.



Dr Ivona Z. Mitrović

Dr Ivona Z. Mitrović is a Reader in sustainable nanoenergy and the Head of BioMEMS, Organic & Silicon Electronics Group at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics at the University of Liverpool. She received the B.Eng. degree in microelectronics from the University of Niš, Niš, Serbia, in 1997, the M.Sc. degree in materials science from the University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia, in 2002, and the Ph.D. degree in electronic engineering from the University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK, in 2007. Her core research activity has largely been focused on fundamental understanding of materials on nanoscale, in particular oxides, relevant to CMOS applications and, more recently alternative energy technologies. She has been leading research activity through a number of projects, mainly funded by the EPSRC with a contribution of ~ £1.5 million. For her professional standing and significant achievements in the engineering profession Dr Mitrović received Senior Member of IEEE status in 2014. She is a member of European SINANO Network of Excellence and has recently been appointed to the Steering Committee of the eFutures2.0 EPSRC funded network that aims at strengthening the UK electronics research. Dr Mitrović has authored over 130 scientific papers in refereed journals and conference proceedings and has delivered over 20 talks at premier international conferences in Europe and the USA. As electronics engineer, she is passionate about a sustainable, more electric future and has recently chaired the forum on materials and nanodevices within the UKRI Series "Electronics for Sustainable Societies".
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Dubravka Pokrajac

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 twenty PhD projects. She is an Associate Editor for two academic journals.



Dr Jelena Ponoćko

Dr Jelena Ponoćko is a Lecturer in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at The University of Manchester. She received her BSc and MSc degrees from the University of Belgrade, School of Electrical Engineering, and PhD from The University of Manchester. Her research focuses on demand-side management in power systems. Jelena has authored or co-authored over 40 research papers and technical reports and spoken at numerous conferences around the world. Jelena is the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) Women in Power representative for Region 8 (Europe, Middle East and Africa), supporting gender equality in the power and energy domain.



Dr Nebojša Radić

Nebojša Radić is Associate-Professor at the University of Cambridge Language Centre and Director of the university-wide world languages programme. He is member of the University Technology Enabled Learning, Teaching and Assessment (TELTA) group that advises the General Board and he also Chaired (2022 – 2022) the School of Arts and Humanities TELTA group. Dr Radić is also a Senior University Examination Officer. He is Member at Darwin where he participates in the work of the College Research and Education Committee and organises Humanities research seminars.

Dr Radić is or has been visiting and/or honorary professor at the universities of Roma III, Cagliari and Pavia (Italy), Belgrade, Novi Sad and ECPD (Serbia) and RUDN in Moscow, Russia. His research interests range from methodology of language teaching in blended and online, remote environment, bilingualism, intercultural competence, to creative writing and literary self-translation.

Dr Radić has a PhD in creative writing and literary translation (UEA, Norwich), an Honorary MA from Cambridge, and further MAs from the universities of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) and Auckland (New Zealand).

He has published fiction in Serbian, English and Italian and is foreign correspondent of the Serbian current affairs weekly *Pečat*.



Dr Predrag Slijepčević

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.



Endre Süli

Endre Süli FRS (also, Endre Šili) is a mathematician. He is a Professor of Numerical Analysis in the Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, and Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics at Worcester College, Oxford. He was educated at the University of Belgrade and, as a British Council Visiting Student, at the University of Reading and St Catherine's College, Oxford. His research is concerned with the mathematical analysis of numerical algorithms for nonlinear partial differential equations. He is a Foreign Member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (2009), Fellow of the European Academy of Sciences (2010), Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (2016), a Member of the Academia Europaea (2020), and a Fellow of the Royal Society (2021). His other honours include: Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (2007), Charlemagne Distinguished Lecture (2011), IMA Service Award (2011), Professor Hospitus Universitatis Carolinae Pragensis, Charles University in Prague (2012–), Distinguished Visiting Chair Professor Shanghai Jiao Tong University (2013), President, SIAM United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland Section (2013–2015), London Mathematical Society/New Zealand Mathematical Society Forder Lectureship (2015), Aziz Lecture (2015), BIMOS Distinguished Lecture (2016), John von Neumann Lecture (2016), Sibe Mardešić Lecture (2018), London Mathematical Society Naylor Prize and Lectureship (2021). Endre grew up in Subotica and is a recipient of the Pro Urbe Prize of the City of Subotica (2021). He is the father of Sterija Award-winning Serbian playwright and dramatist Fedor Šili.



Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

Vladimir Unkovski-Korica is Senior Lecturer in Central and East European Studies at the University of Glasgow. He is the author of 'The Economic Struggle for Power in Tito's Yugoslavia, From World War II to Non-Alignment' and co-editor with Saša Vejzagić of a forthcoming special issue of the journal Business History entitled 'Socialist entrepreneurs? The business histories of the GDR and Yugoslavia'. His current research focuses on the British left and Yugoslavia from the Second World War to the Kosovo War. Vladimir teaches courses on Yugoslav, Balkan, East European and Russian history. He engages with non-academic audiences through contributions to the media on historical and current affairs, as well as by co-editing a variety of online journals like LeftEast. Further info: <https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/socialpolitical/staff/vladimirunkovski-korica/>



Vladimir Zorić

Vladimir Zorić (1977) was born and lived in Belgrade before moving with his family to Pančevo (1985) where he completed his primary and high school (gimnazija) education. In 1996 he returned to live in Belgrade and studied comparative literature and literary theory at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade. Upon obtaining his BA degree (2001), he moved to the United Kingdom to pursue postgraduate study at the University of Nottingham and graduated with MA (by Research) in 2003 and with PhD in 2006. He is now an Associate Professor in Russian and Slavonic Studies at the University of Nottingham and teaches South Slavonic literature, Balkan history, and Serbian/Croatian language. He wrote a monograph on Yugoslav writer Danilo Kiš (Kiš, legenda i priča, 2005), a study of literature in exile (The Rhetoric of Exile: Duress and the Imagining of Force, 2016), and is now working on a book about the representation of Central Europe and the Habsburg Monarchy in Yugoslav literature. He lives in Nottingham but also spends time in Belgrade and Berlin. In his free time, when not in one of these cities, he is likely to be found somewhere between Donaueschingen (Germany) and Sulina (Romania) exploring the riverscapes and human settlements of the Danube.

