



The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

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www.scotlandrussiaforum.org

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Book Festival – ‘Focus on Russia’ events (and others)

There are a number of ‘Russian’ events clustered together at the beginning of this year's Edinburgh Book Festival, starting with Boris Akunin/Ian Rankin, sponsored by the Forum. Full details available in the printed brochure and at <http://www.edbookfest.co.uk/>

Saturday 13 August, 6.30pm: Boris Akunin with Ian Rankin. ‘Focus on Russia’ Creator of Erast Fandorin interviewed by Edinburgh’s own Ian Rankin. Supported by SRF.

Saturday 13 August, 7.30pm: Aleksei Evdokimov & Alexander Garros. Latvian journalists, winners of the Russian Literary National Bestseller prize. ‘Murder and computer games spin their hero into a mixed-up world.’

Sunday 14 August, 12.30pm: Adrian Levy & Catherine Scott-Clark. ‘Focus on Russia’ ‘What happened to the Amber Room’.

Sunday 14 August, 3pm: Anna Politkovskaya. ‘Focus on Russia’ Courageous political journalist. Chaired by Iain Macwhirter.

Sunday 14 August, 5pm: Andrey Kurkov. ‘Focus on Russia’. Author of *Death and the Penguin* etc. An ‘absurd, witty, distinctive’ new writer.

Sunday 14 August, 7.30pm: Nations Unlimited. ‘Focus on Russia’. Discussion on the future of Russia. Chrystia Freeland, Andrey Kurkov, Grigory Pasko and Anna Politkovskaya

Monday 15 August, 10.30am: Chrystia Freeland & Catriona Kelly. ‘Focus on Russia’ Russia’s ‘second revolution’ (by *Financial Times* journalist Chrystia Freeland) and an update on Pavlik Morozov from Oxford academic Catriona Kelly.

Monday 15 August, 3pm: The Scottish Pen Lecture: Elaine Feinstein on Anna Akhmatova.

Thursday 18 August, 4.30pm: Nicholas & Alexandra: behind the scenes at an exhibition. ‘Focus on Russia.’ Royal Museum curators talk about the exhibition and the insight it gives into the royal family and its Scottish connections. [Ed: see below (and flyer for member’s discount on the related book)]

Sunday 20 August, 4.30pm: John Berger with Nella Bielski. Talking about translation. Book online: <http://www.edbookfest.co.uk/> or by phone: 0131 624 5050, or in person at Ottakars Booksellers, 57 George Street, Edinburgh (17 June - 11 Aug) and Book Festival Box Office, Entrance Tent, Charlotte Square Gardens, Edinburgh (from 14 August).

Nicholas and Alexandra: the last Tsar and Tsarina

Royal Museum of Scotland’s summer exhibition, showcasing outstanding artefacts relating to the Romanov dynasty including paintings, furniture, ‘objets d’art’ and personal items, which give a fascinating insight into the family life, court life and tragic downfall of the dynasty. Many of these stunning treasures have never been seen outside Russia. There is a full programme of events associated with the exhibition, including films, music, children’s activities, a lecture and a study course. 14 July to 30 October, Royal Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. Contact: 0131 247 4422 www.nms.ac.uk Tickets: Adult £5, Concessions £4, Children £3, Family ticket £15, Group Discount 10%. NMS members and children under 5 free. Monday to Saturday 10-5 (to 8pm on Tuesday) and 12-5 on Sunday.

*** SRF members can buy the book of the exhibition at discount – see enclosed flyer ***

This newsletter is published by the Scotland-Russia Forum. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors, and not necessarily those of the committee or the editor.

Fringe events of Russian/FSU interest

A selection! Full details in the printed brochure, or at <http://www.edfringe.com>

Cossack Passion (Russian Cossack State Dance Company) George Square Theatre, 5-27 August (not Sundays) at 12.40. 0131 662 8740

Divine Orthodox Liturgy (Ukrainian National Choir 'Trembita') The Forest Upstairs, 3 Bristo Place, 15-21 August at 10.00. 0131 226 0000

The evil of tobacco (Act Provocateur International) Chekhov, Beckett, Nabokov and Ishiguro. C electric, Clerk St (the old Odeon), 4-13, 15-29 August at noon. 0870 701 5105

Heart of a dog (Rogue State Theatre Company) Bulgakov 're-imagined'. Assembly @ George St, Assembly Rooms, George St, 6-29 August at 14.05. 0131 226 2428

Natalka Poltavka (Zankovetskaya National Drama Theatre from the Ukraine) The Exchange, Grove St, 9, 10, 15-17 August at 17.00. 0131 228 2141

Petrograd (Prospekt Theatre) By Van Badham. Pleasance Courtyard, 60 The Pleasance. 7-29 August (except 16) at 14.25. 0131 556 6550

