



# The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

Issue 11

September 2005

[www.scotlandrussiaforum.org](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org)

[scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk)

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER!

To all those who have not yet renewed their subscriptions: this is the last newsletter you will receive with your 2004/2005 subscription. Please send your renewal form to The Honorary Treasurer, Ian McGowan, 23 Blackford Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DT.

## Forum Programme September – December 2005

For details of all events contact 0131 662 9149 or [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk)

### Thursday 27 October: Agnes Ness – From Glazunov to Glasgow

(Joint meeting with Edinburgh University, Russian Department)

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.

7.30pm Cinema Room, 19 George Sq, Edinburgh (basement)

**NB: Change of venue.**

**No charge for this meeting (and no refreshments). Come in good time – latecomers may not find a seat. Phone 0131 662 9149 if you have any queries.**

### Friday 18 November: 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. A note on the Glasgow University website, where until very recently he held the Chair of Slavonic Languages and Literatures, says that 'he is anxious to encourage students to keep abreast of literary and cultural developments'. We have invited him to encourage Forum members to do likewise.

7.30pm Prince's Suite, Royal Over-Seas League, 100 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 3AB

Entry £2 for SRF members and students, £4 for others.

Non-members very welcome and everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments and conversation after the talk.

### Thursday 8 December: Catherine Merridale – Why did Ivan fight? Red Army soldiers in World War 2

Professor Merridale was recently appointed to the Chair of Contemporary History at Queen Mary College (University of London). A specialist in 20C Russian history she is particularly interested in social and cultural history and the history of violence. She will talk about her new book *Ivan's War: The Red Army 1941-45* (Faber, Oct 2005), 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.

7.30pm Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. The Dining Room (1st floor). Entry £2 for SRF members and students, £4 for others.

Non-members very welcome and everyone is warmly invited to stay for refreshments and conversation after the talk.

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.

### Akunin event at the Book Festival

*The Scotsman* described the interview of Boris Akunin by Ian Rankin, sponsored by SRF at the Book Festival 'an unexpected highlight of the Book Festival's star-studded opening day.' The interview was followed by a reception given by the Russian Consul-General Mr Malygin.



Tania Gabysheva, Boris Akunin  
and Natasha Black



Tania Konn-Roberts and Mr Malygin

### 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, continues until 30 October at the Royal Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. Monday to Saturday 10-5 (to 8pm on Tuesday) and 12-5 on Sunday: Adult £5, Concessions £4, Children £3, Family ticket £15, Group Discount 10%. NMS members and children under 5 free. Contact: 0131 247 4422 [www.nms.ac.uk](http://www.nms.ac.uk). (Highly recommended! – Ed.) There are a number of events associated with the exhibition.

Study course: *Russian history explored*. Tuesday evenings, 20 September - 25 October, 6.15-7.45pm, in the Education Centre at the Museum, Chambers Street. £24, booking essential.

Evening Lecture by Professor Ludmilla Selezneva of Moscow University: *The last Russian Tsar*, Tuesday 11 October, 6pm, NMS Lecture Theatre. £4, booking recommended.

*Paint your own Russian Doll*, 2 hour session, led by Elena Tsyplakova. Age 5+. Wednesday–Friday 19-21 October, 10.30am and 1.30pm, NMS Education Centre. £2, booking advisable.

*Russian storytelling*, 30 minute sessions by Ewan McVicar. Saturdays 1, 8, 22, 29 October at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, European Art Gallery, NMS, Chambers Street. Free – booking advisable.

### Informal Russian conversation groups

**Conversation group in Edinburgh** The Edinburgh conversation group is up and running and ready to start chatting - 7.30pm on Wednesday 28 September. If you would like to join them please email Tom on [TF895@aol.com](mailto:TF895@aol.com) for more details.

**Glasgow conversation group** 'There are 2, possibly 3 of us interested in taking part so far, but we have no native Russian speaker as yet! We would be happy to help with the person's English in return for their Russian skills. And we would promise some good, fun chat!' Contact Lisa Maclean if you'd like to join them - [l.maclean@street-papers.org](mailto:l.maclean@street-papers.org)

Also, a final year student at Glasgow University would like Russian tuition / conversation practice - if you can help please email [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk) in the first instance.

