

Zdorov!

spring 98

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The English Language Magazine For Ukrainians

9

The Ukrainian Ambassador

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This issue is dedicated to the memory of Mr Gresco. May he rest in peace.

To subscribe to *Zdorov!* please send cheque or P.O. for £10.00 (inc £2.00 p&p) to Zdorov! 63 Royal Park Terrace, Leeds LS6 1EX, or call 01132 743 404

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To access : www.ndirect.co.uk/~zdorov

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DEAR READERS

Welcome to Zdorov! nine the third Easter issue of the new age of Zdorov!

As always its been a mixed quarter for us here at Zdorov! There have been things that worked easily and well, and other plans that we've had to struggle with - but by and large we're moving onwards, getting stronger and more organised.

GETTING STRONGER

Our greatest bonus this issue has come from readers kindly offering their time and skills to help us put the magazine together. For some reason (maybe it was Christmas goodwill), quite a few helpers volunteered and this has made issue nine much easier to compile. In fact the problem is now one of co-ordinating all the helpers! This should make Zdorov! even more diverse and interesting for you. Thank you helpers. We also had a great response to our free subscription offer, with an extra 100 people being added to our mail order lists! We'll be running that offer again in this issue so instead of passing these mags around, take out a subscription and get one for a friend or relative.

OUR GREAT SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

On the down side, we've made little progress on setting up our web site. It's not a difficult task, but it does take time to do properly. We believe that an effective web site will attract more international readers and probably more advertising so this is essential for us to grow. I'll be looking at ways of freeing more time so this can be done. Any advice or help out there is greatly welcome.

WEB SITE

Talking about international advertising, I can proudly announce that UK Ukrainians are at last connected to the Ukrainian cultural paradise that is Canada. After many problems (mainly due to the ice storms in Montreal), we have the Yevshan mail order catalogues promised last Xmas. This free gift to Zdorov! subscribers has been made possible due to our success in linking so many of our community through the magazine. Non - subscribers can also have a copy by writing and asking us. Yevshan has the largest collection of Ukrainian books and records in the west, and having this catalogue gives you access to all the published culture available to our Canadian cousins. We will try to bring you this kind of service whenever possible, and as we grow it will get easier and better.

YEVSHAN

On a smaller scale, you are probably all aware that Zdorov! occasionally promotes records & other products through its pages. Usually these are quality items not available elsewhere that we feel will be of interest to our readers. Its true to say that when we advertise these, our reputation is linked to the quality of the product, and we do not promote things which we feel are not of the highest quality / interest. This is particularly true of the music, which is an area close to my heart. I genuinely feel that everyone would benefit from listening to the records for sale in this magazine - which of course includes 'Kolo'. This unique production easily stands alongside the more prestigious albums made in Canada, and more people should be proud enough of their communities achievements to purchase one for posterity. So go for it - buy everything!

GREAT MUSIC

And finally, many of you have been asking when the next Zdorov! Ball will be. I'm afraid I cant give a definite answer to that. Our new baby quite rightly takes up all my spare time so that this summer will probably not be possible. I'd like to arrange one around Christmas time but that's all that can be said for now. So keep reading, writing, and being Ukrainian and we'll see you with issue ten.

Peter Solowka

Ukrainian School fights against closure

It is the only institute of its kind in Britain and perhaps unique in all of Europe. Founded in 1915, the School of Slavonic and Eastern Studies (SSEES) housed within the University of London teaches virtually every Slavic language. Former world leaders have taught here. Current and budding experts in Ukraine work here, and within the academic world the school stands second to none in the variety of courses taught about Eastern and Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

The SSEES is on the verge of serious radical change, likely to come in the form of a merger with another college, but it could even be worse. The effects of this could be disastrous for Ukrainian studies in Britain. As it is, few students take on Ukrainian studies here largely because of lack of funding, few grants, low interest, and now, with the departure of Jim Dingley, a reduced Ukrainian department. Andrew Wilson is now alone with the task of teaching language, history, politics and social science.

Roman Zyla, chair of the Graduate Students Committee told *Zdorovi*: "The changes are blamed on many things, depending on who you ask: poor management, lack of enrolment, no need for such an institute in the new era of democracy in former communist states... Can you imagine anyone arguing that there is no need for studying history of Western Europe or economics of the USA, due to lack of outside interest in school activities, and so on.

"You can read between the lines and understand what the implications for Uki studies are if SSEES merges with another college. In short, it could mean its end! Ukrainians in Britain, and indeed all over Europe can do several things to help. The first is to support the Ukrainian studies programme. More students need to be attracted in order to maintain Uki studies within the school. Second, that support needs to be heard, not only at the Clubs and at churches. SSEES needs you to come to Ukrainian studies days, to the seminar series, and to let the School director know that there is a wish to keep Ukrainian studies at SSEES. It boils down to the school needing your support by using the resources (library, contacts) and the events as a part of community life. That interest will show that there is a need not only for SSEES but for Uki studies there. Based on that interest, appeals for greater budgets can be made within the new structure.

"The merger proposal is being considered as you read this, the changes are likely to be made over the next year. 1998 will be critical to the future of Uki studies in Europe - we cannot afford to lose this resource".

For more details, please contact : Michael Branch, Director of SSEES, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU



Accident to charity relief worker

Irma Jacyna, from the charity 'Ukrainian's in Need Action (Ipswich and Suffolk branch), was seriously injured in a road accident. Irma joined a party of Eastern European relief workers delivering a total of 5 lorry loads to Ukraine.

The accident occurred after the minibus Irma was travelling was returning from a visit to see the Minister of Finance. Their minibus overturned and Irmas broke her spine in two places. Following treatment in a local hospital, Irma was flown by air ambulance to an Ipswich hospital where she stayed for two weeks.

Despite the serious injury, Irma is determined to return to Ukraine this Summer to deliver dentistry surgery and clothes.

Gatwick a go-go!

Easier travel for London's Ukrainian Community. From this summer, charter flights to Ukraine will be available from Gatwick Airport. In the past it was only possible to purchase the more expensive scheduled flights from Gatwick, but now people wishing to make holiday visits to relatives in Western Ukraine can catch these charter flights instead of having to drive all the way to Manchester. It is hoped that this will make life much easier for the older generation who regularly travel to their home villages for the summer.



Zdorov! Oz launch

Zdorov! Australia is to be launched this Summer. The first issue will be produced as a supplement to the Summer edition of *Zdorov!* UK. Australian readers will receive a full magazine, plus a 16 page 'upside down' supplement specially produced for the Australian Ukrainian reader. Strangely, it's actually cheaper to print all the magazines in Britain and air freight them over to Australia than it is to set up the whole process from scratch over there.

Peter Solowka, *Zdorov!* UK founder and publisher said, "In the long term, *Zdorov!* intends to look for ways to cut costs and ease the communication between Australia and Britain but the present arrangement will work fine."

"The people here really want this magazine. They feel left out as UK and Canada have been 'connected' for a couple of years now" said editor Slavko Mykosowski.

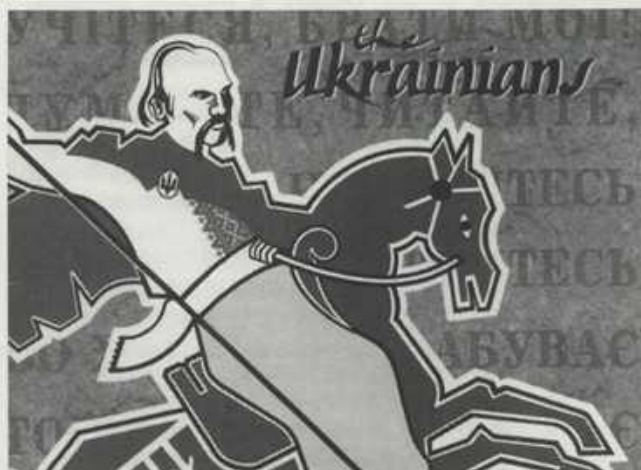


The artists formerly known as 'The Ukrainians' ...

The Ukrainians next musical project will be launched into the club scene in April with a 12" re-mix of their forthcoming single. The re-mixes, by Harri Kakoulli, are versions of Prince songs with lyrics and music in Ukrainian and English set to a powerful club / techno beat.

Vocalist Len Liggins told *Zdorov!*: "We intend to present our music to a different audience. In the past we performed only to Folk-Rock fans, but the power of Ukrainian music can reach much further than that".

This will be followed by a CD single and album later in the year.



Royal farewell for Ambassador

Before the Ambassador of Ukraine left London, he was invited by The Princess Royal, HRH Princess Anne to say a last minute personal goodbye. The Princess Royal arrived back from a skiing trip the evening before Ambassador Komisarenko was to depart, and invited him to the palace early in the morning before his flight home. This shows the degree of success obtained by his office which we hope will continue throughout the term of the new ambassador.

More Uki buys!

In addition to the 'Odessan Steppe' wine sold at Tesco (see Zd 8) - here are some more Ukrainian buys to be found at a store near you.

Morrisons Supermarkets in Northern England sell Ukrainian red and white wine from Odessa called 'Potemkin Bay' for £2.99 a bottle.

Selfridges (Oxford Street, London) sell Zhigulivske Beer from Obolon Brewery in Kyiv for around £1.20. At present

the beer is out of stock due to distribution problems. A Selfridges spokesman told *Zdorov!*, "The cold winter has meant that Obolon are unable to transport the beer abroad". The spokesman added "apparently it's not that good". However judge for yourselves and if you can't wait for Obolon to sort out their transport problems, then try the similar tasting Hell beer from Slovakia.

(Zhigulivske is also sold at Firkin beer shops, World Beers in Chorlton-cum-Hardy and at other good beer retailers - pending stock)

Au-pairs forced into prostitution

Thousands of Ukrainian women are being forced by mafia organisations to work in European brothels. Women reply to adverts for 'au-pair' work. Once abroad, 'au-pair' agencies confiscate their passports and hand the women over to mafia gangs who force them into a life of prostitution. Many women do not have access to a phone and have no-where to turn for help. The few who escape and report the matter to the local police are returned to the brothels.

The most common countries used for this trade are Germany, Italy, Turkey, Belgium and Holland. Eastern Europe has replaced Asia as the biggest source of sex trade workers.

Volunteer groups have been set up to advise and educate Ukrainian women. But the groups face an up-hill task. No effective law exists on pimping and many women, who scrape a living in Ukraine's run-down economy, find the offer of well-paid work difficult to resist.

New law to curb election fraud

Ukraine is to introduce a new law to prevent fraud in the forthcoming general elections in March. 15,000 domestic and foreign watchdogs are being recruited to monitor polling stations and 200 foreign observers are being sent by The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

A key change in voting procedures will require voters to mark a cross against their chosen candidates name. In the 1994 election, voters were required to cross out the other names, encouraging fraudsters to spoil papers. Each ballot will require the signatures of both the voter and an official.

Another key change will be to allow representatives to sit in on the Central Election Committee.

However voters are sceptical that the new law will prevent fraud. In a recent poll, 7% of respondents believed the elections would be conducted fairly. 53% believed fraud was inevitable. Ivan Kornienko, from the Communist Party does not believe fraud can be prevented. "People will remove ballots from the Communists pile and officials will fill in their own ballots". More than 500 abus-

es were counted in the 1994 election.

The opposition group Hromada plan to have representatives at every polling station. In a bid to stem any potential fraud, officials will announce the results from polling stations as soon as the ballots are counted.

Communist poll lead

A recent Gallup shows the Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU) have taken an early lead. The survey revealed that CPU have captured 46% support in Crimea and 37% in Eastern Ukraine.

The Rukh Party ranked second with strong support in western Ukraine. The poll also revealed The Green Party gaining support in Kyiv.

Kuchma claim reform progress on target

President Kuchma has insisted that plans for economic change are running smoothly. However, foreign economists disagree sighting lack of interest from western investors who dislike Ukraine's slow progression and bureaucracy. During the years of independence, Ukraine has only managed to induce \$2 billion in foreign investment. Kuchma is undeterred and has said he is willing to wait for the right kind of investors rather than have property fall in the wrong hands.

Albright thinks it's not alright

According to the U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Ukraine faces severe cutbacks from the American Government if it cannot increase security for their investors. Currently American investors feel they are being stifled by corruption and the mafia in Ukraine. The U.S. threatens a cutback in aid of fifty percent. Ukraine has asked for \$223.5 million in foreign investment but doubts exist from lenders.

President Kuchma has discussed these issues with other official leaders in a bid to stamp out criminal activity and settle the matter once and for all.

Albright will travel to Kyiv in order to discuss these issues during a five day trip to Europe. Although the talks will centre on corruption, Albright also intends to discuss the slow pace of economic



reforms. The U.S. are at odds with Kuchma on the economic progress and Albright will demand that the Ukrainian government push forward with it's privatisation programme to attract more investors. She referred to the present situation as "a chicken and egg problem".

Albright also intends to mark the visit by signalling peace and goodwill to the people of Ukraine.

Spud u like!

Ukrainian potato farmers are increasingly importing Scottish potatoes.

These are used for seed to replace the local variety which is very susceptible to Colorado Beetle infection. The Scottish variety has an added immunity which lasts for around three years. In the first year of growth, it produces around 10x the yield of Ukrainian varieties, but this falls to little more than the locals produce after 4 years. As a result, even the impoverished farmers of Ukraine find it cost effective to pay western prices for these potatoes!

Inflation Rate

The State Statistics Commission have announced the inflation rate for February was 0.2%.

Currency Rates

3.2 Hryvna per pound.
1.9 Hryvna per US dollar.
(Source : The European. Figures correct at time of going to press).

Edited by Peter Fundela

Holidays for the Taking (part 1)

Working too hard?

Need some time off?

Are you a Ukrainian?

Can you fake it at least?

Well if you have answered yes to three of the preceding questions then you are entitled to some days off. Having, or faking a Ukrainian background is the perfect way to earn extra days off due to the politically correct times we live in. Remember: don't let them discriminate against your ethnic, cultural, national religious roots. The bonus of being a Uki is, of course, being able to legitimately claim the Christian holidays of both calendars - Julian and Gregorian.

The following is a list of days which every Uki should legitimately claim as their due over the next three months. We will

just be dealing with the Uki holidays - claim the regular holidays as your right to assimilation.

March 17

Ukrainian Central Rada founded in 1917. Headed by historian Mykhailo Hrushevsky, it lasted just one year. If you're a diehard, mark this anniversary by reading from Hrushevsky's multi-tomed History of Ukraine. Or go for Orest Subtelny's Ukraine: A History. It's a lighter read!

April 17

This year's Good Friday for Ukrainians.

April 20

Easter Monday - known as Oblyvany Ponedilo - "Doused Monday" - also a big holiday for us. The Roman Catholics don't really celebrate it with gusto any more but this should not stop you. Go to church and engage in the traditional water fight after the service. If fear of losing your job keeps you from going to church - soak your boss with a water balloon.

April 29

1918, Pavlo Skoropadsky decided to capitalise on his Kozak family background, by setting up his own government characterised by bushy hats.

May 1

You know this day - the day of worker solidarity. If the boss won't let you have the day off, go to work and organise a union. Think hard about starting another revolution, but remember what happened last time.

May 15

Serfdom is abolished in Galicia (Western Ukraine) in 1848. There's no way you'll put your nose to the grindstone today.

May 16

Today in 1648 Kozak Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky won his first military victory at Zhovti Vody. Combine it with the previous day for a superlong weekend.