Russian beauty (Act Provocateur International) By Viktor Sobchak. C electric, Clerk St (the old Odeon), 4-29 August at 13.00. 0870 701 5105

Russian expanses of the soul (Yuri Borisov accompanied by Lev Aronov) St Marks Unitarian Church, 7 Castle Terrace, 5, 7, 9, 11, 15, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28 August at 17.15. 0131 226 0000

Swansong (Act Provocateur International) Based on Chekhov's famous monologue. C electric, Clerk St (the old Odeon), 4-13 and 15-29 August at 16.30. 0870 701 5105

Tchaikovsky for tea (ROSL Arts) Royal Over-Seas League, Overseas House, 100 Princes St, 15, 17, 22, 24 August at 17.00. 0131 226 0000

Ukraine viva! (Buy Hutsui Song and Dance Folk Company) Café Royal Fringe Theatre, 17 West Register St, 8-14 August at 12.15. 0131 556 2549

Also 'Russian Cossack' horses are taking part in the **Spirit of the horse** event at The Royal Highland Centre Ingleston, Wednesday 27 July to Monday 8 August. 0870 160 9559, www.equestriantheatre.co.uk

Russian/FSU Films at the Film Festival

Full details in the printed brochure, or at <http://www.edfilmfest.org.uk>

A driver for Vera Directed by Pavel Chukhraj/Russia and Ukraine/2004. Cast: Igor Petrenko, Alvona Babenko, Bogdan Stupka, Andrei Panin, Ekaterina Yudina. 19 August at 7pm at Filmhouse 1, and 21 August at 1pm at Filmhouse 2, both Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

4 Directed by Ilya Khrzhanovsky/Russia/2004. Cast: Mariia Vovchenko, Irina Vovchenko, Svetlana Vovchenko, Sergei Shnurov, Yuri Laguta. 24 August at 7.45pm at Cameo 1, Home Street, Edinburgh and 26 August at 10pm at Filmhouse 2, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Mars Directed by Anna Melikian/Russia/2005. Cast: Gosha Kutsenko, Nana Kitsenko, Artur Smolianinov. 18 August at 9.30pm and 24 August at 10pm at Cineworld, Fountainpark, Edinburgh.

The Sun Directed by Alexander Sokurov/Russia, Italy, France and Switzerland/2004. Cast: Issey Ogata, Robert Dawson, Kaori Momoi, Shiri Sano, Shinmei Tsuji. 23 August at 7.45pm at Cineworld, Fountainpark, Edinburgh, and 25 August at 5.30pm at Filmhouse 2, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Tour de Force Directed by Antoine Prum, Boris Kremer/Luxembourg/2005. Cast: Andrei Volfson, Georges Christen, Alla Guenikova, Valter Oots, Vasili Maksakov. 21 August 8pm and 26 August 3.30pm at the Filmhouse 2, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, 23 August, 6.30pm at the Glasgow Film Theatre, Rose Street, Glasgow.

Tickets: £7.95 (£5.20 concessions)

Forum Programme September – December 2005

For details of all events contact 0131 662 9149 or scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

We start the new subscription year with what we hope you will agree is a varied and interesting programme. In the year of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, we have two talks that might have been entitled 'Jock's War' and 'Ivan's War', dealing with experiences of Scots and Russian participants of the war on the Eastern Front. Sandwiched in between are talks on two aspects of the arts for which Russia is rightly renowned – ballet and literature. Truly something for everyone – and we look forward to seeing you at all or at least some of these events.

Entry to all talks, including liquid refreshment afterwards, is £2 for SRF members and students, £4 for others. Non-members very welcome.

Thursday 15 September, at 7.30pm: Jock Dempster – Convoys to Murmansk

As a young seaman in the merchant navy Jock Dempster was part of the Allied effort to supply Russia during the Second World War. Sailing from Loch Ewe, and latterly the Clyde, they brought food and military supplies through the Arctic to a Russia being overrun by Nazi invaders. About 3000 merchant navy and Royal Navy men perished. Jock and a fellow member of the Russian Convoy Club will try to give the Forum some idea of what it was like. Venue: English Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent (Basement), Edinburgh.

Thursday 27 October, at 7.30pm: Agnes Ness – From Glazunov to Glasgow

Dance historian Agnes Ness will talk about Scottish Ballet's Russian connections – Galina Samsova, Galina Mezentseva, the choreographer Oleg Vinogradov and the dancer Irek Mukhamedov. Her talk will be copiously illustrated with music and video.

Venue: tba

Friday 18 November, at 7.30pm: Bob Porter - Reading myself and others: thoughts on Russian writing today

Professor Porter is the author of *Russia's Alternative Prose* (1994), *Four Contemporary Russian Writers* (1992) and other studies of contemporary Russian literature, and held the Chair of Slavonic Languages and Literatures at Glasgow University until very recently. According to the university website 'he is anxious to encourage students to keep abreast of literary and cultural developments'.

