



Annual Newsletter

April 2026

Serbian Council of Great Britain

Српски савет Велике Британије

Serbian
Month
in Great Britain

Serbian
Month
in Great Britain

January
20
25

Theatre
and visual arts
British Serbs part six

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

January
2026

SERBIAN
CULTURE
LITERATURE
AND FILMS
BRITISH SERBS PART FIVE

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info@serbiancouncil.org.uk
www.serbiancouncil.org.uk

[Serbian Month YouTube](#)

Remembering Petar Janković

A Legacy of Dedication to the Serbian Community in Great Britain



21/06/1937 – 28/02/2026

It is with great sadness that we remember Petar Janković, a man whose presence brought steadiness, wisdom, and a quiet sense of reassurance to all who knew him. He was not only a respected figure within the Serbian community in Great Britain, but someone whose kindness, integrity, and humility left a lasting impression on people's lives.

Born in Belgrade in 1937, he went on to study Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge, graduating in 1960. From 1965, he built a distinguished career in the City of London. Yet, while his professional accomplishments were significant, it was his tireless service to the Serbian community in Great Britain that became his enduring legacy.

He served as the first Chairman and a Trustee of the Serbian Society for many years. His generosity extended beyond his leadership. He was a significant donor of the Serbian Society, enabling the purchase of essential equipment, and was honoured for his role as a founding committee member when the Society celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014.

He represented Great Britain in the Diaspora Council in 2002–2003, helping to strengthen ties

between the Serbian community abroad and the homeland at an important moment in its history.

A true visionary, Petar was instrumental in the establishment of the Serbian Council of Great Britain (SCGB). Following over a year of consultations within the community, he became its first Chairman in 2004, guiding the organization in its crucial early years. Under his leadership, the Council established itself as a vital voice for the community, promoting cooperation, cultural identity, and mutual support. In later years, he continued to serve as Honorary President, a role that reflected the deep respect and gratitude he had earned.

Those who knew Petar will remember his wisdom, his measured and thoughtful approach, and his unwavering commitment to doing what was right. He believed in building bridges between people, generations, and nations, and he did so with humility and grace.

Petar's legacy lives on in the institutions he helped build, the community he strengthened, and the many lives he touched. He will be remembered with respect, gratitude, and affection.

Vječnaja Pamjat! (Eternal Memory)



Letter from our Chairwoman

Welcome to the Annual Newsletter of the Serbian Council of Great Britain in which we tell you what we have achieved and **been doing** over the past year.

We remain true to the aims and objectives that Petar and the other founding members of the Serbian Council felt would best serve the Serbian community in Britain. They are:

- **Building strong connections** with Serbian diaspora organisations in Britain and around the world.
- **Representing the Serbian community** to governmental and non-governmental bodies in both the UK and Serbia.
- **Supporting our community's cultural links** with Serbia and regions of Serbian historical and cultural significance.
- **Fostering positive relationships** between the Serbian community and wider British society.
- **Showcasing Serbian culture, history and heritage** to both Serbian and British audiences

With the limited financial and human resources available to us and given the current situation in Serbia, we have focussed on our efforts on the Serbian community in Britain and initiatives which will most benefit this community. The areas in which we have felt that we can have most impact are:

* Promoting Serbian arts and culture in Britain through the Serbian Month festival of arts and culture and the Serbian Month Catalogue which accompanies it

* Encouraging the Serbian community to work together for the benefit of the community through the Round Table initiative

* Preserving the cultural heritage of our young people by managing the promotion of the teaching and learning of the Serbian language courses for the 12 to 18 age group

You can read more about what we have done in each of these areas in this newsletter.

To deliver our work and to expand it into new areas we need the people and the finances to do it. If you think that you could make a contribution, however big or small, please do consider becoming a member. Membership fees are very modest £24 for adults and £15 for those aged between 18 and 25 or over 65. If you want to do more then please consider standing for the Management Committee.

The success of the Serbian Council depends upon the hard work of its Officers and members of the Management Committee. They give up their time and expertise on a voluntary basis and in these busy times this is a considerable sacrifice. I would like to thank them, on my and your behalf, for all that they do. In particular thanks are due to Maya Jordan our Secretary and the Director of Serbian Month, George Tokos our Treasurer, Ivan Miletić, who leads on our membership work, Nenad Obradović who photographs all Serbian Month events, Žika Petrović for his fundraising activities and Zvezdana Popović who organises our WW1 events.