June 5

Swedish meatball day today. Kozak Hetman Ivan Mazepa signs a deal in 1708 with King Charles XII of Sweden to wage war on Moscow.

June 15

Major Day of mourning. Today in 1775 Catherine II of Russia orders the destruction of the Kozak's hangout, the Sich.

- compiled by Nestor Gula (originally published in Zdorov Canada)



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SPELLCHEK: A KONGMUNIST KONSPIRACY

by Heather Olivets

The Cold War may be over, but enemies lurk everywhere. You need only use the spell correction feature on any computer to realise that foes of Ukraine have infiltrated Silicon Valley. How else can you explain the annihilation of perfectly good Ukrainian names after running such a programme. The evidence:

Perfectly Good Ukrainian Name	Evil Spellchek Rendering
Boris	Boorish
Daria	Dairy
Iryna	Iran
Ksenya	Kenya
Lara	Larva
Marika	Marina
Marianna	Marinade
Myron	Moron
Oksana	Oxen
Olia	Ole
Orest	Forest
Simon	Simian
Slawko	Slack
Sonya	Soya
Stefan	Stiffen
Vasyl	Vassal
Vera	Verb
Yuri	Your
Zirka	Zurich

**Even Famous Ukrainians can't
escape the machination of
SpellChek's creators.**

**Famous (and perfectly good)
Ukrainian Name**

Evil SpellCheck Rendering

**Bohdan Khmelnytsky
Ivan Mazepa
Simon Petlura
Lesia Ukrainka**

**Borden No Suggestions
Van Mazola
Simian Palter
Lesion Ukraine**

**Ukrainians, unite!
You have nothing to lose but your names!**

Re-produced by permission from Zdorov North America.

CLUB PROFILE - DONCASTER

Doncaster SUB chairman Stefan Leliw, tells Zdorov! how a struggling club, through hard work and business sense managed to turn itself around, and now has a secure future.

About fifteen years ago when the first Ukrainian Association club in England was closing down, a young Ukrainian named Eugene Bilous organised a plan to buy a Ukrainian club with the help of the local Doncaster community.

His first step was to ask members to loan money on the understanding that the money would be returned at some later date. The club was bought, and a few years later the monies were returned to the members and the title deeds were sent to London registering the Ukrainian club as a charity.

The community with just under 200 members has managed to achieve a great many things which would put many of the larger Ukrainian clubs to shame.

In terms of its members, it has a policy of giving each family that comes from Ukraine £50 spending money if they are related to an AUGB member. It visits its elderly people and has agreed a good working relationship with the church.

From a business point of view, the club understands that if it were to rely on elderly Ukrainian members to keep the club afloat, it would go bankrupt. As a result the club allows non-Ukrainians to attend and has a good relationship with the local English community. Pub entertainments like darts, pool and bingo attracts punters. Other attractions include discos, race nights, karaoke and live satellite sports nights. A doorman keeps any riff-raff away and the English bar staff are young, polite and cheerful.

Any profits made are re-invested in the club. A facelight five years ago, an upstairs bar and lounge three years

ago and recently the next door garage was bought to be converted into a stage and changing rooms. Another adjoining garage is leased to mechanics.

Doncaster club also has a good working relationship with the local brewery who give interest free loans and free barrels of beer at Uki Christmas and New Year.

The club also makes considerable donations which help Ukrainians in Britain and abroad. Last year a total of £2000 was donated to various good causes including the Women's Chernobyl fund, a Crimean rehabilitation centre for the children of Chernobyl and various religious and political organisations. Countless books and magazines are distributed

to various schools and colleges and 200 parcels of clothes were sent to monasteries, churches and orphanages in Ukraine.

The future is looking bright. Doncaster aims to expand ties with other organisations to the benefit of Ukrainians. The club has good links with Rotherham District hospital and Leeds (Jimmies) hospital in sending medication to Ukraine. The club is also connected with various schools, academics and scholars in Ukraine.

The future at Doncaster is secure for now. The club believes that the key to the future is hard work, progressive thinking and working with elderly members.

Stefan Leliw



Sviato Mykolaj (St. Nicholas' day) at Doncaster



Stefan Leliw pumps up the volume

An Easter Message from Rev. Bohdan Matwijczuk

CHRIST IS RISEN! - "Rejoice!" (Matthew 28 : 9)

The joy of Pascha once again filled the hearts of those who attended the midnight Paschal Matins according to Orthodox Tradition when the procession around the church in the dark of night lead them into a church full of light, where they heard the words *Khrystos Voskres!* - Christ is Risen! and joyously respond *Voistyno Voskres!* - Truly He is risen!

The words "Christ is risen!" as proclaimed from the Day of the Resurrection to Ascension Day have been passed down through generations, for they are the foundation of the Orthodox Christian faith - for Christ became man, died on the cross, defeated death by death and opened the doors of everlasting life, for: "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Easter is the most joyous feast of the Ukrainian people in which Orthodox Christians seek truth and re-newal for before his crucifixion Christ was beaten, humiliated and falsely accused but still proved that truth is always stronger than falsehood and that is stronger than darkness.

Inspired by the spiritual strength of Lent and the Great Fast, let us meet the Resurrection of Christ with faith in the victory over evil and with the assurance, that the Resurrected Christ "did make us pass from death to life" and so bestowed eternal life upon us. So with these thoughts, and on behalf of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church in Great Britain I greet all *Zdorov!* readers and the Ukrainian nation with the spiritual joys of Easter.

May the Feast of Light fill your souls with brotherly love and unite us into one Fold with one Shepherd who died for his flock, and rose again and lives and reigns now and ever and unto ages of ages: for Christ is Risen from the dead, and by His Death hath trodden down death and to those in the tombs hath bestowed life (Tropar)
Христос воскрес! Воістину воскрес!

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Reverend Bohdan Matwijczuk

Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church

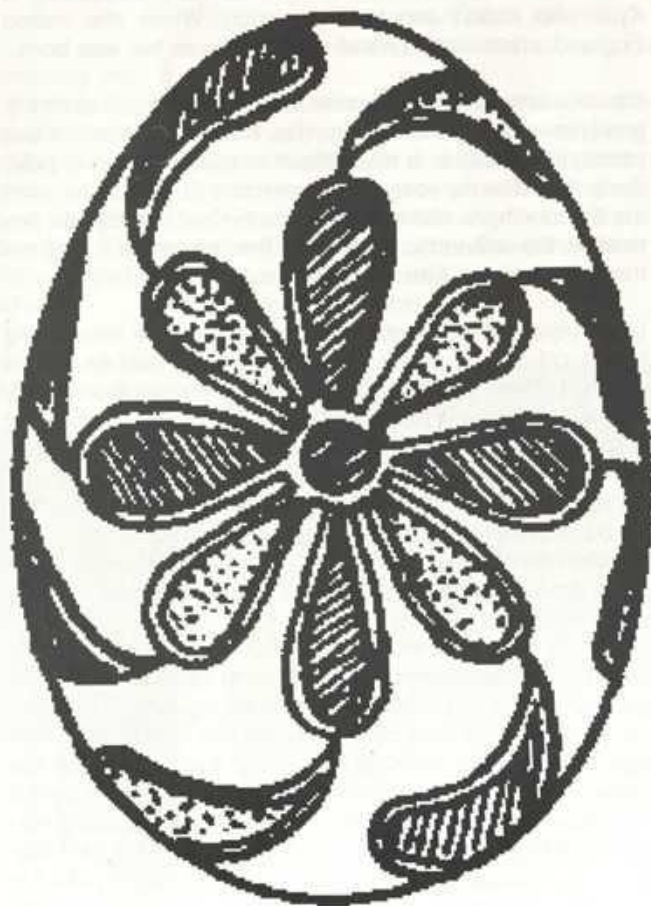
Easter special recipe

Horseradish and Salt

Heavily spiced food is one of the marks of Ukrainian Easter, but why is it that we feel we have to burn our mouths with Horseradish and salt? These spices have symbolic value to religious and traditional people alike, so here's the story.

Horseradish was part of the original Passover meal and served as a reminder to Jews of the bitterness and harshness of life in Slavery in Egypt. To Christians, the same root represents the bitterness of sin and the hardships we must go through because of original sin. When sweetened with red beets, this reminds us of the Passion of Christ which He overcame in glory through sacrifice and resurrection. Salt is a symbol of fasting and self denial which all have gone through during Lent. It also reminds us of the words of Jesus who described Christians as the 'salt of the earth'.

So, when your mouth is burning hot and you're asking yourself 'why did I do this?' you'll now have some answers!



What makes our little charity different? Mainly, that none of our collectors or packers are Ukrainian - but they are touched by the appalling conditions people face there. The original 'helpers' were parents of pre-school children in Gloucestershire, or members of congregations from a few churches. The contacts web has since spread further out, so sometimes we cannot trace the thread leading some enquirers to us.

GLoucestershire - KYIV Link

From little acorns

The charity began six years ago when a neighbour asked whether I could get baby clothes for his daughter's pen-friend Kateryna in Kyiv. As I was born and still lived in a Tolstoyan community, I had always been interested in the F.S.U. The Chernobyl disaster horrified us, and we donated to a national appeal. Like most people, we gradually forgot about the horror, and after independence, we naively assumed all was well. Did we learn better, over the first months? Oh, yes.

I worked with playgroups in Gloucestershire, so I appealed to them. I received about a tonne of baby clothes within a month. I contacted a neighbour's daughter, Linda. "How much do you need?"

"Well, I send a large shoe box every month".

I felt a sense of destiny. We packed boxes ourselves, and sent them via Linda, and paid for the carriage. We continued for several months, to the surprise of Kateryna (Kate) in Kyiv, who hadn't expected so much. When she visited England, she asked to meet me, and phase two was born.

We took a shine to each other and talked about her family and Ukraine's economic difficulties. Kate is an eloquent and passionate speaker. It was difficult to resist offering to help. Early, the following year, Gloucestershire Education secured me EU funding to visit Kyiv. I lived with Kate's family and witnessed the economic plight and the desperate situations they have to face. I was resolved to do more to help.

Upon my return to England, I talked to anyone who would listen - schools, churches, playgroups, meetings and conferences. By now we were sending some 600 kilos a month, working directly with Zoloty Kolessa, the carrier. Some kind friends fund-raised for us to help pay the carriage costs. Kate organised a women's group to distribute, and requested lists from Unions of families living in great poverty. The group was based at KPI, where we allocated a room in a student hostel. We were helping around 250 families, as well as a special needs Internat, a mental hospital and an orphanage.

All went smoothly for some time, with hard work at both ends of the link. Then the customs' new regulations threw all our arrangements away. Suddenly, we had to build links with the Cabinet office, and the Kyiv group had to manage the ordeal of getting the Cabinet-approved forms passed by the local customs post. It took, on average, three days of queuing, discussion and argument before the final rubber stamp was used. Meanwhile, space had to be found to hold the load securely. It was such an arduous process, that we

decided to send a tonne or so every two months, including clothes, toys, books, shoes, basic medicines and dry and tinned food.

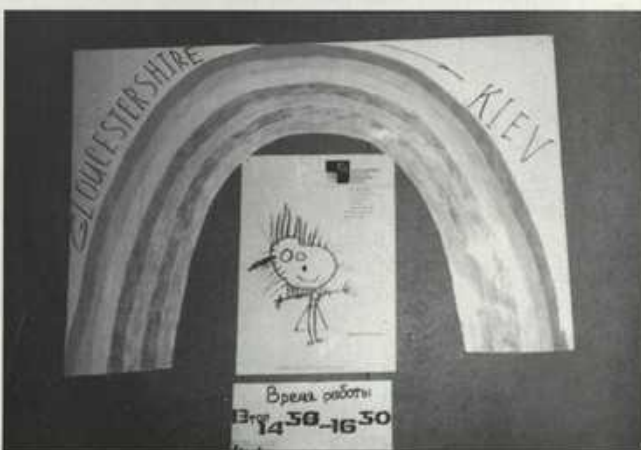
Regular collectors keep us supplied with goods collected by churches and schools at harvest festivals, and some families pack parcels for particular families in Kyiv. The thing which gets us so much support seems to be the personal contacts with known people around Kyiv. Thousands of boxes have all arrived safely, the contents being handled honestly and given to those needing them most.

As we go on with our work, we have found benefits go both ways. We have made many wonderful friends

here and in Kyiv, and I have been warmly supported by them through a marriage break-up and a long illness. This reciprocal caring establishes our equality as givers and receivers. Our aid only touches the tip of the iceberg but our lives have been hugely enriched by this transcontinental contact.

One day, maybe we shall realise our ultimate goal, to become an educational charity establishing friendships that way. Until then, we shall continue as we are, working and hoping for easier times ahead.

Jan Oliver



**If anyone would like to support our work,
please telephone me on 01452 613843.**

Francopole 98'

Francopole... the name conjures up images of young taborivnyky squirrelled away, hard at work attending various lectures, early to bed, early to rise, enjoying a week of good clean living in the Belgian Ardennes.

As if.

What do you expect to happen when you put 40 young Ukrainians in a rustic resort in the middle of nowhere? Of course, it is just one big massive party! Certainly there is work to be done and the sessions and lectures were universally attended. The emphasis, however, is on enjoying yourself - renewing old friendships and making new ones while hopefully absorbing something worthwhile from the official programme.

It is the after-hours programme which captures the imagination. So many questions beg to be answered! How many "Francopole" beverages does it take for you to start giggling uncontrollably? How loud and how long can you sing Uki folk songs before your voice starts to crack from the strain? If a Kozak is in one corner of the room and starts walking towards the bar with a full glass of beer, drinking at a constant rate, what is his mean acceleration??

Most people arrived on Boxing Day and the 31st CYM European Winter Camp - "Chervona Kalyna" - was duly opened that evening. Once the official stuff was out of the way, the bar was open for business and your friendly correspondent duly bought the first beer of the tabir (camp), which was quaffed in about 3 seconds flat. So much for savouring that renowned Belgian flavour... Then the music came

on and the Boogie Nights began - having our very own version of the Spice Girls around gave the dance floor a certain edge. The party crept onwards to the wee hours leaving many a person with droopy eyes come the morning.

The CYM bar has its own special character and with the Lewyckij brothers minding the taps and myself as DJ the party mood certainly got into full swing. Our second evening saw the Uki CDs make their debut and the night turned into a sing-song of epic proportions. With everyone singing along to the Volynskyj Narodnyj Khor's (Volyn Folk Choir) rendition of Nalyvajmo Bratt'ja ("Let's have a drink, lads...") and all the other choral favourites, I'm certain the residents of Ster were wondering what drunken angelic choir had descended onto their quiet village.

The kitchen holds a special place in my heart at Francopole. Charles and Luba who mind the kitchen run a wonderful ship. Snacks and coffee are always available, with cognac & perets in anything but moderation... small wonder I volunteered for dyzhur the second day!

The field trip to Luxembourg was a wonderful day out and it simply has to be one of the most beautiful cities I've visited. After a short walking tour of the city, we retired to various pubs and restaurants to eat up, drink up and then go shopping to buy gifts for the traditional Proshchal'nyj Vechir (Farewell Night) gift exchange.

This night was in fact one of the highlights of the week. After dinner we

were treated to a bizarre dance presentation by two Germans and French lad featuring bare chests and leather vests, a chair and lots of jumping about to repeated shouts of "Hey!" Premium entertainment really. The 'pass-the-orange-with-your-chin' game was also a big hit.

