

finnbrit

FINNISH-BRITISH SOCIETY r.y. 1926-2021



anniversary of
finnbrit

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

1.1.2021 – 31.12.2021

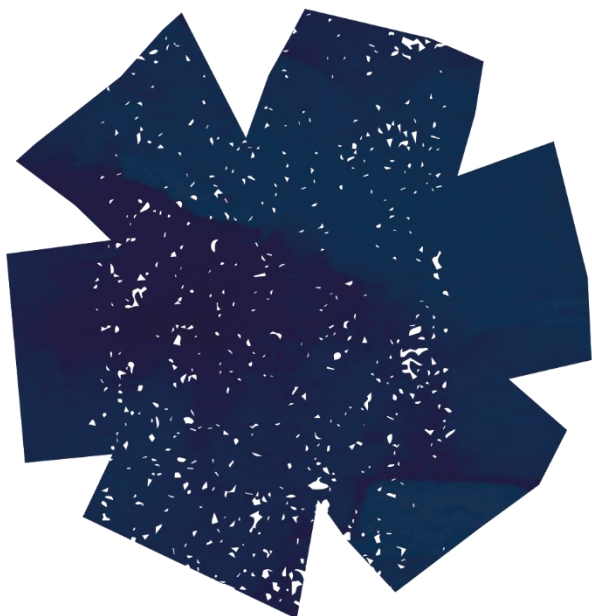
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INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1926, the Finnish-British society r.y. is a registered non-profit society with a heritage of almost 100 years. The Society wholly owns the Finnbrit Language Centre Oy, a limited company. We operate under the name of Finnbrit. It is also the name of our website and our Twitter and YouTube profiles. On LinkedIn, we use the name Finnish-British Society, and on Facebook and Instagram, we use the name Finnbrit Language Centre.

We aim to help make the Helsinki area a better place by offering opportunities in English for educational and professional development and by promoting diverse cultural relations. We arrange English Language lessons in the Helsinki area and online for individuals and companies. Our lessons help us fulfil our mission by providing opportunities for educational development in English. We provide the world's most popular and widely accepted English Language exams together with the British Council and Cambridge Assessment English. These tests enable you to further your international education and career, and thus collaborate and learn in a meaningful, inclusive way with people from diverse backgrounds.



MEMBERSHIP

	May 2020*	Jan 2021*	Jan 2022
Members	122	88	77
Student members	20	29	17
Family members	4	4	6
Life members	239	20**	28
Company members***	0	0	0
Total members*	385	137	128

* May 2020, old system

* Jan 2021, new system introduced in Sep 2020 and membership year changed from a calendar year to 1 Jul- 30 Jun

* Declined due to many life members not re-registering at the introduction of the new website in Sep 2020

** Many life members not signed into the new system and claimed their membership

***No company members. This membership is not marketed or sold either.

The membership fees in 2021 were*:

Members	€35.00
Student members	€12.00
Family members	€55.00
Life membership	€275.00
Associated group fee	€100.00
Company members	€495.00

*The fees decreased by 5€ per membership type in May 2019 as the AGM decided to remove the sign-up fee.

ACTIVITIES

FINNBTRIT SOCIAL EVENTS 2021

95th Anniversary Celebrations

The year was marked with the 95th anniversary of the Society. We ran a competition to select the logo for the year. The competition invitation was published in late 2020, <https://finnbrit.fi/95-years-of-learning-culture-and-friendship/> and the winner was selected in early 2021.

The winning logo was designed by Jonna Nylander-Hallott who was thinking about moving from the UK to Finland at the time of designing the logo. Jonna described the design process as follows: “My logo design for Finnbrit’s 95th anniversary highlights its values of life-long learning, diversity, and inclusiveness. When designing the logo, I started with the concept of representing learning as a diagram. The idea then evolved into an idea of composing the logo out of diagram shapes. When you study the final logo design, you can perhaps see pie charts and Tetris-like stairs that represent life-long learning. Diversity and inclusiveness are represented with the variety of colours used in the design.” Please find Jonna’s blog about the logo design process on <https://finnbrit.fi/finnbrits-95th-anniversary-logo/>.

The Council chose the logo as a clear winner. The logo uses a variety of colours that match well with Finnbrit’s graphic elements – with the same thinking about values behind them. Here’s the logo:



Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, we celebrated our **95th anniversary on our webpage**: "It's time to celebrate!" <https://finnbrit.fi/happy-95th-anniversary/>. The page has memories of our old Puistokatu office, events, introductions to the chairpersons through the years, and video greetings from volunteers, teachers, the Council, selected Finnish ministers and key government officials, and the British Ambassador.

In June, we were able to celebrate the 95th anniversary and meet in person in the beautiful Embassy gardens. Kersti Juva, a renowned translator gave a talk and thanked one of the long-term members, Diana Webster, for her guidance when Kersti was studying at university. Diana was also able to attend the event in person and received thanks from Kersti and Finnbrit. The event continued with a recital of poems given by Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick and Tony Shaw, and some music from the band Dog-in-A-Bucket.

Finnbrit also gave special thanks to some of its more active members and gave them certificates of honour. The members who received these were:

- Noora Kumpulainen for her work as the Chair of the Social Committee and the Co-Lead of the English Book Club
- Dharmindar Maharaj for his support in many Social Events over the years and his work in taking Finnbrit to YouTube (unfortunately not present to receive his certificate)
- Jonna Nylander-Hallott for the design of the Finnbrit 95th logo
- Cynde Sadler for her work as the lead of many Finnbrit clubs, e.g. Nursery Rhyme Time (NRT), Naked Ladies, and her contributions in the Social Committee, Folk Club, and Morrisers over the years
- Tony Shaw for his work as the "maker of magic", acting as the Master of Ceremonies at Christmas parties and many other events, arranging events, leading the Morrisers, always being ready to liaise between the Federation of Finnish-British Societies, being a member of the Social Committee, and Folk Club, and drawing the right talent from each party to come up with great performances and events.

Please find screenshots below from our website celebrating the 95th Anniversary. There is a picture of the Ambassador welcoming guests, Kersti Juva giving a talk, and pictures of office staff, teachers, examiners, and invigilators. There is also a picture of the band "Dog-in-a-Bucket" featuring Joe White, also a Council member, and a poem recital by Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick, a Council member, and Tony Shaw, a Social Committee member.

