



August 2012 was our second summer working at the “**Rehabilitation centre for children and adolescents with disabilities**” (known as “**Filippok**” - the name of a small boy in a story by Lev Tolstoy) in Volkhov, about 75 miles to the east of St Petersburg. It was established in 1993, one of the first such places in Russia, working with newborns to age 18.

The Centre offers mostly day care for around seventy children, with some short-term residential provision, especially for people from more distant villages in the Volkhov Region.

The building, a 1960s-built former orphanage, has been home to the Filippok Centre since 2000 but has not really been properly adapted or maintained, due to lack of funds.

In 2013, we plan to continue working at the Filippok Centre. How much we can accomplish depends very much on how strong a team we can bring together, as well as on funds.

We need a team of volunteers to work in partnership with local people and their churches. Will you come with us?

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

Contact Tony Wilcox (address above) to find out more.

Dates: 10th-25th August 2013

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.

It is also the cost if you commit to coming by January 31st. After that, there may be variations according to prices of flights.

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

Please apply by January 31st.

What are we going to do?

Galina, Filippok's Director, writes: “We are delighted you will come and see us again. We await your arrival in August, the timing suits us perfectly. The things which concern me most, of course, are the children's playgrounds. I think cosmetic refurbishment of the inside of the building is also necessary.”

Filippok needs a fence

So far, we have been able to refurbish the four balconies which serve as ‘fresh-air’ opportunities for wheelchair-bound youngsters. They are now clean, bright, and colourful.

But children need to be able to play outside. The staff at Filippok would love to improve their ill-equipped play area. The problem is that without a secure fence, the area is open to the world and is criss-crossed by paths providing local people with short cuts. The grounds are overgrown, with weeds and shrubs, chunks of broken brickwork, vast amounts of smashed glass, cigarette packets etc, and innumerable cats. An adequate fence would be costly - the total length is about 500 metres, and several secure gates would be required.

So we need more funds than we have ever had, and people to do the work. If you have contact with people or organisations that might join us in this project, then please contact the address above.

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 overleaf.

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 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.

The Summer of 2012



This was our biggest team for some years, with six 6th-formers from Stowmarket High School among the total of eleven.

The work involved the complete cleaning and repainting of the walls and metal grilles, and the fitting of fine netting to let the light in while keeping the pigeons out. We were also able to fund the provision of sufficient doors to ensure that each balcony was equipped with two.

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.

Willie McCracken (centre) supplied this and the 'after work' pictures below.



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 TSB:

Sort code 30-97-00 Account number 1338970.

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 (year-end 31 March 2012)

Income-

Standing Orders & donations	5011
Income tax via Gift Aid	1009
Catalogue	157
Returns & refunds	575
from reserve	2422
Total	9174

Expenditure-

Project Costs	8801
Christmas appeal	200
Luda	30
Promotion (Newsletter etc)	117
Bank, Paypal etc charges	26
Total	9174