Perhaps I'm biased, but the most significant development of the evening for me was the announcement by the Banjak and Shchitka (pan and brush) news team of the founding of that illustrious new organisation, the Spilka Spivuchyh Pyyakiv Frankopolya or the SSPF (Union of Francopole's Singing Drinkers). Certainly its founding members - myself, Mykhajlo Protz and Mykola Lewycky - were caught unawares as we finished off our sixth bottle of wine at dinner. Evidently our singing from the previous nights had caught the attention of those paying attention! Quite where the SSPF goes from here is anybody's guess.

Andrij Nesmachnyj directed a haunting memorial presentation on the last day to the Ukrainian students who'd been killed at Kruty, agitating for Ukrainian independence. The presentation featured poetry, narrative and music, and culminated with all present lighting memorial candles and placing them to burn into the night outside the hall. It was quite a moving tribute.

The Novorichna Zabava (New Year's Dance) carried on where everything else had left off and was a fitting conclusion to a week in which sleep was at an absolute premium. And so onwards to Germany for the Sportovij Tabir (Sports Camp) this coming August. Consult your local listings!



Let the BBC have their Christmas Number One, we all know what's more important: The Francopole Top Ten! Thanks for Myrosya Finiw for helping to compile this list!

1. Spice up your Life - Spice Girls
2. Take a Bow - Madonna
3. Tubthumping - Chumbawamba
4. Imagine - John Lennon
5. Sound of Silence - Simon & Garfunkel
6. Better Day - Ocean Colour Scene
7. Do Ya Think I'm Sexy - N-Trance featuring Rod Stewart
8. I'm So Lonely - Cast
9. Try a Little Tenderness - The Commitments
10. Parklife - Blur

ROCK MUSIC, POLITICS AND PEREMYSHI

Our group 'The Ukrainians' has for over six years toured Europe and America blending traditional melodies and instruments into modern 'Ukrainian folk rock'. We have played our music to a vast international audience and at no time has there been any political or ethnic tension before, during or after any of our performances. So, when in the spring of 1997 we were asked if we would be the guests of the main Ukrainian organisation in Poland at their first Ukrainian rock concert in Peremyshi we of course said yes.

Peremyshi is a small town nestling in the south eastern region of Poland quite close to the border with Ukraine. The town itself has the reputation of being one of the few towns outside the Ukraine where the population is predominately Ukrainian and the centre where most Polish Ukrainian Organisations have their base.

Arriving in Warsaw at the start of our second Polish tour (the first being in 1996 and may I say was quite a success) we were eager to perform to the festival crowds and the larger venues our agent had booked. "How is it going?" I asked him. "The tour is good, but I am not too sure about Peremyshi - there is a great deal of political s*** going on" he replied. It was only after speaking with a number of other people that I began to realise the scale of the problem. With only one week to go, the concert had been banned by the local authority.

Slowly I began to piece together the jigsaw. Although Ukrainians constitute the majority of the Peremyshi population, the council officials are of Polish descent. The region has always been a Ukrainians v Poles powder-keg, and in the face of increasing publicity for the concert and the large number of people expected to attend (bus loads from all over Poland and Ukraine), the authorities were becoming increasingly concerned, presumably fearing a catalyst for Ukrainian cultural rebirth.

As most of us are aware, the borders between Ukraine and her neighbours have always been disputed, mainly because the language and history of a village does not always fit with the clear-cut geographical lines drawn by politicians. Just

after WWII, the border area between Poland and the USSR was a hotbed of activity for the UPA (Ukrainian Partisan Army), fighting for independence from both Moscow and Warsaw. The mainly Ukrainian population in these regions along with the hilly terrain provided the ideal environment for guerrilla armies.

The Polish authorities decided to solve the 'Ukrainian problem' by removing around 300,000 Ukrainians from these areas and dispersing them among the vacated towns of western Poland (the eastern portion of pre-war Germany) which in turn had been vacated by the movement of German people further west to within their new borders - this "ethnic cleansing" was quite common in post-war Europe. Poles who had themselves been displaced occupied many of the Ukrainian villages, while others were simply destroyed. Ukrainians were forbidden to gather together and were even discouraged from using Ukrainian names.

Since the breakdown of the old order, many Ukrainians in Poland have been campaigning for some sort of compensation for suffering caused during this forced migration, including the return of their original lands and homesteads. Naturally, this makes the Polish people in the region wary of large gatherings of Ukrainians in the town, and I suppose this fear was behind the council's decision to ban the concert.

We were three days into the tour and convinced that the highlight of the trip would not go ahead we were feeling quite dejected, but remembering the old adage "smile, things can only get better" so we smiled. Unknown to us at the time, but shortly before this gig was organised, Poland and Ukraine had signed a cultural co-operation treaty in order to strengthen cross border and internal ethnic ties. Also Poland was seeking membership of the E.E.C. and needed to be seen as multi-cultural and democratic within its own borders, hence the organisers of the festival appealed to the Polish government (with help from the Ukrainian government) on the grounds that to allow the first ever Ukrainian rock concert on Polish soil to take place could help heal the wounds of fifty years ago.

This issue was debated on the television and radio and in the daily newspapers, ministers were interviewed and with three days to go the argument was won, the ban lifted and the concert was to go ahead.

We were in Zabkowice finishing a festival gig when the news broke and as you can imagine we were elated. We drove throughout the night from our gig to Peremyshi arriving at 8am on the day of the concert.

Later that day I turned on the television and caught coverage of the festival opening ceremony. There were lots of smiling faces, speeches and choirs, row upon row of dignitaries and everything appeared to be rosy. I am glad we decided to smile those few days ago I thought. Just as I was about to call to the rest of the group I caught sight of the next programme to be shown, the



Pre-sound check at the football stadium in Peremyshi

Men in black wearing unmarked boiler suits, mirror shades, truncheons, cuffs, guns and the occasional dog all added to the intimidation and was designed to let everyone know who was the boss.

The local authorities had been over-ruled by their Government but they still had a good many cards up their sleeves.

Undeterred by what we had seen on the television we visited the stadium for our soundcheck. The stadium would hold about 15,000 people. The P.A., the lights and effects were of a high standard and were the best we had seen at a 'Ukrainian' concert. I would like to think this was because the event had been organised by our Ukrainian hosts and showed the importance that they gave this event.

Unfortunately, all the other aspects of the day were controlled by the authorities and it showed. Firstly the stadium was to be dry, nor was there any food on site. Secondly, there were no stalls selling Ukrainian items as on previous festivals. Thirdly, the stage was set back such a distance from the crowd that it would make it extremely difficult for us to generate any atmosphere between ourselves and the crowd (see diagram). Forthly, the security that had been provided for the concert would have done justice to a touring rugby team. Men in black wearing unmarked boiler suits, mirror shades, truncheons, cuffs, guns and the occasional dog all added to the intimidation and was designed to let everyone know who was the boss.

As a group we felt this and I am sure the crowd did also but to add insult to injury we were informed of a strict sound curfew that was to be imposed. This in itself was not unusual, but as we were the last group to play it was likely that this would effect our set, and the last thing we wanted was to disappoint the fans and cut our set short.

The moment had arrived and we started to play, we felt the fresh mountain air and the cold night that was all around us. The stage some 100 metres from the crowd was illuminated brilliantly. Upon hearing us play the crowd began to dance, but we could not see them; all we could see was the backs of the security guards facing the crowd. We could hear the crowd and we knew that we were not alone; 'Cherez Richku' and 'Ukraine-America' came over the heads of the security guards and echoed in our ears.

The concert was going really well when the Chief of Police thrust a piece of paper in my hand informing us that the concert must end in ten minutes due to the noise level curfew. The last thing we wanted to do was stop, but to be honest we had no choice

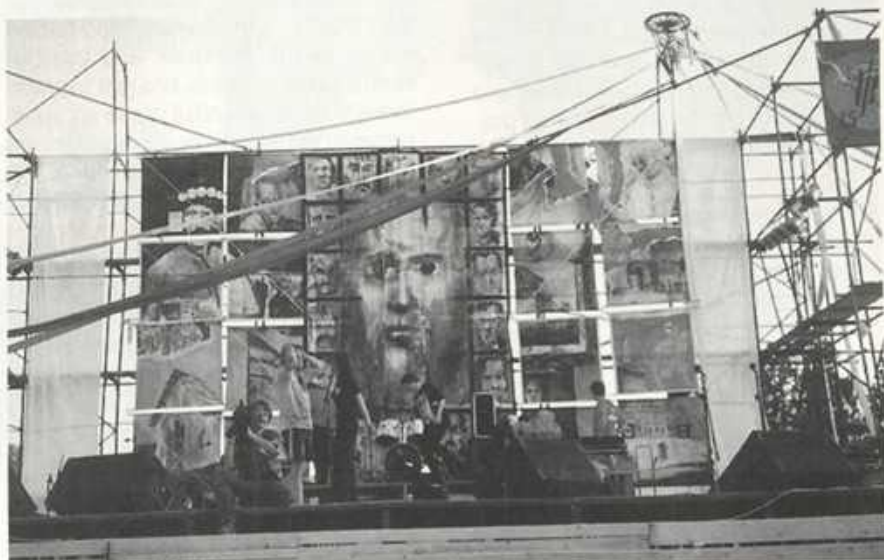
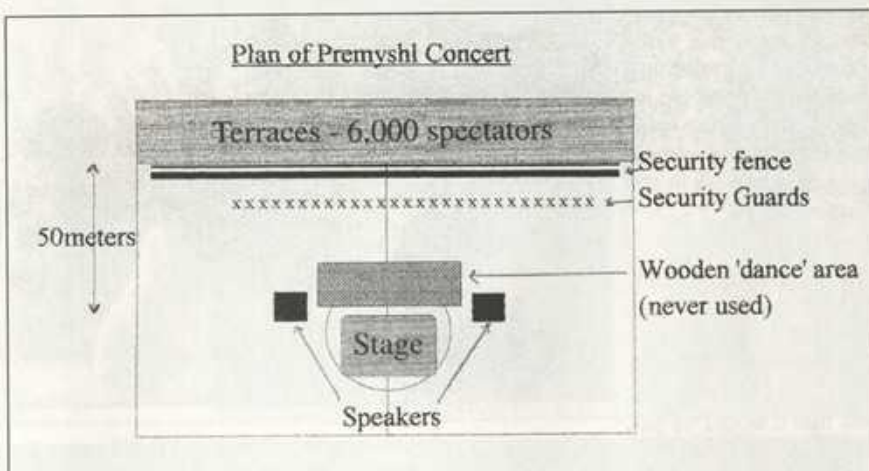
programme was a documentary on the rise of the Ukrainian military and the UPA atrocities. We were left in no doubt that although the battle was won the war was far from over.

because had we not cut short the concert, I feel sure the security guards would have assisted us in any way possible. We announced the end of the concert, blamed it on local legislation, brought forward our encore songs and finished the concert. The boos came, the sound died down, the crowd and the lights went out peacefully.

I often wonder what was achieved that day. Did the state feel threatened by song and music? Were the people attending the concert made to feel second class citizens? I felt that many people in the crowd will have understood the power of pop music. This was the first time that modern Ukrainian music was concentrated in Poland, and it appeared to have a much greater impact than the folk festivals of previous years.

I suppose what this incident has done is to remind me that being Ukrainian can be a political statement in itself. The fans on the terraces may trace their problems to the old UPA war, but they are not warriors in that sense. Most are seeking to establish their identity in a modern and democratic Poland, armed with reason, a strong sense of justice and a powerful modern culture. From this point of view, I think the festival was a success and hope it becomes an annual event. Would we do it again? Well what do you think?

Peter Solowka



View of Stage with the unused dance floor

ENGLISH SUMMER SCHOOL LVIV 1997.

Two years ago a meeting between representatives of the World Union of Catholic Teachers (WUCT) and a group of interested representatives of the Ukrainian community in Manchester took place at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, Smedley Lane, Manchester.

Mr. Mike Mandzij chairman of the Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain (AUGB) Manchester branch committee was elected to chair the meeting. As a result of this meeting a steering committee was formed.

Present at this meeting was Mr. Harry Mellon, former president of WUCT, and it was he who introduced a number of projects that had been successfully initiated by the WUCT and carried out in countries such as Rumania, The Czech republic, Lithuania and Poland. The aim of these projects was to raise the standard of teaching English in those countries. Mr. Mellon proposed that a similar project be set up in the Ukraine.

The WUCT had a number of good contacts with the Universities of Coventry and Warwick and it held out high hopes that it would be possible for us to work closely together with these institutions on this project. It was also suggested that it may be useful to invite members of the Rochdale Links Committee to join our group. Rochdale and Lviv are twin towns and members of this committee could provide valuable assistance.

After a great deal of consultation and planning it became apparent that this project would not get off the ground - at least not this year (1996).

The work continued and by March 1997 a great deal had been done, Mr. Mellon had been in discussions with Mr. Kowal at the Ukrainian Embassy, who in turn had pledged his support for such a project as did Mr. Lubomyr Mazur, chairman of AUGB in London. Ms. Anna Keczyk (member of the Rochdale Links Committee) had in

turn informed the education committee in Lviv of the project and its intentions. The projects aim was to help the school children and students in Ukraine to have access to up-to-date materials and methods and importantly to have contact with native speakers of English. Mr. Mellon had also been in touch with members of the education committee in Lviv. In response to this the Chairman of the Lviv Education Committee, Mr. Paul Khobsej informed us of a wider project which had already been started in Lviv. He proposed that we should approach High School No. 96, together with The Lviv Teacher Training College No. 1 and perhaps organise something for the summer of 1997.



On hearing this the WUCT was the first to contribute funds for the project with a donation of £200. Members of the WUCT then began fund-raising mainly in the Midlands and the Coventry areas and this brought in a further £500. Mr. Mandzij made an application to the AUGB for a grant from the Aid to Independent Ukraine. The AUGB granted the project the sum of £2000. This was indeed a tremendous boost to us all. In March of 1997 Mrs. Genia Mandzij was asked to head the project and a Mrs. Theresa Brown, a lecturer at Trinity and All Saints College Leeds was contacted. Mrs. Brown's knowledge in these matters proved invaluable and in May 1997 the decision was made to go ahead with the project.

Discussions between Mrs. Halyna Synytka (Vice-Chairman Lviv Education Committee) and Mrs. Genia Mandzij proved extremely fruitful and

many of the problems were soon resolved. The Embassy of Ukraine agreed to issue free visas to our volunteers in order for them to travel to the Ukraine.

Contact was made with Mr. Ivan Rudnytskyj, head teacher of High School No. 96 and about 30 - 40 participants were selected. These people had had about two years of learning the English Language. Also, Mrs. Dana Borodij the principal of The Lviv Teacher Training College was contacted and arrangements were made for 2nd. year students preparing to teach English to join the project, both as observers and participants. Assisting the group was Mr. Michael Brehin, president of the Centre for Educational Initiatives and Mr. Khobsej who attempted to help us on our way.

Mrs. Mandzij, finalised the programme and timetable for the summer school and together with others Ms. Anna Keczyk and Nick Emm (a modern language student who had just finished his elective year abroad in Potsdam as an English assistant in a German Grammar School) they set off to the Ukraine. Also travelling with the group was Mr. Mike Mandzij and his presence proved extremely useful when Nick Emm was incapacitated for a few days by the local cuisine.

