



# The Scotland-Russia Forum Newsletter

Issue 5 March 2004

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

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## REMINDER!

To all those who have not yet renewed their subscriptions, this is the last newsletter you will receive with your 2003 subscription. Please send your renewal form to The Honorary Treasurer, Ian McGowan, 23 Blackford Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DT.

## Forum Programme, April-June 2004

Further details of all Forum events are available from the Secretary: 0131 447 9149, [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Thursday 22 April: A Republic by the Volga: the Chuvash people and their culture - Peter France**

Professor France, a specialist in Russian and French literature, has translated *An Anthology of Chuvash Poetry* (Forest Books, 1991), as well as several volumes of the (Russian) poetry of the Chuvash national poet, Gennady Aygi. He has visited Chuvashia three times and is a foreign member of the Chuvash National Academy.

7.30pm English Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent (Basement), Edinburgh. £2 members and students, £4 non-members, including informal drink afterwards.

### **Friday 28 May: Putin, the media and the future – Martin Dewhirst**

A former lecturer in Russian language and literature at Glasgow University (and now an Honorary Research Fellow there), Martin Dewhirst was in Russia during the last two elections (Moscow, December 2003 and St. Petersburg, March 2004) and in Georgia for its last two elections (January 2004 and March 2004). He will talk about the implications of President Putin's approach to politics and the media.

7.30pm Teviot Row House (Edinburgh University Students' Union), Bristo Square, Edinburgh. The Dining Room (1st floor). £2 members and students, £4 non-members, including informal drink afterwards.

### **Friday 18 June (provisional): 'White nights' social**

The details are still to be arranged: please contact the Secretary: 0131 662 9149, and watch for the emails!

## Films

Films will be shown monthly on the third Monday of the month at 7pm. Venue: 23 Blackford Road, Marchmont, Edinburgh: coordinator, Natasha Black.

**Monday 19 April: *Resurrection***, directed by Petrov. In Russian.

## The Scotland-Russia Forum website is now live

Details of Forum events are also on the Forum website which was launched at the AGM in February. It includes pages for the lecture programme, films and kruzhek, and the Secretary and the Editor can be contacted through the site. Further development will depend on expert advice: if any member is willing to offer such advice, please contact the Editor, who will be delighted to hear from you! Address: [www.scotlandrussiaforum.org](http://www.scotlandrussiaforum.org)

## Reports

### The recent Russian elections

On 14 January, Mike Pringle MSP, gave a fascinating talk on his recent trip to Russia for the Duma elections, at which he handed round copies of his diary of the trip. A summary is given below.

**Wednesday** – We visited the State Duma, then on to Moscow City Council, where there are only 35 delegates covering the whole of Moscow. It seems there is little party allegiance; they all work together. At the Federal Duma, we met the previous governor, Leonid Roketskii, then on to the Institute of Democracy which organised our visit. Discussing the Russian elections with officials there, they seemed to think that democracy in Russia was going backwards and there was huge disillusionment amongst voters. One suggested that the media was controlled by Putin and his Russian Party and that the Russian Party. Many voters want to vote for the winner, and there was a media push to show that Putin was winning, so people are likely vote for Putin and the Russian Party on Sunday.

**Thursday** - We met electoral commissioner Vladimir Lysenko. Although he is perhaps in his late forties, he had been a commissioner for some ten years, so was appointed when he was quite young. There are 15 electoral commissioners: 5 are elected by the Duma, 5 are appointed by the President, and 5 are elected from groups of regions across Russia. On Russian ballot papers, you can express no support for any candidate. If more than 25% in a constituency vote for no candidate then there has to be a re-election. If there is no overall majority for the second time and 25% vote for no candidate on the constituency ballot, then there is a delay of a year. If this happens in so many seats that the Duma does not have a quorum, then the entire election across Russia has to be re-run. In a constituency, it costs 250,000 roubles to stand in the election, the equivalent of about £18,000. A little different from our £500 to stand in the election and if you don't get the required 3% then you lose that. Ostensibly all parties get equal coverage in the media. There are 23 parties on the list and only 6 are expected to get the 5% that they need to get anybody elected to the Duma. There is a Green Party standing in the election but they are not expected to get more than 1-2 percent. Environmental issues do not seem to come very high on the agenda in Russia.

