

Welcome to the 92nd BBC Active newsletter

Half term is over, the year is racing on and it's one month to Language World! I do hope that many of you will come to Language World and drop by the stand, as it is likely to be my last ever Language World! For those who are regulars at the conference, Andrew will be coming along too, and hopefully we will go off in style.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, there are an awful lot of French resources that have been gleaned from the forums, as well as some really interesting news items. The Guardian has been running a series of articles about learning different languages, and more and more people are wading into the debate about the decline in language learning, including Mary Beard!

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and that I see some of you soon.

Susie

Contents

News from BBC Active

The future of the Newsletter; Talk notes online and converted to PDF; new page of teaching tips on our website.

News from the BBC

Mi Vida Loca with new full-screen option; fiesta vocab; a fabulous game for the Oscars; rugby game and vocab; and more...

National News

A range of Guardian articles about learning languages; Bo becomes extinct; Mary Beard gives her thoughts on language learning; Google's translator phone; Esperanto in Cardiff; and more...

Events

SLOVO; Language World; PLS; Arabic Language and Culture in Schools; Reaching Out conference; and more...

Resources

Study guides for foreign films; a glut of French resources; Anime; more about MYLO; Haitian Creole learning resources; and more...

Surveys and Competitions

Japan Webpage Contest; Russian Young Translators' Prize; German loan words competition; and more...

NEWS FROM BBC ACTIVE

An announcement regarding the future of the newsletter

It is with great regret that I must announce that this is to be my penultimate newsletter. I will be handing over the reins to my colleague, Fiona Griffiths, at the end of March. We will write the next newsletter together, and from then on I will leave you in her capable hands. After March the newsletter will be released bimonthly rather than monthly, and there will be a further announcement as to the scheduling for this in the next newsletter. Please do still contact me before the end of March on susanna.shapland@pearson.com if you have any feedback or queries.

Talk Russian, Italian, Spanish and Japanese tutors' notes - update your links

Following the posting of the Talk Portuguese, French and German notes on our new website, the Talk Russian, Italian, Spanish and Japanese activities and worksheets have now been

converted to PDF and are available to download from our website from the following locations:

Italian: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesItalian.aspx#talk>

Russian: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesRussian.aspx#talk>

Spanish: <http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesSpanish.aspx#talk>

Japanese:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/ResourcesJapanese.aspx#talk>

The Talk Greek notes will be receiving a similar treatment in the coming weeks, so watch this space! After they have been turned into PDFs, the old green and white Talk website will be taken down, so please update your links to point to the new PDFs.

If you do have any comments or feedback on this, please do email me on:

susanna.shapland@pearson.com.

If you do not use Talk and want to see what all the fuss is about, then read 'Using Talk in the Classroom' and the introduction to the tutors' notes in your language of choice. The link to the Talk Spanish versions are as follows:

Using Talk in the Classroom:

http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/Portals/0/Resources/Spanish/Using_Talk_in_class_SP.pdf.

Introduction to tutors' notes:

http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/Portals/0/Resources/Spanish/Intro_to_class_activities_SP.pdf.

Although these introductions specifically mention adults, Talk is great for a variety of situations, including after-school clubs, taster lessons or just extra language practice.

New Teaching Tips page

As promised, following the teaching tips competition at the end of last year, I have started posting the tips on a page on our website:

<http://www.bbcactivelanguages.com/TeachersHome/AdviceandIdeas/TeachingTips.aspx>. Do not despair if yours is not on there, as this is just a work in progress! Similarly, if your tip IS on there and you want it taken down, just let me know on: susanna.shapland@pearson.com.

NEWS FROM THE BBC

Phrase of the month

Quanto costa? How much does it cost? (Italian).

Pick up a new phrase in French, Spanish, German or Italian every day: subscribe to the feed at: www.bbc.co.uk/languages.

Mi Vida Loca - *New* full-screen option

You can now immerse yourself even further in this story of corruption and intrigue, picking up basic Spanish along the way with the new full-screen option!:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/mividaloca/userguide.shtml>.

Rugby wind-up phrases

Get set for the big game on 20th March with handy wind-up phrases, plus useful French vocab, rigger terms or try the 'Kicking Kings' game, 'Les Rois du Coup de Pied'. Que le meilleur gagne!

Rugby vocab: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/rugby/>.

Play the game:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/mafrance/html/rugby/kicking_kings_french.shtml .

Quiz: 'Gone with the translation'

The stage is set, statues polished, designer dresses dusted and red carpet laid for the 2010 Academy Awards on 7th March. In the meantime, try working out cryptic translations with our 'Gone with the translation' quiz! What are some of the most famous Oscar-winning films called in other languages? You'll be surprised!: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/oscar/>.