People in other towns have also enquired about conversation groups. So - wherever you are in Scotland and whatever your Russian competence (from native speaker to near beginner) please contact Jenny Carr if you'd like to join such a group and she'll put you in touch with any others in the same area. Phone 0131 662 9149 or email [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk).

### Correction

The review of the 'Russkaya muzyka' ensemble which appeared in the last Newsletter was incorrectly attributed to Margaret Mackay, when it was actually written by Stuart Campbell. Apologies to Stuart Campbell for the error.

### Expedition to Mount Elbrus

My colleague and I spent two weeks in the southern Russian Caucasus republic of Kabardinko-Balkaria and successfully climbed Elbrus (5642 metres) with some friends from North America. There were five of us: myself, my colleague, Brice, from North Dakota, USA, two others from North America who Brice had met whilst climbing Mt. McKinley in Alaska last year, and a lawyer from Wyoming that Brice and I had got to know during our climb of Aconcagua in Argentina earlier this year. High altitude mountaineering is a hobby I just took up this year to celebrate turning 40! One of my friend's ambitions is to try and climb the 'Seven Summits' – the highest mountain in each continent, so Elbrus, being the highest peak in Europe, seemed the next logical choice.

We all met up in Moscow's Domodedovo airport, took a flight to Mineralnye Vody then a three hour taxi ride to the Baksan valley. We started from Elbrus Village and climbed up the Irikchat glacier and then up the steep face of the East peak, and it took us eight days to complete the climb. We chose a route that was rarely used, partly because it involved a longer walk in, partly because the traverse across the glacier could be tricky due to numerous crevasses, and partly because the ascent was steeper and more technical than the normal tourist route. The advantage is that this side of the mountain has more spectacular scenery, is more interesting and hardly has any other climbers around. I'm still surprised that I managed to climb this slope without killing myself, and also carrying a heavy 35kg pack to the summit. We got caught in some bad weather and spent three nights in a tent perched on a cliff near the east summit. It's a beautiful volcanic crater/caldera, and we were only the fourth team this year to reach the top via this route.



It was cold at the top - minus 15 to minus 18 centigrade, and we ended up melting snow for drinking water. The hardest part was the climb up a steep snow and ice slope - it started off at 30 degrees, then just got steeper and steeper - finally it was 60 degrees. For hours I climbed up this slope with my ice axe and crampons. If I'd slipped, I would have fallen 1,000 metres down this slope and into a deep crevasse at the bottom, and probably wouldn't have survived. Thankfully I didn't make a mistake!

It was fantastic being the only people on the East Summit. Elbrus is a twin peaked volcano, with a saddle between the two. We scrambled down the East peak to the saddle, and joined the tourist route to the higher west peak. It was late in the day, and we were the last people to reach the West summit. The lack of drinking water meant that we were getting dizzy with dehydration, and I resorted to eating chunks of snow just to help myself reach the top. On the way down, the clouds moved in, so we descended in the mist, following footsteps in the snow and snow pole markers till finally reaching top of the chairlift as darkness fell. There's a collection of large metal 'Barrels' there with beds inside (which are used by organized tour groups), so I managed to buy the last remaining places that night, and persuaded some ladies in the kitchen to cook us a meal for 100 roubles each. The next morning we elected to scramble down a rocky footpath under the cablecar, and were rewarded with amazing alpine views in warm sunshine, as we made our way back to the hotel and the prospect of a hot shower, a change of clothes and a slap up meal!

Two days later, I walked down the Baksan valley to the ski resort of Cheget and took the chairlift up to 3500 metres, on the other side from Elbrus. This drops you off near the top of a mountain looking directly across to the north face of the second highest peak in the Caucasus - 'Donguz Orun', and an incredibly impressive close up view of 2500 metres of vertical rock, snow and ice walls. My colleague had wanted me to climb this peak with him, but there would have been too much technical rock climbing at the summit for me, and besides, we would have been shot by Georgian border guards on our return to the hotel if we'd tried! So instead, we went to visit a friend in the beautiful spa town of Kislovodsk, then returned to my apartment in Tula for a party!

Murray Brown

## Russian interest courses from September 2005

Information about adult education courses in Russian language, and of other courses of Russian interest in Scotland this autumn. Please contact the individual institutions for more details.

### Edinburgh

#### Edinburgh University Open Studies

Further information: 0131 650 4400 [www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk](http://www.lifelong.ed.ac.uk)

'Modern Russian history: from serfdom to Stalinism'. Wednesdays, 7-8.30pm, 10 weeks.

