



The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

Issue 9

March 2004

www.scotlandrussiaforum.org

scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

Forum Programme, April - June 2005

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

Thursday 7 April: Donald Rayfield. 'What motivated Stalin's henchmen?'

Donald Rayfield is Professor of Russian and Georgian at Queen Mary College (University of London). His research interests range from Chekhov to the literature and language of Georgia. His latest book, *Stalin and his hangmen* (Viking 2004) examines the environmental, psychological and psychiatric background to the actions of Stalin and his 'hangmen' – Beria, Ezhov and others.

7.30 pm, Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. The Dining Room (1st floor)

Monday 18 April: Glasgow event. Alexander Lazarev in Conversation.

Interviewer: Dr Stuart Campbell (in English). Alexander Lazarev concludes his highly successful tenure as Principal Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) this year. To mark this occasion he has agreed to a public interview (in English) to discuss aspects of his life and work. The interview will be followed, for the audience, with a finger buffet and wine reception. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to classical music both in Scotland and internationally the School of Slavonic, Central and East European Studies will be presenting Alexander Lazarev with an honorary award.

7.30pm, Ferguson Room, College Club, University of Glasgow. Tickets: £8.50 per person, inclusive of finger buffet and wine reception. Please contact: Ms Tania Konn-Roberts, c/o Glasgow University Library, Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QE. Tel. 0141 330 6735. Email: T.Konn-Roberts@lib.gla.ac.uk OR Dr Margaret Tejerizo, Slavonic Studies, Hetherington Building, Bute Gardens, Glasgow G12 8RS. Tel. 0141 330 5585. Email: M.Tejerizo@slavonic.arts.gla.ac.uk.

Thursday 19 May: Tania Konn-Roberts. Russia in Egypt

During the 1920s over a million White Russians fled the consequences of the Bolshevik revolution of 1917. Most of these refugees landed in Europe, the Far East and America. Only a tiny fraction landed in Egypt and theirs was an unusual story. Seen from the personal perspective of one individual family who forged ties with Scotland when they sent their son to Edinburgh University. The talk will be illustrated with slides.

7.30pm English Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent (Basement), Edinburgh

Friday 10 June: Alan Flowers & Nicholas Schellenberg. Aspects of Belarus Today

Dr Alan Flowers is a physicist and radioecologist (Principal Lecturer at the School of Life Sciences, Kingston University) and has led many Anglo-Belarus academic and cultural cooperation projects since his first visit to Belarus in November 1992 – his interests ranging from the ecological and human effects of Chernobyl fallout to scientific, political and business education. In August 2004 he was barred from visiting Belarus for 5 years.

Nicholas Schellenberg has been doing business in Belarus for over 12 years, having organized business delegations to and from Belarus as well as running and sponsoring cultural events. He has lived in Belarus and has family connections there.

Together they will talk about prospects for Belarus in the light both of internal and external events.

7.30pm Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. The Dining Room (1st floor).

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.

Business Opportunities in Russia: 2nd Scotland-Russia Forum Business Seminar

All day conference on Friday 15 April in Edinburgh, at Edinburgh University Management School, £40 for Forum members, £50 others, including Russian buffet lunch. Details 0131 662 9149 or scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk

This is our second annual seminar on the subject and offers Scots businesses a chance to discover the wide range of commercial opportunities now available in the FSU and to discuss their experiences of the market. The morning session contains three talks from highly experienced practitioners: an overview of current market opportunities, an update on the political and economic situation in Russia, and advice on practical aspects of doing business there. Lunch will not only allow delegates to sample Russian food but also to network with each other. In the afternoon sector-based workshops will enable delegates to discuss issues of particular relevance to their own business, and the final plenary will give them the opportunity to discuss these with a panel of advisors.

