



Fire Safety Friends Of Russia

News Bulletin May 2014

Following the visit by Chris to Archangelsk Region Rescue Service in June 2013 during which it was agreed FSFOR would help as far as possible with the reappraisal and development of the service in the Region. As an initial step, Alexander Uvarov, Head of the Agency for State Fire Service and Civil Defence of the Archangelsk Region, Vadim Drobot, Chief of the Archangelsk Region Rescue Service, and Svetlana Kuznetsova, Senior Inspector for Main Service Activities, Archangelsk Region Rescue Service who acted as interpreter, visited the UK 23rd to 29th March 2014. It was a very intensive visit as we wanted to cover as many areas of rescue work plus live fire training as possible and make contact with and seek support from the people and agencies with the necessary background and skills to be able to assist.

On the Monday, the group visited East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Training Centre, to observe the UK approach to compartment and live fire training. They also spent some time with the swift water rescue training officer learning about the equipment used and training.

Many thanks to CFO Des Pritchard for agreeing our request and Bruce Hoad for the initial contact and organisation. Also, Julie Gilbert-King, Training Centre Manager for making us so welcome and organising a very useful and productive visit. The enthusiastic input from all the staff at the centre was most useful and helpful. It is anticipated this initial cooperation between ESFRS and ARRS will develop further in the future.



Tuesday was spent with West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. The visit to Horley Fire Station was made to research the UK approach to urban rescue and large animal rescue. Alexander took an enthusiastic part in a line rescue exercise.



Then on to Crawley to take a look at a typical fire station and learn something of the current duty systems and manning. By chance, the fire cadets were training that afternoon. Alexander and Vadim were extremely interested in the Firebreak cadet project and are considering introducing this into Russia.

This visit was arranged at rather short notice, so a special thank you to Assistant Chief Officer Gavin Watts and Deputy Group Manager Mick Langley for making it happen.

Wed was both business and a bit of relaxation. We met with UKRO midday to discuss how they may help. The meeting with Jason Sharp in offices at Trafalgar Square and Cameron Black by telephone link, was very constructive and positive ending with a commitment to progress an integrated programme of cooperation, initially with



rescue from crashed vehicles linked with training in ambulance aid to be organised by Michael Willis (see the item about the visit to South East Coast Ambulance Service, on the last day).

Prior to the meeting, the guests had a sight seeing walk along Buckingham Palace Road and the Mall. As our meeting was at Trafalgar Square and we had an hour or so before the meeting, Alexander, Vadim and Svetlana chose to pay a visit to the National Gallery. A rather short visit, but we all agreed, better a short visit than not at all. After the meeting, with Julie Utting, the sight seeing continued with a walk along Whitehall and then a visit to the Houses of Parliament where our guests spent some time observing both Houses in session which they found very interesting.

The next day was another early start. Off to Gloucester to visit Bond Aviation to learn how they provide and manage air search and rescue plus air paramedic response.



The group was made very welcome by Paul Westaway and David Bond. Alexander and Vadim found the visit not only interesting but very informative, to the extent the exchanges continued over lunch. A measure of how useful the meeting was. Paul and David have kindly offered to assist with the development of Archangelsk Region Rescue Service.

The last working day was with South East Coast Ambulance Service. The visit was arranged by Michael Willis, retired Chief Ambulance Officer and former adviser to the Minister of State for Health, who has kindly offered to take the lead with the introduction and development of ambulance aid in Archangelsk. Also, possible development of an integral paramedic facility and air ambulance. We are also extremely grateful to Andy Newton, Consultant Paramedic at SECAMB, who has also offered assistance.



Unfortunately it was not possible for the visitors to meet Graham Watson during their visit. However, we are in the process of linking Graham with the appropriate officers in Archangelsk to assist with development and training for the sea air search and rescue team. Graham served for several years as a diver with a Royal Navy air search and rescue crew and has contacts with appropriate training facilities in the UK.

We at FSFOR would like to express our grateful thanks to all those we met during the visits. Everyone made us feel very welcome. We are also very grateful for the many offers to cooperate with Archangelsk Region Rescue Service in their current drive to adopt best practice in their work. We will certainly be drawing on those offers in the future. It is an ambitious programme we are embarking on, but the offers of support we have received make us confident we will achieve our goals, leading to a reduction in loss of life and minimising injury at emergency incidents.

Finally, there were too many people who assisted with this visit to name them all in a short news letter, so our apologies to all those not mentioned and our very grateful thanks for helping to make the visit a complete success. We look forward to working with you in the future.

During the visit Chris was presented with a medal and diploma for services to Archangelsk Region which he was pleased to receive as recognition of the contribution all FSFOR members, supporters and friends make towards achieving our aims.

The certificate reads :-



According to the Order of the Head of the Archangelsk Region Agency for Fire State Service and Civil Defence, 19th March 2014, Christopher Holgate is awarded medal (No. 25) and the Honorary Diploma of the Archangelsk Region Agency for Fire State Service and Civil Defence "For Contribution to Safety of Population".

In April we assisted with another exchange of children's art. This time between Sir Robert Woodard Academy, Lancing and School No. 27, Kursk. The exhibitions were opened simultaneously via a video link by Adur District Council Chairman Mike Mendoza and member of the Kursk Region Duma Victor Lazarenko. The opening ceremony consisted of exchanges of greetings, a performing arts entertainment by the children, general exchanges and an agreement to have a similar event in September, but this time an exhibition of photographs on the theme 'places of interest'.

CAH
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