'Russian Classics: an introduction' (Literature). Thursdays, 6.30-8.30pm, 11 weeks.

'Stravinsky in the theatre: from *The Firebird* to *The Flood*.' Thursdays, 6.30-8.30pm, 10 weeks.

Russian language Level 1 (beginners): Wednesdays, 6.30-8.30pm, 28 weeks.

Russian language Level 2: Tuesdays, 6.30-8.30pm, 28 weeks.

Russian language Level 3: Thursdays, 6.30-8.30pm, 28 weeks.

#### City Council Adult Education Programme

Further information: 0131 469 3345 [egfl.myed.org](http://egfl.myed.org)

Russian language beginners: Wednesdays 2-4pm (10 weeks) Duncan Place Resource Centre.

Russian language beginners: Tuesdays 7-9pm (20 weeks) Broughton High School.

Russian language beginners: Tuesdays 7-9pm (20 weeks) Boroughmuir High School.

Russian language post-beginners: Thursdays 7-9pm (20 weeks) Boroughmuir High School.

#### Currie Community High School

Further information: 0131 449 5922, [www.currie.digitalbrain.com](http://www.currie.digitalbrain.com)

Russian for beginners: Mondays 7-9pm

#### Balerno Community High School

Further information: 0131 477 7733

Russian beginners: Fridays 7-9pm

#### Leith Academy

Further information: 0131 553 2810 [www.leith.edin.sch.uk](http://www.leith.edin.sch.uk)

Russian for post-beginners: Wednesdays, 7-9pm (20/26 weeks).

### Glasgow

#### Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow

For further information: 0141-330 1835 [www.gla.ac.uk/adulteducation](http://www.gla.ac.uk/adulteducation)

'Stravinsky in the theatre: from *The Firebird* to *The Flood*.' Tuesday, 2-4pm, 10 weeks.

Russian language Level 1: Tuesdays, 7.30-9.30pm, 20 weeks.

Russian language Level 2: Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm, 20 weeks.

Russian language Level 3: Mondays, 6-8pm, 20 weeks.

#### Strathclyde University, Centre for lifelong learning

0141 548 4287 [www.cll.strath.ac.uk](http://www.cll.strath.ac.uk)

Russian language Level 1: Mondays, from 3 October.

Russian language Level 2: Wednesdays, from 5 October.

Russian language Level 3: Thursdays, from 6 October.

### Dundee

#### Dundee University: 'Languages for all'

Further information: 01382 345488 or 01382 348927

[www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/LanguagesforAll/faq1.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/LanguagesforAll/faq1.htm)

Russian language Level 1: Tuesdays, 6-7.30pm.

Russian language Level 2: Wednesdays, 6-7.30pm.

#### Dundee University: Continuing Education Department

Further information: 01382 344128 [www.dundee.ac.uk/learning/conted/courses/dundee.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/learning/conted/courses/dundee.htm)

'History of Soviet cinema' Tuesdays, 6.30-8.30pm, from 18 October (8 weeks).

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Christopher Read. *Lenin: a revolutionary life*. London: Routledge, 2005. (Routledge Historical Biographies) ISBN: 0 415 20648 0 (hardback), 0 415 20649 9 (paperback).**

Christopher Read's opening assertion that 'Lenin was not born, Lenin was constructed' (p4) provides the theme for this biography. During the twentieth century, many Lenins have been constructed: among them god, master revolutionary and monster, depending on the period and the political outlook of the writer and Lenin the human being is often lost in the tendentious visions of those writing about him. This biography seeks to find the man underneath these various layers, and explores his background, upbringing, radicalisation and political development in order to arrive at a more balanced evaluation of Lenin and his legacy. The ten chapters are arranged chronologically so that the parallel exploration of the public and the private man enables the reader to see how closely the two are interrelated.

Lenin's adult life was all spent as an active revolutionary, but relatively little of it was spent in European Russia, or indeed in Russia at all, and until his return to Russia in April 1917 in the 'sealed train' provided courtesy of the German government, his life for many years had been that of a scholar and journalist living a sometimes precarious existence in various towns in western Europe: in common with most political émigrés, Lenin and his wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya, not only worried about spies, but were constantly short of money. Read explores Lenin's writings in the context of contemporary events, both within the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party and the wider revolutionary movement, as well as his private life. This helps to keep Lenin in focus as a human being instead of the revolutionary superman. Rather than being the towering figure spearheading the revolution and establishing the outlines of the Soviet economic and political system, here we have man of powerful convictions but poor health, studying the theories of socialism and the reality of a modern industrial society, but liable to attempt to force his convictions on others, and to alienate even his closest allies if he thought they were on the wrong pass, and he could be vituperative in print in attacking opposing theories and theorists.

