

The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

Issue 6 June 2004

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FORUM CHAIR HONOURED

Scotland Russia Forum Chair, Meg Luckins was recently presented with the '300 years of St Petersburg' medal at the Russian Consulate in Edinburgh. It was presented to her by the Consul General of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Malygin, and was awarded in recognition of her work in connection with the tercentenary celebrations in St Petersburg last year. Meg is pictures on the right with Mr and Mrs Malygin, after the presentation of the medal in May.



Saturday School for Russian speaking children launched in Edinburgh

A Saturday school/club for children started during the Spring: it has now closed for the summer but will restart at the beginning of September, probably on the premises of the Orthodox Church in Edinburgh. It meets at 11am.

The children are divided into two groups: 4-5 years and 6+. A few toddlers also attend. There are currently about 40 families who have expressed an interest. If you are interested, contact Iulia Kuksina 0131 476 6786, or see the website at: <http://www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh>

Film Club

The film club has had a successful session, and special thanks are due to Ian McGowan for his generous hospitality. However, latterly numbers have been disappointingly small. The co-ordinator, Natasha Black, will be happy to continue showing films, starting again in the autumn, but would be grateful for some input from members of the Forum. To begin preparing for the autumn session, Natasha needs to know soon how many members are interested in attending and if they have ideas as to the type of films they would like to see: any other constructive suggestions would be welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE for the Autumn Programme 2004

Thursday 9 September: Meg Luckins – Kyrgyzstan 'Land of the Celestial Mountains'

Kyrgyzstan was crossed by Silk Roads centuries ago yet its mighty Tian Shan mountains, forming the Soviet Union's impressive border with China, helped to keep this small land impenetrable to visitors during the Soviet period. Illustrated with slides, this lecture will focus on the rich history and ancient hospitable cultures as well as tremendous scenic beauty and diversity of a country opened again to the world just over a decade ago. Meg Luckins is Honorary Consul for the Kyrgyz Republic in Scotland. 7.30pm English Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent (Basement), Edinburgh.

Full details of the Forum's autumn programme will be in the September issue of the Newsletter, but note the following dates for your diary: both meetings will be at 7.30pm in the Dining Room on the first floor, Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. All talks £2 members and students, £4 non-members (including informal drinks afterwards).

Wednesday 27 October - Terry Wade: Using Russian Synonyms

Tuesday 23 November - Simon Franklin: Russia, Russians, Russianness and the enigmas of national identity.

Kruzhok and Film Club

There will be a meeting at 7pm on Monday 13 Sept, at 50 Marchmont Crescent, Edinburgh to agree 2004-5 programmes for the Kruzhok and the Film Club. Please telephone 0131 662 9149 if you plan to come – or post any suggestions for either group to Jenny Carr at that address.

Business Seminar

In March, the Forum organised a successful seminar on doing business with Russia. It was aimed particularly at those new to doing business with Russia and was the first of its kind in Scotland. Those attending were heard to express a hope that similar meetings could be organised in the future.

Reviewers wanted!

We have a book review in this issue: see the next item. Have any other readers enjoyed any books about Russia recently, or seen any Russian films? Would you like to tell others about them? Please contact the editor with any suggestions for review, or even better, with reviews themselves. Also a new restaurant with a Russian theme (called 'Da da da') has opened in Shandwick Place in Edinburgh – has anyone been there, and would they like to let us know what it was like? Contact the Editor with suggestions or items for the Newsletter: details are at the foot of the page.

The best way to learn why you keep your fingers crossed and what the dickens is (apart from the famous writer's name)!

The author, a former Russian Language teacher, presents a collection of his contributions to *The Russian London Courier*, the London-based newspaper which provides the local Russian community with information about business and cultural events in the UK.

It is well-known that English is rich in idioms with native speakers keen to embellishing their speech with so-called 'winged words' and sayings. As a result many foreigners find themselves 'completely in the dark' just because the meaning of a particular word or expression is unknown. Moreover, since English in common with all language is in a constant process of development, even experienced users of English can sometimes find it hard to catch exactly what is being said.

Brian Lockett's dictionary represents the wonderful attempt to resolve this problem. Explanations of those English words, sayings, expressions, etc. which are not commonly found in standard dictionaries including neologisms, regionalisms, euphemisms, slang, Americanisms are represented in the form of a well-written, entertaining and informative book.