**Friday** - We left Moscow to go out to Kanakovo and Tver, stopping at a small settlement where we met one of the regional politicians who spent the rest of the day with us. They say there that one of their biggest problems is the condition of the roads and pavements. We went on to the Russian Orthodox Gymnasium in the village of Gorodnya, where we met teachers and the Director. The girls were in a uniform reminiscent of a tartan skirt. Everything was locked, and every time we went somewhere that the children weren't, somebody had to produce a key.

We left for Tver where we met the speaker Mark Hasainov, of Tver Oblast Legislative Assembly, and some of the deputies of the regional government. After lunch we went to the Electoral Commissioner's office for Tver where we met the Chairman of the Tver Oblast Election Commission, Mikhail Titov, and were taken to see a polling station. The ballot papers are counted in the polling station itself immediately the polls close at 8pm: each polling place produces its own count which is then fed in to the centre. All the ballot papers have to be signed by an official presiding officer - they were doing that while we were there. There were 1700 voters at this particular polling station. Anybody can phone up to 4pm and ask for a mobile ballot box to be taken to them - they put their votes in the mobile box which is opened at the same time as the two main ballot boxes. You can only vote by producing your passport: there is little chance of any second person voting for you, so vote rigging would seem to be next to impossible. The results in each polling station are posted up and the information is then fed into the electoral office in Tver where the results are amalgamated electronically: from there they are fed into the main electoral commissioner's office in Moscow. With the polls closing at 8.00pm they expect to be able to announce the provisional results by the following morning, to be confirmed once all the votes are physically counted and amalgamated electronically two or three days later. They say the provisional results are unlikely to differ from the final results. From there we went to see the

Acting Governor of Tver Region, Ivan Raidur. He said that the present governor was not taking part in the election and was on holiday but we had already been told that he is under investigation by the Russian government for some sort of fraud.

**Saturday** - We returned to Moscow. Saturday afternoon was our first real free time and we went to look at the Kremlin. With the bomb in Southern Russia on Friday there was heightened security and you could only get into the Kremlin with a guide. I had never realised how big the Kremlin is.

**Sunday** - We walked to a local polling station, and saw how they conduct the vote there, giving presents to a young man and young girls voting for the first time. Then we got the car and visited one or two polling stations in rural areas and in a local town. After lunch we looked at another rural polling station beside the motorway: total electorate 900. 36% had voted, which was good for a rural area. A minibus collects villagers who have no transport and brings them to the polling station, as well as a car taking ballot papers to those who phone in and want to vote. We headed back to Moscow, and at 7.50pm went to the polling station we'd been to in the morning where we saw them locking up. They lock the door, destroy any ballot papers they still have, open the boxes and start the count. We went back later in the evening, to discover that United Russia had got something like 36% and Yabloko had got about 25%. That was polling district 171. After dinner, we went to the Central Commission where the votes from across Russia were coming in: by the time we left at about 1.30 approximately 26% of the vote had come in. Clearly United Russia were going to win. Zhirinovskii's party was in second place and the Communists in third. As we were leaving Zhirinovskii arrived in his convoy. Unfortunately I didn't get my camera out quick enough so we didn't get a photograph of the leader of the extreme Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

### **Annual General Meeting and Kachanovka**

The Forum's first AGM held on 26 February, in the splendid surrounding of the City Council's European Room, was well attended. Meg Luckins, in the Chair, reported on the Forum's first year, and described the range of events arranged for Forum members. Ian McGowan, Honorary Treasurer reported on the generally healthy state of the Forum's finances and subscriptions were held at the same level for another year. Tania Konn-Roberts, who had stepped down to aid some rotation in the personnel of the Committee for the future, was re-elected unopposed.