Olga Stanojlović,
Chairwoman Serbian Council of Great Britain

Serbian Month in Great Britain and the Serbian Month Catalogue

January once again marked a lively start to the Serbian cultural calendar in the UK, as the Serbian Month in Great Britain programme brought the community together in a shared spirit of celebration, connection, and creativity. For 18 years now, people have been looking forward to this time of year as an opportunity not only to celebrate Serbian culture, but also to meet, socialise, and catch up on what is new both within the community in the UK and on the cultural scene in Serbia. At the heart of it all is St Sava's Day, celebrated in many cities across Britain, which also marks the beginning of Serbian Month in Great Britain. What started as a smaller initiative has grown into a much-anticipated annual programme, now stretching into early March and featuring more than 40 events, both in person and online.

The 2025 programme stood out for its energy and breadth. While the St Sava Church in

London remained the central gathering point, celebrations and events took place across the country, from Corby and Birmingham to Bedford, Leicester, and Redhill. Alongside the religious celebrations, there was a rich mix of concerts, talks, exhibitions, and social events. From intimate musical performances to larger gatherings like the St Sava's Ball, and from literary evenings to historical talks which included a tour of the Serbian collection at the British Library guided by curator Milan Grba. The programme offered something for everyone and reflected the diversity of Serbian cultural life in the UK. Particularly memorable were the musical performances, classical recitals and lunchtime concerts to larger-scale events such as Gala concert by renowned soprano Tamara Radjenović at Cadogan Hall and Barcelona Gypsy balKan Orchestra in London and Birmingham.



Serbian Month in Great Britain
Sunday 9 Feb 2025, 5pm (UK), ZOOM event

On 9 February, Serbian Council of Great Britain hosted an online talk 'The Siege of Belgrade' by Predrag Gosta, the internationally renowned conductor and harpsichordist. We found out why Belgrade captured the imagination of eighteenth century London.

The talk is available on the Serbian Month YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYorLQ_h8ls&t=958s

The Siege of Belgrade

Talk by Predrag Gosta

internationally renowned conductor and harpsichordist

Find out why Belgrade captured the imagination of eighteenth century London. The story of how the English-born composer, Stephen Storace joined forces with librettist James Cobb to create a comic opera 'The Siege of Belgrade'



Serbian Council of Great Britain

ZOOM instructions: email info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

A lecture by Colonel Nick Ilić on Sir Thomas Lipton and Serbia during WW1, also hosted online on 11th February by Serbian Council is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMqq2ns1zq&t=301s>



Colonel Nick Ilić
MBE QGM MSc / historian

The most memorable event, hosted by SCGB was Eleventh Memorial for Women in Foreign Medical Missions in Serbia during the Great War held at the Serbian Embassy in presence of ten relatives of Dr Elsie Inglis. During event held on 21 February a portrait of Dr Elsie Inglis, Founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service was presented by Mrs. Fiona Garwood to the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia. The event was followed by talk 'The contribution of Foreign Medical Missions in Serbia in the Great War' presented by Colonel Nick Ilić.

You can watch the full event on the Serbian Month YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EArkq_cjKWw



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**SERBIAN FILM
FESTIVAL UK I. Edition**
Српски Филмски Фестивал
**London
7-9 March
2025**

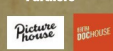
*Presented by Dr. Mina Radovic
Restored Classics
& Contemporary Gems
In Conversation with Filmmakers
Scholars and Archivists*

**FINSBURY PARK PICTUREHOUSE
BERTHA DOC HOUSE, BLOOMSBURY**
LIBERATINGCINEMA.ORG.UK/SERBIANFILMFESTIVALUK

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Државни архивско-културни центар Републике Србије
ЈУГОСЛОВЕНСКА
КИНОТЕКА

One of the most exciting moments in 2025 was the launch of **the first Serbian Film Festival** in the UK, curated by Dr Mina Radović. This was a real highlight, opening the door to Serbian cinema in a new and engaging way. The programme brought together classic films, restored works, and more recent productions, giving audiences a chance to experience the depth and originality of Serbian film. What made it especially meaningful were the introductions by Dr Mina Radović, discussions, and guest contributions by Dr. Vlastimir Sudar,

director Hadži-Aleksandar Đurović and actor and writer Andrej Šepetkovski, which helped place these films in a wider cultural and historical context. It felt like an important step forward, giving Serbian cinema a stronger and more visible place in the UK cultural scene. The programme included the films: Three (Aleksandar Petrović), Tito and Me (Goran Marković), The Service (Andrej Šepetkovski), A Cross in the Desert (Hadži-Aleksandar Đurović), and The Calvary of Serbia.