Upon arrival in Lviv we found approximately 15 children, 3 or 4 student teachers and occasionally an English teacher from school No. 96 in each teaching group. The children we found were enthusiastic and participated in all the language exercises and games. Board games such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Cluedo and Scotland Yard were a great hit with them as they had to use their knowledge of English. Magazines such as Match, Mizz and newspapers that contained fashion and cookery items were also a huge success.

The mornings were spent in the con-

finer of the classroom and in the afternoon the school organised excursions. They were able to do this as the school had its own school bus. The dance studios and the 2 gymnasiums were also available for the children's use.

It's amazing how time flies by, all the children and their parents expressed their satisfaction and delight with the summer school and the students from the Teachers Training College were able to gain valuable experience and to advance their English teaching and speaking skills.

The teachers and in particular Mr. Ivan Rudnytskyj took great care of us during our stay and for this we will be eternally grateful. His kindness will long be remembered.

Prior to our departure Mrs. Mandzij had meetings with other head teachers of the schools and colleges in the hope that this type of project could continue from year to year.

At the end of the summer school an impromptu concert was held at High School No. 96, in English, and every participant was presented with a certificate of achievement. The guest teachers from Great Britain were presented with certificates thanking them for their hard work and initiative.

Votes of thanks together with certificates were also given to the following; Mr. Harry Mellon, AUGB via Mr. L. Mazur, Mrs. G. Mandzij for the Association for Educational Co-operation between, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Plans as you can imagine are well under way for the 1998 Summer School and anyone interested working as a volunteer for two weeks should contact:

Mrs. Genia Mandzij
c/o The Ukrainian Cultural Centre,
31 Smedley Lane,
Cheetham Hill,
Manchester
M8 8XB



DEAR UNCLE MISHA ABOUT THESE SIMPSONS!!

When Peter Fundela kindly gave me the chance of writing this article, whilst keen to put pen to paper, I was unsure where to begin. However, I guess that the best place is to introduce myself. By profession, I am a comic book artist and writer with a background in advertising and broadcast television. With regard to my parents, my mother is English and a true blue Yorkshire lady. My Ukrainian father, who sadly died in 1991, was proud of his firmly established roots in Western Ukraine.

I was born in Bradford in 1954 where I grew up on a diet of fish and chips and bowls of borscht. It wasn't unusual in my neighbourhood to have parents of different nationalities. Most kids had families of Russian, Polish, Asian or Irish origin. I guess that one of the many reasons I loved and enjoyed my primary school days at St. Jude's was because of so many people coming from so many backgrounds. I recall from a very early age, my father Mykola, sharing with me stories of his life in Ukraine and because he did it with such passion, he virtually allowed me to see his beloved Carpathian mountains through his eyes. But I also saw the pain and great sadness he expressed by his tears and emptiness. He, like so many during World War II, had been taken from his home at the age of 15. It happened without warning and his mother only had a matter of moments to gather together a few things for him. He said farewell to his parents and to his sister age 6 and brother age 3. His father couldn't speak. They just stared at one another, sharing a final unspoken moment - one that would never be repeated ever again.

Whilst I was growing up in the sixties, amidst the sounds of the Beatles, Alan Freeman's 'Pick of the Pops' and the Chiffons, I had made up my mind as to what I wanted to be. I announced to my parents that when I grew up I'd become a comic book artist. This provoking the reaction from my father of, "No, if you want to draw, let it be as your hobby, but one day you'll get a proper job!" It wasn't easy for this seven-year-old to see his point of view as I was already feasting daily on anything to everything from the 'Dandy' and 'Beano' to 'Spiderman' and 'The Fantastic Four' from Marvel comics. Still, as I grew older, I could understand how he must have felt, as for twenty years or more, he worked hard at his job in the wool and textile industry in Bradford, 13 hours a night whilst existing on little more than four hours sleep a day. During the years that followed, I never did settle in a 'proper job', but became professionally involved as an artist in the comic book industry, working on such strips as Bash St. Kids, Duckula, Dangermouse and my self-published title, Do-Do Man. Yet it was a manuscript my father produced that made me think deeply about my own roots.

Having read it and been asked to comment, I explained that one of my problems is that whilst I might be half-English, I was also half Ukrainian. On the outside, westernised and into comics and sci-fi movies and unable to speak Ukrainian. But on the inside, having countless times when I felt out of place and having a deep need to be part of a land that my forefathers called home. In July 1991, my dad died from a fatal heart attack. I had travelled to Bradford Moor, simply sharing as two friends. Apart from memories, all I had left was his manuscript concerning his life in

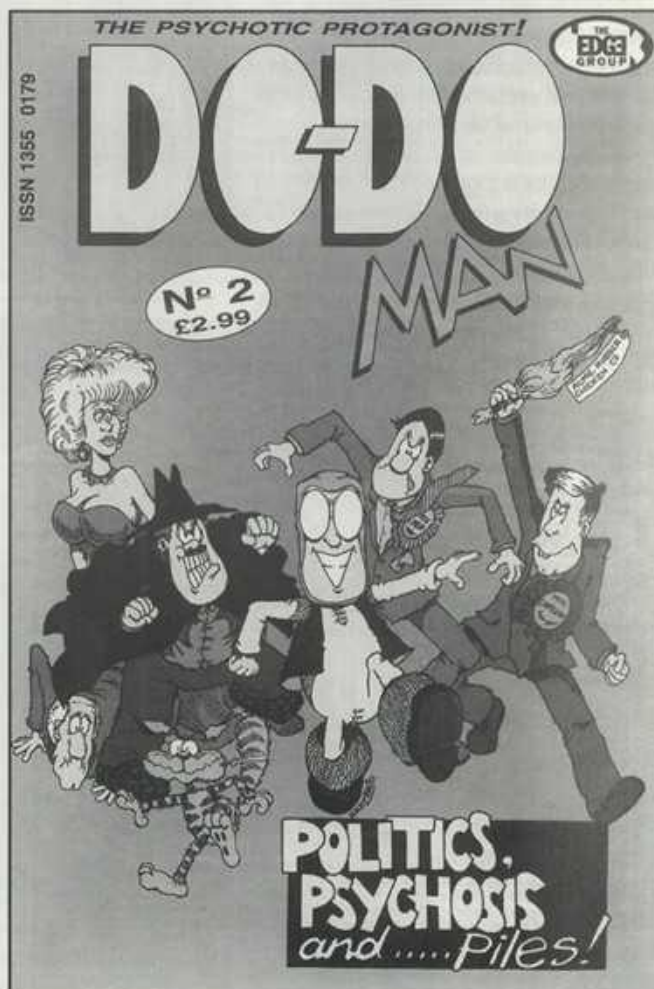
Ukraine and of him later becoming a D.P. I was afraid of something that I had not considered before, my link, my only link with Ukraine had gone and I began to feel lost. I was equally sad that he had not lived to see his country become independent.

I was encouraged by my fiancée, Sarah, to seek out my family in Ukraine. Needless to say, all of this didn't happen overnight. Following contact with both the Russian and Ukrainian embassies, I finally spoke to the British Red Cross, which in turn contacted the Ukrainian Red Cross. At last, the day came when I received a letter informing me that they had found my uncle and his family in Western Ukraine and addresses were exchanged. I couldn't believe it! Not only had I found my uncle but also 6 cousins and 2 second cousins.

My uncle still lives on a farm in the heart of that beautiful land - looking after his livestock and perhaps often pondering the answers to such questions as, "Why does my dear western nephew speak so fondly of these, Simpsons? Why does he draw this strange little person called Do-Do Man? and

when for God's sake will he get a proper job?"

Mykhailo Kazybrid



TRIPPING UKRAINE : *Wait for it!*

*One man's story of his latest trip to the homeland.
The views expressed are entirely his own.*

Ukraine is full of surprises. I've now been six times, and each time something new happens.

I left England via Newcastle on Sunday the 15th of June, arriving in Hamburg the next day. The journey across Germany and Poland was uneventful. Trouble started at the Polish Ukrainian border. The Ukrainian customs official asked me for my log book, known in Ukraine as the car's technical passport - all driver's need to carry them when driving (as I found out, too late). I hadn't brought mine!

I couldn't get into the country without it, of course. "Could I contact England, and ask for the document to be faxed over?" I asked. No, this wasn't acceptable, and anyway they didn't have a fax machine. I'd have to drive back to England and collect my log book, said the unhelpful official. Even producing documents to prove that the car was mine didn't help. Only the log book would do!

My fellow travellers and I hatched a plan. There was another car travelling with us, with room for one passenger. I could continue in that, but would have to leave my pregnant wife, three-year old daughter and sister-in-law with the car, at the border. They weren't given a room to sit in and had to hand in their passports every time they wanted to use the loo, and we had to pay the officials to 'guard' the car.



The Consul in London was persuaded to give us documents to prove that my wife's cousin had permission to use my car for three years. Wait for it - the customs officials, of course, changed that to two months! It cost £40 for the documentation. And the log book? Thanks to my neighbour Myron, and Bob Sopel, my log book would be flying out on Friday evening, and arriving in Ivano-Frankivsk at 3.30 am. Simple, eh?

The plane arrived early. We waited. And waited. And waited. Very slowly, a trickle of people emerged - only 110 of them - but it took customs three hours to process them. But, wait for it - no plane had arrived for hours before, and none were due to depart for some time. Who or what could they be looking for? Most of the passengers were over 70!

Back to the log book. One person left to process. The one with my log book. Oh no! There's something wrong with the passport. It seems to be a case of 'return to England immediately.' Luckily, there are still some decent customs officials - my log book was salvaged, and I could now collect my car and family.

The weekend starts here

Back to the border, and another problem - it's Saturday. Wait for it! The official who is needed to sign a document to verify that I am not carrying contraband doesn't work on Saturdays. Come back on Monday. But rescue is imminent, from an unexpected source. The guy who was a right sod on Monday now turns into a hero. He releases my car! The following week, I get talking to Mr Marchenko, from Leicester, at the British Embassy in Kyiv. We chat about his trip, which is a three month tour of Ukraine. So he must be in a car? Of course. Did they ask for his log book? No! But - wait for it, he only had permission to use his car for 2 months. So what happened? Well, the car was impounded, and he had to pay for it to be 'guarded'. Surprise, surprise!

Before I returned to England, I saw a TV news item about crime in Ukraine. It listed the three most reported crimes there: third - illegal immigration; second - prostitution and first - car theft. What the item didn't mention, and isn't reported often enough, I think, is probably Ukraine's Number One crime - corruption.

Officially, Nigeria is supposed to be the world's most corrupt country. I can't dispute that. But judging by my experiences, I'd say that most officials 'back home' are now tainted, and Ukraine is rising up the scale fast. I would bet that most other countries that also came under the old Soviet flag don't fare any better. It seems to be the only way you can get things

to work now. Nothing happens, nothing moves, without a back-hander being paid.

But now for my final grouch. In the town from which my wife hails, there is a policeman. A fairly ordinary guy, who gets paid the equivalent of \$50 a month. Policemen in Ukraine seem to have only one function - to catch motorists committing traffic offenses, and fining them. If all that money was paid into official coffers, I imagine that the country's roads could be some of the best in the world, maybe even lined with gold. But they're not - they're lined with pot holes. And this policeman, he lives in a villa which cost about \$22,000. Wonder how he does it? Amazing, but no-one can do anything about it.

It really saddens me. Ukraine finally gets rid of one mafia-type group, the communists, then grows some of its own to replace them. But - wait for it, I'm really still optimistic that everything can turn out for the best. We waited so long for independence. And Ukrainians are the most tolerant people I know. The vast majority of them aren't officials, either!

Mr Tynchyshyn

One to one *with* Ambassador Komisarenko



"You've got twenty minutes". Twenty minutes with the ambassador. I panic. So many questions to ask and so little time.

I needed back-up. I mean suppose he decides to do the interview in Uki. I contacted two people - our front cover designer, Tony Gresko. He's outspoken and knowledgeable about Uki stuff. He'll be good. And Darka Soloduha. She's good at translation. She used to work for the Foreign Office in Kyiv.

We arranged to meet half an hour before the interview at Notting Hill tube station. I arrived 15 minutes late. No sign of Tony or Darka. What should I do - wait or go alone. I took the risk. Result. With five minutes to go, Darka arrives. But no Tony. We don't have time so we make a rush for the embassy.

For those unfamiliar with the embassy, it's a large four story building set in a block of terraces in a 'plush' part of West London. Oh, and it was formerly headquarters to the Federation of Uki's in G.B.

We're greeted by the ambassador's right hand man who leads us to the waiting room. It's about half the size of my front room and crammed with antique style furniture. I'm reminded of an upmarket B&B. We sit down uncomfortably and our host tries to make polite conversation. He informs us the ambassador is on the phone. He asks some questions in Ukrainian about the magazine. I try to answer in my best

Uki but get lost and have to rely on Darka for help.

After ten minutes we are led to the ambassador's office. He's still on the phone and so we wait politely outside. Eventually we are shown in.

It's a large office. Three things capture my attention - large oil paintings of country scenes and flowers, piles of paperwork and books; oh and phones. Lots of them. I count three. I'm amazed. Why three phones?

Ambassador Komisarenko looks healthy and tanned. He's taller than I imagined and younger on the face, despite his grey hair. I would guess he's not far from 50.

We sit down opposite each other and agree to conduct the interview in my first language and his second or third.

The ambassador is well-dressed. I notice a Christian Dior label on the breast pocket of his shirt.

We are here to interview the ambassador as he is leaving in January of this year after 6 years in England. In that time, he was responsible for establishing a Business forum to aid international trade between Ukraine and Britain. He will also be remembered for his 'down to earth' approach. Upon his arrival as ambassador, his first duty was to meet the Ukrainian community in London at the social club.

We've been at the embassy fifteen

minutes and I haven't asked a single question. I think of what to do - cram all the questions in five minutes and hope he gives short answers or just go for that one important question? I pull out my tape recorder and a list of questions. He grabs my list from the table and reads them. Unorthodox I thought. Perhaps he will interview himself. Perhaps he will censor the interview. Or even terminate it. I swear quietly.

"Have you enjoyed your residence in England? Yes I enjoyed it very much. What memories will you be taking with you from the time spent here Many happy memories. What are your duties as ambassador. Everything".

I'm right. He is interviewing himself. Short and sweet. He returns my list. Well at least I've got some answers. And there are still four minutes remaining. I can go for a fag.

"The ambassador is responsible for everything so my duties are very wide indeed. Embassy staff have a list of duties but the ambassador has no duties because he is responsible for everything. My role is to act as the representative of the president of the state in Britain".

I ask the ambassador if President Kuchma will be attending the EEC summit in London for former Soviet countries. He tells me he is not but he has plans to visit England in the near future. This leads onto us onto the EEC.

Do you believe Ukraine will join the EEC and if so when. What concessions should Ukraine make (if any) to ease entry to the EEC.

"I would like Ukraine to join the EEC as soon as possible. But to join, it has to be of the same level, i.e. economic level, human rights, legislation. It has to be equal and to do this it has to be developed. There has to be stability - economic and financial. Turkey for example has been a member of Nato for many years but it's efforts to join the EEC are not fulfilled. Turkey is bigger than Ukraine in population but these are not the conditions for joining. Compare this to Ireland who are a small country. It's not a matter of size".

Aha, corruption. The machine word.

What should the Ukrainian government do to reduce corruption which has so embedded (infested) itself within Ukraine.