After the business part of the meeting was concluded, Tanya Hine gave an illustrated talk on the story of her family's ancestral home Kachanovka, in the Ukraine, which had links with Glinka, Repin, Gogol and Shevchenko among others. It was built over two hundred years ago, of stone and wood, and is now in need of extensive restoration work. Tanya Hine's rediscovery of Kachanovka has led her not only to work for the restoration of the building, but to discover family members that she never knew she had. If you are interested in helping, contact: International Friends of Kachanovka, 112 John Player Building, Stirling, FK7 7RP, 01786 446004, email: [kachanovka@hemscott.net](mailto:kachanovka@hemscott.net)

### **Crying forever: The Soviet Nuclear Test Legacy in Kazakhstan**

Struan Stevenson, MEP spoke to the Forum on 18 March he spoke to the Forum on the devastating legacy of 607 nuclear explosions on the people of Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan and previewed his photo exhibition, *Crying forever: the forgotten victims of the Cold War*, later launched at the Scottish Parliament by Mr Stevenson and His Excellency Erlan Idrissov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The exhibition will travel to London, Brussels and Washington before being displayed in Kazakhstan in October. *Crying Forever* was created following a humanitarian visit by Struan Stevenson and Australian actress Kimberley Joseph to the region earlier last year. The exhibition contains original photography by Struan Stevenson and Kimberley Joseph taken during their visit.

According to Mr Stevenson: ‘During 1940 – 1990 the region was exposed to the equivalent of 20,222 Hiroshima bombs as the Soviets undertook above ground, underground and atmospheric nuclear tests to monitor the impact of radiation on their own people. The aim of the exhibition is to raise funds for and awareness of the plight of the people, the forgotten victims of the Cold War. The people of Semipalatinsk have been forced to live through and live with the aftermath of such atrocities. Equipment and support services are scarce with resources directed to those with the most immediate need. Long-term illnesses such as cancer do not get the attention needed in preventative or treatment terms. With support, we can provide lifeline medical equipment to detect and treat ill health, and offer practical support to local groups to improve their daily lives. Like communities the world over, it’s the future generations who benefit most from donations now – however for the young people in Kazakhstan now, the future is a terrifying option and sadly many are choosing suicide as the only way out. These are real victims of the Cold War and we, in the West, have a moral obligation to offer help.’

Mr Stevenson has already secured 4 million Euros of European Aid to fund vital health care services for the people of Semipalatinsk. All funds raised by the tour of the exhibition will be distributed in the Semipalatinsk region by Mercy Corps.

### **Russia post-Gorbachev: Life under Putin**

The Forum’s first event outside Edinburgh took place on Tuesday 23 March when Professor Ludmilla Selezneva spoke on ‘Life under Putin’ at the Beaufort Hotel in Inverness during her tour of Scotland. We hope it will be the first of many such occasions.

### **Business Seminar**

The Forum’s first Business Seminar, aimed at Scottish companies intending to become involved with trade in Russia, took place on 26 March. It was a great success, and it is hoped that a fuller report will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

### **A Chat with the Consul General**

It had originally been planned that Diarmid Gunn, an Honorary Vice-President of the Forum would interview the new Consul General for Edinburgh, Vladimir Malygin, after the business of the AGM was concluded. Unfortunately this did not prove possible, but a private interview took place, and is published here.

Diarmid Gunn writes: Vladimir Malygin is a professional diplomat of considerable experience. During his career he has served in the embassies of the then Soviet Union in Sweden and the United Kingdom and in the Russian embassy in Cyprus. Before coming to Edinburgh he was Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was delighted to talk about his work in Edinburgh and air his views on events and developments pertaining to the Russian Federation.