Academics and Artists



Aleksandar Dundjerović

Aleksandar Sasha Dundjerović is born in Belgrade. He is a full Professor of Performing Arts at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University. Dundjerović is the founder and executive director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Performative Arts and Associate Director of Research in Performing Arts. He holds PhD from Royal Holloway, University of London, MA from The University of Oklahoma, USA and a BA in Theatre Directing from the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Belgrade, Serbia. Dundjerović is a professional award-winning theatre director, performance deviser and published author with international experience working in the UK, Ireland, Canada, Serbia, Romania, Iran, Russia, Colombia, and Brazil. He is visiting professor at the University of São Paulo (Brazil), and the University of Arts, Interdisciplinary Arts Doctoral studies, Belgrade (Serbia). Over the years he published several books and articles on the performing arts, contemporary theatre directing, theatre and film practice of Robert Lepage, interdisciplinary and collaborative theatre and performing arts in Brazil and on the creative practice of Canadian theatre and film. His most recent books include *Brazilian Collaborative Theater* (2017); *Brazilian Performing Arts* (2019); and *Robert Lepage – Rutledge Performance Practitioners* (2 ed., 2019); and chapter in a book edited by Jonathan Harris *Terrorism and the Arts*, (Routledge, March 2021) titled 'Harold Pinter and State Terrorism'. He is working on a new book *Live Digital Theatre: Creative Performance Pedagogies* contracted by prestigious publisher Routledge based in London and New York, with the manuscript expected to be published end of 2022.



Lazar Džamić

A Serbian-British academic and writer, Lazar is an ex-journalist, contributor to *The Guardian*, former agency strategist and a former Head of Brand Planning in Google's creative think tank ZOO in London. He is an Associate Professor in Business School Lausanne (BSL), Associate Lecturer at Goldsmiths University in London, teaches at the MBA programme for the School of Business and Economics in Ljubljana, the PwC's Mini MBA Academy in CEE and at the Faculty for Media and Communications in Belgrade. Serbian audiences know him for his best-selling books *'The Flowerhop in the House of Flowers'* (exploring the phenomenon of the bizarre success of the 'Alan Ford' comic book in former Yugoslavia) and *'Damson Tea'* (a comparative phenomenology of everyday life in London and the Balkans). His latest book of essays *'Paths Among the Signs'* was published in 2020 by FMK Books. He lives in London. The books could be purchased in all better Serbian bookshops.

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Dr Lina Džuverović

Dr Lina Džuverović is Lecturer in Arts Policy and Management at the Department for Film, Media and Cultural Studies, an independent curator and founding director of Electra, a London-based contemporary arts organisation. Her research focuses on feminist art histories and contemporary art as a site of solidarity and community-building. Lina founded the Decolonial Feminist Forum at Birkbeck in 2019. Previously Lina was Artistic Director of Calvert 22 Foundation, Media Arts Curator at ICA, London, Education Curator at Lux Centre and has taught fine art at University of Reading and Institute for Contemporary Art, TU Graz, Austria. Selected exhibitions include: "Monuments Should Not Be Trusted" (Nottingham Contemporary, 2016), "Sanja Iveković – Unknown Heroine" (South London Gallery and Calvert 22 Foundation, 2012), "27 Senses" (Chisenhale Gallery, London; Kunstmuseet KUBE, Norway, 2009/10), "Favoured Nations" (5th Nordic Biennial of Contemporary Art, 2009), "Her Noise" (South London Gallery, 2005). Prior to completing her PhD at the Critical Writing in Art & Design Department, Royal College of Art and Tate (CDA AHRC), Lina studied at The London Consortium (Birkbeck College), Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design and Chelsea College of Art and Design.



Dr. Nela Milić

Dr. Nela Milić 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... She created many multi-media projects where she's dealt with memory, narrative, mapping, archives and participation. She is a recipient of the ECF Artistic grant for the project Wedding Bellas after years of engagement with refugees and asylum seekers and Southwark community arts award for her project Here Comes Everybody. Her PhD 'Balkanising Taxonomy' dealt with 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 on the editorial board of the Journal of Arts and Communities. She is Co-Investigator of the AHRC's Peace and Conflict Cultural Network and part of Arts and Reconciliation research project. She heads post-socialist arts platform at University of the Arts, London, funded by the BSA. Nela is writing a book about Serbian sculptor Olga Jevrić with the support of UK Association for Arts Historians.



Duška Radosavljević

Duška Radosavljević is a writer, dramaturg and Professorial Research Fellow 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 with Robert Icke on his Olivier 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 Aural/Oral Dramaturgies: Theatre in the Digital Age (Routledge 2023) and Theatre-Making: Text and Performance in the 21st Century (Palgrave, 2013). Her edited collections include The Contemporary Ensemble (Routledge, 2013) and Theatre Criticism: Changing Landscapes (Bloomsbury Methuen, 2016). Her research was funded four times by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and she has received significant recognition for her writing and research, including most recently two awards in the United States for her website www.auralia.space: the Elliot Hayes Award for Outstanding Contribution to Dramaturgy and the ASTR-ATHE Award for Excellence in Digital Scholarship.



Mina Radović

Mina Radović is a doctoral researcher and for the past year associate lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London. He holds a Master of Arts in Film Studies and German Language, Literature and Linguistics from the University of St Andrews, with placements at the University of Vienna and University of Heidelberg. His areas of expertise include the study of language, film history and historiography, archiving and restoration, Serbian cinema and Yugoslav cinema, early cinema and culture, and the study of totalitarian ideologies through language and film (PhD Framing Totalitarianism: Language and Film in 1930s Nazi Germany). A FIAF-trained archivist, curator, historian, and filmmaker, Mina runs Liberating Cinema, a non-profit charitable organisation committed to the representation, restoration and exhibition of world cinema heritage. He runs masterclasses, workshops, symposia, and a regular Film Series.

Mina has curated on all periods of film history and an expansive range of world cinema, including first time retrospectives of Serbian and Yugoslav cinema in the Anglophone world, programmes on cinemas from around the world, and special sections on film animation, silent cinema, avant-garde and experimental cinema as well as the work of influential directors. He regularly contributes to international peer-reviewed journals and has given lectures in St Andrews, Oxford, Venice, Amsterdam, and London. Mina also works on film festivals, curating the programme for the St Andrews Film Festival and the selection committee for the Austin Film Festival (Texas, USA). He serves on Film Juries, most recently as Member of the Ecumenical Jury at the 69th International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg.



Dr Tijana Stevanović

Dr Tijana Stevanović is an architect, educator, and artist, working as a Lecturer in Architectural History and Theory at the University College London. She was previously a Postdoctoral 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'.

