



The Scotland -Russia Forum
Форум Шотландия - Россия
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The Scotland-Russia Forum is an independent charity whose aim is to promote understanding of Russia and its neighbouring countries.

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ПОУЕКХАЛИ!
YURI GAGARIN & THE DAWN
OF SPACE EXPLORATION



**An exhibition at the
Scotland-Russia Institute**

17 September - 28 October 2011



Poyekhali! Yuri Gagarin and the Dawn of Space Exploration

Fifty years ago a brave young test pilot was strapped into a capsule on top of a rocket filled with kerosene and liquid oxygen. Soon after, twenty engines blazed away beneath him. As the craft lifted from its launch pad, the young man shouted 'Poyekhali!' - here we go! On 12th April 1961, Cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin became the World's first space man.



Just three months later, Gagarin made an historic visit to the United Kingdom. Everywhere he went he was followed by huge crowds of well wishers, a public affection that completely wrong-footed the authorities in that Cold War era - so much so that Gagarin's visit had to be extended. Drawing on the archives of RIA Novosti, Russia's leading news agency, we tell the story of Gagarin's early life, his historic flight and the fame that followed him until his untimely death in 1968. We get to see beneath the veneer of the public hero to get a glimpse of the family man beneath and find an understanding of how he briefly became the most famous man in the World.



This exhibition is a collaboration between RIA Novosti and the Science Photo Library. It was shown this summer at the Albert Hall in London. Many of the photographs on display here had never been publicly exhibited before.