Meeting of the Cross Party International Development Group of the Scottish Parliament

The Orange Revolution and recent developments in the Ukraine. His Excellency Dr Ihor Mitiukov, was appointed as Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Kingdom in November 2002. This is his first visit to Scotland, and at this meeting he will discuss a wide range of issues facing contemporary Ukraine. 12.20 for 12.00 in Committee Room 1, Scottish Parliament, Holyrood. For security reasons, anyone wishing to attend should contact Murray Tyrrell, at murray.tyrrell@scottish.parliament.uk or on 0131 348 5416 as soon as possible.

Celebrating the Russian Old New Year in Glasgow



The first Scotland-Russia Forum event took place in Glasgow on Sunday, 16 January, to celebrate the Russian Old New Year. This was a hugely successful evening judging by all accounts. We actually had twenty-six bookings in total – with an additional four having to be turned away because Cossachok couldn't accommodate any more! Our party was spread over two large tables and two small ones. However, isolation was not permitted! Peter Harvey helped to encourage

everyone to change places a number of times to ensure we met and chatted to as many people as possible. This tested the ability of the serving staff to relate ordered dishes to a moving gallery of individuals but they coped well and with good humour. We had a choice of starters like Borshch and Lobia followed by dishes like Chakhokhbili and Blinis. Some hardy souls even had room for dessert – I confess I never made it to the Damski Caprice! Vodka, wine and beer were all available to help things along – but hardly necessary to get this lively group talking. Keeping financial tabs on this volatile group also had its problems – solved by Ian McGowan and Peter Harvey in a diplomatic and efficient manner. Dinner was followed by a concert from the renowned Tuvan throat singing group, Huun Huur Tu – preceded by a fascinating potted history of the art. An amazing performance. In fact we were treated to two concerts - an official and an unofficial one - with Boris Atlas treating us to a medley of gypsy songs and romances on the violin to round off the evening!

Tania Konn-Roberts

Annual General Meeting: Report

Following on from the Forum Annual General Meeting held on 16 February (and from subsequent committee discussions) there are various changes to the committee:

- We are sorry to lose Meg Luckins from the committee. Meg was our chair, one of the founders of the Forum, and had long experience of Scottish-Russian links with the Britain-Russia Centre and other organisations. She will be spending most of this year in Tajikistan, so has resigned from the SRF committee because she will not be in Scotland enough to play a full part in our activities. We hope she'll be back soon!
- We are delighted to announce the appointment of a new chair: Tania Konn-Roberts. Tania has also long experience of Scottish-Russian affairs, both professionally and with the SRF and Britain-Russia Centre, and is currently responsible for our out-of-Edinburgh activities. She organised the New Year social at Cafe Cossachok in Glasgow and the event in honour of Alexander Lazarev on 18 April. She is also a Russo-Scot by background.

Other matters decided include a change in the timing of our subscription year to a September start, so you will not need to renew your subscriptions until 31 August! Subscription levels are to stay broadly the same, with the introduction of: a corporate subscription category; a cheaper rate for members living more than 75 miles from Edinburgh; and a fee for non-members who receive emails. You will receive full details by post in due course.

The Forum committee are keen to involve members more in our growing range of activities and plan to introduce a number of working groups. If you would like to volunteer to help develop any of the following please let us know:

- Kruzok, Films and other small group activities
- Socials
- Glasgow / other out-of-Edinburgh activities
- Talks
- Newsletter/Website
- Business events

If you would like to discuss what might be involved please phone the Forum Secretary: Jenny Carr, 0131 662 9149

Another benefit of Forum membership ...

Aside from the more obvious benefits of Forum membership we are all aware of, another recently came to our notice. The Edinburgh police found a stolen wallet containing a Forum membership card and with our help were able to trace the owner.

A Scottish volunteer in Kitezh

Newsletter readers may remember Robin Thomson's report on his trip to Kitezh. Another Scottish student recently spent some time there, and she records her impressions below.

After 13 long years of school I was eager to see the world. I left my home in Edinburgh last September to become a volunteer in Kitezh Children's Community, near Kaluga, Russia. Looking back now, I can't say I really knew what exactly I was letting myself into, but as it happened it turned out to be the best 3 months of my life.