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One to one with Ambassador Komisarenko



"You've got twenty minutes". Twenty minutes with the ambassador. I panic. So many questions to ask and so little time.

I needed back-up. I mean suppose he decides to do the interview in Uki. I contacted two people - our front cover designer, Tony Gresko. He's outspoken and knowledgeable about Uki stuff. He'll be good. And Darka Soloduha. She's good at translation. She used to work for the Foreign Office in Kyiv.

We arranged to meet half an hour before the interview at Notting Hill tube station. I arrived 15 minutes late. No sign of Tony or Darka. What should I do - wait or go alone. I took the risk. Result. With five minutes to go, Darka arrives. But no Tony. We don't have time so we make a rush for the embassy.

For those unfamiliar with the embassy, it's a large four story building set in a block of terraces in a 'plush' part of West London. Oh, and it was formerly headquarters to the Federation of Uki's in G.B.

We're greeted by the ambassador's right hand man who leads us to the waiting room. It's about half the size of my front room and crammed with antique style furniture. I'm reminded of an upmarket B&B. We sit down uncomfortably and our host tries to make polite conversation. He informs us the ambassador is on the phone. He asks some questions in Ukrainian about the magazine. I try to answer in my best

Uki but get lost and have to rely on Darka for help.

After ten minutes we are led to the ambassador's office. He's still on the phone and so we wait politely. Eventually we are shown in.

It's a large office. Three things catch my attention - large oil paintings of country scenes and flowers, piles of paperwork and books; oh and plants. Lots of them. I count three. I'm amazed. Why three phones?

Ambassador Komisarenko looks healthy and tanned. He's taller than I imagined and younger on the face despite his grey hair. I would guess he's not far from 50.

We sit down opposite each other and agree to conduct the interview in my first language and his second or

The ambassador is well-dressed. I notice a Christian Dior label on the breast pocket of his shirt.

We are here to interview the ambassador as he is leaving in January of this year after 6 years in England. In that time, he was responsible for establishing a Business forum to aid international trade between Ukraine and Britain. He will also be remembered for his 'down to earth' approach. Upon his arrival as ambassador, his first duty was to meet the Ukrainian community in London at the social club.

We've been at the embassy fifteen

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in G.B.

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"It's a serious problem but not the most important one. When you were talking about the conditions which countries have to join the European Union, that is more important. The country has to be at the level at which other EEC countries are. Corruption is a serious problem which creates instability and financial problems and Ukraine tries to cope with it as efficiently as possible. But you cannot say that corruption is not a feature of other countries. Ukraine has joined Interpol and is fighting international crime. This is not a chicken and an egg situation. It has to be broken."

But Ukraine cannot achieve economic or financial stability without killing of corruption.

"It is a serious problem but not a vital problem. Social stability and economic rise are more vital and that is the chicken and the egg situation. There is corruption but the economy is working. Look at Italy and other countries. Corruption exists everywhere, even in Britain."

And one place corruption exists is in the British media and the way it represents Ukraine. Do you believe Ukrainians should follow examples set by other ethnic communities and make a stand against anti-Ukrainian feelings which are constantly expressed in the media.

He tells me he is unaware of anti-Ukrainian bias in the press and asks for examples. I give him several.

"I cannot comment on individual articles. It is a problem but Ukraine has to be open and transparent. Journalists always look for an interesting story and may sometimes report only the bad things. There are many positive things coming out of Ukraine like sport for example. Dynamo Kyiv, Sergey Bubka, Oksana Baiul have all created positive news reports and we must be positive in our approach. That is the way to answer our critics".

Hetman Ivan Mazepa's gold was allegedly given to the Bank of England centuries ago for storage. There were a few reports in newspapers in 1991 but nothing has been said since. It would be worth trillions of pounds in interest. In light of Jewish demands for Nazi gold to be returned from Austria and Switzerland, is it not time that the Ukrainian government demand-

ed compensation from the British government

"The gold has no interest. I doubt Hetman Mazepa brought his gold to England. Can you imagine how heavy the gold would be and the distance it would travel. He would have many logistical problems in bringing the gold over. Say it is here. Gold does not appreciate in value like property. The value of gold remains the same. Therefore it has no interest."

Many countries are apologising for historical mistakes - Japan for WW2 mistreatment of political prisoners, Ukraine for Babi Yar. Do you believe Ukraine should ask the British government to apologise for their role in the Soviet land collectivisation in the 1930's. 60% of the grain was sold to Britain despite their knowledge of the famine taking place.

"Well Japan has not apologised yet. They have acknowledged it happened. But it is not like that. Britain imported only a small amount of grain and the British government at the time was not aware of the famine. I have read Conrad's book and it is a good book. But the British government were not responsible for collective farming. Western journalists were not aware of any misdoing and I doubt the British government was aware."

Darka butts in and talks to the ambassador in Ukrainian. I'm lost. I look at the books. A travel guide to Cumbria. Margaret Thatcher's autobiography - both volumes. Another thing captures my attention. The ambassador's voice has softened. His voice sounds less presidential and his body language is less formal. Darka explained to the ambassador that Ukrainians in Britain were raised with a strong sense of

national pride and patriotism. If our questions have taken him aback, it is because of the pride we have.

Do you believe red tape will ever be reduced for visitors entering Ukraine i.e. formal invitations and vice versa.

"Yes eventually it will. But we have to be cautious as international crime exists. International prostitution, drugs trafficking, illegal immigration. It is important that restrictions are placed."

When will the new embassy in Holland Park open. I understand a building was purchased 18 months ago.

"The building work was due to finish last year but is now due to finish in February. I don't try to push the Builders too much. We are employing the finest builders and I would rather wait longer and make sure we have a building of lasting quality then rush the builders and end up with second rate job."

Are they Ukrainian builders

"Yes they are."

What is your next job/assignment

"I do not know yet. I will find out when I return to Ukraine."

Do you have a message for readers of Zdorov!

"Good luck to you and your readers."

We pose for photographs, shake hands and leave. The interview lasted one hour.

by Peter Fundela and Darka Soloduha



LITTLE UKRAINE IN ALMATY

Part 3 of our 'Little Ukraine ...' guide takes us to Almaty in Kazakhstan. Dr Eugene Iwaniw, from Wales, is a frequent visitor to Almaty. In this exclusive report for Zdorov, he describes one of the lesser known, yet largest Ukrainian communities in Europe.

As a petroleum geologist - world traveller and British born Ukrainian, I enjoy seeking out and meeting members of the Ukrainian diaspora during my travels, as a way of being home from home. I came across the Uki community in Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan, completely by accident.

Last year, my company sent me to Almaty to collect geological data. Almaty in March is an uninviting place. Temperatures are sub-zero and the snow is deep. The typical Soviet, dimly lit, run-down airport greeted me when I stepped off the plane. However, the backdrop of the giant Tianshan Mountains certainly makes Almaty one of the most spectacular capital cities in the world.

I usually invest in a street map whenever I visit unfamiliar towns. On day two, I purchased a glossy street map of Almaty at a street kiosk. A large Tryzub on a bright blue and yellow background immediately caught my eye. It was an advert inviting the purchaser of the map to read "Ukrainski Novyny", a weekly Ukrainian newspaper. There was an address - 50 Zhibek Zholy. I was on the trail of the local Ukrainian community and would set off on my quest the next day.

The office of Ukrainski Novyny is located in a run-down Soviet style grey building in an exotic setting, adjacent to Radio City FM radio station and opposite the "green market". This is a typical Central Asian market selling Asian goods such as horse meat and spices. The building also houses other press offices - some Russian and some Kazakh.

My entrance into the grey building at 50, Zhibek Zholy was blocked by a well-built doorman with a red sash around his

arm. In my best Russian (with strong Uki accent), I asked him for the directions to Ukrainski Novyny. His face immediately lit up and pointed upstairs, replying in perfect Ukrainian "Bud' Laska, na hori". Yevhen (my namesake) comes from West Ukraine and is a retired geologist, who now supplements his meagre pension with an additional meagre wage as a doorman. Yevhen keeps abreast of events back in Ukraine by listening every day to the Ukrainian World Service on his short wave radio. Just to prove how small the world is, he remembered a Ukrainian World Service radio broadcast featuring my parents. Upstairs in the offices, a large portrait of Taras Shevchenko and a large Tryzub on a blue and yellow flag are displayed prominently on the walls. I felt at home. After introductions and the obligatory cautionary interrogation, the horilka flowed freely and salo and Kobasa sandwiches appeared as if by magic. I was wrecked and it was only dinnertime.

**Upstairs in the offices,
a large portrait of
Taras Shevchenko
and a large Tryzub on a
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I felt at home.**

The Ukrainian community in Kazakhstan dates back to the second half of the 19th century. They brought with them the giant Ukrainian apples. These now grow throughout the Almaty region and are known locally as Almatinski Yabloka - Almata apples. The Ukrainian population increased markedly during the early part of the 20th century and also during Stalin's purges in the 1930's when hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians were deported to Kazakhstan. The Ukrainian population expanded once again during the 1950's - 1970's as a response to the 'oil boom' in the Caspian. It is said, that the best drillers in the Former Soviet Union were Ukrainian. In 1989, the total Ukrainian population in Kazakhstan was 896,200, or 5% of the population. Mostly they live in the northern territories of Pavlodar, Uralsk and Aktyubinsk. Some villages in North Kazakhstan are almost exclusively populated by Ukrainians. Ukrainians play an important role in the government of Kazakhstan. My friend Borys Moskalenko from Dolyna in the Carpathians, whom I met in North Kazakhstan in 1991, is the Deputy Minister of Geology.

Since independence in 1991, communication with Ukraine has become difficult. Telephone calls are expensive. Some people now drive by car back to Ukraine to see their families



because flights are too expensive. This is quite a daunting task, since the journey from Almaty to Ukraine is in excess of 3500 miles. The newspaper and Radio Ukraine are often the only exposure to the Ukrainian language the average Kazakh Uki living in Almaty can expect. The offices of Ukrainski Novyny and the Ukrainian embassy in Almaty together act as a useful channel of communication between Ukrainians in Kazakhstan and the motherland. The newspaper uses the embassy to gather information about events back home. Articles about Ukrainian politics and also about the diaspora in Kazakhstan make the newspaper popular amongst the limited number of people who know of its existence. Since the diaspora is still poorly organised, the potential market for the newspaper is much greater than its present limited readership.

Organising the diaspora is a painstakingly slow process. Stepan Mazur, a journalist working at Ukrainski Novyny tries to contact as many Ukrainians as possible. One of his most unusual methods is to listen to conversations on trolley buses and other public places, hoping to catch people speaking Ukrainian.

Ukrainian cultural contacts are a rarity, but whilst in Almaty, I was invited to a concert given by a visiting Ukrainian choir from Pavlodar, North Kazakhstan. The concert was attended by the Ukrainian Ambassador and also surprisingly by many non-Ukrainians. Even though the concert was in Ukrainian, Russian was spoken almost exclusively in the concert hall. Widespread russification is clearly the major problem facing the Ukrainian community in Almaty. Many Kazakh Ukrainians



struggle to speak fluent Ukrainian and Ukrainian literature is hard to come by. Following my first trip to Almaty, I received many requests for Ukrainian literature, especially Bukvari (children's learning books).

However, all is not bad. The Ukrainski Novyny newspaper has been published since July 1994 and continues to be funded by the Kazakh government in an effort to promote inter-ethnic stability. Last summer, at a meeting of the 2nd World Forum of Ukrainians held in Kyiv, the chief editor of Ukrainski Novyny, Mr Oleksandr Harkavets was elected as the representative of the Ukrainian diaspora in Kazakhstan. He is now a member of the World Ukrainian Co-ordination Council.

Dr Eugene Iwaniw

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DEATH IS MY BUSINESS

AN INSIGHT INTO A NOT-QUITE TYPICAL SMALL BUSINESS BY ROMAN ZYLA

How can potential entrepreneurs in Ukraine make a go of a business in the face of economic strife? Roman Zyla met someone with the answer.

Yevhen Deneka is a big, burly bear of a man, who likes a share a laugh and down a pint or two. He comes from Kyiv where he runs a small business, which he has built up despite the immense difficulties of the post-Soviet era.

Some would call him one of the new breed of Ukrainian professionals. A remarkably dedicated man, he has taken whatever limited opportunities he could find, and where possible, has turned them to his advantage. While he was in Canada recently on a training course, I had the opportunity to meet him and learn about his unusual business.

Yevhen's business is death. The young pathologist runs a funeral parlour and morgue in Kyiv. Although based in a major hospital complex, he has built everything from scratch, and now owns the buildings and everything in them. Only the land belongs to the hospital. Eugene (as he prefers to be called in English) describes how he built up the busi-

ness from next to nothing.

My business is located in a small corner of a major hospital complex. The main part consists of two small buildings, with large steel doors, and bars on the windows. The larger of the two is the funeral home; the garage-like building next to it is the cold storage morgue. The pathology laboratory has three rooms, and my office is the smallest of these. It has a Ukrainian flag in one corner, a diploma on the wall, a sofa for late nights, and a fridge with some *salonina* and a few bottles.

"The hospital, like the rest of the country, is facing financial setbacks, so the authorities don't waste money on unnecessary lighting. At night, the whole place is dark, making the paths between buildings difficult to negotiate. My small corner is easy to find though - some helpful city workers turned a street light towards it, for a few token bucks.

"When I began working here, the surrounding land was a tip, littered with rubbish, and the building was a ruin. The hospital had many problems, so the administrators weren't worried about me rebuilding a small shack by the back road. The hospital director even laughed at me, asking why anyone should want to do anything as ridiculous as rebuild a total ruin.

Eugene Deneka hard at work



"Now the funeral home as it stands is all mine. Only the land is owned by the hospital. I've invested my own money and physical labour to it like this, and it's taken me the best part of two years. I've had to be a bricklayer, carpenter, manager and cleaner. Hard work but at least the work I put in was dependable. Ukrainian builders do not always get the jobs done right.

I have a staff of five - three lab technicians and two priests, who helped to make this place. They've all taken some risks, but they can see a distant payoff. They like the work, and feel a sense of accomplishment when they leave here in the evening."

Guided tour

"As you enter the funeral parlour, you notice none of the smells usually associated with corpses. There is a small reception room, an autopsy room and tool room with stark white lights reflecting off the stainless steel shelves and counters.

"The funeral parlour itself is tastefully decorated. None of the depressing black usually associated with death, but instead pastel tones of grey and pink, with panels of expensive seashell marble. At the head of the room, there's a small altar for the priest, and a kneeling bench. The room will take about 40 mourners, giving each comfortable room to grieve. Caskets are made of natural wood, based on tasteful Western models, and not the traditional Soviet rudimentary coffin.



Funeral home stall in the main funeral parlour

"The pattern on the marble floor gives the impression of a solemn pathway to heaven. Directly opposite the main door, the large Crucifix is styled in a manner acceptable to all Christian religions. Behind the cross, an ivy plant set against a huge fabric curtain symbolises eternal life and peace.

Medicine and crime

"You may be interested in how a businessman in this line of work makes a living in Ukraine. It's a growing industry in many countries, but here things are rather different

"I offer free services for the city council leaders - that's just good politics. The same goes for their immediate subordinates. I also take nothing for performing the last rites and burying members of

crime organisations and the mafia - but in return, they don't 'tax' me. That's my 'insurance' as well. This business is linked with the medical world and the criminal world. Frankly, I would rather not have to make a living out of the latter.

