

Hull History Centre: Records of Mrs Pearl Lilley

1960s and 1970s, a run of the society's journal covering the period 1961-1992, letters of Mrs Lilley as the organiser of the Northern and Midlands area of the society in the 1960s, publications of the society in the period 1963-1986, papers relating to national council meetings in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, a file relating to the retirement of Mrs Lilley as General Secretary in 1975, and a file relating to the receipt of the Soviet Order of Friendship of Peoples medal for her work on behalf of British-Soviet relations and cultural exchange in 1975.

Extent: 15 items

Related material:

The following related material can be found at the Hull History Centre:

John Platts-Mills [U DPM/2/68, U DPM/4 and U DPM/5/2];

Visit of BSFS to USSR [U DX347];

Reverend Canon Stanley Evans [U DEV/1/24, 31, 38, 49];

Reginald Francis Orlando Bridgeman [U DBN/9/1 and UDBN/18/8];

Lt Commander Edgar Philip Young RN [U DYO/2/33 and 35, U DYO/4/97, 111-113, 124, U DYO/13/18];

Robin Page Arnot [Ref U DAR/2].

Records of the following branches of the BSFS have been deposited with other archives repositories:

Birmingham, Birmingham Archives, Heritage and Photography Service [MS 1824];

Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Archives [DDPP 11];

South-East Essex, Essex Record Office [D/DU 1590].

Access conditions:

Access will be granted to any accredited reader

U DX367/1	Volume: Committee Minutes [Birmingham branch of the British Soviet Friendship Society?], signed by Rev Edward Charles, Rev W. Romanes, Mr J.L. Hanson, Dr U. Cox and Professor Roy Pascal. Minutes relate to various matter including the following: Organisation of public and members meetings; Visits of soviet dignitaries, performers and artists; Soviet film showings; Membership and officers; Media controversies over soviet related matters; Distribution of literature and publicity material; Connections with other friendship organisations and groups associated with the peace movement; Finances. 1 volume	1 Feb 1949- 18 Apr 1953
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- U DX367/2 File: Letters 6 Nov 1956-
14 Apr 1988
- Letters sent to Mrs Pearl Lilley, member of the British Soviet Friendship Society National Council for Nottingham and General Secretary of the BSFS. Includes references to the following: Visit of Soviet guests to Birmingham Area branch, 6 Nov 1956; Soviet films and slides shown at a meeting, 13 Oct 1965; Proposed visit of Harry Carlisle to the Soviet Union, 17 Jun 1968; Lenin Centenary Year greeting from Igor Mikhailusenko, 22 Apr 1970; Research into Paul Robeson, 26 Apr 1975; Honorary life membership of the BSFS for Mrs Lilley, 14 Aug 1975; Retirement of Mrs Lilley; Sep 1975; 58th anniversary of October Revolution, 24 Oct 1975; Mrs Lilley elected honorary member of the International Friendship Club of School 86, Kiev, on her 60th birthday, 23 Oct 1975; Discussion of branch structure, 3 Feb 1976; Visit of Gosconcert to give performances in Newcastle and Yorkshire, 25 Jul 1977; Request that Mrs Lilley speak at a Communist Party branch meeting in Hull, 28 Jul 1977; Missing shareholders register, 15 Feb 1978; Re-nomination of Mrs Lilley as vice-president, 30 Mar 1978; Wish of Boris S. Nikiforov that his self and Mrs Lilley can meet again, 1 Oct 1979; Invite to Mrs Lilley to attend a Leeds branch celebration, 9 Oct 1979; World Disarmament Campaign launched by 'Philip and Fenner, 31 Dec 1979; Greeting message from V. Chernyavskaya, vice chairman of the Presidium of the USSR, 1981; Sympathy on the death of Mrs Lilley's mother, 14 Apr 1988.
1 file (31 pieces)
- U DX367/3 File: Programmes of Soviet Arts Events in the UK 1960s
- File contains programmes relating to events held in the UK on the occasion of various tours and visits of Soviet theatre and arts companies. Collated by Mrs Pearl Lilley in the context of her work for the British Soviet Friendship Society. Contains programmes relating to the following: First British Tour of the Russian State Balalaika Company, n.d.; Visit of the Georgian State Dance Company, n.d.; Visit of The Red Army Singers Dancers and Musicians n.d.
1 file (3 pieces)
- U DX367/4 File: Press Cuttings 1960s
- File contains press cuttings relating to the activities of the British Soviet Friendship Society. Contains the following: 13th national conference of the BSFS at the Co-operative Educational Centre, Nottingham and attendance of Mrs Pearl Lilley as a member of National Council for Nottingham at a reception for various soviet dignitaries on the occasion, n.d.; Alexander Soldatov, Russian Ambassador to Britain, attends a dinner hosted by the Nottingham Branch of the BSFS to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of relations between the USSR and Great Britain, 27 Feb 1964. 1 file (2 pieces)

Sent to Mrs Pearl Lilley as a member of the Nottingham Branch of the British Soviet Friendship Society and later as the General Secretary of the BSFS.