It's time to celebrate!

[95TH ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS](#)
[MEMORIES OF 95TH CELEBRATIONS](#)
[WHAT DOES FINNBRITE MEAN TO YOU?](#)
[OUR STORY](#)
[OUR CHAIRPERSONS](#)
[MEMORIES OF PUUSTOKATU](#)
[CONSTITUTION](#)


Thank you for being a part of our journey and supporting our mission!

LEARNING CULTURE FRIENDSHIP



Summary of Finnbrit Events in 2021

The year was challenging due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Most events were held online. The year started with an online talk on English-speakers' experiences during Corona in Finland by Dr Antero Olakivi from Suomen Akatemia and continued with a talk on "A Land Down Under" by Saana Kallioinen, both can still be viewed on our YouTube channel. Then, in April, there was a talk by Nely Keinänen with the title of "Shakespeare in Finland", and in May, the first online Pub Quiz with Valeria on Kahoot. In June, we had planned to celebrate with a 95th anniversary picnic but unfortunately, we had to cancel due to bad weather! The autumn started with "An Introduction to the World of Russian Art Nouveau with Amina Fakhri. Then, when Covid restrictions were paused, we had a face-to-face event where Nelli and Peter Steer, from the Rolling Cheese shop, came to talk about cheese and invited us to taste some as well! We had a second Pub Quiz and we had also planned an Amateur Jam Session and a Xmas Potluck event, but unfortunately, we had to cancel both due to tightened restrictions and the worsening pandemic situation. And all the while, the Finnbrit clubs continued to meet online and face to face regularly.

We also arranged the annual national writing competition, aimed at first-year students of Finnish Lukio (upper secondary school), in collaboration with the Federation of Finnish-British societies for the 37th time! We have tended to run the competition in February. However due to the pandemic, we were now able to arrange it only in October, and we will do the same in 2022.


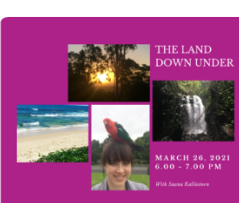
For the second Covid-19 pandemic year running, we tried our best to arrange interesting social events, even if most were online! A big thank you goes to our office team, Gary, Tuukka, Valeria, and Yuan, the Chair of the Council Niina Lemettilä, the Treasurer, Penelope Roux, the Chair of the Social Committee, Noora Kumpulainen, and the members of the Council.

Unfortunately, we were not able to arrange annual "English Today" seminar with the Nordic Editors and Translators, traditionally held in mid-March. The opening night of the Helsingin Juhlaviikot was also cancelled, and therefore, we did not arrange our traditional Open House event either. The Naked Ladies' Clothes Swapping Parties were also paused in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. However, we have continued to offer our members the opportunity to arrange their own Finnbrit pop-up events, unfortunately, nobody seized the opportunity in 2021

Here is a summary of events in the table below. Events are listed per month with a mention of if they took place online or face-to-face.

Time	Topic	Lead	Media
Jan	A Talk on English-Speakers' Experiences During Corona in Finland	Antero Olakivi, University of Helsinki	YouTube
Feb	Two "Find the Flow" discussions One of the discussions cancelled due to a lack of participants	Ian Marson and Blake Schumacher	Online
Mar*	A Talk about Australia, The Land Down Under	Saana Kallioinen	Online and YouTube
Apr	A Talk: Shakespeare in Finland	Nely Keinänen, University of Helsinki	Online
May	Pub Quiz	Valeria Pinto	Online (Kahoot)
Jun	95th Celebration Party – with a talk by Kersti Juva, recitation of poems by Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick and Tony Shaw, and music by the "Dog in a Bucket" band	Finnbrit	f2f at the Embassy Garden; invitation only
Jul	Summer holiday pause		
Aug*	Finnbrit 95 Celebration Picnic in Kaivopuisto	Finnbrit	F2F; cancelled due to bad weather
Sep	A Talk: Introduction to the World of Russian Art Nouveau - Mikhail Vrubel	Amina Fakhri	Online
Oct	Rolling Cheese! A newly established Finnish-British cheese shop in Töölö – introduction to cheese, and a little taster	Nelli and Peter Steer	F2F
Nov	Pub Quiz	Valeria Pinto	Online (kahoot)
Dec	A Potluck with Stories of International Xmas Food and Memories	Finnbrit	F2F; cancelled due to pandemic restrictions

You can find the full list of events and their detailed descriptions in the [Social Events 2021](#) file. There is also a promotional video on Finnbrit social events on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8z9gVQWJ_KE, and selected extracts are below.

