



PERM NEWS

Оксфорд и Пермь — города-побратимы

О П А

Oxford Perm Association

Newsletter January 2021

Winter Fishing

Chris Cowley

Pavel, my host in Perm in 2019, is a keen fisherman and talked to me about fishing in the winter months in Perm Krai. Being so far from anything similar in the UK, I have found this fascinating, and have permission from Pavel to share this with you.

Pavel grew up in Solikamsk and has been going out on fishing expeditions with his father since he was a child. These expeditions last several days, and the nights are spent in a small hut, built by a friend of Pavel's father (see photo).

Winter fishing involves drilling holes in the ice in different places along a 2km stretch of the river and leaving fishing lines in place. The fish are attracted to the increased levels of oxygen in the water beneath the hole. The placing of the holes is a complex matter which requires skill and experience: some pools have under-ice snow and there will be no fish there. Fish activity varies depending on the time of year: the weather; daylength; the numbers of smaller fish in the pool amongst other factors. This kind of fishing is anything but a sedentary pastime and involves walking between 10km to 15km per day – in snow and ice. Fish in Russian rivers can be large (see photo) so the catch from an expedition can be very impressive – up to 25kg of fish. The most common fish are pike.



The fish are generally grilled or made into 'yxa' (fish soup). Preparing the fish is also a hard physical job and is usually done by the fishermen (not their wives!).

Fishing and hunting have long been traditional activities in the Russian countryside – as has the building of small huts to use for overnight stays. Since the Revolution, all land outside the cities in Russia is owned by the State so the legal status of such huts is a grey area.



However, the authorities have not yet shown any interest in trying to regulate them, and probably there would be little to be gained from attempting to do so.

Fishing and hunting huts are generally left unlocked (to provide emergency shelter for others) and may not be visited for extended periods. They are kept supplied with basic essentials: enough firewood stacked up to heat the hut for the first night; salt, sugar, tea kept in tins; tools and cooking equipment; fishing tackle, etc – however, no perishable items which could attract mice and other vermin.

The concept of leaving these huts unlocked puts me in mind of the stories of times and places when people didn't lock their houses (something I have never actually experienced) but I'm told that incidents of theft or vandalism are rare. This is just as well, since arriving at a hut in the depths of a Russian winter to find that vital supplies are missing would be serious, even life-threatening.

As I write this, I am trying to imagine myself in the solitude and vastness of a Russian landscape in temperatures well below zero. The men (and it is mostly men!) who do must have admirable resilience and self-reliance. After all, if something goes wrong there are no emergency services to come speedily to the rescue - and the nearest village is 35km away! I can't help wondering how long any of us would manage in such conditions.....

The Perm Quilt

May Wylie

It came, as it often comes, 'like a fire bell in the night'! In other words, as a request from Karen...

In mid-October 2020, Karen e-mailed Perm association members with an urgent request for volunteers with sewing skills to make a quilt to celebrate 25 years of the link between Perm and Oxford. This quilt, or wall-hanging, was to be our gift to the people of Perm. I responded that I would be happy to be involved with this project. For me, the task had a personal symmetry: in the early nineties, when I joined the International department of Oxford City Council, my first task was to organise a public meeting to determine with which city in Eastern Europe, Oxford might form a friendship link. Several cities were suggested but Perm emerged as the front runner, given that there were already university and voluntary service links between Oxford and Perm. Moreover, I am a passionate fabric worker. Karen, probably somewhat relieved, accepted my offer to coordinate the making of our quilt.

Inevitably, the deadline was tight-sometime in mid-November- so a meeting was arranged with Angela Charlton, who in her former career was a professional artist, and Rosemary Page the first volunteer quilter. We met for a cup of tea outdoors in Bicester Village and planned our quilt. Over the years I have acquired many quilting books; in one of these a picture of a quilt made between 1850-1900 and given to the V and A Museum by the Queen was a helpful model. Since we could not meet and sew together in the traditional friendship quilt-making fashion, each quilter had to be supplied with a drawing, a fabric square and some simple guidance. Angela produced the pictures to represent various aspects of life in Oxford-leisure pursuits, work places, famous people, historic buildings, literary figures, and, naturally, University scholars.