Contains invitations and tickets relating to the following events: BSFS Nottingham-Minsk delegation meeting and film at Co-operative Education Centre, Nottingham, 19 Sep [1965?]; BSFS Meeting with Soviet scientists attending British Association Conference, Arboretum Hotel, Nottingham, 30 Aug [1960s]; Friendship Celebration and concert at the Elizabethan Restaurant, Nottingham, 15 Nov [1960s]; BSFS Speech by Lawrence Bradshaw on Art in the USSR at the Society of Artists, Nottingham, 25 Jun [1960s]; BSFS Twelfth Night Dinner Dance at Co-operative House, Nottingham, 6 Jan 1960; BSFS Nottingham Minsk Dinner Dance at Co-operative House, 12 May 1961; BSFS concert meeting featuring Galina Oleinichenko, Olga Tomina, Gaze Cooper and Nikolai Yefimov, 27 Nov 1962; BSFS reception meeting concert and dance with the Soviet Amateur Youth Cultural Group in Nottingham, 29 Apr 1963; Dinner for 90th birthday of Dr Hewlett Johnson, president of the BSFS, at Connaught Rooms, London, 22 Feb 1964; BSFS dinner and dance to celebrate 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and the USSR at Co-operative House, Nottingham, 26 Feb 1964; BSFS dance at Co-operative House, 26 Feb 1964; BSFS meet Madame Galina Tsygankova at Sherwood Community Centre, Nottingham, 4 Jul 1964; BSFS New Year's Eve party at Mapperley Tea Rooms, Nottingham, 31 Dec 1974; BSFS film showing of The Russian Miracle at Peoples College of Further Education, Nottingham, 23 Jan 1965; BSFS film showing of The Russian Miracle at Peoples College of Further Education, Nottingham, 27 Feb 1965; BSFS national conference reception dance at Victoria Hotel, Nottingham, 30 Oct 1965; BSFS dinner and dance in honour of Minsk City Soviet visit to Nottingham Civic Authority, 6 May 1966; USSR Embassy reception to mark 50th anniversary of the October Revolution, held at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 7 Nov 1967; USSR Embassy reception to bid farewell to Nikolai Efimov retiring Counsellor of the Embassy, held at 18 Kensington Palace Gardens, 9 Mar [1970s]; USSR Embassy reception to mark the 52nd anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces, held at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 23 Feb 1970; USSR Embassy reception to mark International Women's Day at 18 Kensington Palace Gardens, 10 Mar 1970; Society for Cultural Relations with the USSR exhibition opening to mark the 100th year of Lenin's birth, held at National Book League, London, 1 Apr 1970; USSR Embassy reception at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 3 Sep 1970; Maurice King Ltd and The Red Army Ensemble from Kiev reception at Dress Circle Lounge,

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| U DX367/5
cont... | <p>Odeon Theatre, Golders Green, 29 Mar 1971; USSR Embassy reception at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 20 Mar 1973; BSFS Croydon branch meeting and discussion opened by Mrs Pearl Lilley at Ruskin House, Croydon, 20 Aug 1973; BSFS meeting and film showing re 30th anniversary of the victory over fascism at Oliver Thompson Theatre, City University, London, 4 May 1975; BSFS Bi-annual General Conference at Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry, 5-6 Jun 1976; USSR Embassy reception marking the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution, held at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 7 Nov 1977; USSR Embassy reception on retirement of Mr V.M. Semenov as Minister-Counsellor, held at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 10 Apr 1978; USSR Embassy reception at 13 Kensington Palace Gardens, 11 Apr 1979.</p> <p>1 file (31 pieces)</p> | 1960s-1970s |
| U DX367/6 | <p>Box: Soviet Pin Badges</p> <p>Small metal pin badges probably given to Mrs Pearl Lilley during the course of her work for the British Soviet Friendship Society.</p> <p>Includes those relating to the following: Young Communist League; NUM Derbys; BSFS.</p> <p>1 file (42 pieces)</p> | 1960s-1970s |
| U DX367/7 | <p>File: Photographs</p> <p>Black and white photographs relating to the activities of the British Soviet Friendship Society.</p> <p>Includes photographs of visits made by representatives of the BSFS to the USSR. Persons shown include Mrs Pearl Lilley, General Secretary of the BSFS and John Platts-Mills, Chairman of the society. Photographs show visits made to Soviet works, civic buildings, art institutions, dinners and receptions.</p> <p>1 file (91 pieces)</p> | 1960s-1970s |
| U DX367/8 | <p>File: General Papers</p> <p>Loose papers relating to British Soviet Friendship Society activities belonging to Mrs Pearl Lilley. Contains the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">BSFS compliments slip;BSFS membership fees envelope; BSFS membership renewal notice;BSFS membership card; BSFS raffle tickets for a 'Grand Soviet Holiday', 1976;Christmas card printed on behalf of the BSFS;Programme re British Soviet Friendship Celebrations, St Pancras Town Hall, 5 May 1963;Christmas card from Kenneth Mill;Letter from Mrs R. Dessau to Mr Newbold declining an invitation to an event in Nottingham, 13 Feb 1964;Colour map of the USSR published as a supplement to | 1960s-1970s |

