



# The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

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[www.scotlandrussiaforum.org](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org)      [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk)

## Forum Programme January – April 2006

A wide variety of talks are on offer in the New Year in collaboration with an equally wide range of organisations. All talks: £2 SRF members, £4 non-members (including 'email only' subscribers), which includes light refreshments and the chance to meet speakers and each other informally. For details of all events contact 0131 662 9149 or [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Thursday 26 January. Xenia Dennen: Religious Life in Russia Today: Keston Institute's ground-breaking new survey**

Joint Scotland-Russia Forum/University of Edinburgh Divinity School event.

Xenia Dennen is Chairman of the Keston Institute and a former editor of Keston College's groundbreaking Soviet era journal *Religion in Communist Lands*. In the early 1990s she brought back to Keston Institute from Moscow reports on religion in Russia from which grew a major project - an encyclopaedia about all religions in contemporary Russia. Xenia will talk about expeditions into the Russian provinces with the Keston research team, which she describes as some of the most interesting experiences of her life.

7.30pm, The Martin Hall, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh, EH1 2LX

### **Wednesday 22 February. Ian Press: For Ever Russian: History in Russian, Russian in History**

Joint Scotland-Russia Forum/University of Edinburgh Russian Section event.

Professor Press is Established Professor in Russian at the University of St Andrews. He works in many areas of comparative grammar, mainly the Slavonic, Romance, Celtic, and Baltic languages. He will talk about topics which arise from the study of the history of the Russian language and how this relates to the history of Russia. This will interest all students of the language - including native speakers with an interest in their own history and language - though Professor Press assures us you do NOT need to know Russian to follow this talk. His new book on the same topic is due out shortly: *A History of the Russian Language and its Speakers* (Lincom Europa). Other recent publications include *Learn Russian* and *What's in a Russian Word?* as well as books on Breton and Lithuanian.

Time and venue to be notified later

### **Thursday 16 March. Lesley Chamberlain: Lenin and the Exile of the Philosophers**

Joint Scotland-Russia Forum / French Institute event.

Lesley Chamberlain is a novelist and non-fiction writer with special interests in Russia and Germany. Her new book, *The Philosophy Steamer: Lenin and the Exile of the Intelligentsia* (Atlantic Books, February 2006), is the subject of her talk this month.

In autumn 1922 around seventy Russian professors, writers, journalists and other members of the intelligentsia were forcibly expelled from their homeland. Several of them, including Berdyaev, settled in Paris, where they helped to raise the intellectual and artistic profile of the Russian emigration before the war. Lesley Chamberlain will tell their story, including what happened to the Russians who became Soviet sympathisers and the handful who joined the Resistance.

6-8pm Institut Français d'Ecosse, 13 Randolph Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7TT

Copies of the book will be on sale. Please let us know if you would like to join the speaker for a meal afterwards - details from Jenny Carr 0131 662 9149.

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.

### **Thursday 27 April: Averil King: The Russian Landscape Painter Isaak Levitan**

Isaak Levitan (1860-1900) is famous in his homeland for his lyrical representations of the Russian countryside. Sometimes credited with introducing Impressionism into Russia, he was a great friend of Anton Chekhov. Sadly he and Chekhov quarrelled bitterly, the writer satirising him mercilessly in his story *The Grasshopper*. Averil King's talk will be illustrated with slides of Levitan's paintings and copies of her book, *Isaak Levitan - Lyrical landscape* (Philip Wilson, 2004), will be on sale. 7pm, English Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent (Basement), Edinburgh

### **Informal Russian conversation groups**

The Russian-English conversation group in Edinburgh has had several meetings. *Where?* Le Marche Francais, 9a West Maitland Street (2 minutes from Haymarket Station). *When?* Saturday at 2pm. *What?* Coffee, croissants and good conversation! *Who?* People interested in learning more of Russia and its language, Russian speakers wanting to meet friends and practice English in a very pleasant family-friendly atmosphere. Contact: Tom Flanagan: TF895@aol.com or 07841 839973  
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.

### **Obituary: Terry Wade**

Terry Wade, Professor Emeritus of Russian in Strathclyde University died on 22 November. He was known and loved in Scotland and further afield by many people who have an interest in Russian, from established academics to those starting their beginner's language course.