Timing	Examples of Events
January	<p>A talk: English-speakers experiences during Corona in Finland</p> <p>In May 2020, the University of Helsinki launched a research project in order to better understand the lives, experiences and perspectives of English-speakers in Finland during the Covid-19 pandemic. By the end of June, altogether 39 English-speakers wrote about their day-to-day lives, their joys and sorrows, and their ways of coping with the exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The project examines the stories from a sociological perspective. What do they reveal about the Finnish society in general and the lives of English-speakers in Finland in particular? The study pays particular focus on questions of ageing and intergenerational relations in families that live across national borders.</p> <p>In this talk the leader of the project, PhD Antero Olakivi, presents the first findings from the project. After the talk, there will be plenty of time for general discussion.</p> <p>Antero Olakivi is a sociologist and researcher at the University of Helsinki, Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care. His research deals with care and care work, ageing, and international migration.</p> <p>This is a hybrid event: at Finnbrit and also available online. Registration is required to manage number of participants and to obtain the online meeting details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29.01.21 • 17:30 – 19:30 • At Finnbrit 
March	<p>The Land Down Under</p> <p>By Saana Kallioinen</p> <p>Australia is an island, country and a continent well known for its unusual flora and fauna – 80% of its animals are unique.</p> <p>It's hard to fathom how truly vast Australia is, stretching 4,000 km from east to west and 3,200 km from north to south and with a coastline 36,735 km long, it is the 6th largest country in the world.</p> <p>Joins us online while Saana Kallioinen takes you on a journey across this country that is unique and diverse in every way – in culture, population, climate, geography, and history.</p> <p>She'll share her insights on growing up in Brisbane, Queensland from the late 80s to early 2000s, on nature, geography, history, culture, food, humour and Aussie slang – as well as her experience in getting bitten by one of the most deadly snakes in the world and surviving.</p> <p>Despite her Finnish name, Saana was born and raised in Brisbane, Queensland to an Australian mother and Finnish father. She's been living in Helsinki for the past 12 years and has been involved in FinnBrit for the last 7 years.</p> <p>Click here to watch the event on YouTube on 26.03.21 at 18:00.</p> 
April	<p>Shakespeare in Finland</p> <p>Neli Keinänen, a lecturer at the University of Helsinki, takes us on a whirlwind tour of Shakespeare in Finland, including Frederik Lagervall's hilarious (by modern standards) adaptation of <i>Macbeth</i> in 1834; the 1881 <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, the first full performance in Finnish starring Ida Aalberg (1881); a <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> set in a garbage dump (2015); and ending with a recent rock-n-roll <i>Hamlet</i> (2020). Neli has published widely on Shakespeare in Finland, and is currently completing a co-edited volume on Shakespeare's arrival to the Nordic countries in the nineteenth century for Bloomsbury Press.</p> <p>Please register to the event to receive the Zoom link closer to the date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23.04.21 • 18:00 – 19:30 • Online (Zoom) 
May	<p>Finnbrit Pub Quiz Evening</p> <p>It's time to relax!</p> <p>Join our evening of trivia questions online. Everyone is invited.</p> <p>There will be 20 questions about sports, science, animal kingdom, pop culture and others. The event will be held online (Zoom) and we will use the game platform Kahoot!</p> <p>Those who register for the event will receive the Zoom link in their emails and there is no need to download any app. Everything will be done exclusively by using links Finnbrit will send participants.</p> <p>Pop your beer, grab a glass of wine or make yourself a Blood Mary and have fun!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28.05.21 • 18:00 – 19:00 • Online (Zoom) 

Timing

Examples of Events

September



Talk: Introduction to the world of Russian Art Nouveau – Mikhail Vrubel

This talk was a short introduction to the world of Russian Art Nouveau. It centers on one of the more well-known Russian artists, Mikhail Vrubel. In his artistic heritage, we find academic brilliance brewed with tradition and original style. Sadly, Mikhail Vrubel's creative aspirations were not supported by the Imperial Academy of Arts in Saint Petersburg, the establishment seeing him as wild and unruly. However, many private collectors and patrons were fascinated with his paintings, including the famous maeconus Savva Mamontov, who also funded Vrubel's sculptural workshop at Abramtsevo. At the beginning of the 20th century, Vrubel's art became an organic part and a representation of the fin-de-siècle type of art and of the Russian Art Nouveau. His signature works hold a prominent place in the collections of the Russian Museum in Saint Petersburg and the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow.

- 24.09.21
- 18:00 – 19:30
- Online (Zoom)

October

Cheese Tasting & Tea

Welcome to Finnbrit on Monday, 25th of October, to hear from Peter and Nelli Steer, owners of the new Rolling Cheese cheese shop in Töölö, and their journey from London to realising their cheese dreams in Helsinki. Peter and Nelli will talk about their business and, of course, cheese. You will also have a chance to enjoy a few cheese tasters during the evening.

Rolling Cheese opened its doors in the historic Museokatu in Töölö, in June 2021. Owner and cheesemonger Peter Steer has nearly 15 years of experience in cheese and specialises in English cheeses – which he now imports to Helsinki in addition to over 60 other farmhouse and small-producer cheeses from around Europe. Originally from Oxford, Peter studied anthropology in Bristol before making a leap to the cheese and wine industry. His wife, Nelli, is from Finland and runs her own marketing agency alongside moonlighting at the cheese shop.

The event was free for members. Registration was required.

- 25.10.21
- 18:00 – 19:30
- At Finnbrit



Pop-up events



As a member, you can set up your own event...

...and invite Finnbrit friends to come along! This gives everyone an opportunity to experience something you might not otherwise do, in great Finnbrit company!

Other Events, News, and Useful Links

We regularly informed our members and website visitors about **events in English** arranged by other parties on <https://finnbrit.fi/upcoming-events/>. Most of the events promoted were about the English language, and some were about the key events in Britain, such as the upcoming Jubilee celebrations. We publish these to highlight that Finnbrit is not the only party arranging English language-related events, and there is a wealth of offerings available, particularly in the capital region. We hope that publishing these events will encourage many Finnish speakers and both native and non-native English speakers to get together and make the capital region a more welcoming place for everyone to live.

We increased our **news highlights** and focused them on diversity in Finnish workplaces and opportunities to study abroad: <https://finnbrit.fi/news/>. We hope to lower the threshold for Finnish companies to hire non-Finnish speakers, both by setting our own example and by promoting news and research related to the topic. We also publish assessments about the world's universities to help students select the best one for their needs.

We collected **useful links in English** to benefit those who come to Finland, already live here, and for those who wish to study abroad on <https://finnbrit.fi/useful-links-ii/>. Those who are new in Finland will find links to the Gov.UK page, info.finland page, News in English page, and the International House Helsinki page, all aimed at easing settling in Finland. On our “Recruit Foreign Talent” pages we provide links to stories of immigrants from many countries who have succeeded in Finland (Business Finland: From Start to Finnish -stories). There are also articles on the need for Finnish companies to hire non-Finnish staff and the benefits of doing so.

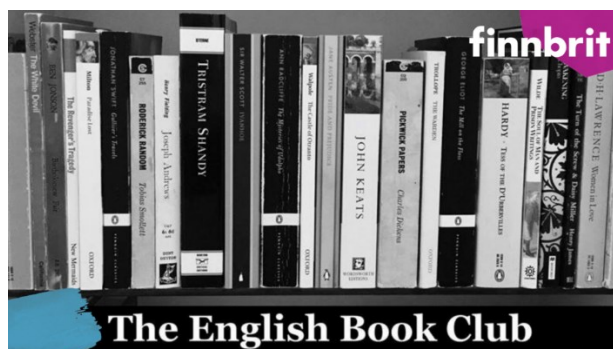
For those who wish to study abroad, we have collected links to the British Council Study UK, the Finnish social security institution Kela’s finance-your-studies page, The Times Young University Rankings, the Erasmus programme, maailmalle.net page published by the Ministry of Education, and UCAS, the Universities and Colleges Admission System’s page for those who wish to study in the UK.