The book contains over 2000 idioms and provides not only the translation and meaning of the particular phraseological unit but also the etymology and origin of words, which in many cases are quite interesting and unusual. It is also fascinating to see how the meaning and use of words has changed over the years. Thus, the book gives a brilliant opportunity to improve English language knowledge as well as to learn about interesting historical facts and to pick up some cultural assumptions. Whilst this book is not the first such type of dictionary it is, definitely, the most recent and up to date and as such it should make a very welcome and valuable addition to the library of anyone with an interest in the English language.

Yana Zykhova

Английский язык: вчера, сегодня и завтра (English: yesterday, today and tomorrow). Брайан Локетт. – М.: Рус. Яз. – Медиа, 2003. – 608 с. [Angliiski yazyk: vtchera, segodnia i zavtra. Brian Lockett. – Moskva: "Russki Yazyk Media", 2003. 608 s.]

We have received an appeal for help from Brian Lockett. Could Forum members contribute any Scottish sayings?

Дорогие друзья,

I have been writing a column in what is now called The Russian London Courier for about ten years, explaining in Russian those English words, sayings, expressions, etc. which are not commonly found in standard dictionaries. I try to describe the origins, changes of meaning over the years and current usage of such phrases as Hobson's choice, esquire, egosurfing, AC/DC, Dutch treat. I would like to hear from anyone (particularly a native Russian speaker) about English phrases which puzzle or interest them, so that I can include them in my column.

Please send any suggestions directly to Brian brian.lockett2@btopenworld.com

JAMES WYLIE: A FAMOUS SCOT REMEMBERED

James Wylie is probably much better known in Russia than in his native Scotland. An account of the recent unveiling of a plaque at his birthplace is given below, in both its original English, and translated into Russian. For those who know little about him: Wylie was the son of a minister, and studied medicine at Edinburgh University. He originally went to Russia as an army doctor in 1790, later becoming well known as a surgeon. As well as establishing a hospital, he founded the *Voенно-медитсинский журнал* (Journal of military medicine) and was head of the St Petersburg Medical-Surgical Academy from 1808-1838. More details can be found on the website <http://www.300online.ru>

On a chilly, grey afternoon on the 13 April 2004 a short ceremony took place in the Fife town of Kincardine to celebrate the memory of one of its most distinguished sons, Sir James Wylie. This distinguished doctor had served four heads of state of Russia - the Empress Catherine II (better known as Catherine the Great), and the tsars Paul I, Alexander I and Nicholas I. The ceremony took the form of unveiling a plaque on the High Street near the War Memorial, preceded by a thoughtful and stirring address by Mrs Margaret Street, a member of the Scotland - Russia Forum. Her efforts over a period of three years had led to the erection of the plaque by the Kincardine Community Council. In her address, Margaret stressed the importance of remembering a Scot like Wylie both as a mark of respect and a way of enriching the present and the future of both Kincardine and Scotland. Mrs Barbara Neish, the great-great-great-grand niece of James Wylie, had flown in from her home in Bermuda to attend the occasion and unveil the plaque. Presiding over the ceremony was Community Council Convenor Eunice Ferguson, whose husband William, also a Council member, had been a great supporter of the project. Among those attending were a number of distinguished doctors, including Dr John Wilson of Lochmaben, a pioneer in the study of Scots doctors in the service of Russia, and Dr Peter Semple, well known to Forum members through his fascinating talk on Wylie in the autumn of last year.

At a lunch prior to the event, I had the pleasure of having a long conversation with Barbara Neish about not only her famous medical forebear but also her seafaring ancestors. These were the descendants of James's brother, William, (James did not marry), a headmaster who earned the family sobriquet of 'The Domine of Dundee'. One of his daughters married a Captain James Neish of a family of seafarers. Barbara's great grandfather, William Wylie Neish, was born in Macao on board his father's ship, the Fort William, a name that was eventually to be given to the family house in Broughty Ferry. This fine residence was later to become the Royal Tay Yacht Club. Captain James's brother, Thomas Neish, was the initiator of the jute trade, for which Dundee became famous; he also had trading connections with the Baltic and was an importer of Russian goods - a business that led to his becoming Russian Vice Consul in Dundee. These Dundee and Broughty Ferry connections were so strong that Barbara Neish felt it appropriate that the albums and records pertaining to all her ancestors should be lodged with the Royal Tay Yacht Club under the careful supervision of a Captain Hamish Robertson, who had done so much to preserve one of Dundee's seamarks, the North Farr Lightship.