**Serbian
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Journalists & Writers

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Jelena Sofronijevic

Jelena Sofronijevic (@jelsofron) is an audio producer and freelance journalist based in London. Published by the Political Studies Association, their undergraduate dissertation uses contemporary political satires to uniquely unpack Tito's socialist Yugoslavia. They presented an episode of BBC Radio 4's Four Thought (September 2020) on modern Yugoslav diasporic identity, later selected for BBC Radio 4's Pick of the Week and featured on BBC Radio Shropshire. They were interviewed about Yugonostalgia and food for Vittles, and co-produced a podcast on third culture children in diasporas with Remembering Yugoslavia in early 2022. They also report on contemporary politics in the Balkans, for the likes of The Bunker and Media Storm. Their other podcasts include EMPIRE LINES, INDIAscussion, Liberating Sustainability and, most recently, historicity, a new series of audio walking tours exploring how cities got to be the way they are - starting with London.



Sonja Batinić-Besford

Sonja Batinić-Besford is a Serbian writer born in Belgrade. She has fifteen books published, the latest published in 2021 by KoV, To and Fro/Tamo-Amo. 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.



Nikola Čobić

Nikola Čobić 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.



Vesna Goldsworthy

Vesna Goldsworthy (Belgrade, 1961) is an internationally bestselling and prize-winning writer, academic and broadcaster. In 2021 she was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, becoming the first Serbian member in this august Society's long history. She is Professor in Creative Writing and English Literature at the Universities of Exeter and East Anglia. Goldsworthy writes in English, her third language. Her books include *Chernobyl Strawberries* (a memoir) and *Gorsky* (a novel) both of which have been serialised by the BBC; *Inventing Ruritania: the Imperialism of the Imagination*, a study of Balkan representations which remains a set text at universities worldwide, and a Crashaw-prize winning poetry collection, *The Angel of Salonika*, which was one of the Times' Best Poetry Books of the Year. Vesna Goldsworthy's new novel, *Iron Curtain*, was published in February 2022 by Chatto & Windus in the UK to great critical success. The Momo Kapor Prize winning Serbian edition with Geopoetika has been a bestseller since its publication, while the North American edition with WW Norton is scheduled for 14 February 2023.



Svetlana Meiehofer

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 Croatian edition "Jez Marko" - translated in English "Marko the hedgehog" "Pomirisi Kisu" Svetlana Meiehofer is the founder and director of Artem magazine published in Serbian and English that presents culture and art. Since 2021, Svetlana has been spending time between London and Trebinje, where she opened a gallery/gift shop Artem in April 2022 to exhibit works by local and foreign artists.



Dr. Jelena Nolan-Roll

Dr. Jelena Nolan-Roll, currently living in Bristol, grew up in the New Belgrade blocks in the nineties (Kakav brate Bruklin brate blok je brate zakon). She is a violence prevention expert, a creative writer, coach and amateur kickboxer. She is a psychologist by profession (University of Belgrade) with a doctorate in education (University of Bristol). She is interested in human and social stories, as well as the power they give us - or the power we give to them as the society or as individuals. In the violence prevention domain, she has led expert teams and participated in global projects, with participants from Silicon Valley to India. Her story about a woman leaving an abusive relationship "Nesreća" won first place in the competition of the Association of Independent Writers of Serbia 2021 (<http://www.casopiskvaka.com.hr/2021/03/jelena-nolan-roll-nesreca.html>). Her novel "Blokovi se pričaju" is published in December 2022. As a coach, she works with clients from various domains, from teachers to Olympians (drnolanroll.com). She is a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu white belt.

Dance



Djordje Tanasijević

Djordje Tanasijević is an award-winning Professional Latin dancer. Djordje, originally from Serbia, started dancing from the age 9. From the age of 10, he began to travel to many competitions abroad representing his country. Later, Djordje moved to Slovenia to train with some of the best coaches in the world, and following this Djordje has been involved with TV and films such as Children in Need, Cuban Fury, Comic relief and many more. He has also been part of the team who bring the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing to P&O cruises, and had the honour to dance for the Queen at Britannia's naming ceremony. Djordje has taught from the age of 15 in his home country and abroad. His teaching credentials are impressive and include a wide range of well-known dance schools in the UK and abroad. Also he was a 2012 and 2013 ISTD Congress Lecturer, and 2014 IDTA Congress Lecturer.



Milica (Mil) Vuković Smart

Milica (Mil) Vukovic Smart (born in Novi Sad) is a London-based dance and performance artist, writer and choreographer. She is a PhD researcher at Chelsea College of Arts and associate lecturer at Wimbledon College of Arts at the University of Arts London. In parallel, Milica has a career in fundraising and organisational development and is currently Head of Development at Pushkin House.

Drama and Film



Maya Barcot

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, Eastenders), 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).

Ella Dorman-Gajić



Ella Dorman-Gajić is a scriptwriter, performer and poet of Serbian and Austrian heritage. Her writing has been described as “impassioned” by The Guardian. Her Arts Council-funded play *Trade* premiered last year to critical acclaim; it will go on a UK tour in 2023, starting at Pleasance Theatre on 20th March. Her other theatrical works have been staged at The Arcola, Camden People’s Theatre and The Old Red Lion. She’s an alum of the Roundhouse Poetry Collective and her poetry has been published in Poetry Wales. As an actor, she stars in the Radio 4 Drama ‘Song of the Reed’.

Ivan Lazić



Ivan Lazić is a TV Director, Producer and Edit Producer based in London, although his story doesn't start here. Ivan was born in Italy in 1986 and moved to Belgrade a year later, where his parents are from. Leaving Belgrade in 1989, he moved to the UK where he has spent most of his life, with stints living in Germany and Italy. As with many other who have had the luck and privilege of living in different places, such a nomadic lifestyle has given him a strong and vivid appreciation for different peoples and cultures and it's something that he has tried to capture in the films he has worked on, wherever possible.

Ivan's career has taken him to places as far as the Grand Canyon in the US, deep into the Arctic Circle in Norway, the Fargoesque plains of wintery Minnesota - and now Serbia.

'The Europe from Above' episode on Serbia is his first film on his country of origin and Ivan was not only ecstatic, but deeply honoured, to be given the opportunity to make it. Some might say it's impossible to capture the essence of a country in 45 minutes, but he hopes to have given a new perspective of our beautiful country not only to those who don't know it at all, but also to those who know it very well. 'If I have managed to succeed at least a little in that, then my job is done' Ivan says.



Maria Pavlovich

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 Stanojević



Vesna Stanojević, actress in Theatre, Film and TV <http://www.spotlight.com/9410-7869-7507>. Also Head of Acting at the BA Acting MT course at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama <https://www.cssd.ac.uk/staff/vesna-stanojevic-ba>.