You can also find a link to the Federation of Finnish-British Societies magazines online.

Finnbrit Clubs 2021

Our clubs continued with their activities as described below.

The English Book Club



The English Book Club met every month and celebrated its 8th year. Among others, they discussed the following books: *Emma* by Jane Austen (*Emma*), *Go Tell It on the Mountain* by James Baldwin, *Human Acts* by Hang Kang, and *Grand Union* by Zadie Smith.

Nursery Rhyme Time (NRT)



A weekend playgroup aimed at families that who would like to give their young children a chance to develop their English. Nursery Rhyme Time is a place where kids can play and sing nursery rhymes, and adults can have a coffee and a chat. This is a great little group for parents and toddlers aged 0–5. The group meets every other week. Only a couple of meetings were held online during 2021, otherwise the group met at Fredrikinkatu.

Helsinki International Folk Club



This club is almost 50 years old and is hosted by Finnbrit, for anyone who is interested in playing, singing, or just plain listening to music. The club has meetings from September to May on the first Friday of the month.

Unfortunately, this club, paused during the 2021 due to the pandemic restrictions. A few attempts to play online were made but unfortunately the audio quality and timing delay made it less enjoyable and less relaxed. The club is still active though and is offered for anyone who is interested in playing, singing, or just plain listening to music.

Helsinki Morrisers

Morris dancing, one of those ancient traditions that seem to be cherished and derided in equal measure. Helsinki Morrisers includes a blend of American, New Zealand, English and Finnish dancers. The group is an active member of the Arctic Morris Association along with Eken Morris from Stockholm. In 2021, twice a month, the dancers often practised at Finnbrit and weather permitting, outside.

IESAF & Finnbrit Knitting Club Freda



Thank you, Knitters! The Knitters knitted a gift to 95-year-young Finnbrit: a 3-level trayful of doughnuts, croissants, cupcakes, and waffles with cream and strawberries. The Knitters met every Thursday. During the pandemic, they preferred to meet online or in Oodi, instead of the Finnbrit office. The Club offers an opportunity for chit-chat in English whilst getting one's knitting done.

Collaboration with the Associated Groups

FINN-BRIT PLAYERS RY

The Finn-Brit Players are an amateur drama society that tends to stage two productions a year in addition to organising smaller events, a creative writing group, social events, play readings, and much more. Due to pandemic restrictions, the group activity had to be paused for most of 2021. Finnbrit advertised their plays and readings in our newsletter, on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages, and provided storage for the Players' costumes and kits.

NEAT: NORDIC EDITORS AND TRANSLATORS

Established in 2014, Nordic Editors and Translators (NEaT) is a registered association providing education, professional development, and networking for editors and translators working in the English language in Finland and the Nordic countries.

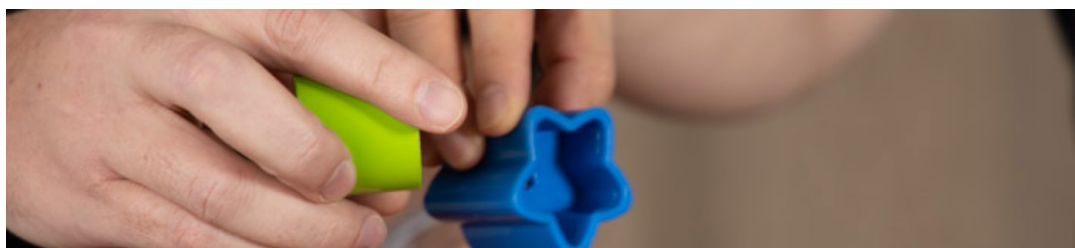
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH SPEAKERS' ASSOCIATION OF FINLAND (IESAF)

IESAF is an established part of the community and prides itself on being open and available to everyone. It is a volunteer organisation of international people living in and around Finland who communicate in a common language: English. We facilitate the Knitters with IESAF.

THE REALLY SMALL THEATRE COMPANY

The Really Small Theatre Company was formed in Helsinki in 2005 with a view to staging small-scale, high-quality independent productions. Finnbrit advertised their plays and readings in our newsletter and on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME



Learning to show cultural awareness in your use of English enables you to collaborate in a meaningful way with people from diverse backgrounds.

We offer English language courses, Business English lessons and private lessons. Our teachers are highly educated and experienced in teaching English to non-native students. Our teachers can help learners see the similarities and differences between many languages, and thereby, help them overcome many culture-related learning challenges.

The teaching activities are organized by the Society for its members and by the Finnbrit Language Centre Oy for non-members. In 2021, the activities consisted of two terms of language courses in the spring and one term in autumn, with IELTS preparation courses running on a more frequent basis. The teaching of students with tailored lessons focused mainly on natural conversations, business English, academic writing, and legal English.

We introduced new offerings such as the YO and YKI on-demand modules. They help students prepare for the Finnish matriculation examination (YO) and for the YKI English test. We also created new IELTS preparation modules in collaboration with the teachers.

The income from the English language lessons was €48,484.20 (RY) and €32,792.67 (OY), total of €81,276.87; an almost 75% increase on 2020. There was a lack of participants on scheduled courses, and sadly we had to cancel many of them. The income growth came from the tailored lessons offered to private individuals and companies. During the pandemic there was a tendency to book lessons for individuals or smaller groups who were able to alternate between face-to-face lessons and online lessons, and thereby also adapt to or avoid the changing pandemic restrictions. Most new customers found us via the renewed website and social media presence.