Some volunteers were a little reluctant seeing the task as too complex, but we stressed that creativity and imagination were more important than sewing skills, and eventually we recruited/pressganged 14 people and assigned a design to each. I made endless visits to Masons, the Aladdin's cave for fabric and other haberdashery. The quilt was finished on time and exchanged in a virtual ceremony in November. Of course, the Perm civic authorities had arranged for a similar gift for us. It was truly exquisite and



entirely professional, having been made by two fabric artists working in a studio over several months. Our quilt, by contrast, was quirky, humorous and made in the tradition of a community activity by volunteers, each contributing creatively according to their talents; it thus captures something of the spirit of Oxford and of our association.

[May did not mention that she not only organised the quilt 'construction' but actually made more than one square herself - true dedication to our twinning efforts. Ed]

How to make a video in 69 easy steps

Karen Hewitt

I have an iPhone but I rarely use it; for me it is fiddly, distracting and far too eager to tell me things I don't want to know. In September I did install WhatsApp to help a deaf friend who wanted to lip-read when we were phoning each other. Then I forgot about it until the Great Oxford-Perm 25th Jubilee Celebrations. Suddenly I was asking Perm Association members to carry out tasks that I had no idea how to do myself, including sending home videos to WhatsApp on my iPhone. Ksenia, my daughter-in-law, assured me that was the easiest way of forwarding home videos to foreign parts.

Determined to understand what I was asking people to do, I set out with Sue Matthew, another

Association member, to Port Meadow, where she was going to explain the wonders of grass, horses, geese and water to the culture-loving Permians. I pressed ‘Camera’ and moved to ‘Video’. We filmed in several places; Sue was eloquent; we talked, suitably distanced, to others. When I examined the results, it seemed that I had misunderstood about switching on and off. I could listen to discussions between us with blurry pictures of moving mud, but I had no usable material for Perm.

Marianne Talbot sent a very competent video of How to Make Lancashire Hot Pot (avoiding butter) with generous quantities of Lea and Perrins Sauce. Somehow the Permians not only copied her instructions but found a bottle of Lea and Perrins Sauce.

I received a technologically advanced study of Guy Fawkes’ lantern. Two Oxford students sent me inaudible videos from Lithuania, with strange dark effects. Another sent a short video of Jericho with wild and windy sounds. I had Morris dancers and Perm dancers and two compelling parts of a day in the life of a disabled teenager. The third part, which was best of all, arrived much later.

I persuaded Sue to come again to Port Meadow, where I very carefully adjusted the camera and we repeated the whole process. This time I had managed to set it to stop-and-start, a strange huddle of pictures, each lasting a quarter-second. Nothing made sense except two very brief sections where Sue assured the future bemused audience that they could see what crowds of people were today enjoying Port Meadow, while I filmed acres of empty pasture.



I wrote my third desperate letter to Association members, begging them to make videos of cooking pirozhki, little Russian pies, according to the instructions on a professional video from Perm. And suddenly I started getting videos in return! Onto my WhatsApp appeared pictures of dough. Pause. New picture of enlarged dough. Someone else’s picture of chopping onions. Blurred video with mutterings from the cook, audible. Somebody having trouble with filming while frying. Gorgeous interval pictures of November weather. Contributions from Oxford to Edinburgh. Videos of people eating pirozhki – of assorted sizes.

Then I had to send these videos, which arrived in short instalments, to Perm. Sorting them into complete videos from different cooks seemed to require removing them from WhatsApp to DropBox which remains a mystery, but which kindly keeps my mistakes safely for me to view. Eventually the completed results arrived in Perm and are now scattered over websites in the city and being used for English language lessons. (I hope the teachers are being selective.) I want to thank everyone who sent in videos for my education, and gratitude to Perm for making it all look so easy.