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U DX367/8 cont...	<p>Moscow News, 1971; Letter from Igor Mikhailusenko, International Correspondence Group, to Mr L. Bradshaw as chairman of the BSFS, 9 Nov 1974; Song lyrics titled 'Moscow Suburb Nights' by M. Matusovsky; Article titled 'En Routes of the Seven Year Plan' [for publication in a soviet journal?]; Message of thanks signed by [members of the Soviet State Theatre, Music and Cinema Research Institute?] following a visit to the UK, 1963; Nottingham Communist Party membership card of G.T. Killen, 1961; Bulletin of the WMA, Mar 1962; Business card of Pearl Lilley, General Secretary of the BSFS; BSFS membership card of Mrs Pearl Lilley expiring 31 May 1963; Pamphlet titled 'Songs for Labour Gatherings', 1948; Manuscript draft of a message to be sent to an MP asking him to protest against 'the atomic and hydrogen bomb explosions' in Parliament, [1945?]. 1 file (18 pieces)</p>	1960s-1970s
U DX367/9	<p>File: Delegations Exchange 1961 Papers relating to reciprocal visits between friendship societies in the USSR and branches of the British Soviet Friendship Society. Contains the following: Draft programme for visits of various UK delegations to the USSR and vice versa in the period between July and November; Receipt and confirmation letter relating to a Contours Ltd tour to Leningrad [St Petersburg] and Moscow, 17 Mar 1961. 1 file (2 pieces)</p>	1961
U DX367/10	<p>File: Journal of the British Soviet Friendship Society Incomplete series, following issues present: Oct 1961; Jan 1968; Oct 1968; Mar 1969; Apr 1969; Jun 1972; May 1973; Feb 1975; May/June 1975; Sep/Oct 1975; Jan/Feb 1976; Mar/Apr 1976; Sep/Oct 1976; Nov/Dec 1976; Jan/Feb 1977; Oct 1977 Nov/Dec 1977; Sep/Oct 1978; Jan/Feb 1979; Mar/Apr 1979; Sep/Oct 1980; Nov/Dec 1980; Jan/Feb 1981; Mar/Apr 1981; May/June 1981; Jul/Aug 1981; Sep/Oct 1981; Nov/Dec 1981; Jan/Feb 1982; Mar/Apr 1982; May/June 1982; Jul/Aug 1982; Sep/Oct 1982; Nov/Dec 1982; Jan/Feb 1983; Mar/Apr 1983; Jul/Aug 1983; Sep/Oct 1983; Nov/Dec 1983; Jan 1984; Feb 1984; Mar 1984; Apr 1984; May 1984; Jun 1984; Jul 1984; Aug 1984; Oct 1984; Nov 1984; Feb 1985; Mar 1985; Apr 1985; May 1985; Jun 1985; Jul 1985; Aug 1985; Sep 1985; Oct 1985; Nov 1985; Feb 1986; Mar 1986; Apr 1986; May 1986; Jun 1986; Jul 1986; Aug 1986;</p>	1961-1992

