



CARING HANDS NEWS

Registered Office: 58 Sproughton Court Mews Sproughton Ipswich Suffolk IP8 3AJ
(tel: [+441 or 01] 473 461561) Winter 2014/15



Caring Hands Russia 2014 Team

Serving the Community

Since 2009, the main focus of our work in Russia has been in and around Volkhov, about 120 km (76 miles) to the east of St Petersburg.

Projects in Volkhov at Raduga, a centre offering family support services, and Filippok, a 'Rehabilitation centre for children and adolescents with disabilities' (its own description) were arranged through Vera, who has been involved for many years in helping people in need – children, single parents, the elderly, the disabled – both in Volkhov, where she grew up, and in St Petersburg.

In 2014, a team worked at Vera's 'House of Hope' – see report overleaf.



While we were there ...

At the Filippok centre, supporting children and young people with disabilities, and their families, things seem to be going well at present, certainly in terms of the building and the services they can provide. However, the establishment is subject to very frequent inspections by two government departments.

The Raduga Family Centre now occupies an old orphanage building ('Radnichok'), a much larger place, with all the attendant maintenance problems. This is, among other things, now the place to which 'at risk' children are brought while decisions are made about their return to family, fostering, adoption etc.



The usual kind of work needs to be done in most of the building – including the gym. It epitomises the dilemma we face in knowing the best way to support facilities like this.

If building maintenance and decoration work specified by inspectors is not carried out, Raduga could be fined. If the work is done, might they be moved out again?

Of course, all these projects are only means to an end. If people have been helped and encouraged, both in their work and in seeing God's hand in their lives, there is a result more permanent than buildings.

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.

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 below.

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 are distributed to needy families, elderly folk et alii, as they provide a good means of encouraging self-help.

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

It needs updating, and we have plans to revamp it in the near future.

Caring Hands Russia is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. No: 3494503. The registered office is at 58 Sproughton Court Mews Sproughton Ipswich Suffolk IP8 3AJ **Caring Hands Russia Ltd** is also a registered charity No: 1068029

The Summer of 2014: more work at the 'House of Hope'

A few years ago, Vera acquired a house in Murmanskie Vorota, a village near Volkhov, to use as a centre for camps and other activities for children and young people, especially those from deprived backgrounds. This, the 'House of Hope', has become a refuge for the abused, a sustenance for the needy, and a place of encouragement, inspiration and prayer for many.



With no gas supply to the village, heating depends on wood-burning stoves. With winter temperatures routinely below that of your domestic refrigerator, and snowfalls often to be measured in feet rather than inches, you need a good supply of wood to make best use of your building.



The Team, with Vanya & Anya; Billy carried on working!

pictures by Wullie McCracken, Vera Zhuravleva, John Anderson & Tony Wilcox

This year, we undertook to rebuild the wood storage shed in one corner of the property, on the basis that this would enable Vera to make more effective use of the place to the benefit of the local community through the winter months.

In the event, we built a woodstore with an adjacent garage. By the end of the time, both were virtually complete, with much thanks to Vanya (a relative of Vera and builder by trade), especially in the early stages, and for finishing off after the team's departure.



The outside wall of the new kitchen, apparently damaged by severe winter weather, the verandah in front of it, the verandah of the banya, and some white decorative strips were also prepared and painted.



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 Bank or Bank of Scotland:

Sort code 30-97-00 Account number 01338970

Summary of finances

Income-

Standing Orders & donations	3929
Income via Gift Aid	1113
Craft catalogue	300
Return funds	550
At Bank 1/4/13	7042
Total	12934

2015?

Over the last 21 years, we have always worked on the basis of responding to requests for help received from Russian nationals. This is especially useful when folk ask us why we go, or why we have come, to Russia.

We invited our primary partners in Volkhov to think through their needs, and be in touch with us if any of them wanted to frame a request for help. To date (November 28th), we have received no request.

We work on the basis that, for practical reasons, we need to advertise any plan to recruit a team before Christmas. So it looks unlikely that we shall be doing that for 2015. One or two of us will visit in any case, as part of the process of discovering how best we may help Russian people in the future.

(year-end 31 March 2014)

Expenditure-

Project Costs 2013	2804
Promotion (Newsletter, website etc)	219
Flights for 2014 project	2447
At Bank 31/3/14	7464
Total	12934