Kitezh lies in the flat countryside about 300 km south of Moscow and was set up about 13 years ago, not as an orphanage but as a community where orphan children can find a home and a family. It was founded and built by a group of committed and ambitious Russians and continues to attract young educated people who contribute their own skills and help to educate the 31 children who live there. Foreign input being a valuable asset, there is also a constant stream of British, American and West European volunteers who take charge of the English classes and become a part of the community for a few months.



It was dark when I first arrived in Kitezh after the six hour bus journey from Moscow. I could just make out the beautiful shapes of the church and the traditional log cabins that make up the village. I was welcomed to my house by my new room mates Asya and Zhenya who were young Russian volunteers/teachers from Kaluga, and also Thomas and Alex, who were to be my fellow English teachers for the next few months.

After a few days in Kitezh it felt like I'd been there for years. Thomas, who had arrived a few months before me was able to fill me in on who everyone was and how things worked. Learning the names of the 50 or so Russians in Kitezh was very difficult but a guess at Masha, Sasha or Natasha usually turned out to be correct. As there were three other volunteers, I didn't have to teach on my own straight away and spent the first few weeks sharing classes with the others and spending most of my time in the kindergarten where you don't need much Russian in order to teach. There are 3-6 students in each class, which you would think wouldn't be too difficult. However the lack of any sort of syllabus or textbooks meant that each lesson had to be carefully planned. By the end of my stay I was teaching four or five classes a day which was fantastic. Of course there were bad days, but they were all made up for by the times when everything went well.

My first house in Kitezh was a home for volunteers and sometimes some of the older children. With a constant stream of visitors it was a great place to meet people and find out more about the community. After about a month I moved to the house of Tamara, an amazing woman who had come to Kitezh with her two daughters and then adopted 7 siblings who arrived there from another orphanage two years ago. I spent the rest of my time in Kitezh living in a 4 roomed house with 7 children, all under 1 – an ideal situation to improve my Russian. There are few language barriers with children and I could guarantee to be corrected if I made a mistake.

Life in Kitezh is not all work. The traditional Russian *banya* is lit on Saturdays and in winter on Wednesdays too. It is very much a social event where all the women in the community can get

together and I had many interesting, if only half understood conversations, with the Russian women. There were also discos with the older children and numerous vodka drinking parties with the adults.

The first snow came in mid November and it seemed that winter had come overnight. It snowed heavily for three days and then we awoke to the most beautiful glittering sunny day and endless snowball fights with the children. As the temperature got colder, more and more children fell ill until one week of school had to be cancelled and there were only a handful of people in the lunch hall. Being only 17 and very young for a volunteer, I was almost adopted by Tamara, the mother of my house, given a warmer coat to wear and constantly fussed over.

I often found it very easy to forget that the wonderful children I was spending most of my time with had come from terrible backgrounds, nearly all involving alcoholism. It always came as a shock when I read about or heard some of the stories. I don't pretend that Kitezh is some kind of fairy tale land where everything is good. It is a small community which of course has many problems. However, one thing I did learn from my three months in Russia is that there are people in this world who are willing to devote their lives to helping others, and in particular to helping the orphan children of Russia, who have had and still do have a very rough time. Natasha Doff

Review

Lesley Chamberlain, **Motherland: a philosophical history of Russia**. London: Atlantis Books, 2004. ISBN 1 84354 285 4

Lesley Chamberlain is a travel writer, reviewer, novelist, with a keen sense of the philosophical. Her background in the Western tradition and a deep interest in Russia (in part sealed by her personal contacts with Isaiah Berlin) guide this very personal study of Russian thought across two centuries. If she peruses a gallery of familiar thinkers – from Slavophiles and Westernizers, the intellectual loners such as Herzen or Solov'ev whose genius cannot be readily categorized, to the stalwarts of Soviet Marxism and those who resisted its lure of earthly happiness for spiritual freedom – she also brings a fresh dimension to the portraits she draws of them, supplying both whimsical anecdote besides the weightier considerations of intellectual indebtedness to, and marked divergences from, the West European tradition. Indeed, it is Chamberlain's claim (and who can argue?) that 'the experience of philosophy (...) lies at the heart of Russia's encounter with the West and its quest for self-definition.'