Venue: tba

Thursday 8 December, at 7.30pm: Catherine Merridale – Why did Ivan fight? Red Army soldiers in World War II

Professor Merridale, recently appointed to the Chair of Contemporary History at Queen Mary College, University of London, is a specialist in 20th century Russian history, and particularly social and cultural history and the history of violence. Her new book, *Ivan's War: The Red Army 1941-45* (Faber, Oct 2005), is a social history with the soldiers' own moving and terrible stories based on their letters, diaries and oral testimony. A previous book, *Night of Stone* (2000), won the Heinemann Award for Literature and was runner-up for the Samuel Johnson and Hamner Prizes.

Venue: tba

An audience with Alexander Lazarev

On 18 April a mixed audience gathered at Glasgow University for a much-anticipated audience with Alexander Lazarev, the departing principal conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Following the brief and informal conferring of an honorary professorship by the University's Principal, Dr Stuart Campbell, asked questions about Lazarev's life and career.



Lazarev spoke about the inspiration of studying at the same institutions attended by Tchaikovsky and Rakhmaninov, adapting to the differing voices of composers, for example Shostakovich wrote from within the crowd whereas Mahler wrote from the mountains, and (a secret not to be shared with musicians) that, without an orchestra, conductors were valueless. His assertion that Pushkin's Tatiana was only 13 years of age provoked entertaining debate on the interpretation of both poem and opera.

Of particular interest was Lazarev's high regard and apparent considerable sympathy for Prokofiev, picturing him as being constantly in the shadow of others – Stravinsky as composer, Rakhmaninov as pianist, Shostakovich as symphonist and finally even Stalin in death. His respect for Prokofiev was evident in the all Prokofiev programme with which he completed his tenure at the RSNO. Indeed, Lazarev expressed almost distaste for performing the popular Russian classics such as Tchaikovsky symphonies 4, 5 and 6.

Maestro Lazarev has made a major impression on the musical life of Scotland, delighting audiences with his showman style, and will be especially remembered for his varied and innovative programmes, most notably the Shostakovich and Prokofiev symphony cycles. This was an enjoyable evening allowing those present to get to know an international maestro who, against the stereotype, came across as a very human being. We look forward to his first performance as conductor emeritus of the RSNO.

Andrew Gunn

Russkaya muzyka

Many Russian folk singers and instrumentalists visit Britain. What distinguishes the team known as the Russian Music Ensemble is that they have professional training as singers and/or ethnomusicologists and have visited many regions of Russia to record, transcribe and study the music they perform. It was thus appropriate that they gave a short concert on Thursday 9 June for their colleagues (and friends) at the University of Edinburgh's School of Scottish Studies. With the elaborate traditional costumes they wear on other occasions forsaken, the programme had a feature of folk music from the south of Russia, some sacred music of the Molokane, and some Cossack songs. A species of flute and a hurdy-gurdy accompanied as appropriate. This session gave great insights into the character, harmony, vocal and performing traditions associated with a small part of this Moscow group's repertoire.

Margaret Mackay

How my great grandmother met the tsar

My great grandmother met Tsar Nicholas's grandfather Alexander II in December 1880. This is how the meeting came about.

My great grandfather's house was near the main barracks of Archangel and the family in the past was used to taking a shortcut through the barracks to their house. After a rather high spirited summer party in 1880 he was taking a short cut through Military barracks early in the morning and was challenged by a guard. The guard was not aware of the convention that allowed the family to go through the barracks and fired his gun at my great grandfather. Fortunately the bullet missed him but he protested to the guard and in the melee that took place the guard's rifle went off again and the guard was accidentally killed.

The result was that great grandfather was sentenced to Siberia for an indeterminate time. Clearly the family tried every legal effort to get clemency to no avail. The only chance left was a meeting with the Tsar who gave clemency at Christmas and Epiphany as was the tradition of the times.

My great grandmother was heavily pregnant with the baby due in January. However she was a strong character and decided that she would petition the Tsar at Christmas. She had to travel with her mother for 11 days in the height of the Russian winter in a *kibitka*, a leather covered sledge, from Archangel which is approximately 800 miles from St Petersburg.

After waiting some 7 days in St Petersburg she was granted the Christmas audience. She described the tsar as being quite tall with the kindest eyes she had ever seen. He was aware of the petition and asked about the journey, saying how difficult it must have been etc etc. His last words to her were 'I give you my word your child will have his father'. She then left to begin the return journey to Archangel clearly in much discomfort!

The baby, my grandfather, was born on 13th January and some four weeks later Tsar Alexander II was assassinated. Many of the petitions granted were subsequently cancelled by Alexander III, who felt his father was far too lenient, and many of the assassins including Lenin's brother were publicly hanged. (I believe many of the problems that Tsar Nicholas II faced stemmed from the original assassination of his grandfather).