Terry Wade was born in 1930 and grew up in Southend-on-Sea in a family of musicians. From his parents he got his gift and love for music – classical and jazz. He studied German and French at Durham University where his talent for languages was fully revealed when he achieved a First Class degree. However his real passion was for Russian which he learned in the Joint Services School for Linguists (JSSL) based in Crail. Terry was the most dedicated teacher of Russian language: he was fascinated by Russian grammar and vocabulary and an enthusiasm he communicated to many generations of students, first in the Army and after that, until his retirement, at Strathclyde University. He was the Head of the Russian Section and later the Head of the Division of European Languages, including French, German, Italian and Spanish along with Russian.

Professor Wade was an author of twelve books, including those without which no Russian course can now be imagined: *The Comprehensive Russian Grammar*, *The Russian Grammar Workbook*, *Russian Etymological Dictionary* and the *Dictionary of Russian Synonyms*. Last year, he gave a talk on Russian synonyms to the Forum, which was one of the highest attended events in the Forum's history.

Terence Wade was an outstanding academic, a prolific writer, a generous colleague, and a gentle family man. He will be remembered with warmth and gratitude by many generations of scholars, students and simply those who like the Russian language. He is survived by his wife May and two daughters, Dorothy and Caroline.

Lara Ryazanova-Clarke

### **Letter to the editor**

We are extremely lucky in having some very good speakers for our monthly gatherings, unfortunately not as well attended as one would hope, as Jenny works indefatigably finding venues for us and providing refreshments. I am a little worried that these professional people are giving of their time and expertise and are not receiving any remuneration. Speakers may not accept a fee but they should have their out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

I, for one, would be very happy to contribute more, either in the annual subscription or at the door. I would like to know what other members of the Forum feel about this.

Rosemary Denholm, Edinburgh

### **Visit to Scotland by schoolchildren from Perm**

A group of pupils and teachers from School #9 of Perm recently visited Scotland after winning a competition with a project on the nineteenth century geologist Sir Roderick Murchison. Murchison is so famous in Perm that there is a statue of him in the main street. Perm also hosts an annual Scottish cultural festival. The group travelled for 3,000 miles by coach to visit his country of origin, in a trip organised by Perm's ambassador in Scotland, Ewan McVicar. (For more information on Sir Roderick Murchison, see the article, below.)

Sadly, the trip was shortened by travel problems in Russia, but the party of twenty four children and three teachers still had a very full visit. First they went to north, via Glencoe (the connection here being Harry Potter) to Muir of Ord and Murchison's birthplace at Tarradale House.

The following day in Edinburgh, where Murchison lived for some time in a house in George Street, the party visited two schools: George Watson's College (where three members of staff including the headteacher spoke to them in Russian!) and Gracemount High School, as well as Edinburgh Castle Esplanade, Dynamic Earth, a bookshop where mounds of school books were bought. The evening was spent learning about Scottish Country Dancing.

On their final day, they spent the morning at Murchison House, the Edinburgh headquarters of the British Geological Survey, then left on their coach, aiming to attend a performance at 7.15pm in Stratford-on-Avon!

The visit was reported by the Scotsman and by BBC Scotland, and was hailed by all as a great success. Particular thanks are due to Martha Chisholm in Muir of Ord, Dr and Mrs Grant in Tarradale House, and to Neville Long, in his role as escort and guide.

### **Roderick Impey Murchison (1792-1871)**

Sir Roderick Impey Murchison was a Scottish geologist, who developed the modern classification of the Palaeozoic period, through his research on biostratigraphy (the deposition of strata indicated by fossils). During his career he defined the Silurian, Devonian and Permian strata, which replaced Greywacke and Coal Measures in the scientific literature.

Murchison was born on 19 February 1792 at Tarradale in Easter Ross, Scotland in wealthy family. He was educated at military college in Great Marlow, later serving with the army during the Napoleonic Wars. After resigning his commission in the army, he settled in England and became acquainted with Sir Humphry Davy, who persuaded him to attend lectures at the Royal Institution in London. After developing a keen interest in geology, Murchison became a fellow of the Royal Geological Society in 1825 where he presented his first paper on the geology of Sussex. Between 1826 and 1831, he examined the Jurassic rocks of England and Scotland and studied the geology of the eastern Alps. He was a founding member of the Royal Geographical Society in 1830, later serving as its president on four separate occasions, and was elected president of the Royal Geological Society in 1831.

During the 1830s, Murchison investigated previously undifferentiated rock strata in Wales and England, establishing the Silurian as a new geological system, which he described in a work of two volumes in 1839. The following year he collaborated on the establishment of the Devonian System with the Cambridge geologist, Adam Sedgwick, and later proposed the establishment of the Permian System (or period), named after Perm region of Russia, where Murchison conducted an extended survey between 1840 and 1844. He found this system most impressively developed in this region and for the first time described it as a separate system. (The Permian period is defined as the sixth and last period of the Paleozoic era - from 250 to 290 million years ago).