As a Senior Lecturer, she has developed her own acting methodology, combining the two very different acting techniques: Stanislavsky Acting Method and the Acting Technique of Étienne Decroux, called 'The Space Between The Lines'. Vesna's professional acting work is informing her teaching and her alumni are working internationally.

Maja Milatović-Ovadia



Maja Milatović-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.

<https://majamilatovicovadia.wordpress.com/>



Sasha Milavic Davies

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 Draškić 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).

Comedy



Gordana Mičić

Gordana Mičić aka Gordi, is a comedian, dancer, producer, writer, actor, scientist, engineer, pilot, managing consultant, mother and... a very bad cook. Often referred to as the lovechild of Albert Einstein and Audrey Hepburn due to her physical likeness to the scientist and physics/science background and... his graceful demeanour too! It's all relative, right?!

Gordana performs extracts from her Balkan Girl show which has been very well received in the UK and abroad in corporate and entertainment industries. Through dance and body movement, she tells a story of a young girl's understanding of the world and meaning of life, reframing some of the past dramatic experiences. Every stage of her life is accompanied with a dance and musical number which are highly uplifting and full of wittiness.

Formerly one of the top UK's dancers, she is an international all-round performer and public speaker, equally known in the business world for delivering some of the most enjoyable and entertaining after dinner and motivational speeches full of anecdotes from her international career, career in change management and supporting wellbeing lifestyle.

Gordana has been organising business (personal and professional development and team building) and entertainment events for over 20 years and is a founder of Groovie Comedy club in London.

"Balkan Girl is a haughty, menacing dancing diva who hilariously transforms into the real Gordi via anecdotes, audience interaction and the Argentine tango."

"Bringing a unique blend of performance skills with her dance & physical comedy, uplifting and fun storytelling - a complete educational blast!"

Music



Jovana Backović

Jovana Backović 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.jovanabackovic.com.



Bratislava Barac Djukić

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 Bijelović

Viktor Bijelović 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 King Charles III twice. Viktor has a busy teaching practise in London. He has recorded several CDs and to find out more, please refer to his website: www.viktorbijelovic.com



Nevena Bridgen

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. Future engagements include role of Micaela in Opera Carmen and Liu in Turandot at the National Theatre Belgrade and Opera Madlenianum in 2023, in Belgrade.



Ivana Ćetković

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. In 2019 Ivana took on a role of the leader of an up coming London orchestra London Symphonic Rock Orchestra that takes her across the world performing music inspired by hard rock hits of the nineties as well as tribute bands of Abba from Sweden and Queen Machine from Denmark. Along side her busy freelance career in UK in 2021 Ivana started leading a theatre orchestra focused on performing west-end musicals in Serbia, her home town of Belgrade allowing her to split her time professionally between her two home cities London and Belgrade.



Predrag Gosta

Conductor, baritone and harpsichordist Predrag Gosta is an alumnus of the Trinity College of Music in London (now Trinity Laban) and Georgia State University in Atlanta, USA. He led some of the best orchestras in the world, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the National Philharmonic in Washington DC, the Russian National Orchestra in Moscow, as well as the Sofia, Ruse, Burgas and Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestras. Through his work, he has already built a reputation as one of the most faceted conductors in the country as well as overseas. He is also active on the operatic stage, having conducted to international acclaim opera companies in the USA, Switzerland, Germany, Bulgaria and his native Serbia. In London, he directs New Trinity Baroque, one of the leading period instrument ensembles in the country, as well as the Makris Symphony Orchestra. He is also an avid educator and the Director of the Makris Music Society, nurturing young musical talent. He regularly visits Serbia, where he is the Artistic Director of the Belgrade Early Music Festival, the Belgrade Baroque Academy, and the New Belgrade Opera. Currently, Gosta is also in the final year of his doctoral research at the University of Oxford. Among his many CD recordings are two with the London Symphony Orchestra and ten with New Trinity Baroque. For more information, visit predraggosta.com



Maya Jordan

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 Music & Arts and Programme Director of the Serbian Month in Great Britain.



Elena Kostova

Elena Kostova is a Classical Music Artist Agent based in central London. Elena currently holds position as a Vice-president 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 three hundred concerts per year worldwide, of a select roster of artists. 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.



Mina Miletić

Mina Miletić Prize-winner of many awards, Mina Miletić 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.



Miloš Milivojević

Accordionist Miloš Milivojević 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. Miloš 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.



Živorad Nikolić

Živorad Nikolić is a London based accordianist 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. Živorad 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

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Viktor Obšust

Viktor Obšust 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



Marina Petrov

www.marinapetrov.co.uk

Marina Petrov, MAM, is an award-winning concert pianist and accomplished piano pedagogue. She specialises in Preventing Pianists' Occupational Injuries and various piano techniques and held seminars, masterclasses and workshops on related subjects at various universities, music colleges and other educational institutions in London and Cork. As a child prodigy raised in Belgrade, Marina has won many national piano competitions in former Yugoslavia, followed by tours and media appearances, including TV and Radio Belgrade shows. At 18, she was awarded a federal grant to study further at the famous Moscow Tchaikovsky State Conservatoire in 1979. Since settling in London in 1989, Mrs Petrov has performed solo recitals, the chamber music and played with notable opera singers and instrumentalists in major concert halls across the UK and London, including Regent Hall, St John's Smith Square, and other well-known music venues.

Further to her 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 the annual Around the Globe Music Magazine. Her contribution to EPTA and ISSTIP journals is also prominent, and she regularly writes publications for AGMA. Marina's talents are renowned in the British press, including The Times, and she has been listed in the International Who's Who in Music and British and International Music Yearbook since 1994.



Rastko Rašić

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 Spassov, 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.



Milena Simović

Equally at home as a violinist and violist, Serbian Milena Simović is enjoying an illustrious international career of concerto, recital and chamber music performances.

Acclaimed for her work in Europe, Asia and America, Milena appears as a soloist in Russia, China, Italy, United Kingdom, Norway, France, Portugal, and through the countries of former Yugoslavia, performing alongside some of the most established personalities of today's music scene.

Milena's chamber music partners include Ivry Gitlis, Vadim Repin, Leonidas Kavakos, Antonio Meneses, Yuja Wang, Denis Kozhukhin, Vadim Kholodenko, Konstantin Lifschitz, Beatrice Rana, Boris Andrianov, Itamar Golan, Julian Rachlin, Roman Simović, Gordan Nikolitch, Tim Hugh and many others.

Milena's concerts have been broadcasted live on BBC Radio 3, Medici TV, Rai Uno in Italy, Arte etc. and her performances praised as "...exceptionally delivered performance, charged with brilliant combination of operatic quality, which was jaw-dropping at times", "seductive and exciting...with rare artistic sensibility" in the press.