In 2026, the programme continued in a similar spirit, perhaps a little more intimate, but just as thoughtful and engaging. The Festival opened with a Gala concert of timeless classical and romantic songs performed by a soprano Silva McQueen, accordionist Živorad Nikolić and pianist Timothy End, followed by the first international retrospective of films by Mladimir Puriša Đorđević at the prestigious Barbican Centre. St Sava celebrations once again brought people together, followed by a programme of concerts, film screenings, talks, and community events, including a tribute *Recital for Tesla*, by guitarist and composer Branco Stoysin, marking 170 years since the birth of Nikola Tesla.

The Serbian Council of Great Britain hosted several events:

- A lecture by **Colonel Nick Ilić** on the Serbian Golgotha was held on 9th February and is now available on Serbian Month YouTube channel (language English with Serbian subtitles):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KTkmBPn8gI>

- **Artography Exhibition by Svetislav Savić** took place on 27 Feb 2026, and attracted a large audience. Event was sponsored by Corner Terrace, Kod Pirketa and Fulham Kitchen.

- A young writer Ella Dorman-Gajić led a workshop '**Diaspora Storytelling**' at the Serbian restaurant at Bishop Nikolai Community Centre on the 7 March, exploring the concept of diaspora and cultural heritage.



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Building on the success of the previous year, the Serbian Film Festival returned with a focus on “Heritage for the Future,” marking important anniversaries and continuing to introduce audiences to significant works from Serbian and Yugoslav cinema: *Belgrade Noir - Big and Small* by Vladimir Pogačić; *Pavle Vujisić 100: It is Better to Know How* by Vojislav Nanović; *Avala Film at 80: Man is Not a Bird* by Dušan Makavejev; *Miodrag Đorđević 130: Under the Yugoslav Sky*.



What really comes through across both years is a sense of balance between tradition and new ideas, between celebration and reflection. Whether through church services, folklore, music, film, or discussion, these programmes show a culture that is very much alive and evolving. Just as importantly, they reflect the strength of the community itself: its care for its heritage, its openness, and its ability to bring people together.

Taken together, the Serbian Month programmes of 2025 and 2026 feel like much more than a list of events. They are a reminder of how important these shared moments are, keeping Serbian culture present, visible, and warmly connected across the UK.

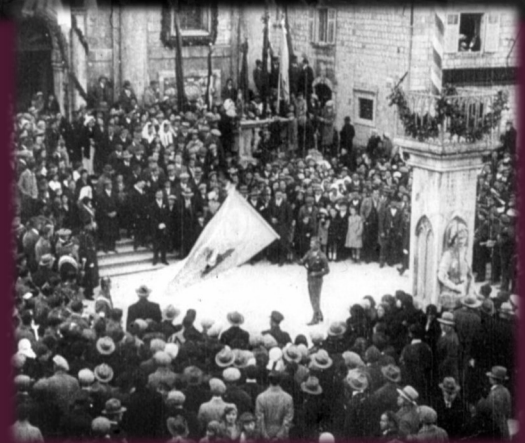
A black and white background image of a busy street scene from a film, showing people walking and buildings with signs.

**SERBIAN FILM
FESTIVAL UK II. Edition**
Српски Филмски Фестивал
London
7-10 March
2026

Curated-Presented by Dr. Mina Radovic
Restored Classics - Heritage for the Future
Pavle Vujisić Centenary
80 Years of Avala Film

FINSBURY PARK PICTUREHOUSE
BERTHA DOC HOUSE, BLOOMSBURY
LIBERATINGCINEMA.ORG.UK/SERBIANFILMFESTIVALUK

Sponsor: Partners: ЈУГОСЛОВЕНСКА КИНОТЕКА



[https://
liberatingcinema.org.uk/serbianfilmfestivaluk/](https://liberatingcinema.org.uk/serbianfilmfestivaluk/)

Serbian Month catalogues

The 2025 and 2026 catalogues continue a journey through Serbian culture, exploring the history and richness of Serbian literature and film, as well as this year's focus on theatre and visual arts. Together, the articles offer a glimpse into their long and vibrant history, and the important role these art forms have played in shaping Serbian identity and influencing how Serbia and its people are seen today.