Given Chamberlain's credentials as a philosopher with deep knowledge of both the Russian and Western traditions, one might, initially, be tempted to class this work as a needed addition to Russian intellectual history, a relatively neglected field in the mass of literature on Russia, if paradoxically, a magnet for some of Russia's finest Western specialists – including Isaiah Berlin whom Chamberlain so obviously admires. But this book is not that. Impressive, fresh and informative as it mostly is, Chamberlain's insights into the Russian mind have no pedagogical ambitions; rather they are worked into an impressionistic (if somewhat laboured in places) essay, one in which the underlying theses require the complicit understanding from her reader that her purpose is less to instruct as, possibly, to inspire. Whether she does so is for each reader to decide.

The book is structured in a quizzical fashion. Neither entirely chronological, nor entirely thematic, the design is presumably intended to support the claims she announces in her preface, some of which are well trammelled truisms ('Russia's moral tradition remains its strongest legacy'), or observations already made by specialists (admittedly, for a specialist audience). There is a slight sense of *déjà lu* when Chamberlain mentions the prescient quality of Russian thought: given its fundamentally 'existentialist' preoccupations, Russian thought foreshadowed the breakdown, in the West, of trust in reason in the aftermath of world wars. Her strongest claim, (if, again, not original) in light of which she tells her 'story', concerns the problems Russians faced as they grappled with the role of the individual in their world views. Rejecting the Cartesian 'cogito ergo sum' as a philosophy exemplifying 'the triumph of individual freedom and integrity, and the impartiality of

science', Russian philosophers sought justice and the good, but, at great cost to the individual. Chamberlain reflects at length on this single, most debated difference separating the Russian communal spirit from the ego-driven thinking of the secular West. But her argument is both tortuous and oddly inconclusive here, not least because she makes no reference to the concept of personhood [*lichnost*'] to which the Silver Age philosophers in particular (her treatment of whom is regrettably token), attached so much importance as an antidote to the fleshless cognitive subject in an epistemological enquiry. More convincing is her treatment of a second consequence of Russian anti-Cartesianism, namely, a conflation of fact and value, which she diagnoses as symptoms of both Russian religious thought, and the Communist dream (it is her contention that 'The Communist idea was also, lest we forget, a moral idea). But this, in turn, provides the basis for her boldest, yet also most suspect assertion, namely that Russian philosophy and its Soviet variant constitute a 'long tradition', which, if it was fractured by the October Revolution, was never broken. If anything, Chamberlain surmises, the 'break' might have finally occurred with the collapse of the Soviet Union. The thesis of cultural continuity versus rupture is, of course, one that students of Russian history and culture have toyed with, and indeed, have been encouraged by the events of 1991 to revisit. But, in this case, to suggest that Russia's experience of philosophy is 'of a piece', that it exhibits features which, under the scrutiny of Western eyes, must be labelled 'other', is not only to risk a reductionism which few would dare were the topic Western philosophical thought, it is surely to fall victim to the very same stereotypes (the proverbial 'riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma') that Western observers have, since the sixteenth century, traded in, making Russia so distinctly, yet so familiarly, 'other'.

