



Serving the Community

Since 2009, the main focus of our work in Russia has been in and around Volkhov, about 120 km (76 miles) to the east of St Petersburg.

Projects in Volkhov at Raduga, a centre offering family support services, and Filippok, a 'Rehabilitation centre for children and adolescents with disabilities' (its own description) were arranged through Vera, who has been involved for many years in helping people in need – children, single parents, the elderly, the disabled – both in Volkhov, where she grew up, and in St Petersburg.

The 'House of Hope'

A few years ago, Vera acquired a house in Murmanskie Vorota, a village near Volkhov, to use as a centre for camps and other activities for children and young people, especially those from deprived backgrounds. This, the 'House of Hope' (Vera's name for it), has become a refuge for the abused, a sustenance for the needy, and a place of encouragement, inspiration and prayer for many.

In 2010, we were able to carry out some work there, completing boundary fences, the outdoor dining area and other odd jobs, and removing a lot of scrap metal.

In 2014 -

We plan to take on further work to support Vera in her ministry, serving the community and making Christ real to everyone. What exactly? See the adjacent column. How much we can accomplish depends on how strong a team we can bring together, as well as on funds.

We need a team of volunteers to come and work - we hope, in partnership with local people. Will you come to the 'House of Hope' with us?

Or perhaps you could sponsor someone else to come; please get in touch.

Contact Tony Wilcox (address above) to find out more. An Information Pack is in preparation.

Dates: 9th-23rd August 2014

Cost: £550 (travel/health insurance extra).

Note that this applies to people currently resident in the UK, as the bulk of the amount is to cover flights and visas. If you would be travelling to Volkhov from anywhere else, we'll work out actual costs.

What are we going to do?

With no gas supply to the village (you can reflect on the irony of that), heating depends on wood-burning stoves. With winter temperatures routinely below that of your domestic refrigerator, and snowfalls often to be measured in feet rather than inches, you need a good supply of wood to make best use of your building.

The primary task is to rebuild the wood storage shed. The present shed may look sound, but the floor is rotten, it's too low and too near a stream on one side and a ditch on another, both of which are liable to flood.



If we finish that, there is always something else to move on to! At the other end of the house is the **new kitchen**. Posts supporting the roof need to be sanded and painted, and the kitchen built and fitted out. The area will also provide warm winter accommodation.



It can be hard work in fairly spartan conditions, but there's time for fun, time to relax, time to see the sights and time to make friends – Russian as well as British.

Prices of flights can be volatile; so -

Please apply by January 31st.

The Summer of 2013: more work at the Filippok Centre



the washroom/laundry room



the parents' kitchen



Only two volunteers this year, but it's amazing how much they achieved (they'd say it's because they're Scots!)

In Filippok, two rooms, a washroom/laundry room, and a kitchen for parents staying, were repaired and re-decorated. These are on the ground floor off the main corridor and would be the first to be looked at, should government inspectors turn up.

Rain prevented work in the playground area, but at Vera's 'House of Hope' work was done to what will be the new kitchen, and the grass was cut!

One of the encouragements of recent years is the greater openness of Filippok and Raduga to local Christian work that now exists, apparently since our work in those establishments.

pictures by Wullie McCracken

What happened to ... ?

The Filippok playground project is currently on the back burner, partly because it needs the involvement of other agencies besides ourselves, and partly because of uncertainties in relation to any projects around buildings where the current user is not the owner.

It was good to see, this summer, that the garden we established on Vasilyevskiy (2008) is looking healthy, is much used and much appreciated. Likewise, we hear from someone who visited recently, our work at Opochka (2001-4).

Of course, all these projects are only means to an end. If people have been helped and encouraged, both in their work and in seeing God's hand in their lives, there is a result more permanent than buildings.

Finance

We warmly welcome any financial support, as well as prayer and interest. We are funded primarily by direct giving, by individuals and by churches.

We can send you a **Gift Aid** form if appropriate (or you can download it from our website); it increases the value of a contribution at no cost to you, provided that each gift is identified and you pay a sufficient amount of Tax.

You can now make donations via our **PayPal** account. You'll find it on our website, on the Donate page.

Or you can give to Caring Hands Russia at any branch of Lloyds Bank or Bank of Scotland:
Sort code 30-97-00 Account number 01338970.

Email

This Newsletter is produced in pdf format for uploading to our website. If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email (as a pdf attachment), rather than by post, please email Tony Wilcox as below.

Thanks

- to all who continue to supply us with packets of seeds: individuals, churches, and Thompson & Morgan, a seed and garden supplies company near Ipswich. Seeds are distributed to needy families, elderly folk et alii, as they provide a good means of encouraging self-help.

Thanks also to OCE UK Ltd, the company who allow Billy to print this Newsletter each time. It is a contribution we greatly appreciate.

We Hope

- that this Newsletter will give you food for thought and prayer. For more details, or for one of us to come and speak at meetings or church services, contact:

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Our website is at: www.caringhandsru.org

Summary of finances

Income-

Standing Orders & donations	7150
Income tax via Gift Aid	680
Catalogue	35
Returns & refunds	520
Just Giving	289
At Bank 1/4/12	5091
Total	13765

(year-end 31 March 2013)

Expenditure-

Project Costs	6280
Promotion (Newsletter, website etc)	215
Bank, Paypal, Just Giving charges	228
At Bank 31/3/13	7042
Total	13765