The number of students enrolled for the various courses are given below:

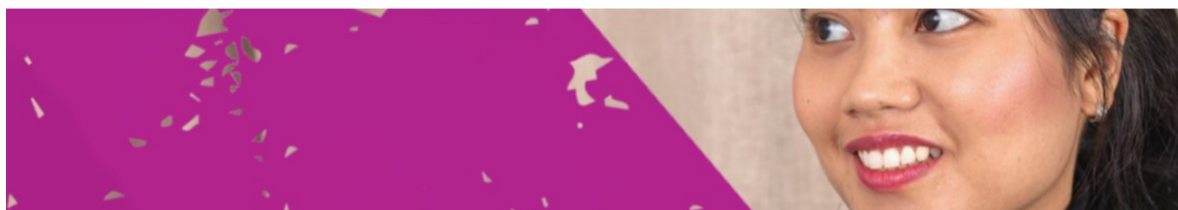
Students	2021
spring	12
autumn	19
total	31

No of private, on-demand courses / groups	2021
spring	16
autumn	27
total	43*

*includes customers who started their lessons in the spring and continued them in the autumn

No of corporate clients	
spring	8
autumn	9

EXAMINATIONS



Finnbrit provides the world's most popular and widely accepted English Language exams together with the British Council and Cambridge Assessment English. These tests enable you to further your international education and career, and thus collaborate and learn in a meaningful, inclusive way with people from diverse backgrounds.

IELTS - International English Language Testing System

Educational institutions, along with employers and government immigration agencies, require proof of English language skills as part of their recruitment or admissions procedures. The most commonly accepted test in these circumstances is the IELTS test.

From 1st December 2007, the Society took over the running of the IELTS examinations from the Helsinki British Council. Finnbrit is the only authorized test centre for IELTS in Finland.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is the world's most popular English language proficiency test. IELTS assesses all your English skills — reading, writing,

listening, and speaking, and is designed to reflect how you will use English during study, at work, and at play. The test is developed by the world's leading experts in language assessment taking account of vocabulary and accents from around the world. The IELTS exam is the most widely accepted English language test.

The year started with uncertainty, and strict restrictions were introduced in March 2021. These meant that for almost six and a half months, we could only run exam sessions for a maximum of seven candidates instead of 12 in computer-delivered (CD) IELTS sessions, and instead of the usual 40-50 candidates in the paper-based (PB) IELTS sessions.

The restrictions meant two things. Firstly, we ran PB sessions most Saturdays, rather than once or twice a month, as we did before. We ran the tests at the Finnbrit office and were able to resume testing in Eira only in October 2021. Secondly, even though the candidate numbers stayed at the same level as in 2020, we arranged a record 96 CD-IELTS sessions. In comparison, there were 48 sessions in 6 months vs. 31 sessions in 2020. The entire IELTS team deserves our admiration and gratitude for the achievement!

The record number of sessions were needed to accommodate the restrictions on capacity, and to accommodate transfers for those candidates who informed us that they had Covid symptoms. As a result, our staffing costs increased by more than €20,000 compared to 2020. On another front, thankfully, our partner Eiran Aikuislukio supported us in managing our costs. They were very generous and flexible in their rental terms, both in terms of cancellations and pricing during 2021.

The CD-IELTS exams proved to gain more and more popularity and amounted to 68% of all IELTS tests in 2021. In comparison, 50% of candidates chose CD-IELTS from its introduction in June 2020 onwards in 2020. Unfortunately, a PB test is still the only option for candidates who need special arrangements, such as extra time.

CD sessions are more manageable for many reasons:

- **office readiness:** exams take place at the Finnbrit office in facilities where we manage the access, cleanliness, and the overall set-up
- **easier to plan staffing** as we often have a defined number of candidates and hence, the same number of invigilators and examiners, with predefined start and end times
- **timings tend to hold** as the relatively few candidates often arrive on time, and as there are fewer candidates, there are fewer delays and unexpected situations

- **results processed on the same day.** We can enter and confirm the results of the exam in the systems immediately after the test, on the same day
- **flexibility in arrangements;** if we have demand, we can set up CD tests with about two weeks' notice, whereas the British Council defines the PB test dates, and we need to decide if we will hold a PB test a minimum of six weeks in advance. There are also customs processes related to delivering the PB test.

The test taker numbers decreased significantly between 2019 and 2020 due to the shutdown caused by the pandemic in the spring of 2020. We saw a slight recovery in the number of candidates in 2021, by c.100 candidates.

Mr Tuukka Asplund acted as IELTS Administrator in charge of organising the exams, supported by Mr Yuan Yi and Mr Gary Jones as the Deputy IELTS Administrators.

IELTS	Number of Test Sessions	Number of Candidates	Income
2021	PB: 27, CD: 96	1238	€355,910.00
2020	PB: 24, CD:31*	1109	€304,655.00
2019	25	1489	€372,250.00
2018	27	1496	€374,000.00
2017	28	1546	€396,150.00
2016	34	1654	€384,547.00

*CD-IELTS introduced in May 2020

Cambridge English Language Assessment

The Society continued to operate as a centre for the University of Cambridge English Language Assessment examinations and during the course of the year, became the only centre offering these in Finland. Finnbrit offered Cambridge examinations at the highest competence levels only, namely C1 and C2. With our language studio, we now offer these examinations as computer-based exams, as we do with the IELTS test. The exams were held at the Society. Mr. Tuukka Asplund acted as the Centre's Exams Manager.

Having a C1 Advanced certificate, demonstrates one has a language competence that enables a person to live and work independently in an English-speaking country. The C1 Advanced is an exam for only the more advanced users of English. This exam is aimed at people who can use written and spoken English for most professional and social purposes. The most advanced exam of the Cambridge Language Assessments is the C2

Proficiency exam. It is aimed at people who use English fluently for professional or study purposes.

Of the Main Suite examinations, C1 Advanced and C2 Proficiency exams were scheduled for June and December. Exam dates are planned such that they take place shortly after the Finnbrit preparation courses. In 2021, there were four candidates for the C2 competency level, 33 candidates for C1 level, and no candidates for B2. These figures are on a par with 2020.

Examination Services

The Society acts as an Examination Centre on behalf of the British Council for students, who wish to take their examinations and re-sits in Finland. The organisations that use this service include University of London External Exams, Open University, and many other organisations.

The number of these sessions went down during the pandemic. Many of the universities have set up computer-based and online exams of their own during the pandemic, and the number of exam takers has continued to decrease in 2021.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



Translations and Proofreading

As in previous years, we continued to receive a handful of requests for translations and proofreading. Translations were done by our partners from Neat and proofreading was done by our teachers.

Room rentals

We had an international children's group renting our premises on a weekly basis for most of the year.