"Otherwise, I get paid whatever the client can afford. I never quote a price, but I hope that most people understand that I and my workers have to eat, and we have families at home. In reality, though, some just don't bother, and others can't afford anything.

"As this is also a morgue, I have to provide my services as a pathologist to the hospital, too. What we get from the funeral home goes to buy chemicals for embalming, and tools etc. Now that three years have gone by since I built the place, I have to start thinking of

repairs, renovation and maintenance too.

"Tomorrow I have a funeral to prepare. The clients haven't paid yet, but what can I do? It would be un-Christian of me to deny them a burial. The hospital has recently denied us free use of the central laundry facility, which is why the lab is full of uniforms and scrubs, sitting in tubs for the technicians to wash. I have to pay them to do this too.

"Still, despite all the difficulties - I now own all of this - just like the shirt on my back, everything here (except the building site) belongs to me. Six years ago, I would not have dreamt that I could have a business of my own. Now I've made it happen."

Roman Zyla

Cyberukes

Ukrainian language for yourists (Basic words)

<http://www.infoukes.com>

Travelling to Ukraine? Relatives from the old country coming for a visit? Grandma is yelling something and you don't understand. This site may just come in handy. Click on the sound files found here and learn to pronounce simple words like Yes and No in Ukrainian. Learn basic phrases like "Do you accept credit cards?" (Like that will come in handy in some Uki backwater). One word of warning, some of the phrases give you several different words meaning the same thing, so unless you already know the language you may be going around saying things like "Excuse me, where is the bathroom, washroom, toilet, lavatory?" (At least that will get a sense of urgency across to the listener). There's even a little quiz that tests your progress. Unfortunately there is the odd error in the quiz so you may end up a little confused. The site has links to many sound applications that will allow your computer to speak Ukrainian to you.

Philatists Rejoice

<http://wvnm.wvnet.edu/~roman/stamps.html>

This site is a handy place to take a look at what kind of stamps have been released in Ukraine over the last few years. There's a list of all the stamps that have been printed from 1991 to 1996. Release dates and catalogue numbers are provided. Face value is also listed for many of the entries. About half of the listings are linked to jpgs of the stamp.

Serious stamp collectors are going to find this site a bit sketchy, but it is a great place for beginners or people who just have a passing interest in Ukrainian stamps. This site

would be a lot more interesting if values for the stamps (for singles, panes, sheets, etc) were included. A brief history of some of the stamps would also be desirable. The site is maintained by Roman Olynyk.

Reviewed by Yuri Diakunchak. Many thanks to 'Zdorov! Canada'.

Scoop!

<http://www.thepost.kiev.ua>

Kyiv Post is the capital's prime English language newspaper. Their site carries the latest news stories from Ukraine.

The site also features adverts, job opportunities, a business directory and links to other Ukrainian newspaper web sites.

The site is laid out simply and allows surfers to look at news pages efficiently and without having to wait for downloads of pictures.

Competition

<http://www.netwave.net/members/jarmola/competition/html>

This is a link to the Dynamo Kyiv web site reviewed in the last edition of *Zdorov!* But you should check this excellent competition which offers surfers a chance

Talkback

In Oldham the Ukrainian Community is suffering due to the politics and disagreements between our parents. In the 'golden days' Oldham used to boast having four Ukrainian clubs, sadly this has dwindled to one and this has seen a vast drop in bar takings and membership. This story probably runs true in a number of *oseredky* as the second and third generation Ukrainians begin filling the positions of power. I would like to appeal to these people - it is time we buried the hatchet and stopped the arguments started by our parents?

I have vague recollections of fighting breaking out, over twenty years ago, near the Ukrainian Catholic Church between supporters of the late Patriarch Josef Slypyj and supporters of the local priest who did not recognise Josef Slypyj as the leader of the Church. This argument is still ongoing today - people who were the best of friends before the split now avoid each other. The younger generation of Ukrainians do not realise why the Ukrainian Community is sub-divided into lots of minor sections, as the arguments have raged over twenty years.

If we look at other ethnic minorities who have settled in Britain, we see that they are working together for one common goal

Talkback is a platform for readers views and opinions. Zdorov! welcomes intelligent comments on any subject affecting the Ukrainian Community in Great Britain. If you would like to reply to any views or articles expressed in Zdorov! please write to the editor.

which is to improve their standard of living and keeping their culture alive. They tend to choose their own nationality when they require a tradesman or shopkeeper, therefore re-circulating the wealth in the community as the businesses contribute to the various fund raisers required to keep community projects alive. If a job needs doing at my home I will always try to give the job to a Ukrainian, as my electrician, alarm installer, carpenter and decorator know, but sometimes you are not aware of who does what. Apart from the Calenderech I am unaware of a publication which lists Ukrainian Businesses.

The Ukrainian community has divided itself of various factions whilst living in Britain. It is not only the Church that has been divided - political views have stopped the integration of Ukrainians living together in harmony. My personal view is that all Ukrainians should get together to keep their culture alive. To me it does not matter if you are a Catholic or Pravoslavny, Banderyvich or Melnykyvich. Everyone is entitled to their own views and should not force them upon others. Lets work together to keep Ukrainian spirits alive!

Paul Okopskyj

Zdorov! needs your help

In Issue 8, we ran an appeal for volunteers to help produce this magazine. The appeal was a massive success and you, the readers as well as Peter and I both owe a large debt to the contributors for giving up their spare time. For the magazine to continue, we still need a large contribution.

We need the following :

- **MORE ARTICLES**
- **GRAPHIC DESIGNERS** to take over a two or four page spread and make it look interesting
- **AND FINALLY A NEW EDITOR** to take over from Peter Fundela who is leaving this year.

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Countdown to election '98

Profile of Main Parties

The general election on March 29th will be Ukraine's most important and unpredictable yet. Early polls show The Communist Party of Ukraine taking the lead. Public confidence in the fairness of the electoral system is at an all time low and voters are frustrated at the corruption and slow economic performance of Ukraine which have left many without resources to buy essential food and clothes.

Constitution

The President is voted for a five year term by the electorate and appoints the Prime Minister. Executive power is held by the President and Prime Minister while legislative power is the prerogative of the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council) who approve all appointments. The Verkhovna Rada has 450 members elected for 5 years. The last Rada elections were held in April 1993. This year, half the deputies will be elected. Instead of individual candidates being placed on ballot papers, deputies will be represented by party lists. Each party must have 200,000 votes to win a place on the party list. For a party then to win a seat on the Supreme Council, they must win 4% of the votes cast.

In each of the 450 constituencies, a 50% electorate turnout is required.

Local Government

Ukraine is divided into 24 oblasts (provinces), one autonomous republic (Crimea), 479 rayons (divisions) and 415 cities.

Breakdown of political parties

Extreme nationalists

Ukraine National Assembly	3
Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party	2

Moderate nationalists

Rukh	20
Ukrainian Republican Party	8
Congress of National Democratic Forces	5
Democratic Party of Ukraine	2

Centrists

Inter-regional Reform Block	4
Ukrainian Democratic Renaissance Party	4
Civic Congress of Ukraine	2
Social Democratic Party of Ukraine	4
Labor Congress of Ukraine	4
Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine	1

Communist

Communist Party of Ukraine	86
Peasant Party	18
Ukrainian Socialist Party	14

Most parties are tiny and hold little power. Only the CPU, Rukh, Hromada and the Socialists possess money, recognition, contacts and press affiliations.

Communist Party of Ukraine (CPU)

Chaired by Petro Symenko, CPU is the largest party in Rada with 86 seats. The CPU along with Hromada pose the main threat to Kuchma. Until 1990, CPU was the only political party. Main rival to Rukh. The party has an estimated membership of 120,000 and has pledged to preserve socialist orientation and seek humanitarian and democratic principles as well as equal rights.

Hromada

Centrist party led by former Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko. Hromada have been promoting themselves as anti-Kuchma. Opposition parties claim this is a political tactic to win votes.

Hromada have built up influential business and press support. It is reported that former YeESU (United Energy Systems of Ukraine) head Yulia Tymoshenko injected Hromada with money. With the help of then P.M. Lazarenko, YeESU have won contracts to supply 30% of Ukraine's gas market and produced a turnover of \$10 billion in 1996.

Pravda Ukrainy, one of the two prominent Ukrainian newspapers is pro-Hromada. The other paper, Holo Ukrainy has expressed support for Lazarenko recently.

Rukh (Ukrainian People's Movement for Restructuring)

Right wing nationalist party founded in 1988 to oppose the CPU. Holds 20 seats in Rada. Led by ally to former premier Kravchuk, Vyacheslav Chornovil. Main power-base in Western Ukraine.

Rada claims the support of 60,000 full members and 500,000 affiliated members. Rukh has affiliations with Viktor Chayka, president of the capital's main paper, Kievskiy Vedomosti although recently a split occurred over the paper's refusal to gag independent journalists critical of Chornovil.

Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Minister for Protection of the Environment and Nuclear Safety Yuriy Kostenko are both members.

Peasant Party of Ukraine

Founded in 1992, the party is led by Serhii Dovhan and has the third largest number of seats in Rada. The party opposes economic reform and privatisation, advocating land collectivisation and the preservation of the economic zone within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The party is regarded as anti-nationalist and claims 1.6 million members. Its headquarters are in Kherson.

edited by Peter Fundela

Box clever

It's a national pastime, especially for older Ukrainians over here. Sending those parcels 'do domy' often becomes something of an obsession.

Seventies, that churned out paisley Swiss headscarves and huge mohair shawls (multi-purpose things for those cold Ukrainian winters). These days, it's a case of hunt out the most suitable items for yourself. At least now you can usually get them collected and delivered door-to-door.

Simple, you may think. First find your agency - ask friends, scour the Ukrainian papers. Then select the date and time for collection/delivery, taking into account how long the delivery process may take (it's quicker to get across Europe in Summer). And you mustn't forget to warn your relatives that they'll need to provide passport identification before the parcel is handed over. However this seemingly simple procedure does not take into account all the background work. And believe me, there's a lot of that.

For instance, my parents talk to all recent visitors to Ukraine to find out which items are currently being coveted. Jeans and trainers were in at one time, now it seems to be specific jeans and trainers only. Aspirins, plasters and bandages are always useful, as are underwear, baby clothes and lengths of cloth. Each item has to be specifically listed on the transit documents.

Then there is the box hunting. My father asks for a few from the local supermarket, and sticks them together to fit requirements. Don't forget to make sure the finished item will fit in your car boot if it's not being collected! Add to this

Patchkas, posilas, parcels (bumper ones) - whatever you call them, they're sheer hard work. Trying to deal with the latest string of Ukrainian transit agencies that have been set up, my poor retired parents are in a spin.

Gone are the days of standard items, sold in all the offices in the

the regular tour around local car boot sales, which also takes up a lot of time and effort.

This is followed by the 'friends call': "Calling all friends, relatives, neighbours, friends of neighbours or friends of friends. The next collection departs on Sunday. Please deposit any unwanted items with us. All will be gratefully received."

When you are over 70, arthritic and with high blood pressure, accomplishing all these tasks isn't easy. For instance, just the washing and ironing takes forever - anyone would think that they weren't going to be washed at the other end! They worry about making relatives the target of muggings, too.

Waiting for the receipt can also provoke anxiety - especially in Winter - in Summer, your relatives' signatures could be back with you in just one month. And once the thank-you letter does arrive, there's the overwhelming wish to know how items were used: "Did the 'Welcome to

Australia' T-shirt fit Halyna? Was the Smurfs colouring set a hit at the primary school?" It's frustrating when the details don't come.

Above all, there is the wish-fulfilment of twenty years or more. As a child, I can remember items for which I couldn't envisage any use at all being hoarded in the spare room. When you're 12, dresses from the 70's, which you wore at the age of two, seem totally useless,

however good the quality. As a fashion conscious kid, I was frustrated at never being able to see the last of that cheesecloth dress, those wedge shoes, that tartan poncho. I now imagine the children of all my relatives in Ukraine reliving the Seventies through my clothes. My mother had always been clear that these would finally go "Do domy" (home) and her wish has come true. Like an antiques collector, she has carefully cherished and catalogued each item. Ask her where those grey Farah trousers from a particular year went, and she could tell you, right down to the 'oblas' (village).

My mother always says that the next parcel will be her last, because of the monumental efforts required for packing one. But there's always "that good piece of fabric which would make a whole new wardrobe; those bargain shoes; the 'mustn't miss' car boot sale..." She also has a very strong sense of the appreciation felt at the other end.

In her book, "How we survived Communism and even laughed", the Croatian writer Slavenka Drakulic excellently



describes the hoarding capacity of Eastern European women. Cartons or containers are always kept, since shortages are so acute. A western lipstick or face cream is not solely a cosmetic, but as a symbol of choice, freedom and individuality. She describes how, in her country, women had the choice of only one hair dye for years. Given the dignity afforded by choice, coveted items sent from abroad can only be a good thing. With wages not paid, these luxury items aren't high on any Ukrainian shopping lists.

Holidaying in Italy recently, I discussed the parcel commitment with Dutch relatives. "Clothes!", they gasped. "Why on earth don't you just send food?" Now, that is a whole new ball game.

As a fashion conscious kid, I was frustrated at never being able to see the last of that cheesecloth dress, those wedge shoes, that tartan poncho. I now imagine the children of all my relatives in Ukraine reliving the Seventies through my clothes.

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Zdorov! asked three major parcel delivery companies to Ukraine to name some of the more stranger items they have been asked to deliver

Most unusual exports to Ukraine

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POLEX LTD

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ZOLOTY KOLESSA

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- A portaloo
- Envelope making machinery
- A library of books
- 200 tons of Scottish seed potatoes
- rings

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Concerts

Manchester Mykolai

It was the weekend before Christmas. The roads around Manchester were packed with shoppers desperately trying to find the ideal gifts for their family. But not everyone was so badly organised - inside the main hall of the Manchester Ukrainian Centre there were around 200 parents and their expectant children ready to experience Sviatij Mykolai.

The afternoon began with a stage show. As some of the older children performed the traditional Mykolai play (where the Saint intervenes to save the children from the devil's clutches), children, adults and pensioners alike were enthralled by the lighting and special effects on the stage. Manchester has probably the best light and sound equipment of any Ukrainian organisation and these were used to full effect by the dedicated technicians. Snow storms, the fires of hell, and holy auras were all clearly visible and not even the smallest, shyest child went unheard.

At the end of the performance, a loud and glittering St Nicholas proceeded to distribute presents (previously delivered and labelled by the parents) to the good children, a task which took a good two hours - there were just so many kids! After this, loads of satisfied kids went home with the bulk of their Christmas presents - having received them a good five days before their non-Ukrainian friends made it even more satisfying.

I really enjoyed watching so many young people enjoying Ukrainian traditions. I was told that this day is so popular, it's the one event people always choose to attend above all others. As a suggestion for today's fast-moving society, I think there should be three St Nicholases in Manchester!

Peter Solowka

Spookie Cookies



The Spookies Cookies first exploded onto the Ukrainian scene when they appeared on the best-selling compilation album, Kolos.

The four-piece from Wolverhampton are our answer to The Osmonds, in that they are formed by the Kuszta siblings. Fronted by former *Zdorov!* editor Irena and her younger sister Yula, they are adequately backed up with brother Myron on bass and Marko on keyboards.