Although proud of her maritime connections, Barbara was in no doubt of the supreme importance of James Wylie for her. His service to the Russian state read like an adventure story: service in a high capacity in the Russian army through over 20 battles (including the Battle of Borodino, vividly fictionalised in *War and Peace*); service as personal physician to the tsars Alexander I and Nicholas I; benefactor to the Russian nation through his bequest of money for the building of a hospital in St Petersburg, which still bears his name. Barbara felt sad that Wylie was so much better known in Russia than in his native Scotland. In this context, one of the winners of a student contest in Russia to get to know Scotland better would be visiting the Royal Tay Yacht Club to view the building itself and the Neish and Wylie documents in it. Strangely enough, a second successful contestant would be visiting another important site in Broughty Ferry - the ancestral home of the writer, the late Eugenie Fraser, who gave talks on a couple of occasions to members of the Forum's predecessor organisation, the Britain-Russia Centre, on her enchanting book *The House by the Dvina*.

What gave Barbara Neish immense pleasure was the interest shown by members of the Forum in Sir James Wylie and the wonderful work carried out in the spirit of the great man by the medical charity concerned with Russia and run by Dr Peter Semple. For Margaret Street, the supreme organiser, the erection of the plaque in Wylie's birthplace was simply a dream come true. The wording on the plaque is loosely based on the suggested wording given by her to the Kincardine Community Council. It says much, but not all:

Sir James Wylie, Bart. Born Kincardine 1768 - A pioneering medical Scot - Honoured by Russia, Britain, France and Prussia - Founder of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy of St Petersburg where his generous bequest endowed a clinic - Died St Petersburg 1854. *Labore et Scientia* by Work and Knowledge - Erected by Kincardine Community Council. Dairmid Gunn

Память о великом шотландце

Холодным пасмурным днем 13 апреля 2004 года в городке Кинкардин (Kincardine), что в Файфе, прошла скромная церемония, посвященная памяти одного из прославленных сынов Шотландии, сэра Джеймса Уайли (Sir James Wylie). Этот выдающийся доктор трудился на благо России во времена правления четырех самодержцев – Императрицы Екатерины II (Екатерина Великая), царей Павла I, Александра I и Николая I и был известен там как Яков Васильевич Виллие.

В ходе церемонии на High Street, около Военного Мемориала, Общественным Советом Кинкардина (Kincardine Community Council) была торжественно открыта мемориальная доска, чему предшествовало глубокое и волнующее обращение к собравшимся Миссис Маргарет Стрит (Margaret Street), участницы Русско-Шотландского Форума. Это благодаря ее усилиям последних трех лет установление мемориальной доски в конце концов состоялось. В своей речи Маргарет отметила важность сохранения памяти о таких шотландцах как Уайли, и в смысле дани уважения этим людям, и для преумножения культурного и исторического богатства не только Кинкардина, но и всей Шотландии. Миссис Барбара Нейш (Barbara Neish), племянница Джеймса Уайли в пятом поколении, специально прилетела на церемонию с Бермудских островов, где она живет, чтобы принять участие в открытии памятной доски. Председательствовала на церемонии глава Общественного Совета Кинкарди Юнис Фергусон (Eunice Ferguson), чей супруг Уильям, также член Совета, внес огромный вклад в удачное завершение проекта.

Среди присутствующих на церемонии были и известные врачи, в их числе – доктор Джон Уилсон (John Wilson) из Лохмабена (Lochmaben), первый, кто начал исследовать историю врачей-шотландцев, оказавшихся в России, и доктор Питер Сэмпл (Peter Semple), хорошо известный членам Форума благодаря своему докладу о Джеймсе Уайли осенью прошлого года.

Во время предшествовавшего открытию ланча я имел удовольствие беседовать с Барбарой Нейш, и не только о сэре Уайли, но также и о ее далеких предках-мореплавателях.

У брата Джеймса, Уильяма, работавшего директором школы в Данди и носившего прозвище «Господь Бог в Данди» ('The Domine of Dundee'), было несколько детей (Джеймс не был женат). Одна из дочерей вышла замуж за потомственного моряка, капитана Джеймса Нейша (James Neish). Прадед Барбары, Уильям Уайли Нейш, родился в Макао на борту корабля «Форт Уильям», которым командовал его отец и имя которого унаследовал в итоге их дом в местечке Броти Фэрри (Broughty Ferry), что около Данди. Это место теперь занимает Королевский яхт-клуб (Royal Tay Yacht Club). Брат Джеймса Нейша, Томас, организовал торговлю джутом, за счет чего городок Данди получил известность. Томас Нейш также стоял у истоков установления торговых связей с Балтией и импортирования товаров из России. Занятие этим бизнесом привело его к получению поста вице-консула России в Данди.