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| U DX367/10
cont... | Sep 1986; Oct 1986; Nov 1986; Dec 1986; Jan 1987; Feb 1987; Mar 1987; Apr 1987; May 1987; Jun 1987; Jul 1987; Aug 1987; Sep 1987; Oct 1987; Nov 1987; Dec 1987; Feb 1988; Mar 1988; Apr 1988; May 1988; Jun 1988; Jul 1988; Aug/Sep 1988; Oct 1988; Nov 1988; Dec 1988; Jan/Feb 1989; Apr 1989; May 1989; Jun/Jul 1989; Aug/Sep 1989; Nov/Dec 1989; Sep 1990; Winter 1990/1991; Spring 1991; Summer 1991; Autumn 1991; Winter 1991/1992.
1 bundle (104 pieces) | 1961-1992 |
| U DX367/11 | File: Northern and Midlands Area
File contains correspondence and papers of Mrs Pearl Lilley as Organiser of the Northern and Midlands Area of the British Soviet Friendship Society. Contains the following: Copy minutes of the meeting of the Midlands Area Committee of the BSFS held 18 Jun 1961; Letter to Nadia Makshanchikova re a visit of Mrs Lilley to Moscow to attend a peace conference and then to Minsk, 15 Jun 1962; Circular sent to persons who attended a BSFS dinner at the Portland Hotel and requesting monies owed on that account, 13 Dec 1966; Letter to Mr Arno Riedel inviting him and his wife to England and requesting information re residence in East Germany on behalf of others, 3 Jan 1967.
1 file (4 pieces) | 18 Dec 1961-
3 Jan 1967 |
| U DX367/12 | File: Publications of the British Soviet Friendship Society
Contains the following publications:
Flyer re 'British-Soviet Friendship Concert' at Victoria Baths, Nottingham, 23 Nov [?];
'BSFS News', newsletter of the BSFS, Dec 1963;
'British-Soviet Newsletter', issue no.64, 15 Oct 1966;
Flyer re 'USSR 50th Anniversary Friendship Festival' at Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 20 Oct [1967?];
Flyer titled 'The Soviet Union - Over 60 Years of Socialism. No Unemployment! No Inflation!', c.1970s;
Message of support to 'all Soviet workers' printed on a decorative poster by L. Bradshaw, 1973;
Booklet titled 'Documents of the Soviet-British Summit Talks, Moscow', Feb 1975;
Programme titled '58th Anniversary of the October Revolution - A Day of Celebration', 2 Nov 1975;
Constitution of the BSFS, adopted 1976;
'Peace and Friendship', newsletter of the Nottingham branch of the BSFS, first issue, Jul 1978;
Leaflet titled 'What Soviet Threat?' by Cynthia Roberts, Labour Action for Peace, c.1980;
Leaflet titled 'Soviet Union - facts and figures, New Soviet proposals to eliminate nuclear weapons, 1986.
1 file (12 pieces) | 1963-1986 |

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- U DX367/13 File: National Council - Agenda, Minutes and Associated Circulars 1970s-1990s
Copy papers relating to meetings of the National Council of the British Soviet Friendship Society sent to Mrs Pearl Lilley as a member of the society
1 bundle
- U DX367/14 File: Retirement as General Secretary of the British Soviet Friendship Society 1975
Papers relating to the retirement of Mrs Pearl Lilley as General Secretary of the BSFS in which office she served 1969-1975.
- Contains the following:
i) Presentation Folder - 'British Soviet Friendship Society Pearl Lilley General Secretary 1969-1975', contains laminated messages of best wishes read out on the occasion of a party marking Mrs Lilley's retirement, 1975;
ii) A2 sized board on which is mounted list of signatures with a decorative header drawn by L. Bradshaw. Signatures are of persons wishing farewell greetings and congratulations to Mrs Pearl Lilley on the occasion of her retirement as General Secretary of the BSFS.
1 file and 1 outsized poster
- U DX367/15 File: Soviet Order of Friendship of Peoples 8 Apr 1975-16 Dec 1975
Records relating to the award of the medal of the Order of Friendship of the Peoples to Mrs Pearl Lilley for her work as General Secretary of the British Soviet Friendship Society. The order was awarded by Ambassador Nikolai Lunkov during a ceremony at the Soviet Embassy on 15 Dec 1975.
- Contains the following:
i) Medal, CCCP Order of Friendship of Peoples, with accompanying authenticity passport, 1975 [Note: This medal was issued between 1972 and 1991, awarded to individuals and organisations for promoting and strengthening inter-ethnic and international friendship and co-operation];
ii) File of letters and telegrams sending congratulations of various persons and copy letters sent by Mrs Lilley thanking people for their greetings and messages of congratulations, also three black and white photographs of Mrs Lilley receiving the award on 15 Dec 1975, also two press cuttings relating to the ceremony. Note that some messages relate to the retirement and 60th birthday of Mrs Lilley also in this year.
1 file and 1 medal