My great grandfather returned from Siberia in February 1881 as promised by the Tsar.

Michael Fraser

Editorial note: This story was also told by Michael's mother, Eugenie Fraser, in her book *The House by the Dvina*.

Russian team win Scottish Open Volleyball Tournament

Pskov Academy for Tourism Team won the Women's Division Trophy at the Scottish Open Volleyball Tournament which took place in Perth on the North Inch in May. The six young women from Perth's Twin Town took home a specially engraved Quaich, after winning all seven of their matches. The Volleyball Team from Pskov attended Civic Reception given by Provost Scott and have visited Scone Palace, Edinburgh, Loch Ness, Fort William, Kingairloch, and Glencoe. The Perth Friends of Pskov hosted the students, and hope that they will be the first of many, after a few years where visits have fallen away because of difficult economic circumstances. The Provost of Perth has recently visited Pskov, and a visit to Perth by the Mayor of Pskov is planned in September. For more information on the Friends of Pskov contact: David Bonnar, Chairman, Friends of Pskov, Tel 01738 633424. Svetlana Bond, Secretary. Contact email: chrbon007@aol.com

Anderson High School's Study Trip to St Petersburg



Photographs of students from Shetland in St Petersburg in March 2005

March saw our school's first venture into Study Trips to Russia – myself, five students, one teaching colleague, and a great deal of apprehension. We have been involved with trips abroad, from nearby Norway to distant Australia, but this was the first time we'd tried taking a class of S5 beginners to Russia. School trips are not cheap, and this one was no exception. We went by air to cut down on travelling time, but this still involved two overnight stays in Aberdeen. We had to pay for tuition, accommodation, visas, registration fees, food and transport – not much left over for anything else! However, the pupils were determined, and spent a lot of time fund-raising beforehand. This, coupled with a very welcome donation from the local firm 'Shetland Catch', meant that we were able to incorporate a few extra experiences into our stay. There was the occasional panic (one student casually mentioned in January that he hadn't yet applied for his passport) but the visas duly arrived just in time, and as we waved goodbye, I fervently hoped we would all return in one piece!

Living on Shetland, total population 22,000, the prospect of a week in a city of five million was a bit daunting. 24 hours after leaving the school, we landed at Pulkovo Airport, having gasped in amazement at the frozen lakes, rivers and even parts of the sea, as we flew. Aleksei, from the Extra Class Language Centre (www.learnrussian.ru) met us as promised, and we were transferred in a mini-bus, via a roadside money exchange – 'He gives a good rate!' – to our host families. This was the scary bit! We were all billeted with Russian families, the three girls together, the rest of us individually, bravest of all being my colleague, Evelyn, who by that stage had mastered about half the Cyrillic alphabet and six words of Russian! The minibus stopped outside a 22-storey block of flats built on stilts, in a concrete jungle on Vasilievsky Island, and faces fell as we surveyed the solemn group of Russian women awaiting us. Aleksei distributed us, and we made for the lifts, anxious backward glances saying 'What have we let ourselves in for?' Having attended a similar course 4 years previously, I knew what I'd let myself in for, but I knew the pupils would be surprised by separate toilet and bathroom facilities, the standard of plumbing and wiring, the size of the flats, the heating system (they learned the temperature had to be below a certain level for 10 days in a row before the heating could be switched on, and if it only happened on 9 consecutive days, well – you froze!).

Next morning, Aleksei arrived to help us negotiate the metro and find our way to the Language Centre. The St Petersburg metro is not as stunning as the one in Moscow, but it is certainly deeper – by the end of the week, we had spent quite some time simply standing on the escalators, although by then some of us were brave enough to imitate the locals by running down the left-hand side, to save time! The arrangement with the school was for the pupils to have four lessons per day, and Evelyn and I to have two. By the end of the 4 lessons, my poor pupils were in shock – teaching was very enthusiastic, professional, intensive, and demanding, and the accusing looks aimed in my direction said it all, as they erupted into the fresh air, desperately needing fed! But life improved, as they began to acclimatise. We asked for longer breaks between lessons, (longer than it took the

teachers to smoke a cigarette) and more participatory teaching, with pair work etc. Having my lessons next door, I often heard laughter, so presumed they were OK! When not being taught, we would often be asked to sit in on English classes, and speak to the students. I also spent time in the office, arranging trips, phoning landladies, and trying to find out why our money had still not reached the Russian bank – an embarrassing situation which the Russians accepted as normal. It finally reached their account 2 weeks after we left – it's a complicated system, so be warned.