Knighted in 1846, Murchison was a co-founder of the Hakluyt Society, and served as its president from 1847 until his death. In 1855, Murchison was appointed director-general of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, directing his final investigations towards the geology of the Scottish highlands. He was made a K.C.B. in 1863 and a baronet in 1866 and was received numerous awards and medals throughout his career. In 1871, just before his death, he helped to establish the chair of geology at the University of Edinburgh.

Yana Zykova-Finn

## When Eagles Meet: the last Tsar and his Scottish regiment

Among the exhibits at the recent *Nicholas and Alexandra* exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland were a nineteenth century portrait by Serov of Nicholas II in the uniform of the Royal Scots Greys and an icon presented to the regiment by a Russian society, the Caledonian Society, in 2000. Both exhibits begged the question of what connection existed between a particular Scottish regiment and Russia. The story is a long one and has many of the ingredients of a fairy tale.

It all began in the seventeenth century, when a seasoned Scottish army officer, Thomas Dalrymple, (ancestor of our distinguished president), entered the service of Tsar Alexei, the father of Peter the Great. A veteran of the Civil War in England in the service of Charles I, he was quick to make his mark in Russia, helping to organise the Tsar's army and campaigning successfully against the Tartars, Turks and Poles. His services were rewarded by promotion to the rank of general and the status of noble. After the Restoration of 1660 Charles II summoned his Scottish general to take charge of royal forces in Scotland. Known as the 'Muscovy General' or 'The Bluidy Muscovite', he became a well-known participant in what came to be called 'the killing times': a domestic conflict in Scotland between Calvinist Christians who adhered rigidly to the National Covenant of 1638, opposing the introduction of the Anglican liturgy to Scottish churches; and Scottish Episcopalians supported by the King. The propaganda of the Calvinists or Covenanters roundly condemned Dalrymple and painted his character in the darkest of colours. In the eyes of his supporters and more dispassionate observers he emerged as a man of taste, education and refinement. His home at the House of the Binns was furnished with a degree of elegance uncommon in Scotland at that time; his Russian connection was underlined by his second wife, a Russian lady.

In 1681, after his successful participation in the campaign against the Covenanters – and at the request of Charles II – Dalrymple completed the raising of a cavalry regiment, the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons, later to become known as the Royal Scots Greys. There is some debate about this name: according to some, the name originates from the grey uniform worn by General Tam's regiment; others claim it is linked to the horses ridden. Whatever the origin of the name, this Scottish regiment had a strong whiff of Russia about its birth. It did not yet sport an eagle as its emblem to match the double-headed eagle of Russia: this had to wait until 1815. At the Battle of Waterloo, the French 45<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, which had performed with distinction at Austerlitz against the Russian cavalry, had its Imperial Eagle standard seized and captured by Sergeant Charles Ewart of the Royal North British Dragoons – formerly the Royal Regiment of Scots Dragoons and later, the Royal Scots Greys. In commemoration of this incident the regiment adopted Napoleon's eagle as its cap badge.

Throughout the nineteenth century the relations between Britain and Russia were decidedly cool. The animosity was helped by the serious conflict between Russia and a coalition of Britain, France, Turkey and Sardinia, between 1853 and 1856 known as the Crimean War. The stirring poem by poet laureate Tennyson ensured that future generations would remember the charge of the Light Brigade in that war; the defence of the pass at Balaclava by the 'Thin Red Line' of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders also entered the realm of legend. The charge of the Heavy Brigade at Balaclava is less well-known: the Royal Scots Greys played a prominent part, and two non-commissioned officers of the Greys received Victoria Crosses.

The Russians had in their ranks an officer who was to become a 'general' in letters – Leo Tolstoy. His *Sebastopol Sketches* met with the approval of Tsar Nicholas I, who ordered that special care be taken to safeguard the Tolstoy's life. Some years later, his experiences at Sebastopol helped him to write with authority about military matters in his epic novel *War and Peace*.