This is a highly readable study of one of the most important figures of the twentieth century, based on sound scholarship and a detailed acquaintance with the most important sources: Lenin's own writings. As well as portraits and suggestions for further reading there is a useful chronology which sets Lenin's life in the context of his times, both in Russia and in the wider world. It is published in a series covering important historical figures (it includes one of Trotsky, written by Ian Thatcher) and aimed at a general rather than specialist readership.

Helen Williams

**Douglas Macleod. *Morningside Mata Haris: how MI6 deceived Scotland's great and good*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2005. ISBN: 1 84341 021 4**

This book has two main strands: the involvement of MI5 and MI6 in émigré and charitable organisations, and the dubious background of some of those who settled in Britain after World War II, originating in East European and the countries of the former Soviet Union, particularly a group of nearly a thousand Ukrainians brought to Scotland in 1948, settled initially near Haddington. It exposes us on the murky world of spies and counter intelligence from the 1920s to the 1940s, when 'the enemy' was sometimes Nazi and sometimes Communist.

The story itself is confusing, but no more so than should be expected of the territory: intelligence involvement has that effect. A major puzzle is the book's title, *Morningside Mata Haris*, as the book itself does not refer at all to the south Edinburgh suburb (and most if not all the spies are male). Émigré organisations especially 'campaigning charities' like the Scottish League for European Freedom and British League for European Freedom were particular targets of intelligence service because of the cover they provided. The former provides the link with Scotland, through

such characters as Kitty, Duchess of Atholl, George Waters (editor of the *Scotsman*) and the Scottish League chairman, a rather shadowy figure named John Finlay Stewart. However, most of the events described take place in London or on the European Continent and some are well known, and have been explored more thoroughly elsewhere, such as the spying activities of Kim Philby.

The book has both the strengths and weaknesses of books written by journalists: it is an entertaining read, but the story would be easier to understand if told in greater detail, and more information on the sources of information used would also have been welcome. It sheds light on some of the more obscure and unsavoury intelligence activities which took place before and during World War II, and offers some insights into the prosecution (and non-prosecution) of suspected war criminals in the 1940s and after.

Helen Williams

## WHAT'S ON

**2 October.** *The Red Army song and dance ensemble.* 7.30pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Sauchiehall Street Glasgow, G2 3NU. Box Office: 0141 353 800. [www.grch.com](http://www.grch.com)

**7-8 October.** *Grigorovich's Nutcracker* (Revival of the 1966 Moscow production). 7.30pm and 2.30 Saturday matinee. Caird Hall, Dundee. 01382 434451 [www.cairdhall.co.uk](http://www.cairdhall.co.uk)

**10-15 October.** *Grigorovich's Nutcracker.* Details as above: Kings Theatre, 297 Bath Street, Glasgow. 0141 240 1111 [www.kings-glasgow.co.uk](http://www.kings-glasgow.co.uk)

**21-22 October.** *Empire and After: the Middle East and Central Asia.* Inaugural conference, Institute of Middle East, Central Asian and Caucasus Studies, at St Andrews University. Saturday morning is devoted to talks on the Soviet legacy in Central Asia, and on Friday morning there is a talk on *Decline and fall of the Mongol Empire.* Details on [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/intrel](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/intrel). Students £25/day, academic/NGO £65 or £90 for both days.