Milena holds a professorship at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London and is a resident viola and a chamber music coach at the Culture Festival in Sardinian town of Santulussurgiu, taking place in August every year, which enjoys versatility of students from all continents.

Milena Simović received Bachelor and Masters of Music in violin from the Belgrade University of Arts and Music, and Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. After this Milena continued her further studies with viola and has completed another Masters degree at the Zurich University of Arts under Lawrence Power.

Milena Simović plays a Giovanni Battista Rogeri violin ca. 1680, and Paolo Antonio Testore viola from 1740.



Božidar Smiljanić

Bass-Baritone

Born and raised Londoner, Božidar Smiljanić, has been a member of the solo ensemble at Oper Frankfurt since 2018, where he has performed a wide selection of roles including the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Garibaldo* in *Rodelinda*, *Ariodate* in *Xerxes*, *Eumée* in *Pénélope*, *Sprecher* (*Die Zauberflöte*) and *Maskeradenmeister* (*Maskerade*) among others. Roles in Oper Frankfurt's in the 2021-22 season will include the *Doge of Venice* in *Bianca e Falliero*, *Fernando* in *La gazza ladra* and *der Einarmige* (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*).

Božidar 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. He 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* to critical acclaim, before the production had to close due to the Covid pandemic. 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. In 2022, Božidar will make his debut with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (Beethoven's ninth Symphony) and the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



Ljubica Stojanović

Ljubica Stojanović 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

Branco Stoysin, guitarist/composer/music arranger/tutor/photographer and the rest; From his birth place of Novi Sad town to growing up place of Frogville (Žabalj) village, back to Novi Sad...to London, with one guitar and small rucksack, following his dream, ... 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

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.



Ana Torbica

Ana Torbica is a multi-talented musician with an impressive scholarly career. She received Master of Arts degree in baroque viola and singing at the Historical Performance Department of the Royal Academy of Music in London, where she was a recipient of the Christopher Hogwood Scholarship, the Royal Academy of Music Scholarship, as well as the Award of the Johnathan Julian Fund. Her teachers included renowned artists such as baroque violist Jane Rogers, violinist Nicolette Moonen, and countertenor Michael Chance. In addition, she received the LRAM teaching diploma. Ana's interest in early music came through the Belgrade and Austria Baroque Academies and the International Summer School in Dartington. She has performed in Serbia, the UK, USA and Europe with famous musicians such as Trevor Pinnock, Philippe Herreweghe, John Butt, Florian Deuter, Ilia Korol, Rachel Podger, Bojan Čičić and Predrag Gosta, and ensembles such as New Trinity Baroque, Eboracum Baroque, Musica Poetica, Savaria Baroque Orchestra, Ensemble OrQUESTA and Musica Antiqua Neoplantensis. Winner of several chamber music and singing competitions, she also received grants from the Makris Music Society and the Macfarlane Walker Trust, which allowed her to obtain a baroque viola by Jan Pawlikowski, one of the best string instrument builders in Europe. Ana is also an alumna of the University of Arts in Niš. She is an active pedagogue and masterclass presenter, and is a member of the Serbian Association of Musicians from which she received the annual Best Young Artist Award for 2020.



Silva Vucković McQueen

Soprano Silva Vucković 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.



Tamara Živadinović

Tamara Živadinović is an international soprano of bel canto and Mozartian roles, and her repertoire includes many other styles and composers, and extends to the contemporary. She was born in Belgrade, Serbia, and has received Bachelor's degree (HONS) in vocal studies from Faculty of the Music Arts, Belgrade, and very shortly after, she has obtained Master degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London. Tamara is also alumni of Sir George Solti Academy, Italy. Her operatic roles have included Suor Genovieffa in the "Suor Angelica" (National Theatre, Belgrade), Pamina in The Magic Flute (British Youth Opera) and understudy of Monique "The Sofa" by E. Maconchy for Independent Opera Sadler's Wells, London. In 2012 she has been offered a place for the Opera Works/Young Artist Programme at the English National Opera. She has made appearances on many concert platforms in ex-Yugoslavia, Italy, France and England. She has performed several pieces by British composer James Hannigan for BAFTA at Royal Albert Hall, London. Tamara has won several prestigious prizes including, the Anthony and Barbara Dee special award at the Les Azuriales Opera, Nice, and she has been finalist of the Haverhill Sinfonia Soloists Competition and Susan Longfield prize, London. Since 2008 Tamara worked as a vocal pedagogue at the number of educational institutions like London College of Music, Phoenix Creative Arts, The Purcell School. Currently she works mostly with A-level students at the St Mary Magdalene Academy, Islington.

visual Art

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Vladimir Lalić

Vladimir Lalić was born in 1983 in Belgrade, where he graduated at the Faculty of Applied Arts (FPU), University of Belgrade in 2008. From 2008 to 2012, he worked as an expert-assistant at the same university in the printmaking department. He enrolled MFA Fine arts in 2022 at Goldsmiths University of London.

He currently lives and works in London, UK.

Lalić had 32 solo exhibitions and participated in over 80 group exhibitions, domestic and international (New York, Singapore, Paris, London, Trieste, Bristol...). He was the youngest artist to exhibit solo at Museum of Belgrade, Serbia in 2020.

He has won six awards for his visual works, including the Paul Louis Weller Prize, awarded by the Académie des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France. He was also one of the finalists for the Antoine Marin award for painting in Paris, France, as well as a special award at LYNX ART in Trieste, Italy, all in 2017. Lalić's works are in private and public collections around the world.

Vladimir Lalić also has a career as a vocal performer and a musician. He played the main role of Nemorino in the opera L'elisir d'amore, the role of Giles in the musical Rebecca, and as a member of ensemble in the musical Les Misérables, all from 2013. He was a member and a soloist of a choir Viva Vox where he performed on more than 150 concerts world-wide including the stage of United Nations in New York, USA and The Great Hall of people in Beijing, China. He has 2 LP releases that he composed, 3 LP releases featuring his appearance, 2 live albums and as a guest appearance on 25 full length albums.



Nenad Obradović

Serbian born photographer Nenad Obradović is based in Notting Hill, London.

His passion for photography started at the end of 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 it the most. Since opening his first photographic studio and shop in 2001 in Serbia, Nenad's growing successful business gave him a good reputation. After moving to the 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.

Along with photography, Nenad developed a successful carpentry and decorating business. Over many years of experience Nenad became an expert in his craft with an eye for precision and a consistently good finish. Currently, he is more focused on this side of the business.