French Language Week & International Day of the Francophonie

Celebrate 40 years of La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie on 20th March, the

culmination of La Semaine de la Langue Française, the annual, international week of French and French-speaking cultures. Find out about identity, gastronomy and colourful celebrations in the French-speaking world with The French Experience 2, now with a new look:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/experience2/>.

Organisation internationale de la Francophonie site: <http://www.francophonie.org/>.

Fire festival in Valencia: Las Fallas

Watch a clip about Las Fallas, the festival where enormous effigies which poke fun at all kinds of people in public life, are set alight on the final night of the event, which runs from 15-19 March: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/talk/leisure/> (Select the 'Festival' clip).

Pick up some fiesta phrases: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish/quickfix/festival.shtml>.

Languages on TV

Languages programmes on BBC Two's Learning Zone will return in May. In the meantime, keep an eye on: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/> for interesting language and culture-related programmes on TV and radio. Have you checked out the new Learning Zone Class Clips yet? Simply search the database for useful, rich audio-visual material to use in your classroom. The short videos have been selected to match the curriculum and can be used in a variety of ways: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/>.

NATIONAL NEWS

Listening to China

A review of a recent BBC Radio 4 programme about the RAF realising, in the 1950s, that China needed monitoring: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/tv-and-radio/2010/feb/02/listening-to-china>. You can read more about the programme here:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8490680.stm>.

'It is awful that we've given up on languages'

Writing in the Guardian, Anushka Asthana says 'it's time to end our linguistic ineptitude and make language study compulsory once again':

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/feb/07/anushka-asthana-french-language-education>.

Chinese whispers

Paddy Ashdown, certified Mandarin interpreter (!), on learning Mandarin Chinese:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2010/feb/08/learn-mandarin-chinese-whispers>.

The plight of the polyglot

Students are offered little incentive to study languages - and when they do, they find it counts for little in the UK job market: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2010/feb/12/polyglot-language-teaching-demand>.

Ancient tribal language becomes extinct as last speaker dies

Death of Boa Sr, last person fluent in the Bo language of the Andaman Islands, breaks link with 65,000-year-old culture: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/feb/04/ancient-language-extinct-speaker-dies> and http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/8498534.stm.

The tragedy of dying languages: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/8500108.stm>.

When languages die

According to UNESCO, roughly half of the estimated 6,700 languages spoken worldwide are in danger of extinction. In addition to the dialects in German enclaves around the world, a number of minority languages within Germany are also in that list:

<http://www.goethe.de/ges/spa/sui/en5589701.htm>.

Around the world in seven gestures with the Guardian

How do you introduce yourself in Hindi? How would you count to 10 in Chinese? Let the Guardian guide you round the world in seven gestures:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/gallery/2010/feb/05/language-gestures-japanese-spanish->

[arabic.](#)

Mary Beard on languages

Mary Beard has blogged about the importance of languages under the post 'Are public schools a blight on British society?' (don't let the title put you off!):

http://timesonline.typepad.com/dons_life/.

Hindi: an independent voice

Hindi's status as India's official language used to be controversial, but the boom of Bollywood film and song has lent the language vibrancy and credibility:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2010/feb/09/learn-hindi-an-independent-voice>.

Google leaps language barrier with translator phone

Google is developing software for the first phone capable of translating foreign languages almost instantly - like the Babel Fish in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy:

http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/personal_tech/article7017831.ece

Why learn Russian?

The author of Death and the Penguin claims that 'people used to learn Russian because they liked Russia's politics. Now it's simply a great language for anyone who likes culture, food and people': <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2010/feb/10/learn-russian-in-from-the-cold>.

How to talk 'proper Kairdiff' - in Esperanto

Young Esperanto speakers are in Cardiff for their first meeting in Wales to discuss interest in the language: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8501196.stm>.

The town where schoolchildren speak 150 languages

Schoolchildren in just one town have been found to speak as many as 150 different languages at home, highlighting the pressure placed on teachers by growing numbers with little or no command of English:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/7183679/The-town-where-schoolchildren-speak-150-languages.html> and:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/7199249/Reading-a-Babel-of-dialects.html>.

'Extreme language exchanges' grow in popularity

Instead of the usual two-week placement, children aged nine to 14 are totally immersed in a foreign language and culture for six months. Those behind the scheme believe the only way to truly become fluent in another tongue is to start as early as possible, and for as long as possible: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/extreme-language-exchanges-grow-in-popularity-1887252.html>.

Brian Viner: 'Slight mistranslations can cause big problems on foreign exchanges'

An amusing article from the Independent about mistranslations on exchanges and between penpals: <http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/columnists/brian-viner/brian-viner-slight-mistranslations-can-cause-big-problems-on-foreign-exchanges-1895579.html>.