In response to a question on Edinburgh, he was quick to express his enthusiasm for his work here. ‘I was simply overjoyed when I was informed of my posting to Edinburgh. During my spell as a young diplomat in London in the 1980’s I had the chance of visiting Scotland on many occasions, and this whetted my appetite for a longer stay in your country. My boss at that time was

Ambassador Popov, who attended the launch in Edinburgh of that excellent booklet, *Shotlandia*, for which he had given his full support.'

Our conversation moved to his previous post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which he had found fascinating in all respects. 'My work covered all aspects of control and coordination, which meant ensuring the implementation of Presidential decrees and directives and the coordination of the activities of other State bodies involved in political matters; it also covered the inspection of Russian embassies'.

The change from working at the heart of things to an important post abroad was treated by Vladimir Malygin as an exciting challenge. He felt that as Consul General in Edinburgh with the rank of minister plenipotentiary, he had a large degree of independence in his work; also, he did not feel cut off from events in Russia as he had kept very much in touch with the recent elections to the Duma. 'Throughout the build up to the elections I was kept fully informed of the manifestos and claims of the contending parties by reading the accurate and independent views of such publications as the *Moskovsky Komsomolets* and *Argumenti i Fakti*. Any thoughtful voter could only have been fully appraised of the issues at stake. The poor showing of parties like Yabloko and The Union of Right Forces was a reflection of the electorate's wish for the political and economic stability expected from United Russia, the pro Kremlin party. It looks as though President Putin will be re-elected with a big majority in March and this again is a sign of the electorate's belief that he can develop the necessary political stability to tackle social and economic problems effectively.' At this stage I introduced the subject of the position of the Federal Council, the upper chamber of the Russian Federation. Again, Vladimir was in no doubt that the mood of this body drawn from 89 electoral areas was very much that of the general electorate.

The word stability was to emerge again when we talked about the economic situation, on which Vladimir Malygin's view was bullish. 'In 2003 there was a 7% increase in GDP and a decrease in the level of inflation from 12% to 10%. This is very encouraging, but much remains to be done to translate the effects of this to improvements in support for educational and social services. Some of the problems have been caused by the rapid transition from a command to a market economy. In the economic revival, the European Union (EU) has an important part to play as 40% of Russia's trade turn-over is with the EU and a third of foreign investment in Russia is from the EU'.

Vladimir Malygin was quick to agree that the export of Russian culture is a vital ingredient of his country's foreign policy. The Bolshoi and the Mariinsky (Kirov) opera and ballet companies are still highly respected. My question on the possible drain of opera and ballet talent to the West was neatly turned around by an amusing anecdote from him. 'In Russia, ballerinas have to retire at the age of 38 to enjoy a fairly meagre state pension. Nina Ananiashvili, one of the most accomplished and popular ballerinas of today, and still very sprightly at the grand old age of 40, has decided to augment her pension by dancing in the West. I cannot blame her. On a more serious note, I am delighted that an agreement has been signed between the St Petersburg State Conservatory and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama for the introduction of collaborative projects, and student and staff exchanges. This is an exciting development, which I am following with great interest'.

As the conversation had come back to Scotland, I asked about how he and his wife were finding life in Edinburgh. 'Tatiana and I are very happy here; this is a different experience from that which we had in London in the 1980's. Russia has changed, and so have we - we are older! Although small, Edinburgh has so much to offer and the people are so friendly. The National Gallery is one of our favourite haunts; I love lingering over the works of such artists as Gainsborough, Reynolds, Constable and Turner. The shops aren't so much of an attraction for us as they were in the 1980's, and Tatiana maintains that Moscow shops are certainly on a par with those of Edinburgh, if not better'.