Graham Dane enjoying his cooking

BOOK Review

Prokofiev by Prokofiev Macdonald, 1979

(entitled Notes from Childhood in the 1971 Novosti edition)

Jonathan Saunders

My interest in the Russian-Ukrainian composer, Sergei Prokofiev, was aroused while listening to a broadcast of his magnificent opera, War and Peace, last month. I headed hotfoot to the County Library and took out

several biographies of the great man. Noticing that a copy of Prokofiev by Prokofiev was stored in the archives, I immediately ordered it.

Sub-titled A Composer's Memoir, the book was shorter (under 100,000 words) than I had anticipated. There again, as it only recounted his life up to the age of 17 (truly!), it might seem rather lengthy to the uninformed. In fact it is a scintillating read, as adroit, amusing and abrasive as so much of his music.

Published in Moscow in 1971, 18 years after Prokofiev's death, this was probably planned by Sergei Sergeyeovich as the first of a multi-volume opus which would have embraced his two decades abroad, his subsequent return to Moscow with wife and sons, the war years and the final battles with the bureaucracy and his failing health. Alas, that was not to be. We are nonetheless left with a little gem (the Russian version, at 200,000 words, is rather bigger!) that accurately foreshadows the great composer-in-waiting.

Apart from one highly-gifted child (Prokofiev conceived and played his first tune on the piano aged five), the other main character in the narrative of the early years is his mother, Maria. Her intelligence and high school education had taken her far from her peasant origins. Being herself an accomplished musician, Prokofiev would drift off to sleep at night listening to her playing Beethoven and Chopin downstairs. Mind you, rural Ukraine had its limits for a budding composer, despite idyllic countryside and the vast estates his loving father managed so diligently!

Determined to assist her only surviving child, it was Maria Grigoryevna who found tutors from the Moscow Conservatory for the summer holidays after he had outstripped her abilities. Later it was she who ensured that Sergei would study at the Conservatory in St Petersburg (where she had family relatives) and where the two and an aunt lived during term-time in a modest nearby flat.

Prokofiev had hardly started at the Conservatory before the 1905 Revolution began. The disruptions did not prevent him settling in well despite his youth. In his second year Miaskovsky, an army officer and ten years his senior, became a life-long friend. However, Prokofiev's self-assuredness, if not insensitivity, was problematic. For instance, his love of statistics caused him to make graphs of the mistakes that he and his classmates made on their homework. When one student, twice Prokofiev's age, discovered that his poor performance had been plotted by Sergei, thus identifying him as class 'dunce', retribution was swift and brutal!

Such setbacks did not deter him. It was a similar story with his tutors. At first they loved him for his compliance and conscientiousness while he learnt his craft. Later they feared his criticisms of their approach as he declared himself a fearless modernist.

I recommend this delightful self-portrait of Prokofiev 'on the eve'. Reading it should provide added bonuses: not only will you want to read his biographies, you'll want to savour his compositions which are readily available on the internet with many Russian musicians and companies *en vue*.

Happy New Year! С новым годом!

Jessica Vlasova

Celebrating New Year in Russia can seem to a British visitor like a combination of Christmas and New Year celebrations. During the Soviet Union religious holidays, including Christmas, were banned. From 1935 New Year's Eve became a secular holiday incorporating many of the previous Christmas traditions. The Christmas tree, banned shortly after the revolution and considered to be a bourgeois tradition imported from Germany, was reinstated as the New Year tree usually with a red star on top. Decorated trees were put up in public places and today cities and towns put up New Year trees as well as light displays and other decorations. Perm

usually has several trees including a large one on the Esplanade.

In Russia, New Year is now the biggest holiday of the year. Russian children can see Ded Moroz (grandfather frost) and his granddaughter Snegurachka (the snow maiden) at special shows known as Yolka. These take place over the New Year period in theatres all over the country. The children watch performances and receive presents. Ded Moroz also visits parties, schools and family homes where in order to receive a present children usually sing a song, recite a poem or do a short dance.