You can see his work at www.obradovic.co.uk or you can follow him on Instagram @obradovicskills to stay up to date with everything that he does.





Dr Đorđe Perendia

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: <http://www.perendia.co.uk>



Dragana Perišić

Dragana Perišić 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

Slavica Plemić

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



Vlastimir Zerić

Vlastimir Zerić from Kruševac 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



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Luka Milivojević

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. In March 2021, he retired from international duty at the age of 29.

In August 2019, Milivojević signed a contract extension with Crystal Palace keeping him at the club until 2023.



Aleksandar Mitrović

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 and 2022 FIFA World Cup. He is Serbia's highest goalscorer.



Dejan Tetek

Dejan Tetek born 24 September 2002 is a footballer who plays as a midfielder for EFL Championship side Reading. Born in Oxford, England, and of Serbian descent, he represents Serbia internationally. He made his debut for Reading on 15 September 2020 as a substitute in a 1–0 EFL defeat to Luton Town and his league debut on 3 October 2020 as a substitute in a 1–0 victory at home to Watford. He was called up to the England under-18 squad in October 2019 and he made 3 appearances for England at under-18 level, scoring once. He was called up to the Serbia under-19 squad in September 2020 and played for 67 minutes whilst making his debut for Serbia U19 against Romania on 10 March 2021. He went on to make his Serbia U21 debut three weeks later, in a 1–0 victory over Turkey on 30 March 2021.

Serbian Month in Great Britain 2023

Programme

- **Thursday 26th Jan 2023**
Launch of Serbian Month Catalogue 'British Serbs' part three
- **Until 28th Feb 2023**
Exhibition 'These Momentous Times'
George Perendia is taking part in an Exhibition at Bookery Gallerie
Bookery Gallerie, 20 Church Street, London, NW8 8EP
A **Finissage** will take place on **Saturday 25th Feb from 6.30pm.**
<https://bookerygallerie.com/>
Open: Tuesday-Saturday from 12.30am-6:30pm, or by appointment.
- **Thursday 26th Jan 2023, 12.45pm -1.45pm**
Lunchtime Concert: **Nicola Tait Baxter, cello & Mina Miletić, piano**
St Mary's Church, Church St, Aylesbury HP20 2JJ
Dvořák – A Musical Story: complete works for cello & piano
<https://www.aylesburylunchtimemusic.co.uk/event-details/nicola-tait-baxter-mina-miletic-2023-01-26-12-45>
- **Thursday 26th Jan 2023, 1pm -1.45pm**
Lunchtime Concert: **London Tango Quintet**
Craig Ogden - guitar; **Miloš Milivojević** - accordion; **David Gordon** - piano; **Richard Pryce** - double bass; **David Juritz** - violin
Imperial College London - Read Lecture Theatre, Level 5 Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus; Prince Consort Rd, South Kensington, London SW7 2BB
Entrance free
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/events/157254/lunchtime-concert-london-tango-quintet-3/>
- **Thursday 26th Jan 2023, 6pm**
Jasenovac and Holocaust Memorial Foundation
Commemoration of International Holocaust Memorial Day
The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB
Welcome note from **Mrs Dragana Tomašević**, JHMF Director, London
Key Note speaker **Mr Milenko Jahura**, President of Prebilovci Association, Belgrade.
The event will be followed by a Reception.
Free entrance, RSVP is a must due to limited space on: info@jhmf.org.uk
Visit Facebook page.
- **Thursday 26th Jan 2023, 8pm**
Rebel Soap Box, a poetry night at the Brunswick Pub, Brighton
Brunswick Pub, 1 Holland Road, Hove BN3 1JF
A spoken word poetry night in Brighton featuring a headline set from Serbian-British poet **Ella Dorman-Gajić**. Rebel Soapbox is a rambunctious spoken word night in Brighton & Hove.
Join them for top headliners, poetry challenges and their amazing open mic (with 8 spots up for grabs).
Tickets: <https://billetto.co.uk/e/rebel-soapbox-26th-january-2023-tickets-775130>
- **St Sava's celebration**
Friday 27th Jan 2023
Exclusive virtual tour of the Serbian Orthodox Church of the St Elijah's (crkva Sv Proroka Ilije) in Corby.
Available to view on the Serbian Month YouTube channel.
- **Friday 27th Jan 2023**
St Sava's Day Celebration in London
Serbian Orthodox Church St Sava, 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ
10am St Sava's Day Service - Divine Liturgy and the blessing of the Slavski kolač (Slava bread).
After the Liturgy food and drinks will be served in the Great Hall for all parishioners.

Serbian Month

● Saturday 28th Jan 2023

St Sava's Day Celebration in London

Serbian Orthodox Church St Sava, 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

7pm Vespers service

7.30pm Performance by Folklore groups 'Gračanica' from Boston (USA) and 'Rastko' from London

Tickets £15

● Saturday 28th Jan 2023, 1pm

St Sava's Day Celebration in Reading

Performance by 'Srpskaonica' Serbian language school

Reading International Solidarity Centre (RISC), 35-39 London Street, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4PS

Programme will include books and cakes sale and raffle.

info@srpskaonica.co.uk

● Saturday 28th Jan 2023, 5 – 9pm

St. Sava's celebration in Bedford

Scott Hall, Barford Road, Bedford MK42 0DS

5pm The blessing of the Slavski kolač (Slava bread) followed by programme to include live music by Andjela & Zoki, raffle & bar

● Sunday 29th Jan 2023

St Sava's celebration in London

Serbian Orthodox Church St Sava, 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

10am Divine Liturgy

12.30pm St Sava's Academy London at Bishop Nikolaj Hall (Dom Episkopa Nikolaja)

● Thursday 2nd Feb 2023, ZOOM event, 6pm

Serbian City Club – Zoom event Vesna Trifunov Collins

Discussion about the latest changes to Immigration rules and what that means for members of the Serbian community

Language: **English**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org/

RSVP is required: Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● Saturday 4th Feb 2023, ZOOM event, 4-6pm

The Raymond Nicolet Trust 2023 Winter Gathering

The Raymond Nicolet Trust volunteers will report on past achievements and new aims, interwoven with musical interludes from several musicians who are patrons of the charity.

Language: **English and Serbian.**

www.raymondnicolettrust.com/events

● Saturday 4th Feb 2023, 7.30pm

Sandra Siladjev Live, Serbian Comedian/Actress - Monodrama Dejt

Tabernacle Theatre, Powis Square, London W11

Language **Serbian**

Tickets: £33 + booking fee

Director: Sandra Siladjev / Choreographer: Sandra Siladjev / Musical Director: Dragana Rakić

<https://www.gr8events.ie/sales/index.php?event=1215>

● Sunday 5th Feb 2023, 10.30am

St. Sava's celebration in Halifax

St. John the Baptist, Heap Street, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 6JE

10.30am Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – Divine Liturgy

Blessing of the St Sava's Day Slava Bread followed by reciting of poems about St Sava by children.

