**NOTICE OF THE BRITISH-RUSSIAN LAW ASSOCIATION 2014 AGM & DINNER**

**on 24 JUNE 2015**

with guest speaker **Professor Geoffrey Hosking OBE FBA FRHistS,**

**Emeritus Professor of Russian History at School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (University College London)**

**"Russia and the West since the Cold War: a tale of growing mutual distrust"**

**1. AGM**

BRLA members are cordially invited to attend its **2015 Annual General Meeting** on Wednesday, **24 JUNE 2015** at **6.00 pm** at **The Reform Club, 104 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EW** at which the following business will be transacted:

(i) Election of the Hon. Chair; the Hon. Vice-Chair; the Hon. Secretary; the Treasurer; the Social Secretary for 2015

(ii) Election of the BRLA Committee for 2015

(iii) Approval of accounts for the period 20 February 2014 - 23 June 2015

(iv) Review of activities in 2014 and first half of 2015 and report of prospective activities for the second half of 2015.

**2. DRINKS RECEPTION & DINNER**

The 2015 AGM will be followed by a drinks reception at 6.30 p.m. and dinner starting at 7.30 p.m. at which the after-dinner speaker will be Professor Geoffrey Hosking OBE FBA FRHistS.

**RSVP to the Hon. Secretary, Rupert D’Cruz by 17 JUNE 2015 at rdc@littletonchambers.co.uk** with:

1. any nominations for the executive or committee positions referred to above
2. and to register attendance at:
3. the AGM; and/or
4. the Drinks Reception; and/or
5. Dinner (vegetarian option available; please indicate if you will require this).

Attendance at the AGM and Drinks Reception is free of charge. **There is charge of £50 per head for the Dinner.** Payment should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the following address: Littleton Chambers, 3 King’s Bench Walk, Temple, London EC4Y 7HR or by direct transfer using the information on the covering e-mail.

Further information about the BRLA can be found on its website: [www.thebrla.com](http://www.thebrla.com)

|  |
| --- |
| **Speaker Profile** |
| **Professor Geoffrey Hosking OBE FBA FRHistS, Emeritus Professor of Russian History at School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (University College London)**Professor Hosking first became interested in Russia/the USSR during the Khrushchev 'thaw', when the 'sputnik' was launched. That was also the time of the first publication of Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago. Professor Hosking studied Russian at Cambridge, and then Russian history at Moscow State University and European History at Oxford, before getting his first appointment at the University of Essex in 1966. He taught also at the Universities of Cologne and Wisconsin-Madison before coming to SSEES as Professor of Russian History in 1984. Starting with his first book in 1973, which was about the State Duma, Professor Hosking has written numerous books on Russia and the Soviet Union. In recent years Professor Hosking has focussed increasingly on the question of trust as a social phenomenon, prompted partly by the fate of Russian society and the economy after the end of the Soviet Union. It seemed that western politicians and economists were assuming that one could simply graft western economic institutions on to Russia and they would automatically function. But economic institutions - banks, insurance companies, stock exchanges and so on - depend on social trust which cannot be created overnight. So he started asking himself what structures of trust actually existed in Russian/Soviet society, and then to ask more general questions about the operation of trust in any society, one of the principal concerns of contemporary sociology. In 2014, his book "Trust: A History" (OUP) was published. He has come to the conclusion that historians are too fixated on power and conflict, and that we need to say more about trust and social solidarity. Doing so should also enable us better to explain distrust and social disharmony. |