As time went by, it was gratifying to see the pupils gain confidence in speaking Russian, even the shyest. Each day I heard tales of the host families, and how they'd learned new words and phrases – some of which they were reluctant to share, given that each family had at least one teenager! We were even able to reciprocate, helping the Russian children with their English homework. I was also delighted to hear that even the most picky of them was trying new foods with enjoyment. During the past year, I had made contact with a school in St Petersburg, through the website 'Windows on the World', (www.wotw.org.uk) which puts schools from all over the world in contact. The whole class had corresponded with penpals, and we visited the school. We were met at the metro by the teacher and three of her pupils. A very pretty girl wearing what could only be described as a pelmet, not a skirt, turned out to be one of the penpals, much to the delight of the boy involved!

Having had many foreign visitors to our own school, I was used to the initial awkward introductory moments. However, as soon as we reached the school, our pupils were pounced upon by the English class, and the chatter never stopped. They initially put on a few skits for us, as it was April 1st, then bombarded us with questions, over juice and biscuits. We also had a tour of the school, which was poorer equipped than our own, but their standard of language learning was certainly a lot higher. It took no time at all for arrangements to be made for the weekend, although my colleague and I seemed overly strict over meeting times, places, phone numbers, etc – the Russian pupils found this most amusing! However, I had visions of at least one of them getting lost, and took no chances. The subsequent meetings were very successful and hopefully some of these friendships will continue.

So what else did we do? Well, a lot of walking! The centre of St Petersburg is beautiful, and you have to walk to appreciate the magnificent views. We probably didn't do as many touristy things as most tourists, but I'm sure we came away with a much better idea of what life in the city is really like. On Saturday, we engaged the services of Peter (www.peterswalk.com), a Russian who organises guided tours of the city, whom I can thoroughly recommend. We had asked for a 'non-touristy' walk, which he certainly provided. Among the highlights: attending part of a service in an Orthodox church, (one pupil's comment – 'All I can say is, Wow!'), going round a food market and sampling the wares, shopping in a shop attached to the Military Academy, eating in a Russian café, and travelling in a 'marshrutka' (minibus running a set route). We also took a trip to the village (population 30,000, so more than Shetland!) of Pushkin, or Tsarskoye Selo. We wandered through the palace, mouths open in wonder at the splendour, feet clad in special slippers sliding on the polished parquet. The famous Amber Room was magnificent: not full of amber artefacts, but with amber-decorated walls and ceiling. There were beautiful parks, but it was too wet to explore them. Most of the pupils went to the Hermitage with their penpals, but Evelyn and I only saw it from the outside. The battleship 'Aurora' was shut, as was the Kunstkammer – a museum of curiosities from Peter the Great's time onwards. Moral: don't try to visit official places on a Tuesday.

We tried to see as much as possible of real life in St Petersburg, which of course is no more representative of Russia as a whole than London is of Great Britain. We were pleased to find that you can live reasonably cheaply if you stick to places tourists don't frequent, and on the whole people in shops and cafes were very friendly – much more approachable than four years ago. Russians we met through the host families, school and language centre could not have been more friendly and helpful, and the success of the trip can be measured in the insistence from all 5 pupils that 'We have to do another trip next year, please!' The only negative point – a week wasn't long enough for them! (Whereas I needed a week to recover!)

Marion Ockendon

Русский Эдинбург



Идея национальных школ не нова. Создание клубов/групп/классов в дополнение государственному образованию, в которых дети, и нередко взрослые, изучают язык своего народа, его культуру и историю, становится своего рода этапом в развитии многих национальных диаспор. Такие школы часто получают государственную поддержку и рассматриваются не только как важное подспорье в освоении детьми своего родного языка, но и как необходимое условие для успешного усвоения английского языка и всех школьных предметов.

Русский Эдинбург был создан по инициативе Дженни Карр озвучившей озабоченность многих родителей уже столкнувшихся с трудностями поддержания русского языка у детей. Детям не хватало мотивации для того, чтобы говорить по-русски: язык не является средством общения окружающего их общества, друзья не говорят на этом языке, и никто, за исключением родителей, не считает, что говорить по-русски «круто».

Несколько храбрых добровольцев образовали совет Русского Клуба, и в апреле 2004 года начались уроки. Сперва была только одна смешанная группа, состоявшая из примерно дюжины детей разного возраста и уровня владения языком. Сейчас количество детей значительно выросло и школа уже делится на три группы (0-4, 4-7 и 7-10 лет) общей сложностью около 20-ти постоянных учеников.

Сорокаминутный урок в младшей группе заполнен языковыми играми, песнями, изготовлением поделок, кукольными представлениями. Учителя Ирина Джиннс и Саша Туманцева, серьезно готовятся в течение всей недели для того, чтобы в субботу урок для самых шумливых, но и самых отзывчивых учеников прошел на «ура».

Среднюю группу ведет Юлия Куксина, директор школы. Эта группа наиболее разнообразна по уровню знания языка и по возрасту детей. Большинство учеников здесь еще только начинают читать и писать по-русски, поэтому обычный урок включает упражнения на восприятие звукового строя языка, алфавит, основы грамматики и развитие словарного запаса.