Связи с Данди и Броти Фэрри были настолько сильны, что Барбара Нейш сочла необходимым передать личный архив ее семьи Королевскому яхт-клубу, на попечение капитана Хамиша Робертсона (Hamish Robertson), который проделал огромную работу по сохранению одного из водных ориентиров Данди, плавучий маяк North Farr.

Испытывая гордость за своих предков-моряков, Барбара вместе с тем не подвергает ни малейшему сомнению важность для нее Джеймса Уайли. История его жизни и работы в России читается как приключенческий роман: служба в высоком чине в российской армии, участие в более чем 20 сражениях (включая Бородинское, так живо изображенное в «Войне и мире»), служба в качестве личного врача царей Александра I и Николая I, завещание сбережений на строительство больницы в Санкт-Петербурге, до сих пор носящей его имя. Барбара была огорчена тем фактом, что в России имя Джеймса Уайли известно лучше, чем в его родной Шотландии. В этой связи, один из победителей российского конкурса на лучшие знания о Шотландии, посетит Королевский яхт-клуб в Данди с тем, чтобы увидеть своими глазами и здание, где когда-то жила семья Уайли, и семейный архив.

Второй победитель конкурса посетит другую достопримечательность в Broughty Ferry – дом покойной Юджины Фрейзер (Eugenie Fraser), писательницы, которая в своей время выступала перед членами тогда еще Центра Британия-Россия (Britain - Russia Centre), организации-предшественницы Форума, с рассказом о своей великолепной книге «Дом на Двине» (*The House by the Dvina*).

Грандиозное впечатление на Барбару Нейш прозвело интерес членов Форума к личности сэра Джеймса Уайли, а также замечательная работа, проделанная медицинским благотворительным обществом в пользу России и организованная Питером Сэмплом (совершенно в духе ее предка!). Для главного организатора, Маргарет Стрит, установление памятной доски на доме, где родился Джеймс Уайли, было просто осуществлением заветной мечты. Надпись на доске, составленная по ее предложению, говорит о многом, хотя, не может сказать обо всем:

*Сэр Джеймс Уайли, баронет. Родился в Кинкардине в 1768 году. Выдающийся шотландский медик – отмечен почетными знаками и наградами России, Британии, Франции и Пруссии. Основатель Медико-хирургической Академии в Санкт-Петербурге, где по его завещанию и на его средства была построена клиническая больница. Умер в Санкт-Петербурге в 1854 году. *Labore et Scientia - Трудом и знанием.* Доска установлена Общественным советом Кинкардина.*

Дэрмид Ганн (переводит: Яна Зыкова)

Russian language teaching in Scotland

The state of Russian language teaching in Scotland has been under public discussion recently. Some Forum members may have noticed letters on the subject in the *Scotsman*: the original full versions are given below. As mentioned in the first letter, Edinburgh MSP Mike Pringle asked a number of questions in the Scottish Parliament about recent student numbers for Russian at both secondary school and university level. The questions and answers are available on the Scottish Executive website at http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/webapp/search_wa

Search on Mike Pringle + 'Higher Education', 'Language Training' and 'School Curriculum' to see the Questions and the Executive's response. The detailed figures from the universities are being collated and it is hoped that the full picture will be available in time for the September issue of this Newsletter.

Dear Editor,

On 5 May the Scotsman wrote that Russians are now "the biggest growth market in Scottish tourism" (*From Glasnost to Gleneagles - why the Russians are rushing to Scotland*) and that hoteliers are desperately trying to teach their staff to communicate in Russian.

Meanwhile two of the five remaining Scottish university departments of Russian are in the process of closure and the subject has disappeared from the school curriculum.

On 8 May the Scottish Association of Language Teachers (SALT) held its biannual Russian Day, an event designed for teachers to exchange practices and methods of modern language teaching. Over 30 people got together: good attendance, enthusiastic faces, inspiring discussion. But who are these people talking about Russian school teaching? Translators, postgraduate students, part-time private tutors, the occasional university lecturer and one or two full-time school teachers. Full-time on French, German or other modern languages that is, but qualified to teach Russian – and eager to do so. Nor is there a shortage of inventive and innovative approaches to the teaching of Russian: the *Ruslan* materials produced by one of Saturday's speakers have won the DTI Languages for Export Award.