The Cookies are primarily a zabava band but with only half-a-dozen zabava bands left in Britain, their commitment should be applauded. They are also the only zabava band to have female lead vocalists, (Novyna are to my knowledge the only other mixed-sex band).

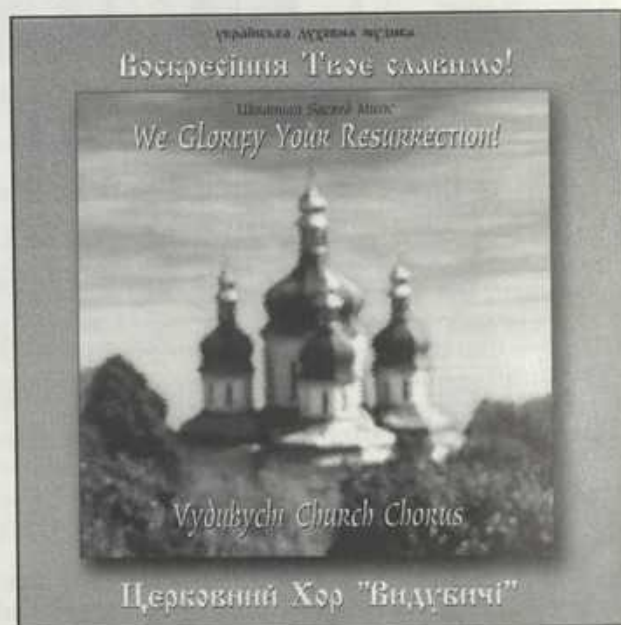
Their recent first ever concert at Derby Ukrainian club brought the house down. The Cookies combined traditional Uki songs with more non-Uki cover tunes from the likes of The Spice Girls and Natalie Imbruglia and gave everyone a chance to dance, whether it's the waltz, samba or disco. Their use of sequencers give a much fuller sound.

Lets hope the Cookies inspire a revival of Uki zabava music. Already, a new female zabava band 'Holos' has been formed in London. More bands inspire better music and help our clubs to flourish.

Peter Fundela

Albums

Vydubuchi Church Chorus



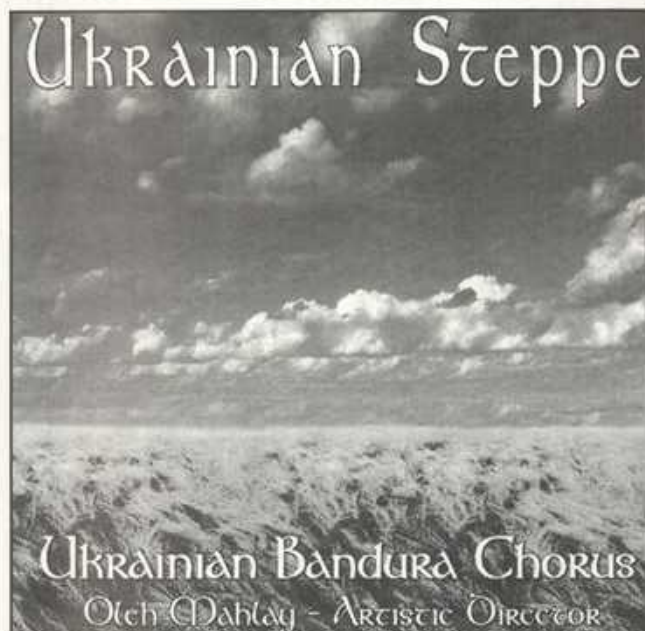
Formed in 1990, this 17 voice choir from Kyiv was one of the first to sing the divine liturgy in the soon to be independent Ukraine. Since then they have performed at many international festivals and are organised enough to record and produce the two records reviewed here. The first is 'Svyata Nich' (Holy Night) and is a collection of Ukrainian Christmas songs.

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Beautifully sung, the collection of carols covers both the familiar and obscure (many of the tracks I'd never heard before), in such a way that a Christmas atmosphere continues throughout. Occasionally, the choral music is broken up by banduras, flutes, and even the bells of St Sophia! I can't wait to play it at next year's Sviata Vechir. The other record, called 'Voskresinya Tvoje Slavymo' (We Glorify Your Resurrection), is a much more serious affair. Being a collection of sacred works by a variety of Ukrainian composers, it very seldom reaches the lightness of the Christmas songs, but there again, it probably should! Definitely the music for your more peaceful and contemplative times, it is never the less excellently performed to a standard few of our UK based choirs can attain. In fact, I'd say the only choir I know that can reach this standard in the UK is Manchester's Vidrodzenia.

Both of these recordings are of the highest standards of production and performance and are highly recommended to all those with a love of spiritual music.

Ukrainian Bandura Chorus



Probably the most famous group of bandura players in the world today, the Ukrainian Bandura Chorus proudly continues its 96 year history with a CD 'Ukrainian Steppe'. First formed in Kyiv in 1902, and surviving persecution and manipulation by Stalin and Hitler, the remnants of the chorus reformed in Detroit in 1949. Now with 40 vocalists, 20 bandurists and a repertoire of 500 songs, they are a very well organised and vibrant group of musicians.

I wasn't looking forward to reviewing this as generally I find whole LP's of Banduras a bit tedious, but this record is so well arranged that each track seems fresh and different. It is to the credit of the artistic directors and no doubt the depth of skill of the performers that such a varied LP can be produced. From full choir sounds to solos with single voice accompaniment, from strident 'kozak' songs to prayers, the listener is moved through the whole range of bandura music, all of

which is emotionally performed. Maybe it's because of their history, maybe their professionalism, or more likely both, but this will be the first Bandura CD in my collection.

Carpathiana



Last year we reviewed a tape by Carpathiana, a group based in Todmorden, West Yorkshire and fronted by Yuri Baluk. Technically based, but with quite clear Ukrainian influence, they were one of the first UK groups to combine techno / world beat with traditional Ukrainian music. At that time, they'd just done their first tour of Ukraine and were looking forward to producing their first CD. A year later we find ourselves with a CD to review, but before you go rushing to the shops to order it, this is only a promo copy as no UK deal exists yet.

The six tracks are on average 6 minutes long, about right for the genre of music. Heavy on drums and bass, light on musical instruments and lengthy vocals, in many ways this is typical of the direction in which world music is moving. Any reader who goes to clubs with an alternative flavour will be familiar with the style and presentation. After that though, the similarity ends for the predominant language is Ukrainian, as are the majority of the melody lines. In most places it works beautifully in such a way that I'm sure even people unaware of the style would appreciate. Tracks such as 'Chill' deal only with traditional melodies, while 'Zirky' like most others, has original Ukrainian lyrics. All the songs are wonderfully embellished with flute and fiddle, plus lots of other sampled ethnic instrumentation.

For me this music is one (if not the most), important way for Ukrainian culture to move forward. It is a sound that should be heard in all the Ukrainian clubs which still have young attenders.

('Carpathiana' on CD has now been exclusively made available to Zdorov! Please send a cheque or P.O. for £12 payable to Zdorov, 63 Royal Park Terrace, Leeds LS6 1EX)

Album reviews by Peter Solowka

THE SCIENCE-LESS MINORITY

by Maksim V. Kopanitsa

Economic transition is rotting away science industry and a fragmented social infrastructure has set in.

The winter exams have started. I know because there is easy access to the trolley-bus. There are several student dormitories in the area so taking the trolley always poses certain difficulties except for exams and vacation seasons. I gladly jump into the trolley-bus thinking that the rhythmic student classes schedule has become a distinct biological cycle.

I whisper "Neither down nor feather to you all", which is a Ukrainian way of saying "Good luck!" to students before exams.

"To learn, to learn and still to learn". This slogan by Vladimir Lenin, was a required declaration in all Soviet classrooms. One of the few undisputed advantages of the October revolt was access to better education in Ukraine.

The Soviet authorities paid great attention to science, the achievements of which were crucial for the industrialisation of the country and, simultaneously, ideological repressions against religion. The flourishing of certain branches of science after the World War II reflected the increasing demand of the Soviet Union in the development of new weapons. However, in reality, the science industry was not very efficient. Some economists argue that it was one of the main reasons of the economic stagnation since the 1980's.

As the situation in the former Soviet Union worsened, the government cut funding in education and science. This ultimately led science (as a completely state-supported structure) to the edge of an abyss.

The socially prestigious career within science became dislodged due to education cutbacks and the economies of scale. In the 1970's-80's, wages were moderate and existing social benefits allowed scientists a comfortable standard of living.

Now, the salaries of scientists are lower. Economic transition is rotting away science industry and a fragmented social

infrastructure has set in.

These winds of change have shifted interests of 17-18 years old school University students towards more financially secure courses like business administration, trade and law. As a result, graduates entering the fundamental science majors have dropped steeply.

According to a lecturer (who wishes to remain anonymous) of the Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology, Kyiv, "Now that some Universities have adopted a paid tuition system for at least part of the students, one can judge the popularity of the faculty by the required sum of money. For example, the tuition on the Law Faculty of the National Shevchenko University is much higher than on the Physics Faculty. Also there are many more fee-paying Law students."

The state stipends for undergraduate students is equal to the price of two sandwiches in a recently opened Macdonald's restaurant

Science-based careers are less appealing to young Ukrainians because they are acutely aware about non-heated laboratories, lack of essential supplies and delays in the payment of salaries to scientists and science teachers. The state stipends for undergraduate students is equal to the price of two sandwiches in a recently opened Macdonald's restaurant. Thus, if parents are unable to support their children, students must fund themselves through paid work; a situation rarely seen even ten years ago.

However, there are still a lot of young people willing to obtain their degree in the fundamental sciences. Svitlana Zbarska, a fourth-year undergraduate student at the National Shevchenko University says, "I liked physics and math classes at school. I entered the Physics Faculty and later I chose to specialise in Biophysics. It is an interesting field and I think if I work hard I can go to the graduate school. Hopefully, the times will be better someday and it will be prestigious to be a scientist."

Having received their Diplomas and Bachelor degrees, graduates face the

next dilemma: whether to take a post-graduate degree. Even though the state stipend for post-graduate students (or "aspirants" as they are called in Ukraine) is 7-8 times higher than for undergraduates, the amount is minimal. For example, all non-local aspirants are

Many graduates are forced to accept their poor financial situation and leave in order to support themselves within the workforce. A science degree itself does not guarantee a job within it's field. Some graduates will gain positions in the representative offices of foreign pharmaceutical companies but the majority will find a job which is different from their degree.

provided with accommodation in shared 2-3 person dormitory rooms. If an aspirant marries a non-academic person, there arises a housing problem. The monthly rent for an apartment is equal to the stipend. Many graduates are forced to accept their poor financial situation and leave in order to support themselves within the workforce. A science degree itself does not guarantee a job within it's field. Some graduates will gain positions in the representative offices of foreign pharmaceutical companies but the majority will find a job which is different from their degree.

Apart from small stipends, another reason to leave scientific study is general disappointment with the conditions of work. "The current topics in my former marine biology laboratory are just primitive, like qualitative and quantitative distribution or something," says Viktor Korostiyenko, a graduate of Odessa Mechnikov State University. "The labs do not have money for more interesting things, so branches of science develop that need only a pencil and a piece of paper". Now Viktor works for J.V. Black Sea Cargo Inspections, performing chemical tests of petroleum products. It is certainly not the occupation he dreamed about when studying Hydrobiology.

Some students choose teaching as a profession. However, because of the constantly decreasing number of positions in schools, this choice is made by those who negotiated with school officials in advance.

However, for graduates who despite all the problems presented, choose the "aspirantura" (post-graduate school), the prospects may be a little brighter than 3-5 years ago. It can be argued that the dire financial situation of the last few years has caused scientific groups to prosper as they did back in Soviet times. Such groups have been able to retain skilled and well-trained personnel and have stayed afloat with the minimal state financial help and grants from various Western sources.

200 post-graduate students receive special stipends from the President fund and National Academy of Sciences. The International Science Education Programme, supported by the Ukrainian government and the Institute of the Open Society (USA), is continuing its support of young scientists and extending the level of applications from students to junior researchers this year. In 1994-1997, the latter initiative (previously known as

the International Soros Science Education Programme) allowed several hundred natural science students to visit conferences and seminars abroad.

In spite of large support from the Western agencies, it cannot provide a firm basis for Ukrainian science. Western grants will not always be available, and that which is only sufficient to meet basic requirements, we cannot develop something better from that. However, a positive aspect which has arisen is the process with which Ukrainian scientists now have to market themselves within the workforce. Particularly when Ukraine creates an analogue of 'Wellcome PLC' trusts. Although science is heavily dependant on monetary funding, and due to the economic situation in Ukraine, this is a fundamental dependency, we must build bridges. As scientists, we have an obligation to be readily competitive, and offer steam to push the slow train of reforms.

Maksim V. Kopanitsa
Department of Cellular
Membranology
Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology
Kyiv



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You're in Canada. It's the middle of winter; cold, harsh and desolate. It's the day after Malanka (Ukrainian New Year) to be precise. What's a person to do? - Why, host an outdoor hockey tournament of course!

When they speak of hockey in Canada, they usually mean the version on ice. Usually, not always. There is another version, equally as popular, played in schoolyards, back streets, and parking lots by countless Canadians.

Suddenly, before our very eyes, the parking lot at the Ukrainian National Federation Hall in Hamilton is transformed into an "Arena of Dreams". Snow is shovelled up against surrounding walls forming something akin to boards; nets are meticulously set in place on either end of the asphalt rink and the players congregate around the beer coolers signifying that the battle is about to commence.

The Malana Cup came by its name quite by accident via a typographical error. Canadian hockey tradition dictates that the names of the champions are engraved into the Cup each year. When the tournament was founded way back in 1997, the Cup's engraver not only inscribed the winning team members' names into the cup, but also the name of the Cup itself: 'The Malanka Cup', or so he thought. It was not until some time later that a player's girlfriend noticed that the 'K' in Malanka was missing - and so the Malana cup was born.

From its humble beginnings just one year ago, the Malana Cup grew this year to include three teams encompassing 14 players, and twice as many spectators from all over Ontario (a province of Canada larger than the whole of Britain).

The matches were tight, good natured affairs. The teams, dubbed 'Blues', 'Whites', and 'Maroons', were chosen at random with each player dipping his hand into the 'garbage bag of dreams' and selecting a jersey. The colour you picked was the team you played for.

In the end, the Blues came out champions defeating the Maroons 3-2 in the Final.

Afterwards, players and fans alike retired to the warmth of the hall, stuffing themselves with pizza, chicken wings and beer. Like warriors after the battle, tales of glory soon echoed throughout the hall as the day's activities were reviewed on video tape. There would be no losers on this day. And, as one competitor casually grunted as he swallowed his chicken wing whole, then swashed it down with a pint, "Wait until next year!"

All of the details of the Malana Cup, including goal videos, photos, match statistics and a guestbook are available on the Internet at <http://karpaty.tor.soliton.com/Malana98/>

Drop by for a visit and, if you think you're hard enough, drop by Hamilton, Canada and take on the challenge for yourself at the next Malanka!

Taras Ciriuk

SPORTS REVIEW



Nagano '98

Ukraine gained only one medal at the recent Winter Olympics, a silver won by Yelena Petrova in the 15 km Biathlon.

Ukrainian born Maria Poluliaschenki and ice-skating partner Andrew Seabrook, representing Britain, finished 10th in the pairs short programme. This was the young couple's first Olympic games.

