

# Scottish Ukrainian Community Newsletter



Edited by M. Kerr

## Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting of AUGB Edinburgh Branch & Ukrainian Social Club was held in the Club at Royal Terrace on Sunday 28th March 2010.

The proceedings were chaired by Mr Robert Brown from Friends of Ukraine, Scottish Founda-

tion. The members elected a new management committee and control commission for the forthcoming year and details can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Since then changes were effected and N Zayec stood down as head of

control commission and continues as cultural advisor on health and family grounds. Ann Berczuk joined the Control Commission and Michael Kerr is the new Treasurer and newsletter editor. Olesh Demianczuk is AUGB website editor and ad hoc project administrator.

## Ukrainian Easter Celebration

With Easter falling so close to the AGM preparations for the annual lunch at the Club were very much "last minute". However the club continued its annual tradition and served a menu of soup, a large variety of cold meats and salads followed by a selection of pastries accompanied by a

complimentary glass of wine which got the afternoon off to a good start.

The event was very well attended and enjoyed by all including the well known Ukrainian artist, George Babychuk. Parents of some of the younger guests arranged Easter egg

hunts and egg rolling competitions which proved very popular.

To round off the day a number of members then retired down to the bar to continue the celebrations with a number of drinks, followed by a well-versed sing song.

## Club Renovations Update

A number of essential repairs were carried out by the previous committee but there is still a lot of work required to ensure that the Club is a safe and attractive environment for members.

The most pressing issue at the moment is a repair to the roof to stop the ingress of water to the upper floor. Scaffolding has been erected in preparation for

the work beginning towards the end of July.

Over the course of the next few months, it is our intention to give the bar area and adjoining room a much needed "face-lift".

A new addition to the club can be seen in the dining room where there is a pool table available for anyone wishing to play and which should allow for some

great entertainment during social occasions and with the occasional pool tournament being carried out by members!

It is also planned to use this new facility to organize an inter-CYM pool tournament with Oseredok's from England with the day being rounded off with a well-deserved Zabava!

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### Forthcoming Events:

- Visit of Bishop Lonchyna (Dalmeny St Church) Sunday 25th July at 11am
- Summer Barbeque, 31st July from 2pm
- Michael Melnyk Presentation, 21st Aug at 5pm
- Independence Celebration, Sunday 22nd August at 2pm
- Film Screening, 10th Oct
- Film Screening, 28th Nov
- Film Screening, 19th Dec

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## Hiring the Hall

As well as being used for Ukrainian functions, the club can also be hired out to members and non-members. Already it is used for Ukrainian language classes, Irish and Scottish country dancing, a speaker's society and has been used by Friends of Ukraine for a number of events. In the past it has also been used for indoor bowling!

The large hall upstairs has a capacity for 80 to 100 guests and with a reasonably

priced bar, kitchen, dining room, and now pool table, then the Club is ideal for any events that you are planning, whether large or small.

For members there is no charge but a small donation towards the cost of utilities would be appreciated. Also in accordance with the current licensing laws alcohol cannot be brought on to the premises for private parties. We fully realize that current bar stock may not

meet everyone's requirements but when booking the club for a function if you let us know if you require anything specific we will be happy to ensure that the bar is stocked accordingly

If you would like more details about hiring the club facilities, please contact one of the committee members with information about your event and to make a booking.

## Friends of Ukraine Updates



### The Tailor of Inverness

Actor and writer Matthew Zajac introduced and screened his award winning play *The Tailor of Inverness* at the Club on Friday 5th March. The play details the story of Matthew's father's journey from a village in what is now western Ukraine to Scotland during and after the war. The event was well attended and the production was poignant and thought provoking proving to be a familiar story for many of the audience.

### Food tasting

On 18 June, after the AGM, a food tast-

ing event was held in the Ukrainian Club at Royal Terrace. Ladies from the Consul prepared a variety of appetizing Ukrainian dishes which were washed down with very palatable Ukrainian wine and champagne. The event was well attended and proved a very pleasant evening although unfortunately did not result in any increase in FUSF membership.

### Holodomor

Petro Korymlo had organized a poster display about this tragic event in Ukraine's history in the Pathfoot building in Stirling University which ran from mid

May to 25/6/10. It is to be run in Glasgow with venue and dates to follow.



**Holodomor Exhibition**

## Forthcoming Events

### Summer Barbeque

The 4th annual barbecue will be held at Royal Terrace on 31 July. The fun will start at 14:00 and continue 'til late. There will be a choice of barbecued fare and soft drinks available from 15:00 to 17:00. You are welcome to eat as much as you like for a cost of £6.00 per adult, £4.00 for concessions (children under 16 and pensioners) and for children under 5 there will be no charge. Tickets will be available at the door. If you wish to attend please contact Alex Kuryluk or Mike Ostapko as soon as possible.

