

U3A Russian Groups - Newsletter May 2019

I have just received a communication from Nina Duttory who is the U3A Education and Resources Officer. She has sent me a survey to complete, asking, among other things, which DVDs we would like to have available in the Resources Centre. For those not familiar with this, you can request items for a limited period to use with your groups and you then have to pay the return postage. According to her information there are two DVDs for Russian which are the Svetlana Fleming Colloquial Russian course at beginner and intermediate level. I thought these were a course with CDs, so I should be interested to know if anyone has used these DVDs. Have you borrowed anything else? Are there any DVDs you would like to put on the wish list? The deadline for responses to Nina is 17th May, so I would appreciate quick comments if you have any. Thank you.

I have received very positive feedback about the Russian Easter School in Cambridge:

The weekend course was excellent. It was a challenge and most people had a far better knowledge of the language than I do, but I found I could get the gist of the lessons where the tutor spoke only Russian. There were five 'themed' lessons, very thoroughly prepared and interesting. The original description of the course had said 'no beginners' and there were none; I think most people found it a challenge and certainly hard work – positively exhausting for an old woman! Even given my own shortcomings, I'd do it again, but would probably recommend it mostly to upper intermediate or advanced students.

Places for the summer course were going fast a couple of weeks ago. Contact details below.

COURSE DETAILS: <http://www.camruss.com/en/events/cambridge-residential-russian-summer-school-2019/>

For those of you who would like a change from Russian folk songs, but enjoy listening to Russian music, and making use of it for listening practice in your sessions, I have been told about Ada Yakusheva, a poet/ singer-songwriter. You can find her and her songs on You Tube; one of the most popular is called "The Rains" https://youtu.be/abJ_GUv7_bs. Another group is looking at the poetry of Sergei Ostrovskiy, so there is plenty of activity beyond the text books.

On the subject of text books, there has been a huge amount of discussion about the use of the imperative "Дайте!" in the restaurant scene in Ruslan 1, as it sounds rather uncultured and almost rude. Many of the Russian teachers took part and gave an opinion, but the conclusion was that this would be acceptable in a shop where someone is actually giving you something, but in a restaurant it would be better to use "Принесите!". John Langran says he will make suitable amendments in the future!

Thank you for the responses and suggestions for the workshop at Aston. I tried to include as much as possible, but the day was very short for what we wanted to do. The lunch was a highlight(!) but the feedback from the day was very positive and helpful, and it was good to meet you, Tony and Chris.

Best wishes for the summer and for those of you going travelling, "Счастливого Пути!"

Dorothy Newman