Hopes that women's figure skaters Yulia Lavrenchuk and Elena Liashenko would emulate Oksana Baiul's 1994 gold record were dashed when the skaters finished 9th and 11th respectively.

Athletics

Ukraine won three gold medals at the recent European Indoor Championships held in Valencia. S Osovich ran the 200 metres in 20.40 seconds. The Long jump was won by A Lukasehovich who jumped a massive 8.06 metres. A Balakhiniva won the pole vault, reaching 4.45 metres.

.....
An enthusiastic crowd of Ukrainian athletics supporters cheered Sergey Bubka at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Bubka was competing in the Ricoh Tour Series and although the pole-vaulter failed to break his own world record, he did smash the British all-comers record, vaulting to 5.82m.

Dynamo Manchester 3 - 6 Dynamo Ukraine (Oldham)

This long awaited encounter looked like it would be rained off due to the atrocious weather conditions, but in true Cossack spirit it was decided to go ahead and play the game. Manchester had a player short so Paul Okopskyj from Oldham volunteered to play against his own team.

Both teams started steadily as they tried to judge the playing surface but flippers were more appropriate than football boots. Dynamo Ukraine managed to get into their stride first and their opening goal came in the 15th minute. A cross from the right found Dale Booth (skyj) unmarked in the penalty area and he fired home from 12 yards. Five minutes later Dynamo Ukraine broke again down the centre when Paul Bradley (Bradlyowskyj) latched onto the through ball to steer it past the stranded Manchester keeper. Manchester's tactical change of switching to five across the back could not prevent Dynamo Ukraine's third goal, on the half-hour through an own goal by Okopskyj attempting to block a fierce drive from the left full back. Manchester rallied and came close to pulling a goal back but Dynamo Ukraine added a fourth just before half time with a splendid solo effort by Gary Humphries (Humfrowskyj).

Four nil down at half time but after an inspired team talk by Marko Szablinskyj, Manchester came out with spirits high. In the 50th minute Lenio latched onto a loose ball and drove the ball into the back off the net. In the 58th minutes Roman Rutkowskyj hit a 25-yard shot which Paul Bradley deflected into the opposite corner off the net. Dynamo Ukraine came under pressure as Dynamo Manchester went in search of their third goal, but scored their fifth through a fast break out of defence which was tucked neatly into the bottom corner by Ruan Bailey (ovskyj) in the 65th minute. Manchester's third came from a scramble in defence and the ball fell to Andy Tkatchuk who chipped the Oldham keeper in the 75th minutes. Gary Humphries (Humfrowskyj) scored his second and Oldham's sixth in the closing minutes of the game.

After the match the Oldham players enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Manchester community as they were invited to join them in the Spylna Vechera and concert.

Paul Okopskyj from Dynamo Ukraine would like to thank Marko for organising the game and Lybra Dzundza for feeding the players and Bob Sopel for allowing Dynamo to join in the celebrations.

Manchester would like to hear from other 'oseredky' (communities) who are interested in arranging a game against them, to contact:

Marco at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 31 Smedley Lane, Cheetham Hill, Manchester or telephone 0161 205 1943

SPORTS REVIEW

Group of death

The draw has been made for the European Championship Finals in 2000. The championships are to be held in Belgium and Holland. Ukraine are in Group 4, the most difficult group and face stiff competition.

Group 4

Russia
Armenia
Iceland
Ukraine
France
Andorra

The biggest threat to Ukraine's prospects will come from France and Russia. Ukraine not only will wish to settle their political differences with Russia on the pitch but there exists a sporting rivalry between the two super-powers. Ukraine always provided the bulk of the Soviet team but felt their contribution deserved better recognition. Now for the Ukrainian Football Federation and for the millions of soccer-mad supporters, revenge is due.

Belgium and Holland qualify automatically as joint hosts for the 16 national European championship finals. The other 49 countries are divided into nine groups. The winners of each and the best runners-up qualify automatically for the finals.

The other eight runners-up play-off home and away against each other for the remaining four places. Qualifying matches start in September 1998 (fixtures to be confirmed).

John Kybaluk





issue 1



issue 2



issue 3



issue 4



issue 5



issue 6



issue 7



issue 8

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Graham Myers - 'Grahamski' 12/3/44 - 1/12/97

Grahamski became a part of the Bolton Ukrainian Community nearly 10 years ago and played an active part in many aspect of Ukrainian life. He learnt more than a smattering of Ukrainian and became a friend to us all. His input into our community will be sorely missed.

Graham played an active part in SUM's project to take medical aid, toys and chocolate to the Children of Hospital 9 in Kyiv. He helped to raise money via sponsored walks and sportman's dinners. But most of all he gave his free time to go to Kyiv and distribute the presents. Graham was overcome with sadness when he saw the plight of the children, he could not bear to see people suffer - especially children.

Graham will be remembered by all for an incident on the Polish/Ukrainian border. He greeted a relation of one of our

party in Ukrainian and therefore she continued to speak to him in Ukrainian. When I explained to her he was English and could only speak a few words of Ukrainian, I was told off in no uncertain terms. "What do you know? His Ukrainian is perfect".

Graham was one of the first to enquire about Ukraine's first venture into World Cup football and came with us to Belfast to enjoy himself with all his Ukrainian friends. He was so looking forward to going to Newcastle and supporting Dynamo Kyiv. He had even bought a ticket and was looking for an embroidered shirt until sadly he was taken away from us all.

Graham, we will always remember you, your exuberant laugh, your love of everything Ukrainian, especially food and music. We will always remember a wonderful person who left a lasting impression with everyone.

God Rest in Peace.

Y. Tynchyshyn
SUM Chairman, Bolton Branch

Letters page

BITCH!

Dear Zdorov!,

Referring to the last issue, the letter written by Marko Szablinskyj, (team manager of Manchester Dynamo). I've never heard so much drivel! - he sounds like an old whinging turnip. As the previous manager, I must admit I never took a clique, softly, softly approach. I gave Marko and the football team a good selling pitch - the wider community. What's wrong with a little inter-community provocation now and then, it only breeds healthy competition. I must admit I did overlook one thing with Marko; as my assistant, he supports Manchester City - now there's a subject which will make his blood boil! P.S. I think the last issue was the first magazine he bought!

Slavko Mykosowski,
Melbourne, Australia

Sportsmanship counts

I live near Manchester, England

and love football. I have a season ticket at Manchester United. I have travelled to Ireland, Germany and Ukraine to watch Ukraine attempt to qualify for the 1998 World Cup Finals as well as Barry, South Wales and Newcastle to watch Dynamo Kyiv in the Champions League. I will also be in Turin for the Juventus game, but one thing that has really annoyed me and a number of [members of] the diaspora who have spent a lot of time and money supporting Ukrainian sides is the attitude of the players when they lose.

In Germany they walked off the pitch after the final whistle without acknowledgement to their supporters. In Newcastle there were 650 fans, many of whom had never been to a football game before, but made a special effort because it was a Ukrainian side. At the final whistle the team ran off without a wave or thank you to the fans who contribute to the players wages by coming to support them. What made matters worse was that the Newcastle United players came over and applauded us for the

noise, support and added colour we provided for the fixture. Many fans said they will not bother again because of the bad attitude of our players.

Come on, Dynamo Kyiv players, get your act together - yes, it's nice when you win and hold hands, bow and take your applause - but show some respect to the fans who spend their hard-earned money and valuable time in coming to watch you. I guarantee you will not be booed off the park if you lose as the diaspora has a lot off pride in sporting teams who are representing the Ukrainian nation.

Paul Okopskyj, Oldham
(this letter was submitted to and published by Kyiv Post)

Please send your letters to Zdorov!, 7 Chaucer Road, London W3 6DR or you can e-mail the editor at : Zdorov@ndirect.co.uk

What's on ...

The complete guide to what's on and what's Ukrainian this Easter and beyond (inc. church services and events)*

*where those events have been submitted to Zdorov! before publication deadline

Yorkshire and the Midlands

Bradford - Ukrainian Hall, 169 Leagrams Lane, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 2EA. Tel : (01274) 572026/573577

Sunday 26th April - Annual General Meeting, Ukrainian Hall.

Saturday 16th May - National celebration of 50th anniversary of AUWGB - Concert 2 p.m. Evening dinner dance in Bradford Hotel - £25.00 per head. Attendance by ticket only. Contact Lesya Djakiwska at AUWGB, 49 Linden Gardens, London W2 4HG for further details. Tel : 0171 229 0140

Sunday 17th May - Mothers day concert. 5 p.m.

Sunday 21st June - 'Okruzhnyj Zdvich' (North East heats). Contact Ukrainian Hall for further details.

Littleborough - Conservative club, Peel Street, Littleborough

Saturday 2nd May - Chernobyl Children's Project UK. Fund raising Concert featuring 'The Free Sandwiches', playing folk music from around the world (including Ukraine). £4.00 per adult plus supper.

Weston-on-Trent - 'Tarasivka' - (Ukrainian Youth Association in Great Britain), Weston-on-Trent, Derbyshire DE7 2BU. Tel : (01332) 700215

Saturday 25th April - SUM General meeting / conference followed by Zabava.

Sunday 26th April - Concert to celebrate 50th anniversary of SUM in U.K.

Saturday July 4th - National 'Zdvich' finals - "The best of traditional Youth culture in the U.K." - followed by evening Zabava.

Wolverhampton - Social Club, 35 Merridale Street West, Wolverhampton, West Midlands. WV3 0RJ. Tel : (01902) 20441

Saturday 11th April - Pool tournament organised by SUM to raise money for school. Two trophies and medal plus cash prizes. 1pm start. Bar open all day plus food. £3.50 entry. For further details ask for Myron Kusza (Manager of Sports).

North West

Bolton UAOC, Saints Peter & Paul at St. Matthews Church, Bolton

Saturday 18th April - Holy Saturday - 'Blessing of PASCHA'; 1.30 p.m.

Manchester - Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 31 Smedley Lane, Cheetham, Manchester, M8 8XB. Tel : (0161) 205 6692/1444

Sunday 19th April - 'Hahilky' - Easter dances outside church after mass. Welcome reception afterwards in the Cultural Centre.

Saturday 2nd May - Football tournament and evening dance featuring 'The Spookie Cookies' followed by Raffle and disco. Football commences at 3 pm. £4 entry fee.

Sunday May 10th - Mothers Day Concert. 3.30 pm

Sunday 14th June - 12 am mass at the church followed by 'Okruzhnyj Zdvich' (North West heats). Contact Cultural Centre for further details.

Saturday 31st October - Banquet & Ball to mark the 50th anniversary of SUM in Manchester. (Further details in next issue).

Oldham UAOC, 'St. Volodymyr the Great', Onchan Avenue, Oldham

Sunday 12th April - Palm Sunday 'Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Willows'; 10 a.m.

Thursday 16th April - Holy Thursday 'Service of the Twelve Apostles'; 5 p.m.

Friday 17th April - Holy Friday - Vesper Service commemorating the Burial of Christ, with procession of the Plashchanytsia / Holy Shroud; 4 p.m.

Saturday 18th April - Holy Saturday 'Blessing of Pascha'; 4 p.m. Easter Matins Divine Liturgy Blessing of Pascha; 11.30 p.m.

Saturday 25th April - 'Provody' graveside services; 1.30 p.m.

Sunday 26th April - St. Thomas' Sunday Providna : Divine Liturgy Memorial Service & Breaking of the Artos; 10 a.m.

Rochdale UAOC, 'St. Mary The Protectress', Water Street, Rochdale

Sunday 12th April - Palm Sunday 'Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Willows'; 11 a.m.

Saturday 18th April - Holy Saturday - 'Blessing of PASCHA'; 3 p.m.

Sunday 26th April - St. Thomas' Sunday Providna : Divine Liturgy Memorial Service Breaking of the Artos; 11 a.m.

London and the South

London - 154 Holland Park Avenue, London, W11 4UH. Tel : (0171) 603 9482/0016

Sunday 12th April - AUWGB 'Pered Veikhodniy'. Bazaar selling Easter foods and festive products. (Starts mid-afternoon).

Gloucester - Social Club, 37-38 Midland Road, Gloucester GL1 4UL. Tel : (01452) 522506

Saturday 13th June. 'Okruzhnyj Zdvich' (Midlands and South heats). Contact Social Club for further details.

For all events, please contact the club for further details. Also please note that other clubs and churches will have some events over the Easter period, and they have probably not informed us as their dates were not finalised by the time we go to press.

If you would like to see your event or church service featured in What's On, then please contact Zdorov! on 0181 993 2757 or 01132 743 404.



The Zdorov! Spring CD Selection

Folk / Traditional CDs



Hilka - Piesni Ukrainskich Stepow

Another great CD from Poland. Hilka are a small vocal ensemble who specialise in traditional ritual songs. Weddings, ballads, Easter and Christmas songs are covered on this twenty one track CD. Their sounds is very pure and spiritual filled with those eastern style vocals. A very special record - 'Songs of the Ukrainian Steppes' should be in every serious Ukrainian music fan's collection.



Kolo - The Ukrainian Music of Britain

The compilation CD of the Best of British Ukrainian folk and choral music. One hours playing time from fourteen artists including, Orlyk, Czuplak, The Ukrainians, Selo, Vidrodzhenya, Chervona Kalyna plus many other community groups and choirs. Produced to celebrate 100 years of Ukrainians in Britain, this limited edition record is certainly a collectors item.



Werchowyna - Krynychenka

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Bob Sopel



Travel 1998

LVIV and IVANO-FRANKIVSK Direct from Manchester and London

Manchester to Lviv 5 June, 26 June, 17 July, 07 August, 28 August

Flight	From	Depart	Day	To	Arrive	Day
PS1191	Manchester	20.00	Friday	Lviv	01.00	Saturday
PS1192	Lviv	08.30	Saturday	Manchester	09.30	Saturday

Manchester to Ivano-Frankivsk 19 June, 10 July, 31 July, 21 August

Flight	From	Depart	Day	To	Arrive	Day
PS1193	Manchester	20.00	Friday	Ivano-Frankivsk	01.00	Saturday
PS1194	Ivano-Frankivsk	08.30	Saturday	Manchester	09.30	Saturday

*Gatwick to Lviv Operates via Manchester 5 June, 26 June, 17 July, 07 August, 28 August

Flight	From	Depart	Day	To	Arrive	Day
PS1191	Gatwick	18.00	Friday	Lviv	01.00	Saturday
PS1192	Lviv	08.30	Saturday	Gatwick	11.00	Saturday

*Gatwick to Ivano-Frankivsk Operates via Manchester 19 June, 10 July, 31 July, 21 August

Flight	From	Depart	Day	To	Arrive	Day
PS1193	Gatwick	18.00	Friday	Ivano-Frankivsk	01.00	Saturday
PS1194	Ivano-Frankivsk	08.30	Saturday	Gatwick	11.00	Saturday

3, 6, 9, 12 weeks duration as shown in above dates - other durations as follows

1 week Duration

Fly to Frankivsk	Return from Lviv
19 June	27 June
10 July	18 July
31 July	08 August
21 August	29 August

2 week Duration

Fly to Lviv	Return from Frankivsk
05 June	20 June
26 June	11 July
17 July	01 August
07 August	22 August

4 week Duration

Fly to Frankivsk	Return from Lviv
19 June	18 July
10 July	08 August
31 July	29 August

5 week Duration

Fly to Lviv	Return from Frankivsk
05 June	11 July
26 June	01 August
17 July	22 August

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