



Fire Safety Friends Of Russia

News Bulletin November 2013

Although Fire Safety Friends Of Russia, were originally formed to assist with development of the fire and rescue services in Russia, at present working with Kursk Region, Moscow and Archangelsk Region, they have found themselves a major additional role improving international relations.

One result of this was the organisation of a visit 17th to 23rd November by four members of the Kursk Branch, Russian Peace Foundation. The group consisted of Victor Lazarenko, Rector of Kursk State Medical University, Tatiana Panevina, School Principal, Vladimir Trepakov, Kursk Town Administration, Manager of Market Places and international fairs, Irina Agapova, Peace Foundation Branch Administrator and visit organiser, Russia.

The overall objective was to develop peaceful sustainable cultural, civic and business links and learn something of the British culture.

The visit, sponsored by Chichester City Council, Worthing Steyne Rotary Club and Fire Safety Friends Of Russia, was extremely successful with positive results for developing links with organisations in West Sussex.

It was rather intense with a reception by the Mayor of Chichester with guests from interested organisations and included a tour of the Roman wall and Cathedral. Past Mayors Rob Campling and Anne Scicluna took an active part. Rob having signed in Kursk in 2006 an agreement to cooperate and Anne who took part in a video link last year with mayors in both countries opening simultaneously exhibitions of children's art that had been exchanged.



A visit was made to the Chichester Sea Cadets, where it was agreed links would be made between them and the Sea Cadets in Kursk. The Captain Sea Cadets, Captain Jonathan Holloway RN visited at the same time to meet them. He was Naval Attaché in Moscow for four years and has a good knowledge of Russian which helped a great deal with communication.



The group were also entertained for Lunch on one of the days by Chichester Rotary Club.

In Worthing the group was met by the Mayor and Mayoress and together with the Town Manager were given a tour of the town centre providing information on the management practices to Vladimir Trepakov. It was a rather cold day so the Mayor wore his full robes, probably a surprise for some of the shoppers.



The Sir Robert Woodard Academy, Lancing, provided an excellent and warm welcome for the guests including a tour of the arts facilities and a meeting with the Principal. All agreed to progress links to develop exchanges of art for exhibition and eventually performing arts with student exchanges initially with Tatiana Panevina's school.

Not only is Victor Lazarenko Rector of Kursk State Medical University, he is also a practicing surgeon specialising in cardio vascular conditions. He also advises on development of medical services in Russia so at his request, it was arranged for him to visit both the A&E facilities and the heart unit at Worthing Hospital to investigate how various heart conditions are dealt with in the UK. He was also taken to the public part of a local general practice surgery.

One day was put aside to see the main sites in London which included changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace and the National Gallery.

An evening was also put aside for fundraising at the Rose and Crown. Montague Street, Worthing. Dave and Anne with Chris at the Rose and Crown have kindly supported Fire Safety Friends Of Russia for many years. We raised £340 for our funds for which we thank them and all those who attended to support us. Chris Holgate was presented with a watch by Victor Lazarenko. The watch is made especially for Kursk State Medical University and is given as a prize to people the University believe have made a significant contribution to international relations.



The farewell dinner was organised by Worthing Steyne Rotary Club and was attended by the Mayor, Mayoress and Rob Campling with his wife Liz. The evening was both very pleasant and light hearted. Among other gifts, the Mayor presented the guests with a framed photo of all the participants at the Town Hall reception.



At the airport, on leaving, the group again expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome they had received and the time people had given to organising and meeting them. They are especially pleased to have been able to achieve all they set out to do and are looking forward to progressing the initial links that have been created.

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