Oddly, then, Chamberlain's arguments – diffused as they are in long stretches of story telling – do not afford coherence, but actually sap the work of its intellectual power. This impression is deepened when one considers her style of writing. Just as she achieves a remarkable economy of words (her summary of the differences between Slavophiles and Westernizers, for example), she also occasionally seems mesmerized by the form of her undeniably finely crafted narrative, the upshot of which is to sacrifice attention to content: 'the scope of Russian philosophy ...resembles a map in which the key features are moral and movable – very much an unstable landscape.' Such aphoristic phrases do not elucidate, rather they represent one of those annoying 'expropriations' of the 'riddle of Russianness' that certain Russian intellectuals (Berdiaev is one noted example) capitalized on in their work, and which a twentieth century Western audience first encountered in the writings of the Russian emigration (again, Berdiaev comes to mind).

To be fair, one should perhaps assess *Motherland*, on its own terms. After all, it does not claim to be a 'History of Russian Thought'. As a 'philosophical history' it is her expressed aim to 'recreate...the pain of Russia's experience of itself'. Judging by the pathos with which she has 'surrendered herself quite willingly, in the hope of being useful', Chamberlain might just be adopted as an honorary Russian 'in the cause of Russian self-definition'. Frances Nethercott

Scottish culture in Ukraine



Last summer a Forum member lent a kilt to a group of British children visiting the Pioneer camp at Artek in Ukraine to participate in the 'International Children's Festival', escorted by Tatiana Pereverzeva, the UK organiser. The kilt is shown here 'in action' as part of a group representing some of the various nationalities present. The kilt was apparently one of the highlights of the event! If anyone is interested in these children's exchanges, please contact the Forum secretary who will put them in touch with Tatiana Pereverzeva.

WHAT'S ON

Summer exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland.

Nicholas and Alexandra. The exhibition opens on July 14 and runs until 30 October. 'Seldom has a personal story been so close to the course of history as that of the last family of the Russian Tsars. This outstanding exhibition offers a unique chance to explore the lives of these iconic twentieth century figures and 300 years of the Romanov dynasty, through treasures from the stunning collections of the State Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg.' For more details see the museum website: www.nms.ac.uk

Activities for Russian speaking children.

There are now weekly clubs/schools in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The contacts are: Edinburgh - Iulia Kuksina 0131 476 6786, website www.geocities.com/russianedinburgh Glasgow - Svetlana Zvereva 0141 956 2066, zvereva@rambler.ru

Edinburgh Festival: advance notice!

More details of items of interest in the various Edinburgh Festivals will appear in the next newsletter, but the International Festival Programme has just been published and includes two performances by the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio, conducted by Vladimir Fedoseyev. This orchestra, according to the programme, is 'particularly renowned for the emotional intensity of its performances of Tchaikovsky's music'.

Derevo in performance: Ketzal.

There is something in between. We call it life. Laugh about it. Cry about it. Ketzal is Anton Adassinsky's déjà vu of the body; it is a song of the body. After years of working in a number of different modes - from romantic stories in *Once* to heavy metal in *La Divina Commedia*, from mystical stories in *Red Zone* to ballads in *Islands in the Stream* - Derevo returns to an idea of onstage simplicity. Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 April 7pm £12 /£8. The Arches, 253 Argyle Street, Glasgow. Tel. 0870 240 7528 <http://www.thearches.co.uk/>

Russian icons.

Concert at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra on Saturday 7 May at 7.30pm. Programme, conducted by Martyn Brabbins, includes Rachmaninov *The Bells: Choral Symphony* and *Symphonic Dances* and Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances*. With the Edinburgh Royal Choral Union and the Huddersfield Choral Society. Box Office: 0131 228 1155. www.usherhall.co.uk

Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto

Played by 'the brilliant young Russian violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky'. Programme also includes Malcolm Arnold's 'Tam O'Shanter Overture' a 'First world performance' of Robert Farnon's Edinburgh Symphony. Box Office: 0131 228 1155. www.usherhall.co.uk

Russian State Symphony Orchestra.

