Publishing in the Russian language

War and Peace, rethought...

War and peace, reimagined in the modern world: this acclaimed book by Diana Francis is now available in the Russian language.

This is another milestone reached to bring books about peace and Quakers to a Russian audience. It is our first venture into "paperback printing", which adds an extra communications channel to our existing library of online publications.

To supplement the e-book version we printed 216 copies using an online publishing system. Copies were sent to the State Book Chamber and the largest public libraries, to regular readers of Alternativschik newsletter (for conscientious objectors), and to some progressive bookshops in Moscow.

An unexpected and pleasant spin-off from the online publishing system is that we can now also distribute our books via www.amazon.com.

Demolishing the myth

Diana Francis writes: "My intention in writing this book was to deconstruct the assumptions and arguments that make war seem not only justifiable but unavoidable: to demolish the myth of war and in order to clear the ground for peacemaking".

Refuting the notion that human nature condemns us to perpetual carnage, Diana argues that we can change the ways we think and the systems we live by. In a tightly reasoned discussion of the ethics of war and peace she asserts that war is a gross denial of the core values on which peace depends, and that the Just War Theory has failed and deceived us. The book explores alternative ways of confronting aggression and injustice, showing that these are neglected but well proven.


Meditations and apologies

Our outreach project, "Meditation of Friends", continues in a new format that includes several exercises borrowed from AVP (the Alternatives to Violence Project). As before it is not advertised or run as a religious or Quaker group, but enquirers ask about Quakers if they are interested. While the core group is small, there have been as many as 19 in attendance and there are 250 who request information about upcoming events.

An apology

In our last newsletter we illustrated a piece on meditation with a painting (right) by artist Veronica Aldous. Regrettably, we failed to give proper acknowledgement or to seek permission to... Continued overleaf
reproduce it.

Veronica has kindly allowed us to include two more of her works here. You can see more of them at:

www.veronicaspaintbox.com

Veronica is a professional artist, illustrator and lecturer in Fine Art and Creative Writing in Surrey, and is a published poet. She attends Purley Quaker Meeting.

<< Far left: "Isa and White Doll", watercolour and ink
<< Left: "The Hot Sea Cave", watercolour and ink
Both © Veronica Aldous

Children with special needs

Resourceful

Our project in Dzerzhinsk has been generating new types of resource to help disadvantaged kids.

The goal was to expand and introduce systems by which psychologists can connect with children who have learning and developmental disabilities. A total of 57 children took part in the project. Many suffered from emotional and expressive disorders, delays in psychological development and complex intellectual impairment.

Two of the techniques were "sand art" and "brain gymnastics". FHM funded the purchase of equipment, and training for 15 school psychologists. By the project end, 11 children were able to pass a standard survey of health. But to the project leaders the "most important proof of success is the words of thanks from parents, who truly observe the effects of the programme... We watch happily as hope and pride are inspired in children, and celebrate even small successes in development."

Top right: "feeling gymnastics". Above and right: sand therapy

FHM supports projects that promote peace and transform lives in the countries of the former Soviet Union.

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Can you volunteer to help?

Could you spare some time to help publicise our work and raise funds? Please email info@friendshousemoscow.org - we would love to hear from you!

Thank you!