We concluded our conversation by talking of President Putin's visit to Edinburgh in 2003. We agreed that the fall-out from the visit was considerable and valuable and that this was becoming apparent in various ways. On this, Vladimir divulged with unconcealed pleasure that even

communications between Russia and Scotland were rapidly improving. 'An agreement has been reached between TransAero and the British Airports Authority for a direct flight from Edinburgh and Moscow, starting from the summer. Surely this is a most encouraging development as the passengers will be not only tourists but also businessmen and all those interested in the furthering of cultural and economic exchanges between Scotland and Russia'.

### **Russian librarians tour**

Fifteen Russian librarians, representing a consortium of libraries (the Russian State Library, the National Library of Russia, the Russian State Library for Foreign Literature, the Parliamentary Library and the Moscow State University Scientific Library) visited Scotland in January as part of a wider tour of the UK. The consortium is involved in a project to support the integration of their resources more closely into the European Library network, and to develop a virtual union catalogue of their holdings. In Scotland they visited the National Library of Scotland, the Centre Library Research at the University of Strathclyde University, and SCRAN (the Scottish Resources Archive Network), concluding with a reception attended by the Consul General, Mr Malygin. A report of the visit and details of the project are available on the internet at:  
<http://www.ribk.ru:8101/eng/merop/tour.htm>

### **Young Musicians Exchange Agreement**

Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama has signed an exchange agreement with the St Petersburg Conservatory of Music, formerly the Imperial Conservatory, whose alumni include Tchaikovsky, Rakhmaninov and Stravinsky. Music and opera students from Scotland will train at the St Petersburg Conservatory and Russian students will spend time at the RSAMD, and the final outcome will be a joint opera production to be staged in Glasgow and Edinburgh, as well as in St Petersburg. There may also be other new links with cultural bodies in St Petersburg, such as the Mariinsky Theatre. This story was covered in the *Scotsman* and is available over the internet at  
<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/entertainment.cfm?id=55292004>

### **Scotland-Russia Forum in the news**

AS well as a number of articles on Scottish-Russian links, such as the one mentioned above, the Scotland-Russia Forum has made a number of appearances in the press recently. The *Sunday Post* for 28 March 2004 had an article (on page 9) about the need for Russian linguists, prompted by Mike Pringle's recent written questions to the Executive and also mentioning our business seminar: See also online at <http://www.dcthomson.co.uk/mags/post/news3.htm>  
 We were also mentioned recently in the *Scotsman* (twice): firstly on 4 March 2004:  
<http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=1005&id=253182004>  
 and also on 6 March: <http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=263602004>

### **What's on**

**Parents of young children:** a few local Russian mothers have recently asked where they and their children can meet others in a similar position. The same might apply to British mothers of children with a Russian father who are anxious for their children to speak more Russian and also to young Russian women recently arrived but without children. There maybe potential for an informal playgroup/Saturday school or just occasional get-togethers over a cup of coffee. Even a babysitting circle? If anyone would like to be put in touch please contact Jenny Carr in the first instance. If you know anyone else who might be interested please let them know. Jenny Carr: 0131 662 9149, [scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:scotrussforum@blueyonder.co.uk).

**Russian Baking course in Penrith,** Saturday-Sunday 3-4 April. Learn to make Russian bread, pastries and cakes at the Village Bakery, Melmerby. Course is mainly in Russian - English spoken where necessary. Further information / booking: [www.breadmatters.com](http://www.breadmatters.com) or tel. 01768 881899

**Local Responses to Global Challenges:** the second in the ESRC Seminar Series on 'Trans-National Issues, Local Concerns: Insights from Russia, Central and Eastern Europe and the UK', Friday 23 April 2004, 10am–5pm, Lilybank House, Room 201, Department of Central and East European Studies, University of Glasgow. The central aim of the seminar is to understand how individuals/communities face 'global' challenges in their specific locality. A key focus is consideration of whether locally successful and innovative practical approaches to particular issues can be sensitively adopted in different culturally and historically influenced contexts. For further information on this seminar please contact one of the organisers Moya Flynn (m.b.flynn@socsci.gla.ac.uk), Rebecca Kay (r.kay@socsci.gla.ac.uk), by 5 April. DCEES, University of Glasgow, Hetherington Building, Bute Gardens, Glasgow, G12 8RS, 0141 330 6687. For information about the series as a whole: <http://www.gees.bham.ac.uk/research/transnational/>