Marketing and Communications

The renewed Finnbrit website has proven popular, with most of our English language students finding and purchasing our courses and lessons via the website. We also strengthened our social media presence, regularly posting 3-4 times a week and alternating between all our offerings. Also, the newsletter was published monthly with some special editions to highlight upcoming events.

END OF YEAR FINANCIALS, 2021

Society Income & Expenditure Account, 1.1.2021 - 31.12.2021

Ordinary Activity	2021	2020*
Income:		
English Courses and Exams	€366,241.09	€361,616.53
Expenses:		
Depreciation on equipment	-€75.60	-€100.91
English Courses and Exams	-€443,179.55	-€371,893.34
Ordinary Activity Total	-€77,014.06	-€10,377.72

Society Activity	2021	2020
Income:		
Membership fees	€4,828.00	€3,397.64
Expenses:		
Expenses Total	€0.00	-€86.90
Society activity total	€4,828.00	€3,310.74

Investments / Sundry	2021	2020
Investment income	€29,238.59	€21,196.84
Investment expenses	-€2,936.36	-€2,020.35
Sundry Income total	€26,302.23	€19,176.49

Deficit / Surplus for the year	2021**	2020**
	-€45,883.83	€ 12,109.51

Notes to the Income and Expenditure Account, 2021

*2020 financials include c.63keur of Business Finland support to OY. This impacts the RY financial figures via the cost compensation adjustments. Also, RY costs increased during 2021. This was mainly a result of having to hold more IELTS tests due to Covid-related restrictions on indoor gatherings.

**Includes depreciation

***The Finnish-British Society owns all 50 shares of the Finnbrit Language Centre Oy. The Finnbrit Language Centre Oy had a turnover of €32,792.67 in 2021 and showed a profit of €820.17. Its capital was €9,310.11.

Business Finland Support Received in 2020

Finnbrit Language Centre Oy, a limited company wholly owned by the Society, received support from Business Finland in 2020 to develop its teaching and marketing. The results of the project include the ability to offer English tests on computers and to hold English lessons online. A renewal of the website was also made possible, including the creation of a redesigned payment flow and the implementation of new administration tools.

Finnbrit submitted the final report of the project to Business Finland as requested in spring 2021 but is yet to receive the final 20% of the grant.

The final total grant sum may change as the project continued until 31.3.2021 vs. the originally planned end date of 31.12.2020. We received a verbal confirmation of the Business Finland decision to pay the remainder. However, as we are yet to receive the exact amounts or the confirmation in writing, we made no changes to the accounts in the end of the year 2021 financials.

Society Balance Sheet as of 31st December 2021

ASSETS (Vastaavat)	2021	2020
Machinery & equipment	€227.11	€302.71
Shares*	€1,024,735.26	€1,024,735.26
Current assets**	€486,972.39	€530,532.50
	€1,511,934.76	€1,555,570.47

LIABILITIES (Vastattavaa)	2021	2020
Capital and reserves	€1,431,915.56	€1,477,723.79
Deferred items***	€80,019.20	€77,846.68
	€1,511,934.76	€1,555,570.47

Notes to the Balance Sheet, 2021

* Combined value of Fredrikinkatu 20 A 9 and the shares of the Finnbrit Language Centre Oy

** Current accounts and investments. The investment portfolio is managed by Handelsbanken performed well in 2021. All profits gained were invested into the portfolio.

*** Creditors

Result for 2021 and the budget for 2022

Ordinary Activity	Budget 2022	2021 Ry+Oy
Income:		
English Courses and Exams	€365,000.00	€400,017.76
Support		€7,009.69
Expenses:		
Depreciation on equipment	-€5,200.00	-€5,321.76
English Courses and Exams	-€385,000.00	-€477,804.75
Ordinary Activity Total	-€25,200.00	-€76,099.06

Society Activity	Budget 2022	2021 Ry+Oy
Income:		
Membership fees	€4,800.00	€ 4,828.00
Expenses, Total	€0.00	€ 0.00
Society activity total	€4,800.00	€ 4,828.00

Investments / Sundry	Budget 2022	2021 Ry+Oy
Investment income		€29,238.59
Investment expenses		-€2,955.59
Sundry income total		€26,283.00

Deficit / Surplus for the year	Budget 2022	2021 Ry+Oy
	-€20,400.00	-€44,988.06

Notes to the Budget 2022

Income. It is forecasted that income from exams will decrease by 15% in 2022. This is due to the trend of recent years (average reduction of 5%), the figures for Q1 of 2022 (c.-10%) and the expected introduction of IELTS Online in autumn of 2022. We believe that private lessons will continue to gain popularity and therefore, the income from courses will increase by 15%. We estimate that income from membership fees will stay at the level of 2021.

Costs. We estimate a decrease in costs thanks to the restructuring activities planned. Investments have not been considered in the budget due to uncertainties around forecasting.

STRATEGY

Finnbrit strives to help make the Helsinki area a better place by offering opportunities in English for educational and professional development and by promoting diverse cultural relations. We aim to reach new audiences for studies in English language, the arts, and culture.

Summary: Learning - Culture - Community!

Mission

We promote diversity, inclusiveness, and lifelong learning by offering a wide range of social events, language learning opportunities and examination services.

Vision

Our vision is to be well known in the Helsinki area as a growing, socially inclusive community where people can experience friendship, culture, and the English language.

Values

We are committed to inclusiveness, lifelong learning, and cultural enthusiasm.

How we do it

We provide opportunities for learning and building communities. We offer a meeting place for a variety of cultural activities and make everyone feel welcome.

ACTION PLAN 2022

FOCUS AREAS

We will continue to provide English language courses, examination services and cultural community activities. Our focus themes for the 2022 are to widen our exam offerings to include IELTS for UK Visas and Immigration. After Brexit, the “UKVI” tests are now also required by EU citizens as part of the entry criteria for longer-term stay in the UK. We will also look to adapt our operations to be fit-for-purpose after the introduction of the IELTS Online test. We will look into the possibilities of teaching Finnish to professionals who are non-Finnish speakers, and arranging themed English lessons, combining them with social events, e.g. around gardening or drinking tea. We will also investigate the demand for a regular “get together” for members once per month.