Why then is Russian not offered in Scottish schools? There is no sinister conspiracy: the reasons are all too familiar. Funding problems, rationalisation of teaching, optimisation of resources... But the result is devastating. The language of one fifth of the Earth's territory is not available to Scottish pupils. And this is at a time when the importance and relevance of Russian is higher than ever. Russian is not only the native language of 'the richest man in Britain' Roman Abramovich and well-heeled tourists. But also of a country rich in resources, which is at last starting to fulfil its economic potential. With Russia's GDP rising at around 7%, rich reserves of oil and gas, and a highly educated population it is no surprise that Scottish businesses are taking an interest. British energy companies have led the way recently with huge investments in Russia, and companies in that industry from the north east of Scotland are very involved in that field. Other traditional Scottish exports are booming – Irn-Bru, whisky, woollens and tweeds, Walkers shortbread... Other Scots companies are using Russian computer skills to outsource high tech parts of their business.

In addition, Russian is still vital for communication with countries of the former Soviet Union, such as the oil states of the Caspian and some Eastern European countries. Perhaps few Scottish people are aware that 30% of population of new EU members Latvia and Estonia speak Russian, thus giving Russian the status of an EU language!

In the depths of the Cold War in the 1970s, when contact was minimal and business an uphill struggle, a quarter of British schools had Russian on their curriculum. Why now, 10 years after Russian society has been opened to the West, when business, social, and cultural contacts between our countries are better than ever, has Russian been discarded?

There is some understanding of this problem at the higher national level. The Scottish Parliament has more than once raised awareness of the lack of language skills in Scotland and recently Mike Pringle MSP campaigned for the support of Russian language teaching in particular. However, these concerns somehow do not translate into action at grassroots. The relative independence that schools have concerning choice in language provision means that there is no national policy of language teaching. It has been established that while 30% of Europeans are competent in at least one foreign language, only 14% of British public can claim the same skills. By not making the human and financial investment in language learning, and by allowing languages like Russian to slip first into the category of minority languages, and then to disappear altogether,

Scotland loses out in vital skills which translate into the loss of both business contracts and political influence.

Yours etc.,

The shortened version was published on Monday 17 May 2004 under the heading 'Cost of cutting investment in language learning', with 13 signatories: it can be found on the Scotsman website at <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/letters.cfm?id=561182004>

In addition a shortened version of the letter below was published in *The Scotsman* on Tuesday 15 June 2004, under the heading 'Teaching Russian'. It can also be found on *The Scotsman* website at: <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/letters.cfm?id=676672004>

Dear Sir,

Is Scotland to remain the only major country that is not participating in the restoration of Russian teaching to its rightful place in the school curriculum? While the International Association of Russian Teachers is conducting a world-wide campaign for the consolidation of Russian-language teaching, spear-headed by the Rector of the University of St Petersburg and Liudmila Putina, wife of the President of the Russian Federation, herself a language graduate, Scotland is presiding over the virtual disappearance of Russian teaching from school timetables and the dismantling of innovative Russian Departments at Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde Universities.

The economic and cultural reasons for learning Russian were laid out in the letter from members of the Scotland-Russia Forum, published in your newspaper on 17 May 2004. To this might be added the news, breaking on 3 June, that Russia has now passed Saudi Arabia as the world's largest producer of crude oil and that oil produced by Russian companies such as Sibneft now accounts for more than 10 per cent of the global output of almost 82 million barrels per day.

Meanwhile, Johnson's Russia List (22 April 2004) records a surge of interest in Russia among American graduates. By contrast, we in Scotland are rearing a generation largely incapable of communicating with the Russians in their own language, and we will have much to answer for.

Perhaps we could take a leaf out of Ireland's book. Russian has never been taught in the Republic's schools, but now the Department of Education and Science has introduced Russian into the leaving certificate. 58 pupils took the examination in 2003, and this has risen to 90 in 2004. At present most of the candidates are the children of immigrants from the former Soviet Union or its satellites, but it is anticipated that in due course Irish children will also take the examination, and taster courses have started in 12 schools. The Department of Education and Science allocates 650 start-up euros to each school that introduces Russian teaching.

Can the Scottish Executive match any of this? Let us hope that it can.

Yours sincerely,

Emeritus Professor T. L. B. Wade,
Research Fellow in Russian Studies,
University of Strathclyde

Scottish Parliament's 'International Development Group' commemorates the Chernobyl accident

The cross party International Development Group of the Scottish Parliament held a meeting in April entitled *Chernobyl, its legacy and an agenda for change: Case Study of Current Post-Chernobyl Development Issues in Belarus*. The speakers were Dr Alan Flowers, a physicist at Kingston University, in Surrey, who conducts radioecology research in Belarus, and Nick Schellenberg from Baltic Trading Ltd, Leith. They gave an overview of the legacy of Chernobyl, development issues facing the region and the work of Scottish charities.