**Hans Christian Andersen Festival:** Russian films (subtitled) at the Filmhouse, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. *The Snow Queen (Snezhnaya Koroleva)*, 1966, 1pm on Sunday 23 October and *Princess and the Pea (Printsesssa na goroshinne)*, 1976, on Saturday 29 October, 1pm. Box Office: 0131 228 2688. [www.filmhousecinema.com](http://www.filmhousecinema.com)

**14-19 November.** *Grigorovich's Nutcracker.* Details as above: The Edinburgh Playhouse, 18-22 Greenside Place, Edinburgh. Ticketmaster (booking fee applies): 0870 060 1730

**15 and 16 November.** Boyan Ensemble, performing sacred chants and songs of Ukraine. St Aloysius Church, Garnet Hill, Glasgow (0141 204 5151) on 15 November at 7.30pm. Canongate Kirk, Royal Mile, Edinburgh (0131 228 1155) on 16 November at 7.30pm. More information: 01905 350237 or email [boyanensemble@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:boyanensemble@tiscali.co.uk)

**20 November.** Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yuri Simonov. Soloist Natalia Trull (piano). *Russian Easter Overture* Rimsky-Korsakov, *Piano Concerto no 2*, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky's *Symphony no 5*. Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Open rehearsal at 6pm, pre-concert talk at 6.30pm, concert at 7.30pm. Box office: 0131 228 1155. [www.usherhall.co.uk](http://www.usherhall.co.uk)

**22 November.** St Petersburg Philharmonic conducted by Yuri Temirkanov. Programme includes: Prokofiev's *Excerpts from the Cinderella Suite*, Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini*, (soloist Denis Matsuev) and Brahms, *Symphony no 2*. 7:30pm, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Sauchiehall Street Glasgow, G2 3NU. Box Office: 0141 353 800. [www.grch.com](http://www.grch.com)

**29 November.** The Scots at War Trust will hold a witness seminar on the subject of the Arctic/Russian Convoys in World War II, led by veterans from the period, in central Edinburgh at 5.30pm. Numbers are strictly limited, and the Trust has kindly offered to make 10 tickets available to SRF members. Contact Jenny Carr (0131 662 9149 or email [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk)) who will allocate them on the basis of first come first served. No charge.

**The Great Britain–Russia Society: Autumn Programme.**

All meetings £5 (Christmas lecture + party £18) and must be pre-booked: send cheques to 'The Great Britain-Russia Society' to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Ms Ute Chatterjee, 43 Kenilworth Court, Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1EN; tel 0788 4464 461. No refunds after 7

December. Mrs. Olga Selivanova leads conversations in Russian before most talks. More details: scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

12 September, 6.30 for 7pm. *'Pushkin's last duel and recent research on it'* Mrs Alla Gelich (in Russian). Cardinal Inn, 23 Francis Street

28 September, 6.30 for 7pm *'Why people from the former U.S.S.R. are seeking asylum'* Mr. Robert Chenciner. Cardinal Inn, 23 Francis Street

11 October, 6.30 for 7pm. *'The Duma – legislative politics under Putin'* Dr. Paul Chaisty (St. Antony's College, Oxford). University of London Union Malet Street

27 October, 6.30 for 7pm. Complimentary Wine Reception from 6.30 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. *'Is the translator a friend or a traitor?'* Professor Tony Briggs (on translating *War and peace*). Swedenborg Hall, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way

10 November. Complimentary Wine Reception from 5.45 until 6.00 p.m. From 6pm until 7pm Annual General Meeting. At 7.00pm *'Putin and the power of contradiction'* Professor Richard Sakwa. University of London Union Malet Street.

28 November, 6.30 for 7.00p.m. *'Misunderstandings by Nicholas I leading to Crimean War'* Mr. Ian Roberts. Cardinal Inn, 23 Francis Street

7 December. Complimentary Wine Reception from 6.30 p.m. until 7.00 p.m. *'Russian religious thought'* His Grace, the Archbishop of Canterbury. University of London Union, Malet Street

15 December, 6.15 for 6.30pm. Double bill: lecture then Christmas party. *'Moscow 1941: A city and its people at war'* Sir Rodric Braithwaite G.C.M.G., then from 8pm until 10pm: the Christmas party with dinner (Seva Novgorodsev will sing Russian songs and ballads while playing his guitar) Chadwick Street Recreation Centre

## NOTICES

**Russian shop opens in Glasgow** *Nostalgia* 89 High Street, Glasgow, G1 1NB Tel. 0141 5525578. Food, films, music, video hire, newspapers, outside catering. Open 7 days a week, 11am-7pm.

**English lessons.** The Forum is frequently asked to suggest English language classes for Russians newly arrived in Edinburgh. We have recently received details of a course run by the English-Speaking Union. They are 8 week courses, 2 or 4 hrs per week. £120 for 4 hour course, £70 for 2 hour course (ie less than £4 per hour). Small groups (minimum 4 people), daytime or evening, qualified TEFL teachers, preparation for Cambridge Certificates, intensive weekend courses.... They MIGHT even find a Russian-speaking teacher. For more information phone: 0131 229 1528 or email director@esuscotland.org.uk (mentioning SRF). If you have experience of this or other classes OR tutors OR can offer English language tuition yourself please contact Jenny Carr (0131 662 9149 or email scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk.).