Wanted: language tutor for panda

A panda moving from America to China is to be taught Chinese with a Sichuan accent, to enable her to adapt more quickly to her new environment:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/wanted-language-tutor-for-panda-1889068.html>.

Learning Mandarin in Beijing

One man's experience of doing an intensive course learning Mandarin Chinese in Beijing, and how his experience helped him to better understand China's economy and political system:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/b4544424-175f-11df-87f6-00144feab49a.html>.

EVENTS

Language World 2010

26th-27th March 2010, University of York hosts Language World 2010: Building on firm foundations – steps to success. Come and celebrate the 20th anniversary of ALL! Brilliant speakers and sessions, big free publishers' exhibition, a dinner on Friday night, lots of networking and much more!

This will be my last conference with BBC Active, and I would love to see as many of you as possible on Stand 36. Just drop by for a chat!

There will also be 30% off available on all purchases through our website for the duration of Language World. Go to www.bbcactivelanguages.com to find out more.

Conference rates will be:

ALL individual members: one day £100, two days £200;

ALL group members: one day £125, two days £250;

Non-members: one day, £200, two days £400.

For more information, contact IngridN@ALL-languages.org.uk or call 0116 229 7454.

For a programme and booking form, email info@ALL-languages.org.uk or call 0116 229 7453

or download a copy of the full programme at: [http://www.all-](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/pdfuploads/all_lw.pdf)

[languages.org.uk/pdfuploads/all_lw.pdf](http://www.all-languages.org.uk/pdfuploads/all_lw.pdf).

ALL are very pleased to announce that the DCSF will generously sponsor 100 free one-day delegate places at the conference for PGCE students, student teachers training on other routes and languages NQTs.

To book a DCSF-funded place you will need to contact Ingrid Nyaundi by email: ingridn@all-languages.org.uk or by telephone: 0116 229 7454.

CILT Primary Languages Show

12th-13th Mar 2010, Arena and Convention Centre (ACC), Liverpool: 14th annual CILT Primary Languages Show. Share and explore innovative work for developing language learning. Workshops to help inspire teaching and learning of languages in primary schools.

For further information, please go to:

www.cilt.org.uk/events/primary_languages_show_2010.aspx. Come and see the latest dual-language DVDs from BBC Active!

French Language Week Competition 2010

'La Semaine de la Langue Française' is an annual international celebration of the French language and French-speaking cultures initiated by the French Ministry of Culture. For this special occasion, 10 words are chosen as an emblem of the richness of the French language, inviting us to use our imagination and creativity in exploring them. In 2010, French Language Week will take place from 15th-20th March. Read more at:

<http://www.dismoidixmots.culture.fr/?cat=12>.

Arabic Language and Culture in Schools

The British Council warmly invite you to a conference on 'Arabic Language and Culture in Schools' on Thursday 11th March 2010 at the British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN.

This event is aimed at practitioners from all phases currently delivering Arabic lessons or with an interest in introducing language or culture from the Arab world in school. The event is free to attend and lunch will be provided!

Please email: world.links@britishcouncil.org for an invitation and registration form. The deadline for returning these forms is 1st March.

This event is supported by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, The British Council, the Association for Language Learning, CILT, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and CASAW.

Improving language learning through the strategic classroom: findings and applications of research

For the first time all members of the UKPOLLS (www.ukpolls.net/index.html) group will be presenting a conference in London. The beautiful British Academy is lending support as the venue and host for this day-long sharing of research findings and workshop discussions aimed at fleshing out policies and practice that promote learners' strategies. The purpose is to strengthen language teaching and learning through the development of truly strategic foreign

language classrooms.

Classroom-based research by UKPOLLS has shown that personalised, progression-based learner strategy instruction improves student performance and increases motivation.

Understanding the strategies which our learners actually use with the foreign language provides a valuable insight into what may be going wrong and what can be done to help learners learn to learn. Participants will have the opportunity to develop plans for independent learners and for creating strategic MFL classrooms.

The conference will be held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 from 9.30–17.15 at the British Academy, Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AH.

To view the programme, for directions to the British Academy and to register please go to: <http://www.britac.ac.uk/events/2010/lls/index.cfm>.

Life and work in academia: event for new lecturers in languages, linguistics and area studies

15th-16th April, Aston Business School Conference Centre, Birmingham. This conference is aimed at new teaching staff (less than 2 years' experience) in languages, linguistics and area studies, and is designed to complement 'generic' Postgraduate Certificate courses offered by institutions. The workshop will also be useful for experienced staff who are new to the UK and finishing and recent PhD students seeking academic employment.