It has become a tradition on New Year's Eve whilst preparing dinner to watch 'The Irony of Fate', a popular Soviet film which takes place over the New Year holiday. Dinner includes many traditional dishes such as 'Olivier Salad' and often enough food is prepared to last a couple of days. During dinner at around 10 pm toasts are made to say goodbye to the old year. Just before midnight the president makes a short television address to the nation, reflecting on the past year and making a toast. At midnight the Kremlin Spasskaya clock tower chimes and this is time to toast the new year with champagne and to make wishes. Some people like to write their wish down on a piece of paper, burn it, throw the ashes in to a champagne glass and drink it while the clock tower is striking. When the chimes have finished the national anthem is played. Presents are then exchanged and the celebrations continue, often until the morning. Firework displays take place throughout the country.

From New Year's day onwards is a time to see family and friends, visit the local town or city to see the decorations or take part in specially arranged New Year events. These might include temporary outdoor ice rinks, outdoor markets selling hot food



The New Year tree and ice town on the Esplanade in Perm.

and mulled wine, shows at theatres, the circus or at ice rinks and performances of 'The Nutcracker' ballet. Many cities, including Perm, build small ice towns in winter with entertainment for adults and children.

Celebrations continue for the first few days of January which are public holidays. Many people don't return to work until after Christmas Day which Orthodox Christians celebrate on 7th January.

DARK AVENUES **Making Comparisons....** *Catherine Cooper*

We do it all the time: similes, metaphors, analogies, but are they really helpful? Tolstoy made a memorable one in his opening lines to *Anna Karenina*: 'All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way'. Tolstoy was sticking up for old-fashioned family values, but what about comparisons between artists and writers across time?

A recent report in *The Guardian* (dated Thursday, 3rd December, 2020) contained a write-up of the latest show to be put on by Tracey Emin at the Royal Academy. In the article Ms Emin compares herself to the

iconic Norwegian painter Edvard Munch. (At this point Munch's 'The Scream' comes to mind). True Ms Emin won the Turner Prize for that 'bed' and her work has been praised for its brutal frankness and soul searching, but is she right to compare her work to the legendary Munch? There are similarities. Both artists work is largely autobiographical and both seek to exorcise their own particular demons, but how realistic is the comparison after that?

Tolstoy shares with Munch universal admiration and he is acknowledged as the greatest prose Russian writer of all time both inside and outside Russia, so can a little known writer like Ivan Bunin be compared with him? Bunin was the first Russian writer to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, but can Bunin's stories touch our hearts, as Tolstoy does? In what ways does Bunin make us see the world with fresh eyes like Platon Karataev does for Pierre in *War and Peace*? Bunin's settings for the short stories in *Dark Avenues* recall previous decades, the Russia of dachas and serfs and devotion to religious icons. His themes centre on love and death. But what stands out and what uplifts our hearts and minds is Bunin's lyricism, his ability to transform the ordinary into the poetic. In 'Rusya', he describes his first love: 'What a completely new creature she had become for him! And the greenish half-light hung beyond the blackness of the low wood and did not go out, it was weakly reflected in the flat whiteness of the water in the distance, and the dewy plants on the shore had a strong smell like celery, while mysteriously, pleasingly, the invisible mosquitoes whined and terrible, sleepless dragonflies flew, flew with a quiet crackling above the boat and further off, above that nocturnally shining water.'

His descriptions of nature in 'Muza','The black pond, the age-old trees, receding into the starry sky....The enchanted light night, endlessly silent, with the endlessly long shadows of trees on the silvery lakes of the glades...' Invoking a sense of the spiritual in 'A Ballad'. 'Complete quiet was then established in the house, a peace that was reverential and seemingly, waiting for something, and which could not have been more in keeping with the sacred nocturnal appearance of the mournfully and touchingly illumined icons.'

And 'The Caucasus'. 'Not far from us, in a coastal ravine descending out of the wood to the sea, a shallow, limpid little river leapt quickly along its stony bed. How wonderfully its lustre rippled, seethed, at that mysterious hour when like some marvellous creature, the late moon looked out intently from behind the mountains and the woods.'