### Forthcoming Presentation

A Presentation by Michael James Melnyk, author of the book "To Battle: The Formation and History of the 14th Galician Waffen-SS Division" will take place at the Club on 21 August at 17:00. Among the numerous historical accounts of the Ukrainians who served in the German Waffen-SS from 1943 to 1945, Michael James Melnyk's contains the most accurate research to date. As a military historian he gives a balanced account of the reasons behind the creation of the division and the motivations of those who joined and fought in the complex theatre of war on the Russian front.

### Independence Day Celebration

Independence will be celebrated at the Club on 22 August and the programme will include a film about Shukhevich. We would also like to include some items by the younger generation and if any parents feel that they would like their children to participate could you please contact our Secretary, Alex Kuryluk as soon as possible so that we can finalise the programme.

## Forthcoming Events

### Film Screenings

Film evenings will take place at the Club as follows:

- “Bandera” 10 October,
- “Scheptytskyj” 28 November,
- “Holodomor” 19 December

The above dates are definite and full details of all these events will be issued

nearer the time. In addition we hope to include a number of other events suggested by members of the community. In the interests of maintaining our Ukrainian traditions we would like to arrange an event to celebrate St Nicolas and we are looking to parents to let us know if they would be interested in such an event and be prepared to help organize it. Similarly if there are any other events for the younger generation which you would like to see held please contact

the Secretary or any other member of the Committee.

The success of all these functions and the future of the Club depends entirely on the Community and we are looking to all of you for support. Without your participation our efforts are fruitless and at the risk of sounding trite, given the current state of our finances, as far as the future of the Club is concerned it's very much a case of “Use it or lose it”.

## Annual Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto

On Sunday 27th the congregation of the Church made their annual excursion to Carfin Grotto for a service in the church, followed by the March to the Ukrainian memorial within the Grotto. Some members were picked up by coach at the church and club while others made their way there by car.

The memorial started with a service at 2.00pm conducted by Father Pidluski in front of a congregation of about 50.

After the service, everyone made their way to the Ukrainian memorial, the procession being led by bearers carrying the Church banners.

At the memorial, a wreath of blue and yellow blooms was laid on behalf of CYB and the new Consul General for Ukraine in Edinburgh, Mr. Mychajlo Osnach laid a bouquet of blood red roses. He then addressed the assembled congregation. His address was followed by a short speech by Pan Alex Demianczuk which in turn was followed by a Pana Hada to commemorate fallen Ukrainians throughout the years.

After the service, members posed for photographs and then made the way up

to the Hall for some refreshments and to also watch the start of the world cup football. However the after mass socializing was shorter than is now customary for a special reason.

After a quick cup of tea, everyone got back on the coach and travelled back to the Ukrainian Club, where there was a belated party arranged to celebrate Father Pidluski's 50th birthday. The party began with some speeches in which Father Pidluski spoke of his time in Scotland and his life in the Priesthood. This was followed by a toast and a chorus of Mnohya Lita.

The party then continued with a further toast and then a substantial buffet prepared by the ladies of the club.

The Carfin pilgrimage has been an annual event in Scotland for many years and it is hoped that this will long continue. Anyone wishing to attend in the future should please contact any member of the Committee for more details.



## Bishop Lonchyna Visit to Edinburgh & Dundee

The Ukrainian community of Scotland is proud to announce that on Sunday 25th of July, Bishop Hlib Lonchyna will be visiting the Ukrainian church in Dalmeny Street to attend a service.

Bishop Lonchyna was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009 to serve as the representative of the Ukrainian Catholics in Great Britain and Ireland and this is his first visit to Scotland in this role.

The day will begin with a welcoming ceremony by Children of the community in the traditional Ukrainian way. There will then be a full church service, followed by the Community choir singing a number of traditional songs and hymns.

After mass refreshments will be served in the hall at the rear of the church with all members welcome.

Following this the Bishop and Father Pidluski will be travelling to Dundee for the monthly service there and all parish-

ioners are welcome to travel on-wards for a service at 4pm at St Andrews Cathedral.

We would also like to ask as many members as possible to attend the service in traditional Ukrainian costumes and bring along all friends and families to support this event.

For any further information then please contact any of the members of the Committee.

There will be a rehearsal of the choir at the Ukrainian club on Sunday 18th of July at 7:30pm, where anyone wishing to take part will be very welcome.