Conductor: Mark Gorenstein, Soloist, Nikolai Demidenko (piano). Tchaikovsky, *Three pieces from 'Snow Maiden'*, Rachmaninov *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Op.29, Tchaikovsky, *Symphony no 4*, Op.36, in F Minor. This orchestra was personally chosen by President Putin to be one of only four current Russian musical establishments to receive funding. Playing at Perth City Hall on Saturday 21 May at 7.30pm (Box office 01738 475295 www.perthfestival.co.uk) and at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh on Sunday 22 May at 7.30pm (Box Office: 0131 228 1155. www.usherhall.co.uk).

Anna Karenina at Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

John Clifford's new dramatisation of Anna Karenina will be directed by Muriel Romanes who promises a visually stunning production which strips back the stereotypes while retaining the epic spirit of Tolstoy's book. Friday 19 March - Saturday 16 April 2005. Box office: 00 44 (0) 131 248 4848 <http://www.lyceum.org.uk/frames/box00.html> Lyceum Theatre, 30B Grindlay Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9AX.

Ukrainian and Belarussian poetry.

Dr Vera Rich, a scholar of Slavonic literatures, is hosting a session of Ukrainian and Belarussian poetry at 7.30pm in the Scottish Poetry Library, 5 Crichton's Close, Canongate, Edinburgh, EH8 8DT.

Understanding Russia Now.

Talk by Dr. Ludmilla Selezneva, Professor of Humanities at Moscow University, aimed at those wishing to gain knowledge of recent Russian history and a better understanding of the Russian 'zeitgeist'. Professor Selezneva will cover the period from Stalin to Putin, with explanations as to why events happened as they did, and an insight into the Russian psyche. 21 April, 2005, 7.30pm, The New Pod, Napier University Craiglockhart Campus, Glenlockhart Road, Edinburgh. Tickets: £7.00 [including refreshments]. Contact: Mrs Nora Harrower 07710-473755; Mr Nick Cumming 0131-225-1798 or 07904-477862.

Orthodox Community of St Nicholas

Liturgy at 11am at Laighill Loan, Dunblane. For full details of services (including services at the University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy, Glasgow) and further information, contact: Russian Orthodox Church in Britain and Ireland (Diocese of Sourozh) - Father Alexander Williams, Arranmhor, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ. Tel. 01786 822750

Ecumenical Patriarchate (Diocese of Thyateira). Fr Constantine Papageorghiou, Greek Cathedral of St Luke, 27 Dundonald Road, Glasgow, G12 9LL, Tel. 0141-339 7368

Orthodox Community of St Andrew, Edinburgh

Regular services: Saturday Vespers at 6.30pm, Sunday Matins at 9am and Holy Liturgy 10.30am, at the Chapel of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 9NR. For details of services elsewhere in Scotland contact Archimandrite John Maitland Moir, Community of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 9NR, tel 0131 667 0372 or see website: <http://www.edinburgh-orthodox.org.uk/>

Wildflowers and Monasteries in Georgia.

An escorted tour with Crinan Alexander from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. 7-21 June 2005. Details from Rufus Reade Tours 0131 662 1612 Email: rrtours@tiscali.co.uk

West Coast Seminars (Glasgow, Paisley and Strathclyde Universities)

Forthcoming seminars on 'Economic and Social Change in Russia and Eastern Europe'. All welcome.

Wednesday 13 April, Ewa Helinska-Hughes, Mike Danson and Geoff Whittam (Paisley University) *'National and local agency support for Scottish SME exporting activity: Lessons for new EU member states'*. Paisley University, room F307, 5.30pm.

Wednesday 20 April, Pawel Capik (Paisley University). *'Regional Promotion in East-Central Europe'*. Paisley University, room F307, 5.30pm.

Wednesday 27 April, Prof. David R. Marples (University of Alberta) *'The "Populist Dictator": the Lukashenka Phenomenon in Contemporary Belarus'*. Glasgow University, Adam Smith Building, room T315, 5.30pm.

Wednesday 4 May, Dr. Martin Kovats, (Birmingham University) *'The Politics of National Identity in Post-communist Hungary'* Paisley University, room F307, 5.30pm.