Contact: stjohnthebaptisthalifax@gmail.com

Birth in Great B

● Wednesday 8th Feb 2023, ZOOM event

Serbian Council of Great Britain

A talk on 'The role of Britain in Yugoslavia in WW2' by Nick Ilic, the former British Defence Attaché in the Embassy in Belgrade.

● Thursday 9th Feb 2023, ZOOM event, 6pm

Serbian City Club – Zoom event Dejan Zagorac

Discussion about Serbia's cultural gastronomic heritage

Language: **Serbian**

Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org/

RSVP is required: Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org

● Friday 10th Feb 2023, Bristol and Saturday 11th Feb 2023, London

"O Blokovima se priča: Pisanje Dijaspore" (Writing in and about and from the Diaspora)

An event exploring the Serbian Diaspora's creative writing along with the presentation of books by writers Lebrecht Gaspar (Belgrade) and Dr Jelena Nolan-Roll (Bristol).

10th Feb, 6pm – 8pm, Bristol: Inn on The Green, 2 Filton Road Bristol BS7 0PA

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/520487190197>

11th Feb, 4pm -6pm, London: Bishop Nikolaj Community Centre, 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ

Please join our event with writers Lebrecht Gaspar or Živojin Ivković from Belgrade and Dr Jelena Nolan-Roll from Bristol, together with special guests, who will include, Dr Jana Bačević, an academic from Durham, Darija Petrović-Lubanska, a therapist from Bristol and others. We will address living and creating the stories in and of diaspora and the challenges and inspirations of being part of the diaspora world. We might invite you to contribute to the event with your stories or lived experiences.

Lebrecht Gaspar or Živojin Ivković is an award-winning author, president of Serbian Society of Independent Writers, and an Editor-in-Chief of the magazine "Literary verticals" (Književne vertikale). Dr Jelena Nolan-Roll is Serbo-Irish author, psychologist and violence prevention activist, whose first novel "O Blokovima se priča" was recently published in Serbia and the first edition sold out straight away.

Language: **Serbian.**

Info: drnolanroll@gmail.com

● Saturday 11th Feb 2023, 5.30pm

Concert by She'koyokh at Wigmore Hall

Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP

She'Koyokh are a seven-piece, London-based, virtuosic, versatile and prize-winning band playing klezmer and traditional music from the Balkans, Eastern Europe and Turkey.

● Saturday 11th Feb 2023, 6pm

St Sava's Ball

Copthorne Tara Hotel Kensington, Scarsdale Place, London W8 5SY

The Patron of St Sava Ball is the Hilandar Monastery.

With the blessing of Lord Methodius, Abbot of the Holy Imperial Lavra of Hilandar.

The Hilandar Monastery on Mount Athos will be the patron of the St Sava Ball. Guests will have a unique opportunity to drink wines from Hilandar and enjoy an exhibition of photos from Hilandar.

The St Sava Ball 2023 guest list:

Nikola Mijajlović - solo trumpet; Tamara Radjenović – soprano; Matija Bećković - Writer & Author, Member of Serbian Academy of Science and Arts; Bojana Peković - Postgraduate Student at Global Music at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, performing on traditional Gusle instrument; Milan Mitrović - Director of Grand Production; Vitomir Kovačević – piano

Tickets £135 per person to include a champagne and rakija reception, three course dinner and unlimited drinks. **Dress Code:** Black Tie.

For further details and tickets visit: njegosfoundation.org

Britain 2023 Pr

- **Saturday 18th Feb 2023, 1-3pm**
Ninth Annual Memorial Service for Women in Foreign Medical Missions in Serbia and related fronts during the Great War.
The theme – The Legacy of Dr Elsie Inglis.
St Sava's Church, 89 Lancaster Rd, London W11 1QQ
12pm Commemoration (Pomen) starts after the service and Zadušnice
1pm Talks by Zvezdana Popović and Nick Ilić, exhibition and canapes at Bishop Nikolaj Community Centre
Event is supported by St Sava's Church in London, Serbian Council of Great Britain, Serbian Society
- **Saturday 18th Feb 2023, 3pm**
British Serbian Medical Association – Meet the Doctors
Bishop Nikolaj Community Centre, 89 Lancaster Rd, London W11 1QQ
British-Serbian Medical Association members will make presentations on various medical topics.
- **Tuesday 21st Feb 2023, ZOOM event, 6pm**
Serbian City Club – Zoom event Canon Professor Mark D Chapman and Professor Bogdan Lubardić
Discussion about Serbia and the Church of England focussing on The First World War and a new Ecumenism
Language: **English**
Further details are available on www.serbiancityclub.org/
RSVP is required: Contact: info@serbiancityclub.org
- **Thursday 23rd Feb 2023, 7pm**
Off the Chest poetry night, hosted by Serbian-British poet Ella Dorman-Gajić
Canada Water Theatre, 21 Surrey Quays Road, London, SE16 7AR
Off The Chest is an inclusive, explosive spoken word and poetry night, celebrating original voices and poetry that makes a statement. Alongside their acclaimed open mic, they will have feature sets from Birmingham Poet Laureate Jasmine Gardosi and Arji Manuelpillai.
Tickets are just £5: <https://www.canadawatertheatre.org.uk/2547/Off-The-Chest>
- **Friday 24th Feb 2023**
Serbian Council of Great Britain
The Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QB
6pm Annual General Meeting
7.30pm Book promotion 'When dreams collide: Travels in Yugoslavia with Rebecca West' by Nick Allan
Free entrance, RSVP required due to limited space on: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk
- **Friday 24th Feb 2023, 7.30pm**
The London Tango Quintet
Craig Ogden - guitar; **Miloš Milivojević** - accordion; **David Gordon** - piano; **Richard Pryce** - double bass; **David Juritz** - violin
St George's Headstone, Pinner View, Harrow HA1 4RJ
The London Tango Quintet play music by Piazzolla, Pugliese, Salgan and more in an evening of classic Argentinian tango.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-london-tango-quintet-at-st-georges-headstone-tickets-510169951057?aff=erelexpmlt>
- **Saturday 25th Feb 2023, 6pm**
Jasenovac and Holocaust Memorial Foundation and Serbian Council of Great Britain
"Priča o višnji" (The story of the cherry) - A documentary film about what happened to the Jewish citizens of Pirot in WW2. (English subtitles).
The screening will be followed by a talk by Dr Bojan Aleksov, UCL SSEES.
Bishop Nikolaj Community Centre, 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ
Further info: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

