

Пожарная безопасность друзей из России



FIRE SAFETY FRIENDS OF RUSSIA

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NEWS LETTER No. 3

I returned to Kursk at the end of May with the intention of having a nice peaceful rest just visiting and meeting my friends, but as usual, I could not ignore the work of the Trust. So, a meeting with Sergei to discuss setting up the Trust in Kursk and progressing the training of his staff in the maintenance of the Dennis appliances, pump operation and use of the 135 ladders. Also a meeting with Alexei Kachikin, head of the Fire Safety Inspectorate discussing the fire safety strategy for building construction and fire safety management in Russia. All part of getting a good understanding of the problems they face.

I also visited the four fire stations where the Dennis pumps are now in front line service. They have one or two problems with maintenance, but I hope with the assistance of West Sussex Workshops we will be able to advise them and solve the problems.



ALL FOUR VEHICLES IN SERVICE AT THEIR RESPECTIVE FIRE STATIONS PHOTOGRAPHED WITH THE STATION COMMANDERS

All four vehicles are on first attendance in Kursk City. The firefighters and officers I met were very complimentary about the vehicles and expressed their gratitude. They say that at one fire, a nine storey block of flats, they managed to contain the fire so quickly with the high pressure hose reels that they did not have the loss of life they normally expect with that type of fire. Anecdotal, but the firefighters there, using the equipment are the best people to provide an assessment of results.



**FITTINGS ADJUSTED TO TAKE
RUSSIAN BREATHING
APPARATUS SETS**



FITTED-OUT AND STOWED WITH RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT

In July a vehicle technician together with Sergei and Sasha are visiting West Sussex for familiarisation with the vehicles and ladders. The technician will spend a week at workshops to discuss and obtain knowledge about servicing and common repairs for both vehicles and ladders. Sergei and Sasha will be attend a course on operation of the Godiva pumps and the drills for safe handling of the 135 ladder.

There was a further meeting with the Mayor, Victor Sorzekov, who confirmed the introduction of the fire safety guide into the schools was progressing. There was also considerable discussion about forming links between the citizens of both Countries. I was given a formal invitation to pass to Rob Campling for a delegation from Chichester to visit Kursk in September when they celebrate Kursk Town Day.



**ON MY RETURN, HANDING THE INVITATION FROM THE MAYOR OF KURSK, VICTOR SORZEKOV,
TO THE MAYOR OF CHICHESTER, ROB CAMPLING, WITH
MARTIN BURRELL, COUNTY FIRE OFFICER AND
IAIN SHEPHERD, PRESIDENT OF CHICHESTER CHAMBER OF TRADE AND COMMERCE.**

I visited Kursk State University again and as well as meeting the students also had a long discussion with Professor Buzhinsky, head of the language faculty. The discussion centred around possible links between the Countries and the assistance the University could give to the Trust in Kursk. He was keen to encourage the students to give active support.



Everything seemed to be going well, but there was one disappointment to come. Anatoly, Head of Kursk Region Hospital Burns Unit was away on holiday so I was unable to speak to him. I have asked Sergei, our Kursk representative, to make contact again. With the very kind offer of Mr Phil Gilbert at the Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, Anatoly has a very special opportunity to share in the rapid advances in care taking place in the UK. I will keep pursuing the matter as there is much we as a charity could help with in Russia with regard to treatment of casualties at all stages.



During my tour of the fire stations, I also visited Kursk Fire Service Headquarters for lunch at which time I again met the Head of Finance. In true British tradition, did my best to ensure I kept the most important person happy.

KEEPING THE HEAD OF FINANCE ON OUR SIDE

Now for the future. We have just had a meeting of the newly formed Convoy Group. This consists of all those driving the next consignment of vehicles to Kursk. We have been very fortunate in obtaining the help of and advice from Len Richards, until the 30th June, Deputy Chief Officer of East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. He is to be project leader which will be of great help. We are anticipating six vehicles becoming available this year, 5 from West Sussex and 1 from East. The plan is to drive them all to Kursk leaving England on 22nd of April 2007. We are hoping our Russian colleagues will meet us at the Poland-Belarus border and all of us continue on with them into Russia. The planning is in its early days and we do need help with storage of the vehicles, preferably under cover. They will start to become available from the end of July, so we need to keep them in good condition for some months.

The delegation from Russia will be arriving in England on 27th July and will be attending Worthing Fire Station Open day on 29th, hopefully in uniform to help raise money for the Trust.

I am visiting Kursk with the Chichester delegation in September when I will again visit the hospital to progress helping the victims of fire, as well as a residential unit that helps children with disabilities which is actively supported by the Kursk firemen.

I will also continue pursuing the setting up of the Kursk Branch of the Trust.

So, much happening and so much to do. I have a number of willing people who provide magnificent support. But, if we are to progress the humanitarian aspects in Russia this is only likely to be achieved by talking to people. For that I need to be in Russia for longer periods. I make more progress in a 15 minute meeting out there than I do with 6 months of emails. To that end the Trust really needs a fund raising co-ordinator who can also spend some time searching out possible sources of funding and keep those that provide support informed of the Trusts progress.

With regard to fund raising, we shared in a fund raising weekend at the Victoria Hotel which raised over £300. Many thanks to all the staff at the Vic and to Roy Barraclough and Darren Wickings.

Chris Holgate, Chairman