We are all inspired by great art and literature to rethink, to re-evaluate. Emin and Munch make us think about the pain and hurt of relationships and living. Tolstoy and Bunin open our minds to the beauty of nature and how we can live fuller lives if we cherish a simpler more spiritual life-style.

'Imagining Oxford' – a competition for Perm youth Svetlana Polykova

This was a landmark date – the 25th Anniversary of twinning relations between Perm and Oxford. However, this friendship began earlier with contacts at the level of the leading universities in our cities. Educational programmes have been one of the successful directions in the twinning movement.

Personally, I have been involved in various events and collaboration projects with Oxford since my student years. Karen Hewitt from Oxford was the first foreigner I had ever met. The first lectures about British literature, culture and social life in a far-away fairy tale city from a real professor were life events for all my peer-group students at Perm State University...

Thirty years later we wanted our young generation of Permians to learn about the twinning movement, spark their interest in English culture, traditions and language and get involved in one of the events within a city project "Perm-Oxford: Friends for a Quarter of a Century" dedicated to the Anniversary. Among various

activities the project involved creation of a book about the twinning movement (see the pictures), the Perm-Oxford conference at the Gorky Library and an Essay Competition.

Our Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures at Perm State University in collaboration with Svetlana Kryazheva from Perm Krai Library and a large team of English teachers from Perm English Language Teachers' Association, organized an essay competition "One Day in Oxford". The first contest was for university students in May, then the second contest for senior pupils from schools and vocational training colleges in October. As a result we received 105 essays from students from 6 universities and 179 essays from school students.

It is important to understand that these young writers had not been to Oxford. They had to imagine their day in the city, inspired by research, fantasy and comedy.

For the second contest we asked our colleagues in Oxford to help us assess the best essays from school pupils. The three wonderful judges were Dana Wentworth, Jane Rogers and Voirrey Carr. They selected three prize winners and two



'highly commended' out of 19 entries and then wrote a letter with their good words about each winner. The results were announced at the teleconference between Oxford and Perm in November 2020 and later on the 22nd November we invited the best authors to the Gorky Library for a Final Meeting.

Everybody came on that frosty day – pupils, students and the teachers... We read the best essays aloud and discussed the whole project. As Elena Gritsenko said “it was an amazing project which had opened the eyes of our Perm students to the culture of Oxford with its unique traditions. We consider Oxford a very special place within a bigger British culture, thanks to all these years of the link between our cities.”

Also I read the letter from the Oxfordian judges. The teachers of the winners were even more delighted with the letter from Oxford than the pupils themselves and asked a copy for their schools to show around! In the end all the participants kept asking us one big question: “When is the next Perm-Oxford event?!”

Summary extracts from Perm twin cities Newsletter Jessica Vlasova

[‘Информационный вестник’](#) is the Perm twin cities newsletter. Below is a short summary of the four articles in the September 2020 edition. The newsletter in pdf format can be read on our website [here](#).

1. This year was the 75th anniversary of victory in the Second World War but, due to the pandemic, many planned celebrations and projects had to go online. 'Contribution to Victory' is an online project created jointly from the archives of the twin cities of Perm, Oxford and Louisville, USA, which illustrates the war effort on the home front. An online conference was also organised which representatives from the three twin cities took part in. Perm was one of 20 Russian cities this year to be awarded the honorary title of 'City of Labour Valour' in recognition of its help during the war.

[‘Contribution to Victory’ can be seen on our website www.oxfordperm.org/recent-events].

2. Amneville-les-thermes, Perm's twin city in France, held its mayoral elections in June in which Eric Munier, mayor for the previous six years, was re-elected. Dmitry Samoylov, Perm's mayor, offered his congratulations to Munier and expressed his hope for continued close relations between

Amneville-les-thermes and Perm.

3. This year 'City on the River in the 20th Century', a bilingual book of photographs and essays, was published. The subject of the book is the rivers of Perm and Duisburg, Perm's twin city in Germany, and the historical, economic and social development of life on and around the rivers. It is the third joint archival project between Perm and one of its twin cities. Andreas Pilger and Yulia Kashaeva, the archivists, are interviewed about their joint work on the project.