programme

- **Saturday 25th Feb 2023, time and place tbc**
Serbian Library in London
Mini Book fair
- **Saturday 25th Feb 2023, 7 – 11pm**
Concert by Vremeplov band in Birmingham
Serbian Orthodox Church of the Holy Prince Lazar in Birmingham
92 Griffins Brooks Lane, Bournville, Birmingham B30 1QG
Tickets: £22
- **Sunday 26th Feb 2023, 4pm to late**
The Rocket Acton, 11-13 Churchfield Rd, Acton, London W3 6BD
4pm Stand-up comedy with Gordana Mičić
Fundraising for the Round Table 's work in the Serbian Language
Bookings: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk
From 7pm Young British Serbs social
- **Thursday 2nd March 2023, 12.30pm**
Lunchtime Concert: Nicola Tait Baxter, cello and Mina Miletic, piano
St. John's Church Harrow, Sheepcote Rd, Harrow HA1 2JE
Dvořák, A Musical Story – complete works by Antonin Dvořák
- **Thursday 2nd March 2023, 1-2.30pm**
Lunchtime concert: Shropshire Music Trust
Milos Milivojević – Classical Accordion Concert
The Unitarian Church, High St, Shrewsbury
<https://www.myshrewsbury.co.uk/events/milos-milivojevic-classical-accordion-concert-2023-03-02-13-00/>
- **Saturday 4th March 2023, time and place tbc**
The Serbian Society
Puppet show for children 'Hvala Vuku za azbuku' by Cvetin Aničić
- **Saturday 4th March 2023, 6pm**
Photography workshop by Nenad Obradović and Goran Mašanović
Fundraising event for Serbian language schools
Bishop Nikolaj Hall (Dom Episkopa Nikolaja), 89 Lancaster Road, London W11 1QQ
Tickets £10
- **Saturday 4th March 2023, 7.30pm**
Serbian Council of Great Britain
Serbian Food and Customs – A Talk by anthropologist Ivana Bajić-Hajduković
Concert by Silva McQueen - soprano, Leonel Pinheiro – tenor and Maya Jordan - piano
The Rocket Acton, 11-13 Churchfield Rd, Acton, London W3 6BD
Info and bookings: maya.jordan@yahoo.co.uk
- **Wednesday 8th March 2023, from 7pm**
The Serbian Society - Celebration of International Women's Day
Caffè Bonego, 170 Goldhawk Road, Shepherd's Bush, London W12 8HJ
Tickets £12 / members £10 to include a glass of prosecco
Places are limited. Bookings: office@serbiansociety.org.uk or mob. 07713355991 - Dragan

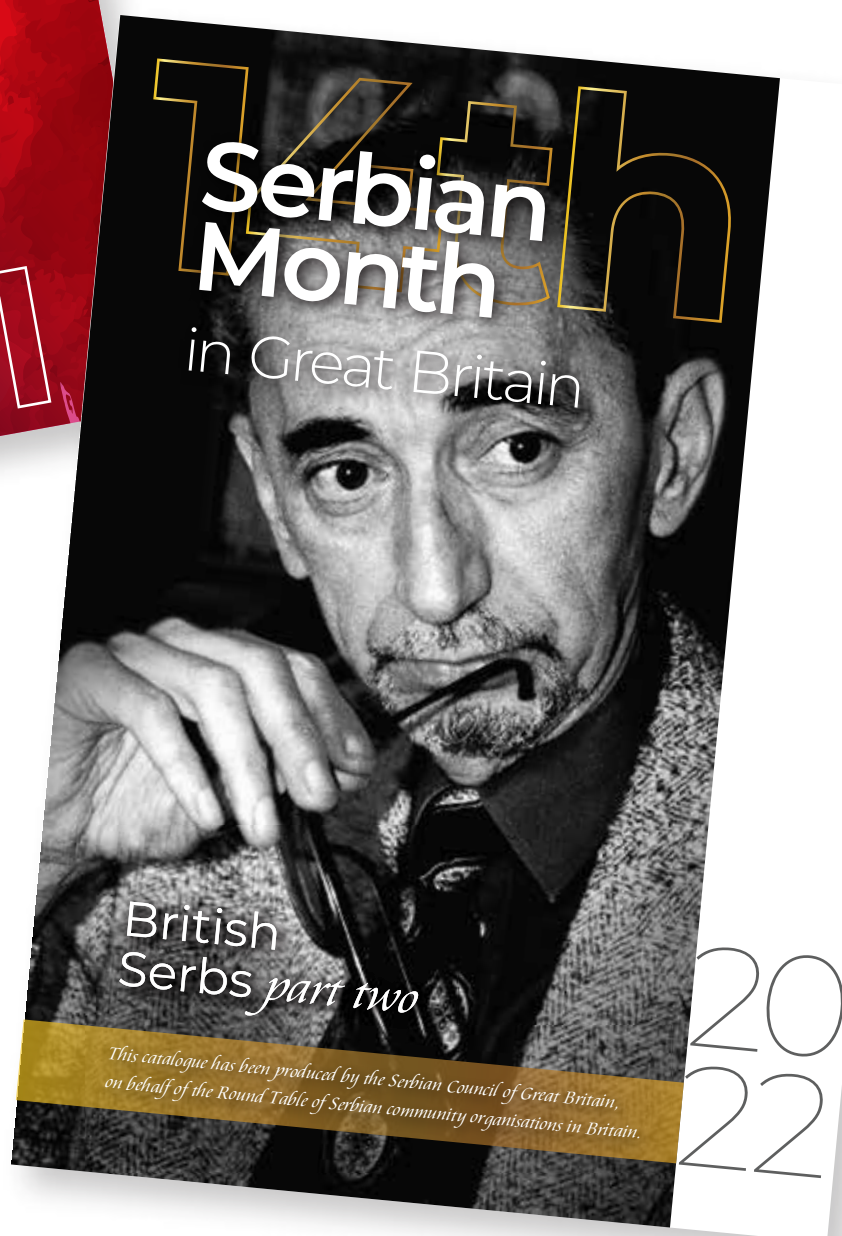
For updates and possible programme changes please visit:
www.serbiancouncil.org.uk. or www.serbianrt.com

Serbian Month 2021

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<https://serbiancouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Serbian-Month-in-GB-2022.pdf>



There is a limited number of hard copies available for purchase.
Please contact Serbian Council of Great Britain: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

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