**Glinka study day:** University of Glasgow Department of Adult and Continuing Education is running a day school on Glinka Saturday 15 May 2004, from 10.15 am – 4.15 pm, at Fotheringay Centre, Hutchesons' Grammar School, Fotheringay Road, Pollokshields. Fee: £27 (includes lunch & refreshments). Tchaikovsky, among others, credited Glinka with a vital role in the formation of Russian art music. In the year of his bi-centenary, this course will compositions through live performances, talks and opera films, showing (among other things) how he anticipated the work of better-known successors. Some of the lectures will be illustrated by singers from the RSAMD, and the day concludes with a complete act from one of Glinka's operas. Details: Information Centre, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, St. Andrew's Building, 11 Eldon Street, Glasgow, G3 6NH: 0141 330 1835, email [enquiry@educ.gla.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@educ.gla.ac.uk) <http://www.gla.ac.uk/adulteducation>

**'From Russia with love':** one of the RSNO ScottishPower Proms 2004 at the Usher Hall, Thursday 10 June 2004. The concert includes Borodin's Symphony no 2, Piano Concerto No 2 by Shostakovitch, Scheherazade by Rimsky-Korsakov. Conductor Alexander Lazarev. Usher Hall, 0131 228 1155; Royal Concert Hall, 0141 226 3868. [www.rsno.org.uk](http://www.rsno.org.uk)

### **Orthodox Community of St Nicholas**

Russian Orthodox Church in Britain and Ireland (Diocese of Sourozh). Contact: Father Alexander Williams, Arranmhor, Laighill Loan, Dunblane, FK15 0BJ, 01786-822750, email [rory.williams@clara.co.uk](mailto:rory.williams@clara.co.uk)

Services at Laighill Loan, Dunblane:

Sunday 4 April, 11am. Palm Sunday, Fast. Liturgy.

Wednesday 7 April, 6.30pm. Holy Wednesday, Fast. Service of Anointing, Feast of the Annunciation.

Thursday 8 April, 6.30pm. Holy Thursday, Fast. The Passion Gospels.

Friday 9 April, 6.30pm. Holy Friday, Fast. Vespers and Procession of the Shroud. Please bring flowers.

Saturday 10 April, 11pm. \*Easter Vigil: Matins and Liturgy of the resurrection. (1.20-2.30am shared meal to break the fast).

Sunday 18 April, 11am. Liturgy. Thomas Sunday, visit to the community's graves as for Radonitsa.

Sunday 25 April, 11am. Liturgy. Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing women.

Sunday 9 May, 11am. \*Liturgy. Sunday of the Samaritan Woman. Quarterly meeting.

Saturday 22 May, 11am. Liturgy. Afterfeast of the Ascension.

Saturday 29 May, 5pm. Vigil. Feast of Pentecost.

Sunday 30 May, 11am. \*Liturgy. Feast of Pentecost.

Sunday 13 June, 11am. Liturgy. All Saints of Russia, Apostles Fast (7/6-11/7)

\* Communal meal after the Liturgy: anyone contributes who wishes, and all are welcome. After other services tea, coffee and biscuits are served.

Services in Glasgow, University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy, John Street, Glasgow

Friday 2 April 6pm. Vespers

Saturday 3 April 11am. Liturgy. Lazarus Saturday.

Saturday 1 May. 11am. Liturgy. Saturday of the Myrrh-bearing women.  
 Friday 4 June, 6pm. Vespers. Leavetaking of Pentecost.  
 Saturday 5 June, 11am. Liturgy. Leavetaking of Pentecost.