Самые старшие ученики к делу подходят серьезно. Под руководством Надежды Фосс они штурмуют орфографию и пунктуацию, развивают словарный запас, разнообразя его синонимами, антонимами, описаниями и разговорными выражениями. Во второй части занятия оба старших класса объединяются, вместе мастерят и слушают какую-нибудь занимательную историю. Дети также устраивают небольшие концерты, на которых они демонстрируют свое умение выучить наизусть длинное-предлинное стихотворение на русском языке.

Русский Эдинбург вовсе не заканчивается на двух-часовых занятиях по субботам. Это еще и детские вечеринки, пикники, часы приятельских разговоров.

Школа не ставит своей целью научить детей свободно говорить или читать по-русски. Это недостижимая задача для столь ограниченного времени. Интересно, однако, что по окончании уроков ни родители, ни ученики не торопятся покидать школу.

Женя Матютина/Zhenya Matyutina

Game Tomorrow?

Так начинается электронное сообщение, которые получают по четвергам многие русскоговорящие мужчины, живущие в Эдинбурге. Это означает: «Дружище, а придешь ли ты в пятницу вечером, нет не в паб, а на Meadows, где каждую неделю происходит матч века по футболу».

Жажда спорта, чтобы были очки и победы, видимо закладывается в мужской натуре глубоко на зародышевой стадии – пусть биологи меня поправят. Что если не азарт, заставляет этих далеко не бездомных людей проводить многие часы чудесными летними вечерами толкая друг-друга и мяч? Выключив компьютеры, распустив по домам студентов, оставив «дозревать» эксперименты, солидные интеллектуалы паркуются у «лужайки», развязывают узелки и «элегантным движением руки» их официальные брюки превращаются в спортивную форму. А дальше начинается азарт....

«Как мы им забили...

Я был на воротах...

Но тут мы перехватили...»

И это при том, что здесь нет устоявшихся команд, всегда охотно принимают новичков и не выплачивают гонораров.

Хорошо, если светит солнце, но ведь так бывает далеко не всегда. Где вы Persil, Surf? Вы теряете гениальные кадры для своей рекламы. Такого количества счастливых и чумазных лиц, вымазанных грязью мокрых футболок, убедительных жестов нарочно не срежессировать. Футбол на Медоуз – это кусочек детства, когда нет никаких взрослых забот и самое главное в жизни – это влечь мяч в ворота напротив. С моей точки зрения – это еще и классическая ностальгия: по прошлому, по родному двору, которого уже не найти, даже если приехать домой в Москву, Петроград или Новосибирск.

Футбол – зрелище не для слабонервных. Хотя и говорят спортсмены девушкам «приходите посмотреть», не ходите, не надо. Им и так хорошо в хорошую шотландскую погоду (когда дождь идет вертикально), когда поливают друг друга незлобивым русским словом, когда в глазах азарт, а темнеет поздно.

Российские мужчины играют в футбол на Медоуз уже 5 лет. Все началось со светлой идеи биофизика Димы Алексева, которую поддержали физик Валерий Ковалев, биологи Юрий Котелевцев и Александр Медвинский, математик Михаил Левитин. Теперь состав сменился – кто-то уехал, другие наоборот обосновались в Эдинбурге, многие приезжают на 1-2 года. Однако заглянем на сайт www.ma.hw.ac.uk/~levitin/RussianFootball Все те, кто уехал, по-прежнему присутствуют здесь, по их электронным адресам рассылают приветы, дружеские записки и неизменные объявления «Game Tomorrow?»

Oksana Morgunova

Calling all Russian speakers, students etc

We are looking for Russian speakers willing to translate and/or help the Russian authors at this year's Book Festival. If you can volunteer either to translate at Book Festival events or to befriend some of the non-English speaking authors (show them Edinburgh, explain things etc) please get in touch. Note: none of this is likely to be paid work. Good level of both English and Russian obviously essential for interpreting at events (and some experience of this sort of thing). However you don't need brilliant Russian for befriending - and some of the younger authors especially would probably be delighted to meet students. Please tell me if you are going to be in Edinburgh 12-18 August. Contact: Jenny Carr 0131 662 9149, scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

Practical help to the needy in Russian Karelia

The St Gregory Foundation is a British Charity, which supports a variety of projects of assistance to the needy in Russia. Since 1990 it has been supporting the Russian Orthodox parish of the Dormition of the Mother of God in Kondopoga in Karelia, north of St Petersburg, near the Arctic Circle. The Episcopalian Church of the Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, has been channeling support through the St Gregory Foundation, since 2003.