They also speak to the experience of British Serbs, for whom these cultural expressions remain a meaningful way to celebrate their heritage, stay connected to Serbia, and strengthen bonds across the global Serbian diaspora. At the same time, the catalogues highlight how the arts have helped build bridges between Britain and Serbia, fostering understanding and shared appreciation.

**Serbian
Month**
in Great Britain

January
**20
25**



SERBIAN CULTURE LITERATURE AND FILMS BRITISH SERBS PART FIVE

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

Last year's catalogue includes articles on Serbian literary history presented by Dr David Norris, an expert on Serbian culture well known to our community in the UK. The British Library's Serbian collection is also featured. Biographies and poems by contemporary British Serbian writers give us a flavour of both the similarities and the diversity that our artists in the UK bring.

The chapter on film offers a rich insight into 120 years of Serbian cinema and its "hidden" ties with the British cinematic scene, including the work of Serbian actors in Britain and British actors in Serbia. It also explores the role Belgrade played in the cultural imagination of 18th-century London.

Serbian Month catalogue 2025:

<https://serbiancouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/SMGB-2025.pdf>



In this year's catalogue the history of Serbian theatre and the National Theatre in Belgrade is accompanied by a touching story of the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry, which stands as a lasting symbol of cultural connection, shared heritage, and cooperation. This chapter is further enriched with articles on Belgrade's theatrical life in 2024–25 and the presence of Serbian theatre in the UK. The pioneering work of the unforgettable Gordana Miller, along with the currently active Naše pozorište u Londonu, and the experiences of a younger generation, including actress Ella Dorman Gajić, showcase the breadth and vitality of the theatrical network within our community.

The Visual Arts chapter covers a wide range of topics, from the history of Serbian art, applied art and iconography and its influence on the Lazarica Church in Birmingham, to articles on

renowned Serbian painters, naïve art, the first permanent public sculpture in London by Serbian artist Vladimir Lalić, and the work of world-famous photographer Brian Rašić.

Information on organisations, associations, Serbian language schools, folk dance groups, as well as successful academics and artists, has been updated, as it is every year.

Catalogues are available online for free or printed copies can be purchased. If you are interested, please contact us by email: info@serbiancouncil.org.uk

Serbian Month catalogue 2026:

<https://serbiancouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SMGB-2026-WEB.pdf>

The Serbian Language

One of the main priorities of the Serbian Council is to contribute to the preservation of the cultural identity of the Serbian community in Britain. We recognise that one of the most effective ways in which we can do this is through the promotion of the teaching and learning of the Serbian language for our children and young people. We are proud to have encouraged the Round Table to adopt this as a priority in 2011 and to have led its work in this area since then.

The provision of Serbian language for young children up to the age of fourteen has expanded exponentially since 2011 provided by the church schools, led by the St Sava Church School, and since 2019 by the Dopunska Škola which teaches in many locations throughout Britain. However, the same is not true for young people aged fourteen and above, for whom there is no provision following the withdrawal of the Serbian O and A levels in the early 1990s.

In view of this the Round Table Working Group has focussed its efforts on this age group and since 2019 delivered courses to them in a partnership with the Azbukum Centre for Serbian Language and Culture in Serbia. We have done this because their courses are of a high quality, are accredited by the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and their qualifications which are recognised across Europe and beyond. Equally important is that their approach is that of learning Serbian as a non-native or second language which we believe is the most appropriate approach for students of Serbian heritage living in the diaspora.

Courses are delivered at beginner, GCSE and A Level and are taught online because this is much easier for this age group with its many school and out of school commitments and it enables us to attract students from across Britain and beyond. Courses are now taught over two academic

years so that students can better accommodate the demands of the course with the other commitments on their time.

The landscape of Serbian language teaching and learning in Britain has changed significantly since 2011 and remains in a state of flux and so the Round Table Working Group believes it needs to review its strategy to ensure it best serves the needs of promoting the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain. Until the review of our strategy has taken place we feel it best not to recruit new students to our courses but we will continue to make provision for students already on our courses.

One positive development is that other diaspora communities in Britain, in particular the Romanian and Hungarian communities, are keen to encourage their languages to be taught in British schools and there may be an opportunity for us to join forces with them.