Editor: Helen Williams

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline and representatives of other charities attended the meeting and made presentations about their work. Des McNulty, Convenor of the International Development Group, also lodged a motion in the Parliament to commemorate the Chernobyl accident.

What's on

Andrei Zvyagintsev's *The Return* (Возращение) now showing! A father returns to his family after years away. He takes his two sons on an exciting journey to an island. Far from a picnic. They get a crash course in survival. This existential debut film won the Golden Lion at the Venice festival. The beautiful classical cinematography, the mysterious mood and the young actors who steal the show with their natural acting are only some of the reasons for this award.

Edinburgh: Filmhouse, 0131 228 2688, 23-29 July, various times; UGC Fountainpark, 0871 200 2000, from 27 June. Glasgow: UGC Renfrew Street, 0871 200 2000, from 27 June. More details - <http://www.kino.com/thereturn/mainframe.html>

Moscow State Circus in Scotland! Glasgow, Bellahouston Park, June 22-27; Edinburgh, Murrayfield Coach Park, June 29-July 4; Stirling, Kings Park, July 6-8; Perth, South Inch, July 9-11; Inverness, Bught Park, July 13-18; Elgin, Lossie Green, July 20-25; Aberdeen, Queens Links, July 28-August 8; Dundee, Caird Park, August 10-15; St. Andrews, Station Park, August 16-18; Kirkcaldy, Randolph Playing Fields, August 20-22; Dunfermline, Pittencrieff Park, August 24-28. Performance times and bookings: 07030 150 150. Prices: £10 to £25 (concessions £7 to £17).

Anatolii Adoskin in Glasgow 1 August Film director Anatolii Adoskin (narodnyi artist, Mossovet Theatre) will talk about his memories of the actress Faina Ranevskaya and show the film *Daite, daite mne Ranevskuyu*. All in Russian. Strathclyde University, 1 August, 6pm.

Further information from Russia Travel (Oxana) - oxana@ruvisa.co.uk

Event for school students who might consider Slavonic studies at University Come and meet representatives from all the Scottish universities offering Russian and other Slavonic languages in combination with ... almost anything! As well as sample lessons, an introduction to elements of a Slavonic Studies course and a tour of the library, other attractions include a quiz, Russian tea (from a samovar) and cakes (from Café Cossachok), stalls, Russian Youth Choir from the Russian church in Glasgow. All welcome – particularly S5 / S6 pupils. If you can't get to this event but would like information on Slavonic Studies at university, contact the university Russian Departments direct: Edinburgh: 0131 651 1455; Glasgow: 0141 330 5418; St. Andrews: 01334 462949

Venue: Glasgow University, Hetherington Building, Rooms 5 and 12, Friday 3 September, 1-4.30pm. Organised by Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews Universities.

Sunday 12 September, 12-3pm - Children aged 5-12 Sharmanka in Glasgow have kindly invited us to bring a group of 25-30 children aged 5-12 (and parents) to a special performance of their kinetic sculptures and a workshop with John Blundall. No charge. John Blundall worked with Obraztsov in Moscow and also created Parker the chauffeur in the original *Thunderbirds* series! The workshop will involve making paper puppets, pop-up cards etc on a Russian theme (maybe Pushkin's fairy tales). Numbers are restricted so reserve your places NOW! Email scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 0131 662 9149. See also www.sharmanka.co.uk

News from Sharmanka Kinetic sculpture 'Rag-n-bone Man' takes part at the *Robot* exhibition at Callendar House in Falkirk, 22 May - September 2004. 'Blainslie connections' - an exhibition of carvings by Eduard Bersudsky and drawings by Maggy Lenert-Stead at Café Cossachok, 10 King Street, Glasgow; tel 0141 5530733, www.cossachok.com 6 June - 31 July 2004. Installation of new kinetic sculpture by Eduard Bersudsky at Bloomfield Science Museum, Jerusalem. 5 December 2004. Tatyana Jakovskaya, Friends of Sharmanka, 109 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5HD. www.sharmanka.com

Russian landscape in the age of Tolstoy. Exhibition at the National Gallery in London, 23 June – 12 September. For tickets phone 0870 906 3891 www.nationalgallery.org.uk (How about a review for the Newsletter? Editor)

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Please call 0131 558 9369 or 01424 200661 for more information

Join us for a food and wine reception on Monday 9th August
6.30 – 9.00 pm

6a Dundas Street Edinburgh EH3 6HZ

Edinburgh Festivals

This is not an exhaustive list of events: please check programmes/websites for full details.