Kondopoga has about 40,000 inhabitants and was founded in the 1920s to support its only major employer, the local paper mill. A nearby village gave its name to the town -it has a church, a world-famous gem of wooden Russian architecture, built in the late 18th century. Its last vicar was shot in 1930 in a routine campaign aimed at destroying religion. Father Lev, the next and current vicar came to Kondopoga exactly 60 years later, in December 1990, and set up a new church in a redundant water pumping station.

Most of the people in Kondopoga are descendents of the waves of people driven there in the Stalin era by mass deportations, collectivisation, transfer of 'volunteers' to erect the great building projects of communism. Uprooted from their homes and unable to return, then dependent on the state for decades and, since the fall of Communism, faced with the collapse of local industries, and a rate of unemployment, which for years hovered around 50%. Many people have simply given up.

Core parishioners number over 800 people and many more are occasional worshippers, much too many to fit into the tiny church. The parish house, the former administrative centre of the timber felling industry, was the main social centre for the parish, and also the main centre for the rehabilitation of both adults and children. It was the place where up to 100 people are fed every day, where up to 150 children were given instruction, love, care and attention as well as clothes, footwear and good company, the place where vagrants are offered an address and assistance, where adults looking for practical as well as spiritual salvation, may be offered not only advice, but a job. It also housed an Icon Workshop.

In April, 2005, the house was badly burned in a fire and now there is the huge task of reconstruction, so that this important work can continue.

The rehabilitation of children started on the first day of the life of the parish. Many come from families the church never sees, parents who are unemployed and broke, alcoholics, drug addicts, destitute or simply desperate. These are offered material help as they are able, including regular meals in the school holidays, but mostly they are offered love, care, instruction and a chance to be loved and cared for. In summer there are excursions, camps and hikes organised by the parish and this helps to create a group of secure and spiritually stable individuals, the basis of a future society. The parish runs a sawmill and a carpentry workshop through which many are rehabilitated - reformed alcoholics and drug addicts, disabled people, vagrants - and helped to regain a place in society. It is hoped that the sawmill may be the means by which they can eventually become independent.

Thanks to British help, small-scale farming activity has been undertaken. There are cows, a rabbit and poultry farm, pigs, potato fields, hothouses and a large vegetable garden, all providing employment for the local people. The farming and gardening activities provide the eggs, meat and vegetables needed to feed the permanent workers and the poor.

Anyone interested in finding out more or who may wish to contribute financially to the work at Kondopoga should contact Neville Long at: 0131-551 1366.

Elise Kornahrens, a social work student in Edinburgh, spent three months at Kondopoga in 2004 and the following are extracts from her report of the visit:

In the light of the recent fire and the fact that it is now nearly a year since I was in Kondopoga I find myself thinking of my time there. I spent three months with the parishioners in Kondopoga between mid-April and mid-July 2004. It was one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life.

My birthday occurred just a few weeks after I arrived in Kondopoga, and it was a day that shows the wonderful nature of life at Parish House. It was a slightly odd day in that it was a public holiday.

Parish House was not so full of its normal hustle and bustle, with most of the people who work there during the week enjoying an extra day off. The thing that made my birthday was that they made me feel special in the gifts that I was given, the cake, and the special birthday blessing that is sung with the blessing of the meal. Lunch on my birthday was wonderful. I was presented with lovely gifts some of which were very personal such as a hand painted wooden box given by Ira painted with scenes of the various chapels and churches of the parish in different seasons, and a sketch of an icon of Mary and Jesus given to me by Elena, one of the women who works painting icons. These and other gifts were overwhelming to me as one who had only been in the community for a very short period, but who already was being shown such love by the people there. Such love is something so vital to their ministry that one who knows them would hardly expect anything else. Another element of that day which will always be in my mind whenever a birthday comes around shows the fragility of life there. One of the two cows decided that it was time to give birth, but unfortunately it was a breach birth and therefore very difficult for the cow and those helping. Since it was a holiday there were not many people around and Andrei, who I was told was a past master at delivering calves, had taken the wrong moment to go for a walk. Natasha, a young woman who was there working in the kitchens, Kolya, Nina and I were the ones trying to help this poor cow. Nina, whose job it is to take care of the cows, was very much in control of the situation, but there was a point when it seemed that there would be nothing that we could do. The calf did not seem to want to be born, even though we tried to pull him out. Thankfully, indeed when left to her own devices, the cow did manage to deliver her calf, and although he was very weak to begin with over the next days and weeks he grew in strength and health.

During my time in Kondopoga I had the opportunity to take two small trips of very different natures with various members of the parish community. One was a cultural visit to St Petersburg and Novgorod, the other a journey to Finland to pick up humanitarian aid. I found it interesting and actually quite wonderful that although the parish is reliant on outside aid to continue with their ministry Fr Lev places high value on the cultural heritage that they have as Russians. He sees it as vitally important that people not only have food, clothing, pastoral and spiritual care but that they are able to appreciate the beauties of the Hermitage, of an ancient monastery in Novgorod, or of a Mozart piano sonata.

