


Charity Registration No. 1006263

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN  
STUDIES**

**REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

  
30/06/21

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

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**Trustees**

Prof Judith Pallot  
Prof Peter Waldron  
Dr Matthias Neumann  
Dr Zoe Knox  
Dr Ben Phillips  
Dr George Gilbert  
Dr Peter Whitewood

**Charity number**


1006263

**Principal address**

Director of Employability  
School of History  
University of East Anglia  
Norwich Research Park  
Norwich  
NR4 7TJ

**Independent examiner**

Law & Co  
Pool House, Arran Close  
106 Birmingham Road  
Great Barr  
B43 7AD  
Birmingham

  
30/06/21

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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

#### **Structure, governance and management**

The charity was established on 27 November 1991.

The trustees who served during the year were:

Prof Judith Pallot  
Prof Peter Waldron  
Dr Matthias Neumann  
Dr Zoe Knox  
Dr Ben Phillips  
Dr George Gilbert  
Dr Peter Whitewood


As the leading Learned Society in the UK concerned with the study of Russia and Eastern Europe, BASEES has a high profile which enables it to attract leading figures to serve as trustees. The Society also makes a deliberate attempt to recruit younger scholars in order to help them develop their careers and ensure that BASEES trustees have a wide range of experiences and perspectives. The Society advertises vacancies in its Newsletter and Bulletin. Existing members of the Committee also approach possible trustees directly where they are believed to have particular aptitudes or expertise. New trustees are provided with a briefing about their responsibilities.

Trustees meet as a Committee twice a year at the Annual Conference (in April) and at a meeting in London. They review reports from office holders (President, Treasurer, etc). The BASEES Secretary asks in advance for any agenda items deemed of particular importance by trustees. Both the April and November meetings typically consider both operational and policy issues (in the latter case regarding such issues as international cooperation and liaison work with government agencies and similar bodies). A smaller group meets regularly (usually virtually) to discuss application for research support (the results are then communicated to the Treasurer who authorised payment when the relevant activity has taken place). Smaller groups of trustees also meet from time to time to deal with particular issues ranging from Conference organisation through to financial planning (any conclusions or developments being outlined in the reports noted earlier). The BASEES AGM is held at the April Conference. Members attending the Conference are asked to approve the accounts and the appointment of auditors as well as being given an opportunity to comment on the reports of office-holders. They are also encouraged to raise any issues of interest and concern. Both the Bulletin and the Newsletter are used to 'cascade out' information to the wider membership of BASEES.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

#### **Objectives and activities**

The charity's objects are to advance education for the public benefit in the United Kingdom in the humanities and in the social sciences as they relate to the former Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

  
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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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The executive committee devotes much of its time to overseeing the regular activities of BASEES. These include organising the annual conference; supporting the BASEES study groups; providing small grants through our Research & Development Committee to support the research of postgraduate members, and to help others organise small conferences; and providing news and information to members through our website, the newsletter and our new BASEES e-mail list.

Members of the BASEES committee attend meetings organised by the Research Councils, by the Academy of Social Sciences, the British Academy, and by other national professional and governmental organisations at which they represent the views of their members, lobby on behalf of them and report back to them on developments taking place at a national level. We also take up particular issues that our members raise with us and pursue them with their institutions, or with the relevant government or national body as appropriate. We are an officially recognised nominating organisation for the Academy of Social Sciences and for the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework and carry out our duties in this capacity as and when required. We are sometimes called upon to represent the interests of British scholars when they encounter problems or issues relating to their research within the countries which our organisation considers as being within its remit. This will involve making representations to the consulate, the embassy or other national government offices of the country concerned.

BASEES trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.



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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT (CONTINUED)


FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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### Achievements and performance

The Covid-19 pandemic severely curtailed BASEES' activities. Most events were cancelled, most notably the annual conference. The principal activities of the association during 2020 included the following:

- Managing the financial and administrative aspects of the cancellation of the BASEES annual conferences in 2020 and 2021.
- Determining how the charity should navigate and mitigate the adverse effects on its activities imposed by the pandemic. The Executive Committee remained in regular contact in order to discuss how best to deal with these challenges.
- Adjusting our Research & Development activities after considering how best to support postgraduate students conducting doctoral research in light of the restrictions on travel and fieldwork. Usually, BASEES provides postgraduate students with financial support both for research trips and for trips to present papers at conferences. This year, several students were able to use BASEES funding to employ research assistants, for example.
- Rewarding and encouraging scholarship in the area through a range of monetary prizes. The prizes include the Alexander Nove Prize, George Blazyca Prize, the Postgraduate Prizes and the BASEES Women's Forum Prizes.
- Maintaining input into and membership of a number of learned societies, among them ICCEES and the Academy of Social Sciences. Members of the Executive Committee represented BASEES at their (from March, virtual) meetings, conferences, and congresses. This role was particularly important given the discussions around pivoting to online activities.
- Facilitating scholarly exchange through the support of BASEES Study Groups. Two new groups were established in 2020, the BASEES Study Group for Minority History (SGMH) and the Eurasian Regions Study Group (ERSG).
- Producing a quarterly newsletter and frequent Bulletins designed to keep members informed of important developments in Russian and East European studies in the UK and Europe, as well as providing feedback from the various policy and other forums with which the Association was engaged during the year.
- Participating in the organisation of the BASEES Regional Conference held in Leipzig, Germany, originally scheduled for September 2020 but postponed to April 2021.
- Continuing engagement with research councils, the British Academy and other organisations that represent and support the humanities and social sciences in the UK.
- Launching a strategic review of BASEES activities, organisational structures, and governance, to feed into the BASEES 2030 Strategy. The objective of the review is to put the organisation on a sustainable footing and prepare it for the challenges ahead. A crucial aspect of this review is a consultation of our members and broader constituency, planned for 2021.

  
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# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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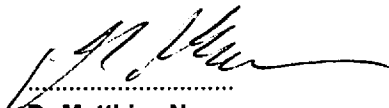
- Advocating for research and researchers in the field in the UK, raising concerns about issues like funding cuts in British universities which threaten the study of the region and jobs.
- Protesting against illegitimate and regressive regimes in the region, such as an October 2020 statement condemning developments in Belarus following the presidential election.

### Financial review

BASEES holds a cash reserve in order to allow it to take advantage of strategic opportunities as they arise (e.g. co-hosting conferences, under-writing certain activities where the return is uncertain, etc). The reserve also allows the organisation to be confident that it could fund an unexpected deficit on any of its activities (for example a deficit on the annual conference). The uneven pattern of expenditure makes it difficult to identify a proper level of cash reserves, but at the moment the organisation seeks to hold a reserve of between £45,000 and £60,000 at the end of each financial year, although this figure is reviewed annually

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

On behalf of the board of trustees



Dr Matthias Neumann

President

Dated: .....30.06/21

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

### TO THE TRUSTEES OF BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 6 to 9.

#### Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
  - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act;have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*L & Co*  
Law & Co


Pool House, Arran Close  
106 Birmingham Road  
Great Barr  
B43 7AD  
Birmingham

Dated: ..... *6/7/21* .....

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<b><u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u></b>			
Donations and legacies	2	(642)	34,855
Investment income	3	5	6
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>(637)</b>	<b>34,861</b>
<b><u>Resources expended</u></b>	4		
Governance costs		12,418	16,794
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>12,418</b>	<b>16,794</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year/ Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(13,055)</b>	<b>18,067</b>
Fund balances at 1 January 2020		75,554	57,487
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2020</b>		<b>62,499</b>	<b>75,554</b>

  
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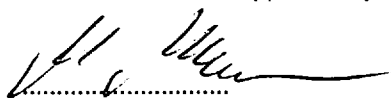
# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	7	3,080		-	
Cash at bank and in hand		59,419		75,554	
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b>62,499</b>		<b>75,554</b>
			<u><u>62,499</u></u>		<u><u>75,554</u></u>
<b>Income funds</b>					
Unrestricted funds					
Brought forward		44,432		57,487	
Movement for the year		18,067		18,067	
			<b>62,499</b>		<b>75,554</b>
			<u><u>62,499</u></u>		<u><u>75,554</u></u>

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on .....11/06/21.....



Dr Matthias Neumann  
President

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### 1 Accounting policies

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention modified to include the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Charities Act 2011.

### 2 Donations and legacies

	2020 £	2019 £
Donations and gifts	16,752	17,726
Book royalties	742	715
Grants receivable for core activities	(18,136)	16,414
	<u>(642)</u>	<u>34,855</u>

The Association has no restrictions against any of its income and is available to be used for the furtherance of the Society's normal activities.

### 3 Investment income

	2020 £	2019 £
Interest receivable	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

### 4 Total resources expended

	2020 £	2019 £
Governance costs	<u>12,418</u>	<u>16,794</u>

Governance costs includes payments to the independent examiner of £744 (2019: £744) for fees.

### 5 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year, but 6 were reimbursed a total of £1,208 travelling expenses (2019: 6 were reimbursed £2,577).

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

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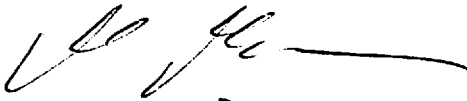
**6 Employees**

There were no employees during the year.

**7 Debtors**

Prepayments and accrued income

2020	2019
£	£
3,080	-

  
30/06/21