



Apologies for the long gap in communication. We have had some problems with the production of our newsletter but fortunately these have been resolved and we now hope to return to a regular issue. However our lack of communication does not mean a lack of activity. We have had a very busy and eventful time since our last edition.

Independence

The independence barbecue on 25 August was favoured with good weather and enjoyed by all.

Halloween



A Halloween hooley and fireworks display was held on 1 November. Everyone entered into the spirit of the occasion and the club was packed with ghosts, ghouls, witches and monsters of all shapes and sizes. The prize for best costume

went to Maria Renz as the bride of Frankenstein.

Holodomor



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor, an exhibition which included a poster display,

films and documentaries was held at the club. Fr Krenus led a panachyda and letters of sympathy were received from Edinburgh City Council and the Scottish Government.

A fund has been started with a view to erecting a monument, in Edinburgh, to commemorate the Holodomor.

Christmas and Malanka



The Christmas mass in the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Dalmeny Street was followed by lunch at the club consisting of the traditional dishes. It was attended by over 70

guests including some newcomers to the community and in some cases several generations of the same family.

The family Kaszuba



The Malanka celebration was an informal occasion and a very pleasant evening.

Burns/Shevchenko

The 7th annual Burns/Shevchenko supper was held on 22 February and was once again "sold out". When guests were seated a minute's silence was observed to remember the victims of the tragic events which had taken place in Euromaidan. To raise funds in support of those protesting and still struggling to maintain Ukraine's independence a bottle of whisky, a bottle of vodka and a bottle of Ukrainian

champagne with specially designed labels were raffled and £500 was raised.



As this year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, the programme was weighted more to the works of the Ukrainian bard rather than Burns.



However the programme opened with the traditional address to the haggis, delivered by Petro Kormylo, followed by a very amusing address to the varenyky which he had penned for the occasion. Although overshadowed by the terrible events unfolding in Ukraine, it was a memorable evening with a strong feeling of community spirit and especially poignant when remembering Shevchenko's prophetic words "A long, long time the clamour dread resounded through Ukraine, a long, long time the blood ran red in streams across the plains. O'er all the earth it cast a pall; this horror day and night, as ghastly, yet, when we recall those deeds, the heart is light."

Easter

Easter mass was followed by an informal buffet style meal at the club and it was again lovely to see some new faces as well as the well known ones.

Meeting with First Minister

Following reported comments of 'Admiration' made by the First Minister, (FM) in relation to Vladimir Putin in an interview with GQ magazine on 14th March 2014, the FM agreed

to meet with members of the Ukrainian community at the Ukrainian community centre in Edinburgh, on 17th June, to address this issue as well as the subject of the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine & the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia. However due to a change in the FM's schedule the meeting took place at Scottish Government Head Quarters at St Andrews House in Edinburgh



The 10 person Ukrainian delegation was led by Mike Ostapko and included a number of invited guests via the Scottish Government, (SG) from the wider Ukrainian community in Scotland including the Consul General, Mykhailo Osnach. The FM was accompanied by a number of senior advisers and Humza Yousaf, the Minister for External Affairs & International Development. The FM outlined the reason for having to postpone the meeting at the community centre and gave a clear undertaking to visit the community centre in the relatively near future and indicated he looked forward to meeting with the wider Ukrainian community when doing so.

The FM reiterated he could not apologise for words he did not say, referring to the reported 'Admiration' for President Putin, which he said had been taken out of context. He went on to say 'In hindsight he should have been more aware and/or expressed himself more clearly' in this respect. The FM expressed his disappointment if the reported words may have caused any distress to the Ukrainian community.

The meeting was open and constructive in establishing a platform for ongoing dialogue with the Scottish Government across a range of issues. A full report of the meeting has been distributed to the community.

Other events

In July 2013 we once again played host to the Chernobyl Children's Life line where a group of young girls from Ukraine and a young boy

from Belarus entertained guests with a short musical programme.



A number of other successful impromptu events were held including a ladies night, vodka and varenyky night and a St Valentine's Day supper. The downstairs area of the club was crowded for the Eurovision song contest event which as in previous years had a very popular euro themed raffle.



AGM

Our AGM was held on 13 April and the outgoing committee was re-elected with the addition of Margaret Kadobinska, Olya St John and Dmytro Mysyk, contact details for the office bearers are at the end of this newsletter.

Club Matters

The refurbishment programme continues with the library now redecorated, with new wooden flooring and new curtains.

Unfortunately there is still work needed on the roof, cupola, windows, basement area to the front near the bar and the walling in the garden.

A reminder that the club is available for hire to members and non members at probably the most favourable hire and bar rates in Edinburgh.

It has been used by Scotpipe and the Polish community over the past months for a number of cultural, social and fundraising events as well as other organisations for conferences, AGMs, seminars and recruiting exercises. Our own members have held christening, birthday and first communion parties.



Russian interference in Ukraine

When Russia first invaded Crimea, Michael Ostapko, Petro Kornylo and Stefan Tymkewycz took part in a number of radio and television interviews, speaking on behalf of the community in condemnation of this action. Vigils organised by Fr Krenus, to highlight the situation in Ukraine, were held outside the City Chambers every Sunday in January.



A demonstration took place outside the Russian consulate on 7 March when a letter of protest was handed in to the consulate.



Church Matters

Following the departure of Fr Pidluskyj in April, the parish was without the services of a permanent priest which meant that Sunday masses in Edinburgh became somewhat erratic and in the outlying areas i.e. Lockerbie, Galashiels and Dundee they were suspended. However with the arrival of Fr Krenus and his

family in October, regular Sunday masses have been re-established in Edinburgh and gradually the once monthly masses in the other areas are being re-established. Fr Krenus is also trying to make arrangements for a regular service in Glasgow.

The 2013 pilgrimage to Carfin took place on 27 October and was well attended despite the inclement weather. The mass in the glass chapel was led by Fr Khoma and followed by a panachyda at the monument. A bouquet of red roses was laid at the monument by the Consul General and to mark the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor a red, purple and black wreath was laid by AUGB in addition to the traditional blue and yellow one. On Sunday 8 December, parishioners from Edinburgh and Galashiels joined the congregation in the Lockerbie POW chapel to celebrate a Mass which was filmed by BBC Scotland as part of a documentary about the Ukrainian community in Scotland.



The 2014 pilgrimage to Carfin took place on 28 June and again was very well attended with the addition of a large number of Glasgow Ukrainians. Mass in the glass chapel was led by Fr Krenus and followed by a panachyda at the monument. It was a poignant event in light of the struggle for freedom still ongoing in Ukraine and taking place on Constitution Day.

Forthcoming events at royal terrace

20 September 2014 Orlyk and the Black Sea Cossacks will be performing traditional Ukrainian dancing and music followed by a Zabava. Due to high demand for tickets the concert will be held in the church hall at Greenside church also in Royal Tce and the zabava at the Ukrainian club.

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