International Festival 0131 473 2000 www.eif.co.uk

Elisabeth Leonskaja Three recitals of Schubert sonatas and other works, from the great Georgian pianist, acclaimed world wide for her strong, impassioned interpretations. Tuesday 17 August 11am; Friday 20 August 11am and Monday 23 August 11am. All at the Queen's Hall.

Sergey Khachatryan (violin) and Lusine Khachatryan (piano) Works by Bach, Mozart Debussy and Brahms. Saturday 4 September 11am, Queen's Hall.

Fringe Festival 0131 226 0000 www.edfringe.com

After Chekhov Lively one-woman play about Chekhov's actress wife. As Olga Knipper-Chekhova prepares for a performance, the secrets of her unusual marriage to the far from gloomy playwright are revealed. C Central, Carlton Hotel, North Bridge. August 6,8,10,12,14,16,18,20, 1.30pm.

Charms & Tchaikovsky Ian Ainsworth (bass-baritone) and Alan Graham (piano) explore the theme of success and disappointment in love in the melodies of the 19th century Russian and, for contrast, perform substantial songs by 20th century British composers. St Andrew's and St George's Church. 13 George St, August 28, 12.30pm.

Derevo – Tanya Khabarova – Reflection In her powerful solo dance, Tanya Khabarova plays with the founding rites of humanity like an alchemist. Aurora Nova @ St Stephens, St Stephen Str. Preview August 6, August 7-9, 11-16, 22-23, 25-30, 10.45pm.

Diary of a madman One-man show. Nikolai Gogol's character is so immersed in his own psychosis that he fails to realise that the whole world does not share his delusions. Through his diary he shows us visions of his world. C, Chambers St. August 4-14, 16-30, 5.15pm.

Dias de las noches 1974. In a music hall in Buenos Aires on a blistering hot night with a coup d'état looming outside, two Russian immigrant actors are staging the performance of a lifetime when things go horribly and mercilessly out of control. Aurora Nova @ St Stephens, St Stephen Str. August 6-9, 11-16, 18-23, 25-30, 11.30am.

Mimirichi – Paper World From the Ukraine. Fast paced physical comedy, hilarious slapstick and the biggest paper fight on the Fringe. Pod Deco. 7 Clerk St, August 4-16, 18-29 5pm.

Nikolina Play by Nabokov. Nikolina has fled the guns of war, but she can't escape their echoes. As old wounds heal, new wounds are inflicted. Pleasance Courtyard, 60 The Pleasance. Previews August 4-7, August 8-9, 11-16, 18-29, 7pm.

Shostakovich Moscow, 1969. As illness takes hold, the composer reflects on a lifetime of oppression, fear and passion. What has his life amounted to? How will the world remember him? The first British play about Shostakovich. C o2, Oxygen, Infirmary St. August 4-30, noon.

Young Cossacks of the Ukraine Children's folk dancing ensemble from the. A dazzling show suitable for all the family. C, Chambers St. August 15-21, 1.30pm

Book Festival: 0131 624 5050 www.edbookfest.co.uk

Mark Urban & Adam Zamoyski Mark Urban's latest work on Wellington's rifles has been called a 'riveting slab of derring-do and high adventure'. Adam Zamoyski looks at Napoleon's fatal march on Moscow in 1812. Friday 17 August, 12 noon

Richard Overy & Donald Rayfield Richard Overy compares the ways in which Stalin and Hitler used and abused power and enthused and enslaved their own citizens; while Donald Rayfield probes deep into the psychological make-up of Stalin. Friday 17 August, 3.30pm

Irina Denezhinka & Siddarth Dhanvant Shanghvi Irina Denezhinka reveals the new post-Soviet world of Russian youth with black humour and energy; while *The last song of dusk* is a charming and utterly seductive debut from one of India's brightest young stars. Friday 20 August, 8.30pm

Vanora Bennett & Hattie Ellis Caviar and honey. Vanora Bennett longed to taste real caviar by the Caspian Sea; *The Taste of Dreams* is a rich portrait of Russia at the end of the Soviet years. In *Sweetness and Light* Hattie Ellis explores the many mysteries of bees and the nectar they produce. Monday 23 August, 11.00am

Lesley Chamberlain *Motherland* examines Russian thought, shows how the deep-rooted dream of

a good and simple life metamorphosed into the excesses of communism. Lesley Chamberlain's many explorations of Russia take us deep into the soul of that fascinating country. Tuesday 24 August, 11.00am

Film Festival 0131 228 4051 www.edfilmfest.org.uk

The Film Festival programme will be available in July: at the moment it looks as if there will be a couple of Russian films in the programme.