Wednesday 11 May, Eamonn Butler, (Department of Government, Strathclyde University). *'Hungary and the European Union: The Implications of Hungary's 'Nation Policy' for the Development of Minority Rights Within the EU'* University of Strathclyde, European Policies Research Centre, Graham Hills Building, Room 951

Wednesday 18 May, Dr Helen Morris (CEPS, Brussels and visiting fellow CEES, Glasgow). *'Latvia's Current Nationalities policy: the rights and status of the non-citizen population following EU accession'*. Glasgow University, Adam Smith Building, room T315, 5.30pm.

Wednesday 25 May, Dr. Derek Hutcheson (Glasgow University). *'The State of the Fourth Estate: Media and Politics in Russian Elections'* University of Glasgow, Adam Smith Building, room T315, 5.30pm.

LONDON EVENTS

Great Britain-Russia Society Programme.

The Forum is now a corporate member of the GB-Russia Society, so members of the Forum can attend events at their members' rates, but please remember to book in advance (contact: Ms Ute Chatterjee, 43 Kenilworth Court, Lower Richmond Road, London, SW15 1EN, phone 0788 4464 461).

Circling the Square: Avant-garde Porcelain from Revolutionary Russia

The Hermitage Rooms at Somerset House in London is currently holding an exhibition that may be of interest to the members of the Forum. 'Circling the Square: Avant-garde Porcelain from Revolutionary Russia' presents the remarkable ceramics produced in St Petersburg's Lomonosov Porcelain Factory during the years following the Russian Revolution of 1917. In addition to a wide selection (over 300 pieces) of stunning porcelain, the exhibition features an important group of design drawings by leading Russian Futurist, Cubist and Suprematist artists of the early 20th century, many of which have not been exhibited before. The exhibition runs until 31 July 2005. Hermitage Rooms, Somerset House, Strand, London, WC2R 1LA. Tel: 020 7845 4630. Website: www.hermitagerooms.org.uk

NOTICES

News from Sharmanka Eduard Bersudsky has won one of the Scottish Arts Council's *Creative Scotland* awards. The winning project is a collaboration with Derevo Theatre Company, entitled *The Druid Clock*. It will focus on Scotland's ancient heritage and examine northern mythology related to the forest. Eduard is to devise a performance about man, wood and iron, to be staged at the Sharmanka exhibition, to be held at the Royal Museum of Scotland in December 2005 and January 2006. Sharmanka are also working on a project to have a touring exhibition at the end of 2005/2006, hoping to visit Stornoway, Falkirk, Inverness and Thurso. Contact: Tatyana Jakovskaya, Friends of Sharmanka, 109 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5HD. www.sharmanka.com

Residential Russian course Essex University, 18-29 July (one or two weeks). This is a long established course. There are 4 levels of tuition. For details contact: Larissa Wymer, Essex Summer Russian Course, Department of Language and Linguistics, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ. Tel 01206 872196 email: wymer@essex.ac.uk or see www.russianstudies.net

Message from Global Language Services Do any of your members or associates know of anyone fluent in Georgian and who wishes to obtain occasional work as an interpreter, preferably in the Glasgow or Strathclyde area. We can provide some basic training where this is required. We also pay. Contact: George Runciman, Global Language Services Ltd, Craig House, 64 Darnley Street, Glasgow G41 2SE. Tel/fax 0141 429 3429 E-mail mail@globalglasgow.com

Frontline: New Russian Business Magazine Frontline is a new English language business magazine about the expanding world of Russian markets and explores RU to EU and EU to RU trade for SMEs. The magazine runs with an opening theme each issue, and includes brief summaries and reports on Russian market activities, company profiles, individuals, crafts, investments, technologies, travel tips, events and updates in a growing marketplace. If you want a free copy just send email to info@sartori.co.uk with full details, name, position, Company, address, telephone and email address. Further information: Clive Langham, Frontline News, Sartori Ltd, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford CM2 6JB Tel: +44-(0)1245-262062 info@sartori.co.uk <http://www.sartori.co.uk>