The Crimean War was the only time the Scots and Russian eagles were in direct conflict, but its effect, allied to suspicion of Russian ambitions over India, created an atmosphere of diplomatic coolness that prevailed to the end of the century. It was largely due to the efforts of British royalty that some warmth was infused into this chilly relationship. Much credit for this must be given to the then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. He first visited Russia for the marriage of his sister-in-law

to the future Tsar Alexander III in St Petersburg. This was followed in 1881 by a visit to attend Alexander II's funeral, and the inauguration of Alexander III. The Prince managed to persuade his formidable mother, Queen Victoria, to confer the Order of the Garter on the new tsar.

On Alexander III's death at Livadia in the Crimea, the Prince represented Britain at the funeral. The wife of the new tsar, Alexandra, was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria and a favourite one at that; her husband, Nicholas II, was related to the Prince through his mother. These family links were honoured in the form of a birthday present: the honorary colonelcy of the Royal Scots Greys. At last, the eagles were able to meet on friendly terms. In 1895 to formalise the offer, a deputation of three officers and a senior non-commissioned officer was sent to St Petersburg. The deputation's first official engagement was at the cathedral in the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul to attend a memorial service in honour of the late Tsar Alexander III. This was followed by a short call at the Anichkov Palace, where the deputation was received by the Tsar and Tsarina. The Tsar dressed in the Greys' uniform to make it clear that he was proud to be the colonel-in-chief of the regiment.

The cultural activities arranged for the deputation were many and varied. A bucolic lunch at the mess of the Chevalier Guards was an example of legendary Russian hospitality and high spirits; a visit to the Mariinsky Theatre to see Swan Lake in its newly choreographed form impressed as a show-piece of Russian cultural genius, and yet another church service, this time at St Izaak's, was a reminder to the deputation of the appellation of 'Holy Russia'. All this was a prelude to a formal dinner given by the Tsar in honour of the visitors. The Tsar, again in the uniform of the Greys, proposed toasts to Queen Victoria and to his Scots regiment, the Royal Scots Greys.

In 1896, one year after the Greys' visit, the Tsar and Tsarina made their appearance in Scotland. It was an informal visit to give Alexandra the opportunity of introducing her husband and showing off her first born child, Olga, to the old queen. They arrived in Leith in the Imperial Yacht Shtandart and were conveyed in pouring rain to Leith station, from where they completed their journey to Ballater and Balmoral. In both Leith and at Balmoral the Imperial couple were escorted by detachments from the Royal Scots Greys.

Thirteen years later the Imperial couple were once again in Britain, this time in Cowes during Regatta week. The Tsar took the opportunity of inviting a group of officers and bandsmen from the Regiment on board the Imperial Yacht Shtandart. Although this was to be his personal farewell to his Scots regiment, of which he was extremely proud, he remembered it again in 1915 during the First World War when he ordered the award of the Order of St George to 20 officers and men of the Greys for bravery on the front.

With the murder of the Imperial family in Ekaterinburg in 1918 the link between the Regiment and its Russian colonel-in-chief was broken, but the memory of the connection lived on. One custom in the officers' mess bore testimony to this. On evenings when the band was present at dinner, the musicians included in their repertoire not only the national anthem and 'God Bless the Prince of Wales', but also the Imperial Russian anthem in honour of Nicholas II. Also not forgotten was the memory of the man who founded the regiment, General Thomas Dalrymple. In 1935 the Regiment visited the House of the Binns on a recruiting drive, and in 1971 on a pilgrimage before amalgamating with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Carabiniers to form the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards. At the time of the amalgamation the memory of the Russian connection was slipping into history.

In 1998, however, this was to change. In that year it became known that the ashes of the Imperial family were being taken from Ekaterinburg to St Petersburg for interment in the burial place of the tsars, the Cathedral in the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul. The Regiment responded quickly; and a deputation of four, including the commanding officer and the pipe major, was sent to Russia to participate in the funeral ceremonies. During a rehearsal at the Fortress of St Peter and St Paul the visitors were informed that they would be marching directly in front of the coffins. For the march through the gates of the Fortress the Pipe Major played a selection of slow marches, concluding with the moving air 'Going Home'.

The story does not end there; in 2000 the Caledonian Society of Moscow, a Russian society, presented the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards with an icon depicting Tsar Nicholas II, who was

canonised that year. The icon now accompanies the Regiment on all its deployments overseas. The portrait by Serov of Nicholas II in the uniform of the Royal Scots Greys, which hangs in the room of the colonel-in-chief of the Royal Scots Dragoon, at the Home Headquarters in Edinburgh Castle Guards. It is as though the Tsar still keeps watch over his beloved regiment. Dairmid Gunn

### BOOK REVIEW

Hugh Barnes, *Gannibal: The Moor of St. Petersburg*, Profile Books, London, 2005. xv+300pp. Illustrations, Notes, Bibliography, Index. ISBN 1-86197-365-9. £16.99.