Focus activities for 2022 in more detail

1. Language Lessons

We continue to arrange English Language lessons in the Helsinki area and online for individuals and companies. Our lessons help us fulfil our mission by providing opportunities for educational development in English. We are committed to teaching English in ways that will enable our students to collaborate in a meaningful way with people from diverse backgrounds.

Our focus is on teaching English to adults who are already comfortable with their English skills and are looking for further development opportunities designed to stretch them in all areas of English communication. The key emphasis is on learning to interpret and use different styles of communication.

In 2022, we will explore the possibility of arranging Finnish language lessons for non-native professionals, and thereby help them and their families to enjoy integrating into Finnish society.

2. Examination Services (IELTS, Cambridge, other)

Finnbrit continues to provide the world's most popular and widely accepted English language tests. These tests enable test-takers to further their education and career in English, both in Finland and internationally. We provide English Language exams together with the British Council and Cambridge Assessment, who are also non-profit organizations. We also continue to arrange exams for many foreign universities, such as the University of London, thereby enabling our test-takers to gain access to the world's best education, wherever it may be.

We continue to run the paper-based and computer-delivered tests with quality standards set by the British Council. In addition, we are preparing to offer IELTS UKVI exams as soon as possible. We will also continue to offer the Cambridge tests, and in addition to the highest-level tests (C1 and C2) we will consider offering lower-level tests such as B2 to provide our students with an opportunity to show their progress towards their desired competence level, and a sense of achievement.

The British Council will introduce IELTS Online in Finland in autumn 2022. This is likely to decrease the number of tests taken in our centre and we need to ensure our structures and processes are ready for the upcoming change.

3. Cultural Activities

We aim to make the Helsinki area a better place by continuing to offer opportunities for diverse social interaction in English. We will continue to hold events and collaborate with our associated groups and partners, including the British Embassy in Helsinki and the Study UK program. We will continue to arrange events and discussions, both face to face and online, and aim to record and share many of them on our YouTube channel to serve our members outside the Capital area.

We encourage everyone to share and/or volunteer in our events to practice your English and make new friends from different cultural backgrounds.

4. Investments in programmes that enhance cultural diversity and inclusiveness

...by continuing to

- offer Finnbrit members the opportunity to set up their own “pop-up” event and support it with a small contribution
- organize and facilitate the work of the Nursery Rhyme Time Club and the English Book Club
- recruit non-Finnish speakers and providing them with meaningful work and a stepping-stone to a career that matches their education
- hold and promote Study UK events and the annual Essay Writing Competition together with the Federation of Finnish-British Societies
- provide “Gem Awards” for students who enter the Annual Essay Writing competition
- offer a scholarship (the Jones - Pinto award) to attend a Finnbrit course for free (several may be granted during a year)
- grant an award to a selected upper secondary school student who has performed well in the most recent matriculation examination English exam (Finnbrit 95; based on teacher applications and recommendations)

- publish articles that promote the recruitment and retention of a diverse workforce and the need for learning and using the English language in a culturally aware manner
- offer our associated groups the use of our premises in the centre of Helsinki and inviting new developments wherever feasible

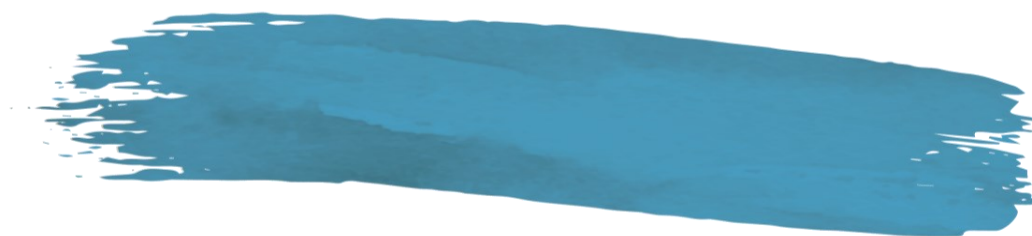
The Council will continue to assess ways of investing in many more programs which increase cultural diversity and inclusiveness. Work will also continue on the Finnbrit 95/100 history programme, as a way of passing on the stories and memories of past generations of non-Finnish speakers, thus helping to make Finland a more diverse and inclusive place for all to reach their potential.

5. Development of Operations

We continue to develop our operations to help us fulfill our mission.

We continue to structure our operations to ensure improved flexibility and continuity. This includes adopting to the introduction of IELTS UKVI and IELTS Online during the year.

We are a non-profit organization and receive a small annual grant from the Federation of Finnish-British Societies. Therefore, we aim to maintain our pricing at the level of the market. This allows us continue operations in a financially sustainable manner.



ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Council of the Society

Chair	Niina Lemettilä
Vice-Chairs	John Calton and Noora Kumpulainen
Treasurer	Penelope Roux
Members	Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick, Zachariah Chamberlaine, Henry Loveless, Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen and Joseph White (until 4.3.2022)

In 2021 the Council convened 8 times. Most of the meetings were held online and the rest on Fredrikinkatu, Helsinki.

The Board of the Finnbrit Language Centre Oy, wholly owned by the Society

Chair	Niina Lemettilä
Members	John Calton and Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick

Social Committee

Chair: Noora Kumpulainen (until Aug 2021)
 Members: Bridget Emery, Cynde Sadler, Dharmindar Maharaj (until May 2021), Laura Karppinen, Marlene Weck, Satu Hillilä, Tony Shaw and Ulla Pegg

Writing Competition Committee

Chair: Päivi Kuivalainen
 Members: Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick, Anu Halvari, Penelope Roux and Eija Venäläinen

Staff

Executive Director: Ulla Pegg
Office Manager: Gary Jones
Exams Manager: Tuukka Asplund
Marketing and Office Assistant Trainee: Valeria Pinto (c. 50%)
IELTS Assistant Trainee: Yuan Yi (c. 50%)

Teachers: Blake Schumacher; Henry Loveless, BA (RSA CELTS); Ian Marson, CELTA; Malcolm Fay, TEFL; Pan Doxopoulos, MA, CELTA; Penelope Roux, BA (Hons), TEFL.