4. In May, universities in Perm held an essay competition in English. Over a hundred students wrote an essay entitled 'One Day in Oxford'. Svetlana Polyakova, Associate Professor of Perm State National Research University (PSNRU), English teacher and member of the jury discusses the aims of the competition, the jury, the criteria for judging the essays and the results. The main reason for holding the essay competition was the 25th anniversary of twinning between Perm and Oxford. The friendship between Perm and Oxford began through their universities so educational programmes remain important. The aim of the essay competition was to develop students' interest in the twinning movement, in English, in British culture and traditions and to study the history of Oxford and its university. Two of the essays can be read in the Newsletter and the best essays have been put on Facebook [*one essay appears in this issue of Perm News, ed*].

Past and Future Events

Past Events

Karen Hewitt

This newsletter contains some accounts of our Covid-constrained 25th Anniversary of the Oxford-Perm twinning. Eventually this all had to be on Zoom, but the organisers and contributors found many ingenious ways to bring us together. Pages 11, 12 give an overview of the events taken from our updated website.

The talk by Federico Varese on 'Berezniki: the development of a Soviet City' aroused a lot of interest, and we look forward to hearing further instalments of Professor Varese's research.

The Zoom Perm Party was, given the limitations of screens, an enjoyable occasion, with two stalwarts guests from Perm who joined us after what was midnight for them.

Future Events

Karen Hewitt

We plan to hold our Zoom AGM at the end of February or the beginning of March. We hope to get a speaker directly from Perm on the ongoing Oxford Perm Association project about diabetic health. The work has been going on for several years, but members have not been able to hear much about it; so this seems a good opportunity to listen to one of the doctors involved. We will keep you up to date.

We are also investigating the possibility of starting a Russian Conversation Class online.

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Newsletter information

David Roulston

We are very grateful to our members who continue to submit interesting articles for Perm News. Please note that articles, including book reviews, etc. are always welcome. The submission deadline for the summer issue of Perm News is 15th May but it is helpful if you let the editor (contact details above) know sooner if you plan to submit an item. Articles should be sent as email attachments preferably in docx format and not exceed about 650 words plus two jpg images (also as attachments), or approximately 850 words with no images. Shorter articles are always welcome. Note that individual permission for publication is required for any photos which include recognisable people. Readers can browse past newsletters on the website www.oxfordperm.org. The editor is grateful to Sue Gregory for her invaluable proofreading this issue of Perm News.

Website

Jessica Vlasova

Please send any photos of visits to Perm or Perm Association events for the website photo gallery to Jessica at jessica.vlasova@gmail.com or to her WhatsApp on 07766 025313. Note that under GDPR rules, individual permission is required for any photos which include recognisable people. Pages 11, 12 of this newsletter give a selection of website details of the 25th twinning anniversary events.

Prizewinning Essay on 'One Day in Oxford'

Alyona Mamayeva

I woke up in a hotel room in Oxford.

I was awakened by the bright sunlight from the window.

At first, I didn't want to wake up but I understood that I can't skip this day in beautiful English city.

I decided to go to the hotel dining room and have breakfast. Going downstairs, I met a grey cat. He seemed to be calling me with his little beady-black eyes. I decided to go after him. We went outside and went for a walk around the city. Following the cat, I saw many old historical buildings and talked to the locals. They told me about the history of Oxford, suggested places to visit and what dishes to try.

As time went on, me and the cat still walked the streets of Oxford and suddenly came out to Gloucester Green - the main historical market of the city. Here you can find different products from all the surrounding area. For example, a variety of pastries, meat, fish, vegetables, fruits and local delicacies. Sellers offered their products to buyers, inviting various promotions, games and interesting offers. I walked through the market, bought the cat a little fish for a snack and got myself a delicious apple pie from the best bakery on the market. Each piece just melted in my mouth.

Then my friend and I continued our walk and the cat took me to University Church Mary the Virgin. This was a tall old building. I really loved the way it looked. I saw the stairs and went up on the roof.