Gannibal, the Russian variant of Hannibal, was the name adopted by the man who became 'The Moor of St. Petersburg'. He was also the great-grandfather of Alexander Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet, as well as an ancestor of the Mountbattens and others related to the Windsors, some of them living in Scotland today. In a short work entitled *The Negro of Peter the Great*, Pushkin set out to produce a biography. But the difficulties of finding out the facts combined with a fertile imagination to turn the work into an unfinished novel: Pushkin closed his untidy manuscript (including a marginal self-portrait emphasising his own African features) with the words 'Sit down, you scoundrel, let's talk' and a line of dots.

To his untimely end, Pushkin kept on his desk a bronze inkstand which included a statuette of a 'blackamoor' leaning on an anchor between two inkwells representing bales of cotton. The inkstand must have been a constant reminder of his mysterious forebear, though he was never able to establish Gannibal's exact identity. Indeed, there are still some elusive elements in the biography, but Hugh Barnes is to be congratulated on some persistent research which uncovered much which had remained hidden for hundreds of years. A journalist as well as a Russian specialist, Barnes made impressive use of his travels not only in Russia but also in Africa. On occasion, he found himself in a blind alley. For example, a portrait kept in an attic of the Pushkin Museum in St. Petersburg turned out to be not of Gannibal, but of an unidentified white man. Another painting of a Negro of Peter the Great, by the French artist Jean-Baptiste Van Loo, certainly had an African as a subject, but he turned out to be a 'court Arab' named Piter Yelayev.

However, among other discoveries, Barnes established beyond reasonable doubt the meaning of the word 'FUMMO' to be found on Gannibal's crest, along with an elephant at the centre of his family crest and a crown above perhaps representing an African land ruled by his father. When professional duties took him to Logone-Birni near Lake Chad in equatorial Africa, Barnes met the present Sultan Muhammad Bahar Maruf, possibly as much Gannibal's distant relation as the others in Britain. He was interested to confirm that the Kotoko people were closely associated with the elephant, astounded to learn from their Sultan himself that the word 'fummo' meant 'homeland'.

Barnes tells his tale in a gripping manner, setting out not only what can be discovered of Gannibal's provenance but also what is known of his long and varied career in Russian service. For example, he acted as Peter the Great's secret agent in Estonia, going on to set out the principles of cryptography for his tsarist master in a work entitled *Geometry and Fortification*. At the Tsarevich Alexei's wedding in Saxony, he dined at the same table as Leibniz, the philosopher and mathematician, and discussed with him military engineering and educational reform as well as cryptography. In Paris in 1717, Gannibal was introduced by Voltaire to Montesquieu, who described him as the 'dark star of Russia's enlightenment.' Soon after the death of Peter, however, his fortunes changed and he was sent to Siberia, certainly not to measure the Great Wall of China, as Pushkin alleged, but into virtual exile which nevertheless did indeed take him to the Far East. In Selenginsk, he may well have met British missionaries, one of whom is still commemorated by a twenty-foot obelisk inscribed *Memoriae Marthae Cowie, Fidelis Uxor, Nata in Scotia in Urbe Glasguae*.

Although his career ended far less gloriously than it began, Gannibal survived into the reign of Catherine the Great, living much of the time at his estate near Pskov, Mikhailovskoye. Unfortunately, the Empress showed little interest in him, more in any papers of Peter the Great that

may have been in his keeping. Disappointed, but with a flag emblazoned 'Fummo' fluttering on his rooftop, he spent many hours cultivating his garden before his death in May 1774. There was no official death notice, and only a modest funeral. As Barnes says, Gannibal's lasting epitaph had to wait for Pushkin, who celebrated his ancestor in verse and prose, and whose admirers built a monument to Gannibal at Mikhailovskoye paying tribute to 'a Russian mathematician, a builder of fortresses and canals'. Paul Dukes, FRSE, Emeritus Professor, University of Aberdeen

## WHAT'S ON

### **Movement and shadows: the magic of Sharmanka theatre**

See captivating kinetic sculptures, carved figures and scrap metal performing incredible choreography. Suitable for age 5+. National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, until 15 January. Performances every 30 minutes from 10.15am to 4.15pm. Adult £4, concessions £3, under 12s £2. Details: 0131 248 4422.