IELTS Examiners: Steven Alexander, Fergal Bradley, Jennifer Bergman, Pan Doxopoulos, Melanie Kirwa (resigned Jan 2021), Henry Loveless and Valeria Pinto

Cambridge Examiners: Marja Terttu Juhola (team lead), Blake Schumacher, Henry Loveless, Samantha Eldred and Valeria Pinto

IELTS Clerical Markers and Invigilators:

Shawn Alliu, Emilia Tabi Beyong, Lia Eversfield, Saana Kallioinen, Noora Kumpulainen, Hiu Tung (Shirley) Lee, Claire MacKay, Anna Olkinuora, Clarice Omondi, Bui Phuong Anh (Abby), Pham Thi Bich Thuy (Amy), Essi Savijoki, Farhana Sayeed, Cynthia Sewornu, Tina Sunajko, Sunil Thakur, Karen Victor, and Yi Yuan (Ewan).

Auditors

Helena Haukka, Auditia Oy

ATTACHMENTS

The Auditors Report, Year 2021

Please find below the translation of the Finnish original. The Finnish original has been signed by the Auditor.

auditia

AUDITOR'S REPORT (Translation of the Finnish Original)

To the member of association Finnish-British Society r.y.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Finnish-British Society r.y. for the year ended 31 December, 2021. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, income statement and notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the association's financial performance and financial position in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland. Our responsibilities under good auditing practice are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements section of our report.

We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable in Finland and are relevant to our audit, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements. The Board of Directors is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements. The Board of Directors is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to liquidate the company or cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance on whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with good auditing practice will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with good auditing practice, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events so that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Helsinki 20th of April 2022

Auditia Oy

Authorized Public Accountants

Helena Haukka, APA

Auditia Oy Lautatarhankatu 6, 00580 Helsinki Y-tunnus 2151915-1 www.auditia.fi

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

ADD when available

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Helsinki Finnish-British Society Ry, held online via Zoom. The meeting is held online due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Date of the meeting: Tuesday 11 May, 2021 at 17:00.

Present: Niina Lemettilä (Chair), Joseph White (Vice Chair), Noora Kumpulainen (Vice Chair), Penelope Roux (member of the Council), Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick (member of the Council), Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen (member of the Council), Henry Loveless (member of the Council), Ulla Pegg (Executive Director), Gary Jones (GJ, secretary), Sayid Ayub (member), Anthony Shaw (member), Roger Munn (member), Dharmindar Maharaj (member) and Cynde Sadler (member).

Apologies: None.

1. Opening the meeting.

Ulla opened the meeting and welcomed everybody in attendance. Ulla noted that the invitation had been sent to members in an orderly fashion and that the meeting had been called in accordance with the Society's rules and regulations.

2. The election of the chairman, secretary, two scrutineers of the minutes and if necessary two tellers.

Niina was unanimously elected as Chair of the meeting and took the chair. The meeting elected Gary as secretary and Tony and Dharmindar were elected as scrutineers.

3. Approving the agenda of the meeting.

The agenda was presented and approved by all in attendance.

4. Presenting the Annual Report and the Auditor's report.

The Annual Report of Activities for 2020 was presented by Ulla with additional comments by Gary and Niina. Key points from the report included:

2020 was a quieter year for Finnbrit social activities than usual due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, the social committee was commended for their great work in managing to arrange events despite the pandemic and consequent restrictions on public gatherings. 11 events took place, in addition to regularly held groups and clubs. Council Chair Niina thanked all volunteers and social committee members for their efforts in 2020.

Finnbrit membership numbers have declined to 113 active memberships.

The number of students taking Finnbrit evening courses in 2020 was 68.

Finnbrit taught corporate/private lessons to 21 different individuals and groups in 2020.

Finnbrit introduced computer-based testing for the IELTS and Cambridge English exams in 2020. Ulla told the meeting that the introduction of computer delivered IELTS was crucial to Finnbrit in 2020 as it allowed Finnbrit to continue testing through the strict restrictions.

1109 test takers took IELTS with Finnbrit in 2020. 40 test takers took Cambridge English exams with Finnbrit in 2020.

Finn-Brit Language Centre Oy, (the limited company wholly owned by the Society) received the following support grants, total of 68,486.45€: Business Finland 55,706.00€, Valtiokonttori Koronatuki 7,335.30€ and employment support 5,445.15€. The projects completed with the help of these grants also benefited the Society.

The total income of the Finnish-British Society Ry in 2020 was €384,103.79. Ulla declared an overall profit (including Ry and Oy) of 11,472.14€ for the calendar year of 2020.

Ulla summarized the developments which Finnbrit has made to its website and social media pages in 2020 including the publishing of the new website and implementation of new visual image within marketing materials.

The Auditor's Report was read by Ulla. The report was written by the appointed auditor Helena Haukka, KHT, Auditia Oy. All present accepted the Annual Report and Auditor's Report, respectively.

5. The granting or refusal to grant the Council and other responsible parties release from responsibility.

Cynde proposed to grant the Council and other responsible parties release from responsibility and all members present at the meeting seconded the proposal.

6. Confirming the action plan, budget, membership fees and joining fee.

Ulla presented the action plan for 2020. Focus areas were summarized. The action plan was confirmed.

The budget was summarized by Ulla. The budget was confirmed.

The meeting agreed to keep the membership fees the same as in 2020.

7. Election of the Council and the Chairperson and two Vice-Chairpersons from among their number.

The current Council members agreed to continue with some changes in roles. The Council consists of John Calton, Niina Lemettilä, Penelope Roux, Sanna-Kaisa Tanskanen, Joseph White, Mira Berglund-Fitzpatrick, Zach Chamberlaine, Noora Kumpulainen and Henry Loveless.

Niina Lemettilä was re-elected as Chairperson of the Council and the Vice Chairperson appointed was Noora Kumpulainen. Joe White announced his wish to step down from his role as a vice chair due to health reasons. This was accepted and the meeting participants granted the Council the authority to select a second vice chair. Therefore, the second vice chairperson will be elected at the next Council meeting.

8. Election of one or two auditors

Helena Haukka, KHT, Auditia was elected to continue as the auditor.

9. Election of any committees or authorising the Finnish British Society Council to appoint such committees.

Niina proposed that the Council be authorised to appoint any committees, which was approved by all in attendance.

10. AOB

None

11. The Chair ended the meeting at 18.10 pm.

Chairperson - Niina Lemettilä