**Edinburgh Russian School** meets on Saturday mornings and welcomes applications from Russian-speaking families with children of nursery and primary school age. Term begins on Saturday 17 September at 1 East Adam Street. Fees vary depending on age of child, number of children in family etc. If interested in exam preparation classes (Standard Grade/Higher/Adv Higher/A Level?) please contact organisers to discuss. Further information: Iulia Mikhniak, tel. 0131 556 1379, jmikhniak@hotmail.com or Julia Kuksin, tel. 0131 476 6786, yulia@blueyonder.co.uk

**SCRSS Russian Information Guide 2005-2006** The new edition of the reference guide to all things Russian, hot off the press! This invaluable guide includes listings for: Russian language study, language associations, teachers, translators and interpreters; book and journal publishers and sellers and the media; Russian Federation websites (English and Russian language); art galleries, libraries, archives, museums; friendship and cultural societies; charities and trusts; business and commercial organisations; Russian Government; travel; details of Embassies of the former Soviet Union in the UK. The guide also includes a feature article by film historian John Riley: 'Exploring Russian film: past and present'. Paperback, 36 pages. Price to SCRSS members: £4.50 (plus 40p postage and packing) Price to non-members: £4.95 (plus 40p postage and packing). To buy a copy, please send a cheque made payable to 'SCRSS' to: Society for Co-operation in Russian & Soviet

Studies, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB. Tel: 020 7274 2282 Fax: 020 7274 3230; e-mail: ruslibrary@scrss.org.uk; web: www.scrss.org.uk

**Orthodox Community of St Nicholas.** Dunblane: Sundays at 11am (English, with some Slavonic). Contact: Fr Alexander Williams, Arranmhor, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ: 017876 822750, email rory.williams@clara.co.uk Please also contact Fr Alexander Williams for details of services at the University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy, in Glasgow.

**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/>

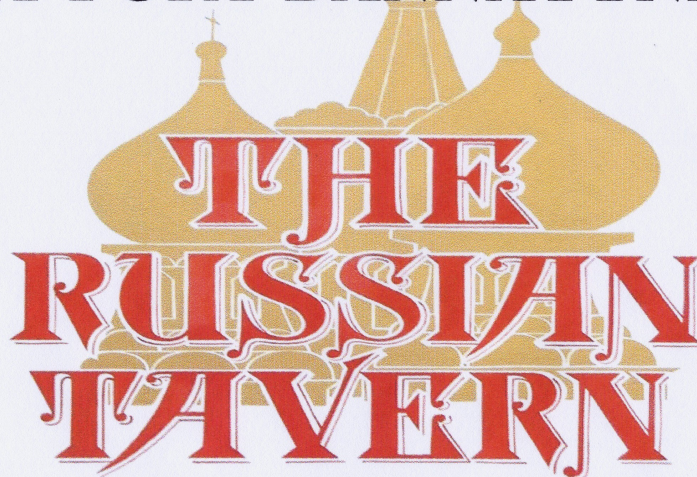
**Activities for Russian speaking children:** Weekly clubs/schools in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Edinburgh: Iulia Kuksina 0131 476 6786, [www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh](http://www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh) Glasgow: Svetlana Zvereva 0141 956 2066, [zvereva@rambler.ru](mailto:zvereva@rambler.ru)

**Charity Christmas cards.** AMUR is an Anglo Russian charity created to further conservation efforts for Amur (Siberian) tigers and leopards, whose habitat is the Russian Far East - two of the most endangered big cats on the planet. AMUR works with scientists, government officials and other wildlife conservation organisations. For more information please contact Sharon Miller: 01225 851 251 [info@amur.org.uk](mailto:info@amur.org.uk)

**Cyrillic on your computer** CILT (The National Centre for Languages) have a very useful step by step guide to downloading Cyrillic fonts on their website at <http://www.cilt.org.uk/publications/online.htm>

#### ON THE ISLE OF BUTE

AT PORT BANNATYNE



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[www.russiantavern.co.uk](http://www.russiantavern.co.uk)