Bishop Lonchyna

### Church Services

In addition to the weekly mass in St Andrew's church on Dalmeny Street, services are also held as follows:

- First Sunday of every month at the POW Chapel in Lockerbie at 4:00pm
- Third Sunday of every month in Our Lady and St Andrew's Church in Galashiels at 3.00pm
- Fourth Sunday of every month at St Andrew's Cathedral in Dundee at 4.00pm

## Ukraine Trip/Father Pidluski's 50th

On 25 May ten members of the Ukrainian community traveled to Ukraine with Father Pidluski to take part in his 50th birthday celebration in Ivano Frankivsk on 29 May.

Due to the lack of airport facilities in either Ivano Frankivsk or Lviv the party flew to Kiev and then traveled to Ivano Frankivsk by bus. Despite assurances that the bus journey would last about seven to eight hours and would be by luxury coach transport turned out to be a small mini bus which barely accommodated the passengers and their luggage and took a bit longer.

To be fair this confusion may have resulted from numerous changes of travel arrangements caused by the British Airways cabin crew strikes and the need to reschedule arrangements rather than the difference between the parties understanding and the Ukrainian understanding of luxury travel. In the end the journey from Kiev to Ivano Frankivsk took almost twelve hours, however this provided an opportunity to view and appreciate the sheer size and beauty of a large proportion of the rich agricultural landscape of Ukraine.

On their eventual safe arrival in Ivano Frankivsk the party was entertained with typical Ukrainian hospitality by Father Pidluski's sister before booking into the Hotel Nadia, a lovely hotel in the centre of Ivano Frankivsk booked at a very reasonable price by Father.

The birthday celebration on 29 May started with mass in the cathedral at 11.00am, followed by a party at the hotel Nadia which started at 14.30 and continued until midnight. His Scottish guests presented him with a Quaich, 5.5 inches in diameter, which embodied his Scottish and Ukrainian connection, the handles being in the shape of thistles and with a Tryzub engraved in the bowl of the Quaich. Apart from the magnificent array of food and endless supply of whiskey, vodka, wine and champagne the party guests were entertained throughout the afternoon and evening by very versatile musicians, a well known local singer and a very talented youth choir.

Over the course of the trip which lasted two weeks everyone was able to visit their respective families and in all cases the hospitality was overwhelming and everyone shared a lot of stories.

Father Pidluski arranged a most enjoy-

able farewell celebration meal and dance in the restaurant of hotel Nadia on the last evening which was also attended by members of his family and friends.

It was decided that the excitement of the initial bus trip would be too much to repeat so the return trip to Kiev was by overnight train on 6 June and despite the obvious age of the train, it proved a much better way to travel. For those with mobility problems, climbing on to the train was no mean feat but fortunately Fr Pidluski's and John Semkiw's family came to the station to help us with our luggage and say goodbye so with a fair amount of pushing and pulling everyone was safely stowed on board.

Arriving back in Kiev on the morning of 7 June allowed some time for those who had not been to the city before to see some of its remarkable sights before the return to Scotland on 8 June.

If anyone is interested in seeing photographs of the trip, Stefanie Hawryluk was the official trip photographer and is producing an album for Father.

## Lockerbie Ukrainian POW Chapel

Although there are a number of Ukrainian services held throughout Scotland, the service in Lockerbie is held in a very unique location.

The chapel was built by Ukrainian prisoners of war who were sent here in 1947 and held at Halmuir Camp on the outskirts of the town, instead of being sent back home where they would have been tried as traitors and faced almost certain death.

The chapel was looked after for a long time by just one or two people, and especially by Mykola Pufkyj until his death in August 2004. His voluntary caretaking



Chapel interior

job was then taken over by his son and daughter-in-law, Zenon and Ina, and the chapel is now an officially listed and protected building where services are held on the first Sunday of every month.

Beside the chapel, there is an old caravan which doubles as a small community hall where parishioners can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee after the monthly service and also serves as an information centre with a large collection of pictures and articles from over the years.

For several years the upkeep of the chapel has been dependant on donations from visitors but unfortunately these have proved insufficient to maintain the integrity of the chapel.

At a meeting in December 2009 it was agreed that a group called "the friends of the Ukrainian POW Chapel" would take forward a project to repair and maintain the chapel, acquire a new visitor centre and upgrade the site in general.

A constitution has been drawn up and is currently being finalized so that the

group may apply to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) for charitable status and once registered application can be made for a variety of grants.

If you would like to become involved in any way in the project to upgrade and maintain the chapel please contact Mike Ostapko on 01383 410205 or email [ostapko@btinternet.com](mailto:ostapko@btinternet.com)



60 Years of Lockerbie Ukrainians monument

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