### **Orthodox Community of St Andrew**

Orthodox Community of St Andrew, 23A George Square, Edinburgh. Tel. 0131 667 0372  
 Services at the Chapel of St Andrew, 2 Meadow Lane, Edinburgh, EH8 9NR

Saturday: Vespers at 6.30pm

Sunday Matins at 9am, Holy Liturgy at 10.30am.

Daily services: Matins at 7.45am and Vespers at 6.30pm.

Easter Services:

Monday 5 April, 6.30pm. Bridegroom Service.

Tuesday 6 April, 6.30pm. Bridegroom Service.

Wednesday 7 April, 6.30pm. Service of Anointing.

Thursday 8 April, 10.30am. Vespers and Liturgy of St Basil, and Service of the Passion of Our Lord.

Friday 9 April, 9am-12pm. Great Hours, and Vespers: Descent from the Cross.  
 6.30pm. Service of Epitaphios.

Saturday 10 April, 10.30am. Vespers and Liturgy of St Basil.  
 11.30pm. Easter Vigil.

Sunday 11 April. Resurrection Service at Midnight and Easter Matins and Liturgy.  
 10.30am. Divine Liturgy.  
 1pm (about). Vespers of Love (after Easter lunch).

### **Other services in Scotland**

Aberdeen: Saturday 10 April, 10am, at St Ninian's Episcopal Church, 696 King Street, Aberdeen.

Dundee: Saturday 17 April, at the University Chaplaincy, Cross Row, Dundee, DD1 4HN.

St Andrews, Friday 9 April, 6.30pm, Great Friday Epitaphios Service. (Please phone 0131 667 0372 during Holy Week to confirm.)

### **Notices**

**Russia Travel** has announced direct flights between Scotland and Moscow. Transaero Airlines will begin a weekly service in June, flying on Wednesdays from Edinburgh to Moscow's Domodedovo International Airport. The flight programme will be inaugurated from 2 June 2004 and flights will go on sale for the route at the end of February 2004. To book phone Transaero Airlines' Reservations on 0870 850 7767 (Fax: 0870 240 2208). Open 09:00-17:30, Monday-Friday.

**Run for AMUR** AMUR, the Anglo-Russian charity established to support conservation activities to save Amur tigers and leopards from extinction, is organising an 'international team' this year for the Moscow Half Marathon/10km race. There are 15 places, and the event takes place on 8 May 2004. The course runs along the banks of the River Moskva starting at Red Square and passing the Kremlin and St Basils Cathedral. AMUR will help arrange flights and accommodation, will meet runners at the airport in Moscow and provide transport to hotels. AMUR will also organise race registration, a team party after the race and a sight-seeing tour of Moscow for the following day. The runner pays for flights and accommodation and should raise sponsorship money for AMUR with sponsorship forms provided. Contact Sharon Miller: 01225 851251, email [info@amur.org.uk](mailto:info@amur.org.uk) [www.amur.org.uk](http://www.amur.org.uk)

**New phone rates** from Telediscount (<http://www.telediscount.co.uk/>): dial these codes first and follow instructions. Russia 08448 610 610 (1p/min), 0844 8 610 610 (5p/min mobiles); Belarus 0871 9 991 991 (13p/min); Ukraine 0871 7 723 723 (7p/min).

**Flat in Moscow for rent.** Comfortable and spacious, furnished 2-room apartment in a Stalin-era building in a quiet area 20 minutes from the centre of Moscow ('Academicheskaja' or 'Universitet' metro stations); of interest to couples or professionals. Available for long-term rent from April 2004. Two living/bed rooms and large kitchen/dining room. Newly redecorated, with all facilities (TV, video, washing machine, microwave). The building has a concierge and good security. E-mail [s.stephenson@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:s.stephenson@londonmet.ac.uk) or call Svetlana or Bob on 01727 811 256.