Affordable phone calls to Russia and other countries of FSU All prices are per minute. Russia (Moscow) 3p (0844 988 4422); Russia, 5p (0844 545 4422); Ukraine (Kiev) 5p (0844 545 4422); Ukraine, 7p (0871 412 4422); Armenia, 5p (0844 545 4422); Georgia, 7p (0871 412 4422); Estonia,

4p (0844 901 4422); Latvia, 10p (0871 919 4422); Lithuania, 7p (0871 412 4422); Kazakhstan, 10p (0871 919 4422); Kirgistan, 10p (0871 919 4422); Moldova, 10p (0871 919 4422); Tadjikistan, 10p (0871 919 4422); Uzbekistan, 10p (0871 919 4422); Azerbaijan, 15p (0911 553 4422); Turkmenistan, 15p (0911 553 4422).

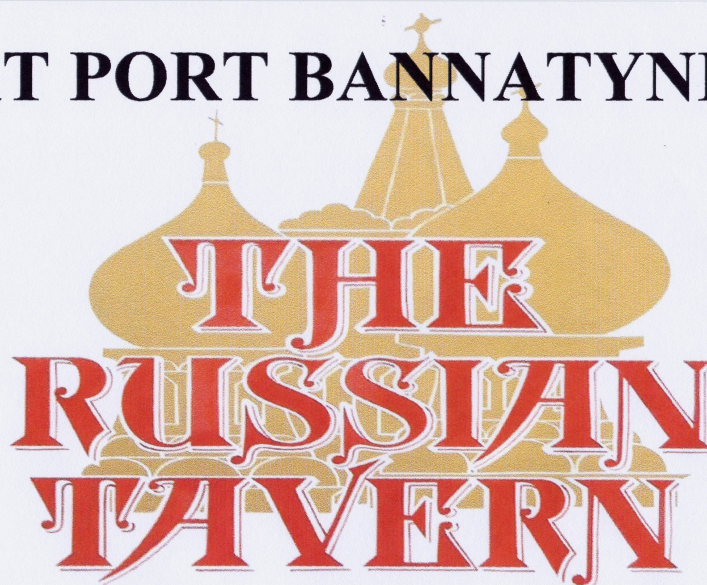
Some FSU countries can be phoned even cheaper using the 1899 service: details on www.1899.com. This is mainly for BT connections (there is a 3p surcharge for Telewest, NTL etc). 1899's BT-line rates are: Russia (all) 1p; Ukraine, 4p or 7p; Armenia, 4p; Georgia, 4p; Estonia, 4p; Latvia, 4p; Lithuania, 4p; Kazakhstan, 4p.

There is another cheap company; they seem to charge 1p per minute for most calls. One simply needs to dial (0844) 8611212, and, once connected, dial their own number.

Does anyone still have copies of SPUTNIK? Andrew Jameson has sent the following message: 'Do you still have copies of the old *Sputnik* magazine? Two university libraries have asked me to help them complete their collections. I have offered to collect and act as clearing house for collections of *Sputnik*. Colorado University, USA is looking for: 1969 Nos 7, 8, 9, 10, 12; 1970 No 12; 1972 No 8; 1976 Nos 2-10; 1977 Nos 1, 4, 6-12. The English versions are wanted, but if you have Russian versions, let me know also. Essex University UK is looking for any collections or sets in good condition 1967-1993 inclusive. Please indicate Russian or English versions. Needless to say I am making no money from this, just receiving the cost of postage. If you have a quantity I could collect by car or pay you postage/carriage.' Contact: Andrew Jameson, Chair, Russian Committee, ALL, 1 Brook Street, Lancaster, LA1 1SL UK. Tel/fax 01524 32371. a.jameson2@dial.pipex.com www.all-languages.org.uk

ON THE ISLE OF BUTE

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