I watched a breath taking view of the evening Oxford. I was watching the sunset and lots of different roofs for a long time could not take my eyes off. I can say that it definitely was my cup of tea.

This is how my day in Oxford went, thanks to my little grey friend. I hope that when I come to this city a gain, we will see each other and continue our journey to new places.

25th anniversary events on the Oxford-Perm website

There were a large number of events in Oxford and in Perm to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of twinning of the two cities. These are recorded in detail on the [Oxford Perm Website](#). Below we give a selection of the anniversary web site items.

25 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

2020 marked the 25th anniversary of twinning between Oxford and Perm. Events planned for June in Perm to mark this occasion, unfortunately, had to be cancelled.

Instead a series of events organised in Oxford and Perm, and presented mostly online, took place in November.



ME AND MY PERM

Short films were made by young people in Perm, showing us places of interest.

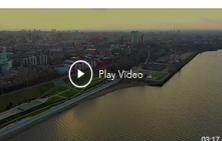
Watch them on our [video page](#)



25 years of friendship



Me and my Perm 1



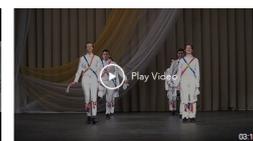
Me and my Perm 2



Me and my Perm 3



Morris dancing on Perm TV



Morris Dancing masterclass from Oxford

JOURNALISM CONFERENCE

It was chaired by Paddy Coulter, Director of the Oxford Global Media consultancy.

The lecturers were Luke Sproule, Anastasia Valeeva and Katya Kravchenko.

The panel and organisers in Perm were Vadim Skovorodin and Ivan Peschichev.

25 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

A balloon is released to celebrate the friendship between Oxford and Perm.

Watch the balloon event on the [video page](#)



DANCE EXCHANGE

The Perm Youth Palace organised a video master class dance exchange.

Young dancers in Perm learnt Morris Dancing.

Many of the dances can be seen on the [video page](#)



OPEN SCREEN, OXFORD

Film Oxford held an Open Screen event.

Evie Sherry-Starmer, who went to Perm in 2005 and was involved in the film 'Dancing the Difference', gave a short introductory talk about the dance project between Perm and Oxford and showed an extract from the film.

OXFORD INTERNATIONAL LINKS ONLINE PHOTO EXHIBITION

This exhibition included exhibits from Perm photographers.

LANCASHIRE HOT POT IN PERM

Cooks in the Perm Youth Palace try out a recipe from Oxford.

PIROGI DEMONSTRATION FROM PERM

Cooks in the Perm Youth Palace demonstrate how to cook pirogi for people in Oxford to try

GLOBAL DANCE FILM PROJECT

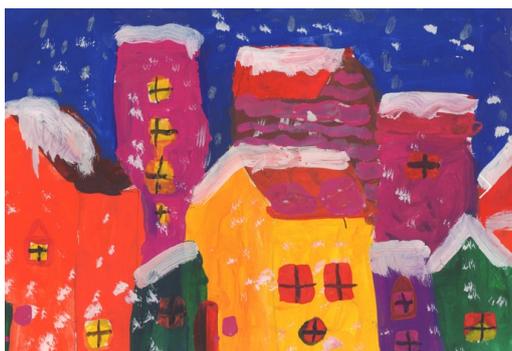
Dancin' Oxford, Oxford's Christmas Light Festival and the City Council's twinning officer joined forces to create and commission the Global Dance Film project.

3 Dance groups from Perm joined a total of 19 dance groups from Oxford, Ramallah, and Grenoble in a 4 minute film that captures the vibrancy and diversity of dance in Oxford and our twin cities.



ART WORK BY PERM CHILDREN

A selection of the best works drawn by Perm schoolchildren to mark the 25th anniversary of twinning between Oxford and Perm can be viewed on the web site [here](#).



CLOSING CEREMONY

The ceremony to end the official celebrations took place in the Pushkin Library of the Perm Youth Palace.

Ekaterina Bokova, Director of the Youth Palace, and Tatiana Grigorieva, International Officer for Perm City Administration, hosted the event.