Orthodox Church Services in Scotland

Aberdeen: 10 am on the following Saturdays: 10 July, 7 August, 4 September, at St Ninian's Episcopal Church, 696 King Street, Aberdeen.

Ardross Castle, near Alness: 10 am on the following dates: 10 July, 29 August.

Dunblane: Divine Liturgy at 11 am on Sundays, at Church of St Nicholas and St Blane, Cameron Cottage, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ. Confessions may be heard before the Liturgy or by appointment. Contact: Fr Alexander Williams, Arranmhor, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ, tel. 01786 822750, email rory.williams@clara.co.uk

Dundee: 11 am on the following Saturdays: 10 July, 21 August, 25 September, at University Chaplaincy, Cross Row, Dundee DD1 4HN.

Edinburgh: Vespers at 6.30pm on Saturday; Matins at 9 am and Holy Liturgy at 10.30am on Sunday every week. There are also Daily Matins at 7.30am and Daily Vespers at 6.30pm. Services are held at the Chapel of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh EH8 9NR. See website for details of all other services www.edinburgh-orthodox.org.uk

Fort Augustus: 11 am on Saturday 4 September, at the Oratory of the Mother of God and St Cumein, Bunoich Brae, PH32 4 DG, tel: 01320 366457.

Glasgow: 11 am on the first Saturday of the month, in the University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy Centre, John Street, Glasgow (red church behind Glasgow College of Building and Printing, opposite the College of Commerce). Times for confession must be arranged in advance with Fr Alexander Williams (Tel: 01786 822750; rory.williams@clara.co.uk). Churchwarden: Sergei Sokolovski: tel. 0141-334 5668; s.sokolovski@bio.gla.ac.uk Music classes for children are attached to the church - the children sing in the church choir and serve during worship: contact Svetlana Zvereva: zvereva@rambler.ru

Inverness: 11 am on Saturday 31 July, at St Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church, Abban Street, Inverness.

Perth: 10.30 am on Saturday 31 July, at St John's Kirk, near City Hall, Perth.

St Andrews: 10.30 am on the following Saturdays: 14 July, 28 August, 18 September, at St Leonard's Chapel, The Pends, St Andrews.

Notices

Wanted - Russian conversation in Edinburgh. A new member wants to brush up her Russian and is looking for a friendly Russian to meet for coffee in Edinburgh on a regular basis. Will pay for these informal 'lessons' (and the coffee!). Please contact the Secretary: (0131 662 9149) scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

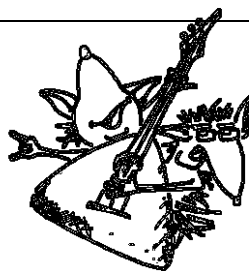
New Edinburgh second-hand bookshop would welcome Russian books 'Pickering's Books' has just opened in Buccleuch St (premises of former McFeelys) and is keen to augment its Russian section - so if you have any books to sell try them! It would be nice to have a good source of Russian books in central Edinburgh. Contact: Stephanie Pickering, 0131 662 8570

Translators wanted: Czech, Latvian OR Russian Mitchell's Chickens need an induction booklet of around 5,000 words, plus 16 sets of work instructions of about 150 or possibly 200 words each translated for the benefit of their immigrant Czech and Latvian workers, who understand Russian. Contact Shona McKay stating the rate you charge. smckay@mitchellschickens.com or smckay@mitchell-chicken.demon.co.uk or (please try both). Please also let Irene McGrath know IMMcGrath@dundeehigh.dundeecity.sch.uk

Chernobyl Childline Chernobyl Childline groups throughout the UK welcome children from Belarus to their homes to give them respite from the effects of the Chernobyl explosion. The Edinburgh group has children visiting at the moment and have asked if we can provide extra interpreting help. They also say anyone is welcome to join them at picnics! For details please contact Norma 0131 317 1978 or Martyn 0131 334 3538

Russian food from Sheffield - domashnaia kolbasa, kasha, Baltika beer etc. From the publishers of the bilingual newspaper *Russian Outpost* – an online Russian shop! <http://www.berezka.org.uk/shop/customer/home.php>

Direct flights Transaero have a weekly flight between Moscow Domodedovo International Airport and Edinburgh. Flights leave Edinburgh on Wednesdays at 13:00 and arrive in Moscow at 19:55. Flights depart Moscow at 11.00 and arrive in Edinburgh at 12.00. Contact your local travel agent or call Transaero Airlines' Reservations on: 0870 850 7767 (Fax: 0870 240 2208) Mon-Fri 9am–5pm.



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