The thing that stands out for me is the love that I was shown from my arrival in St Petersburg all the way through to the time I left in July. The sincerity of people's sadness at my departure was really quite overwhelming as I had only been part of their lives for such a short time. And as I tried to immerse myself in parish life the community did everything they could to make me a part of their life. And even though my understanding and speaking of Russian did improve all the time, for the most part communication with words was difficult to say the least. But words were not needed to communicate the things which lie at the heart of the life there: love for God and for each other.

Neville Long and Elise Kornahrens.

WHAT'S ON

8-12 August Lecture series: *Great Ballets and their Music* (mostly Russian). Edinburgh University Open Studies. £60 for 5 mornings, 10am-12. Further details: 0131 650 4400, oll@ed.ac.uk

9 August Assembly Hall, The Mound, Edinburgh. 10.30-11.45pm. *Helping hand for Beslan*. Fred MacAulay (BBC Radio Scotland) and friends (may include Bill Bailey, Jeff Green, Dara O'Brian, Ed Byrne and Phil Nichols) performing in support of families affected by the Beslan tragedy. In association with the Russian Children's Welfare Society and the Council's Health and Social Care Department. Tickets: £13.50 [£11.5], 0131 226 2438 or online at www.assemblyrooms.com.

11 August Thanks to the Russian Consul-General the TV film of Boris Akunin's *Azazel* (not subtitled) will be shown at 7pm 11 August, Room 1.05 (ground floor) Boroughmuir High School, Viewforth, Edinburgh (free). There is an English translation of the novel, *The winter queen*.

5 September Royal Society BP Prize Lecture: *Russia's Fallen Heroes: men's experience of post-Soviet change*. Dr Rebecca Kay, Department of Central and Eastern European Studies, University of Glasgow. 5.30 pm (refreshments from 5pm), Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street. Open to all and free, but ticketed: phone: 0131 240 5000; e-mail events@royalsoced.org.uk <http://www.royalsoced.org.uk/>

NOTICES

Orthodox Community of St Nicholas. Dunblane: Sundays at 11am (English, with some Slavonic). University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy: Friday 5 August (6pm)/Saturday 6 August (11am), and Friday 2 September (6pm)/Saturday 3 September (11am) (Slavonic with some English). Contact: Fr Alexander Williams, Arranmhor, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ: 017876 822750, email rory.williams@clara.co.uk

Orthodox Community of St Andrew. Edinburgh: Saturdays at 6.30pm; Sundays at 9am and 10.30am. Chapel of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 9NR. Contact: Archimandrite John Maitland Moir, at the same address or phone, 0131 667 0372. Services elsewhere in Scotland: website: <http://www.edinburgh-orthodox.org.uk/>

Post in Moscow Volunteer PR and Fundraiser for Kitez-Orion Communities for Orphans wanted. Start September 2005, 1 year minimum. Contact: Liza Hollingshead, Ecologia Trust, The Park, Forres, Morayshire, IV36 3TZ. Phone: 01309 690995, email all@ecologia.org.uk

Lectureship in Russian Studies, University of Edinburgh Available from January 2006. Details: 0131 650 2511 (recruitment line) or www.ed.ac.uk. Job Reference: 3004651TH, closing date 12 August 2005.

Russo-British Chamber of Commerce is looking for a Russia Director, based in Moscow. Details: Mako Rusia, RBCC London: 020 7403 1706 or office.manager@rbcc.co.uk Deadline for application: 1 August.

Activities for Russian speaking children: Weekly clubs/schools in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Edinburgh: Iulia Kuksina 0131 476 6786, www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh Glasgow: Svetlana Zvereva 0141 956 2066, zvereva@rambler.ru

Shop in Aberdeen: specialising on European/Russian food: stock includes *pelmeni*, *kolbasa* and nostalgic sweets. 'European Food', 568 George Street, Aberdeen. Mobile: 07917420907 (Oleg).

Round the World Book Group Ottakars, Edinburgh. Seeks recommendations of authors/books (in translation and easily available) from Former Soviet Union countries. Suggestions to alecmci@supanet.com (mention SRF) http://www.ottakars.co.uk/Internet/shopevents/reading_group.jsp

Call for Humanities graduates Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (Southampton University) is looking for graduates (especially if working for the past 3 years) in English, History, Classics, Archaeology, Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies for research project. Email R.Allan@soton.ac.uk www.llas.ac.uk/projects/ilteh.aspx

Calling Nottingham Russian Department Alumni Did you study there, or have older relations who studied Russian etc at Nottingham and left photos, letters, diaries or reminisced about their student days. Former members of staff are collecting material for a history of the teaching of Russian and other Slavonic languages in the University and in its predecessor college: please write to James Muckle, 81 Rayneham Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire, DE7 8RJ, or email jymuckle@jymuckle.fsnet.co.uk

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