### **Sharmanka Kinetic Circus on tour**

Exhibition featuring a set of kinetic sculptures built by Eduard Bersudsky 2003-2005. Supported by the Scottish Arts Council. An Lanntair, Stornoway, to 28 January; Callendar House, Falkirk, February-May; Swanson Gallery, Thurso, 2 June-2 July; Museum and Art Gallery, Inverness, 14 July-6 August; The Iona Gallery, Kingussie, 18 August-11 September.

### **Russian Winter Festival, Trafalgar Square, 14 January 2006, 11 – 6.30 pm**

Free family event. Authentic Russian food and drink, hundreds of singers and dancers from all over Russia, stalls, children's corner with activities and workshops, street entertainers, clowns and circus performers, live rock and pop bands, including DDT, Brothers Grimm and Blestyaschiye, special New Year moment marked by light, sound and special effects and the Kremlin Guards! Official Festival Charities: CAF – Lifeline Project & Northern Crown. Further information: +44 (0)20 7510 2560, email sk@eventica.co.uk, or consult [www.eventica.co.uk](http://www.eventica.co.uk).

### **Weekend with Pasternak**

21-22 January 2006. Organised by the UK Shostakovich Society with the Cambridge Russian Speaking Society. Saturday 21 January, Fitzwilliam College Auditorium, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, 7pm: 'Music in the life of Boris Pasternak: Shostakovich, Scriabin and Yudina'. Talk by Evgeny Pasternak. 8pm: 'Music by Shostakovich, Scriabin and Pasternak (pianist, Marina Primachenko)'. Sunday 22 January, Lecture Theatre, Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road, Cambridge, 7pm: 'My father: a talk by Evgeny Pasternak' (in Russian). Social reception afterwards. Details and tickets from Lewis Owens (Lo201@cam.ac.uk) or Gerald Bishop (gerbish@btinternet.com). UK Shostakovich Society website: <http://www.shostakovich-uk.com/>

### **Jazz in the USSR**

Day course run by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Glasgow, on Saturday 11 March 2006, tutor William Newman. Cost £25, venue to be arranged. Details: phone 0141-330 1835, [www.gla.ac.uk:443/departments/adult education/index](http://www.gla.ac.uk:443/departments/adult%20education/index)

### **Russian language classes**

City of Edinburgh: Beginners level, Wednesday 7-9pm, 8 weeks, Boroughmuir High School, Viewforth, Edinburgh. £40 (concessions). There are also continuing classes at Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Strathclyde. The beginners class at Dundee University will accept new members with some knowledge of the language into the second semester. [www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/LanguagesforAll/AllRussian.htm](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/languagestudies/LanguagesforAll/AllRussian.htm)

### **From the editor**

After editing the *Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter* for three years, I have decided that it is time to step down. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the newsletter in any way, and would also like to wish my successor, Ann Caldwell, all the best for the future. Helen Williams



## NOTICES

**Edinburgh Russian School** The Saturday school for Russian speaking children has moved to Drummond Community High School and is now participating in the Council's 'Heritage Language' programme. Lessons start at 12, finish 2pm. Further details: Julia Kuksin yulia@blueyonder.co.uk

**Russian newspapers.** *Izvestia*, *Moskovsky Komsomolets* and other newspapers are now regularly on sale at International Newsagents, High St, Edinburgh (opposite St Giles). Prices £1.30-1.50.

**Translations for Progress** New public service offering free volunteer translations to the global NGO community, created to assist NGOs in need of translation work, but without the budget to pay for it, and students or professionals of foreign languages who are interested in building experience as translators, developing familiarity with organizations in their region of interest, and contributing to a good cause. Volunteer translators are linked with organizations by means of a searchable online database. Brendan Luecke, Translations for Progress, bjluecke@hotmail.com

The service is free, but users are required to register in order to list a profile on the site or contact translators and organizations through the database. <http://www.translationsforprogress.org/>

**Sharmanka on DVD.** A new version is available. NOTE: Sharmanka will be moving temporarily to the South Block of the King Street Building in Glasgow during the major redevelopment. From 1 April 2006: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 64 Osborne Street, Glasgow, G1 5QH. 0141 552 7080, [www.sharmanka.com](http://www.sharmanka.com)

**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](mailto: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 – Vespers at 6.30pm; Sundays – Matins at 9am and Holy Liturgy at 10.30am. Also daily Matins at 7.30am and Vespers at 6.20pm. 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/>

## ON THE ISLE OF BUTE

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