The Round Table

The Serbian Council was established in order to encourage the Serbian community and organisations to work together for the benefit of the community and to strengthen the impact the community has in Britain and with Serbia. The vehicle for this has been the Round Table, which enables co-operation to take place, provides a forum for the discussion of issues of interests and a mechanism for the delivery of projects in areas that the community considers important. We believe that this is all the more important as divisions grow within Serbia and in our community in Britain.

The areas in which we have delivered projects of mutual interest are:

- the teaching and learning of the Serbian language in Britain
- production of the Serbian Month Catalogue and delivery of Serbian Month festival of Serbian arts and culture in February of each year
- the election two people to represent the Serbian community in Britain to Serbian and UK institutions, currently Goran Babić and Dragan Obrenović.
- commemorations of NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia

As well as leading on the delivery of several of these projects the Serbian Council has supported the development of new initiatives to strengthen the impact of the Round Table. It has supported efforts to involve organisations and individuals from communities from outside of London in the work of the Round Table so that it can represent the Serbian Diaspora in Britain. The first step in achieving this was made by organising a Round Table meeting in

Birmingham in November 2025, and a follow up meeting in Birmingham is planned for later in the year. Progress has also been made in improving the channels of communication between the Round Table in and bodies in Serbia responsible for relations with the Serbian Diaspora. Dragan Stanojević, President of the Committee for the Diaspora in the Serbian Parliament attended the meeting of the Round Table on 15 February 2026. Sadly, similar progress has been made in another priority area not taken place with involving young in the work of the Round Table.

The Serbian Council has representatives on the Round Table Steering Group (RTSG) which is responsible for managing the Round Table. The RTSG has been looking at how it can operate more efficiently and if there would be benefit in the Round Table establishing a bank account for its activities.



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

[@serbianroundtable](https://www.instagram.com/serbianroundtable)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61573203892465>

Serbian Month YouTube Channel

Some of the virtual events are available on the Serbian Month YouTube channel, which is supplemented by additional recordings each year: [Serbian Month - YouTube](#)

Virtual events allow us to present our events to a larger number of guests from Serbia and the Diaspora and to supplement the archive of recordings that will be used in the future.

SERBIAN MONTH CATALOGUES

Catalogue 2021: [HERE](#) Catalogue 2022: [HERE](#) Catalogue 2023: [HERE](#)
Catalogue 2024: [HERE](#) Catalogue 2025: [HERE](#) Catalogue 2026: [HERE](#)

JUST GIVING SUPPORT SERBIAN MONTH IN GREAT BRITAIN VISIT OUR JUSTGIVING PAGE

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/serbian-month?utm_term=4dzg2NP7P

Please join our Just Giving campaign to raise funds for Serbian Month and Serbian Month Catalogue.

Serbian Month in Great Britain, held in February of each year, is one most significant festivals of Serbian arts and culture in the Serbian Diaspora. It showcases artists from Serbia and British Serbian artists in all fields. Over the past eighteen years it has raised the profile of the Serbian community in Britain and shown what a positive contribution we make to British society.

Since 2018 we also produce a catalogue to accompany Serbian Month. It tells our story in Britain and helps us and others understand our history and how we nurture and celebrate our Serbian cultural heritage in Britain.

We could do so much more if only we had more funding - bringing artists from Serbia to perform here, funding events by British Serbian artists, holding more events outside of London and organising events for our young people. If you care about our British Serbian community and want to see it flourish please do donate to our Just Giving campaign.

Every donation however big or small will help!

Membership and Donations

The Serbian Council encourages everyone who supports the work of the Serbian Council to become a member of the organisation because membership fees provide us with a regular source of income and a stable financial foundation for the organisation to function smoothly from year to year or to make donation.

The membership fee is modest **£24 per annum** or **£15 per annum for senior citizens, students or the unwaged**.

It can be paid in one go or by direct debit of monthly instalments.

The organisation is considering ways in which it can enhance membership benefits but currently members are able to submit and vote on motions at the Annual General Meeting and to elect the Officers and Members of the Management Committee. Members are also entitled to a modest discount to Serbian Council paid events, priority booking and free drinks at some events.

To become a member, go to the Serbian Council website www.serbiancouncil.org.uk and download and complete the membership form and return the completed form to the Serbian Council.

Payments can be made directly to our bank whose details are:

Lloyds Bank
Sort code 30-94-81
Account Number 01778337
REF: Membership or Donation

Cheques payable to the Serbian Council of Great Britain can be sent to:
11 Fermor Way, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 3BD.

We appreciate your support!



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https://www.instagram.com/serbian_council_gb/