The event will take a holistic and long-term examination of the academic career and will include discussions of:

- * managing an academic career
- * career promotion and progression
- * university citizenship
- * making the most of the Subject Centre
- * developing and sharing teaching resources
- * assessment

Full details, including a registration form and programme, are available at:

<http://www.llas.ac.uk/events/3314>.

UK Chinese schools' cultural performance

7th March 2010 at Lambeth Academy (Elms Road, Clapham, London SW4 9ET). Spectacular cultural performances and competition by students of Chinese schools. Performances include songs, dance, musical instruments, short plays and martial art displays. Admission is free, but please email the organiser beforehand - Mabel Jin: mabjinc@hotmail.com. Anyone not on the guest list at reception will not be admitted.

Reaching Out conference

From the organisations that brought you the Flying High conference, the SSAT and CILT have teamed up once again to bring you the Reaching Out conference. Help them celebrate and learn about successful, varied and innovative programmes led by teachers in all schools.

Hear about current best practice, and receive guidance and information on implementing the three strands of the community outreach programme: primary, secondary and wider community, including business engagement.

Who is it for? Senior leaders, heads of languages, languages subject leaders and language practitioners, as well as those responsible for the community programme and community cohesion.

What will the conference involve? The conference, partly funded by the DCSF, will be informative, relevant and motivational for schools wishing to address community cohesion, Every Child Matters and the personalisation agenda.

Workshops will focus on reaching out to the community through languages and leading practice in developing partnerships with:

- other schools
- business and industry
- community groups
- international links

Most workshops will be led by practitioners and those leading in community outreach.

Delegates will see best practice and innovation in business engagement in languages from CILT's Business Language Champions' Award winners.

You can book online at:

<https://www.ssatrust.org.uk/ssat/Pages/EventDetails.aspx?eventid=SVN1010196>. You can now book one place and get another half price - just download the booking form from the link below and follow the instructions:

Please contact Lauren Steyn on 020 7802 0746 or email: lauren.steyn@ssatrust.org.uk. To read their terms and conditions, please visit www.ssatrust.org.uk/disclaimer.

Head Start 2010 (Japanese)

Applications are now open for Head Start 2010, a one-day course on introducing Japanese at your school, plus a Japanese language taster.

This course is designed for schools that are interested in starting Japanese, and schools that have recently started Japanese and want more advice.

It is aimed at senior teachers who don't necessarily speak Japanese. If you are teaching at a school that has recently started Japanese, you may find it useful to encourage your head of languages or other senior teachers to come on this course, so that they will support your Japanese classes more! Please feel free to forward this e-mail to anyone who you think may be interested in attending.

Date: Wednesday 17th March, 10am-4pm

Venue: Japan Foundation London Language Centre

Aimed at: Senior Managers, Secondary Heads of MFL, Primary Language Coordinators, LA Language Advisors

Cost: FREE

The course will include presentations by Helen Gilhooly, Senior Director of Aldercar Community Language College, Nottingham, and Garry Ratcliffe, Executive Headteacher of Oakfield Community Primary School, Kent.

Flyer: <http://www.jpf.org.uk/attachments/388367001196821Flyer.pdf>

Programme: <http://www.jpf.org.uk/attachments/395456490678920Programme.doc>

Application form:

<http://www.jpf.org.uk/attachments/479102835264516Application%20Form.doc>

If you have any questions, contact Christopher Shone at: christopher.shone@JPF.ORG.UK.

SLOVO: Russian Literature Festival

This will be held in London and other UK cities from 19th-25th April 2010. Russian Literature Week is back for the third time. Since it has matured into a fully fledged festival, it is believed that it now deserves its own name and it has been called SLOVO, which means WORD in Russian and other Slavonic languages.

As in previous years, it will be held during the same week as the London Book Fair, starting on 19th April, so as to bring Russian writers and publishers not only into London's eye but also to the international publishing front.

Last year the festival presented six of the most established contemporary Russian writers: Vladimir Makanin, Dmitry Bykov, Mikhail Shishkin, Olga Slavnikova, Alexander Terekhov and Alexander Arkhangelsky. More details are coming soon on the Rossica website:

<http://academia-rossica.org/en/all-events>.

Fourth SCRSS Russian Language Seminar 2010

The SCRSS Russian Seminar 2010 is a two-day intensive programme of lectures in Russian on contemporary Russian society, culture and linguistics, given by lecturers from the Russian Language Department of St Petersburg State University, Russia.

The seminar is aimed at teachers of Russian, graduates of Russian and final-year undergraduates who have a good comprehension of spoken Russian and wish to keep abreast of the latest developments in Russia.

Participants attend four lectures per day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

Participants choose from one of two options for each session. Lectures last 45 minutes, followed by 30 minutes for discussion. Lectures will cover contemporary developments in Russian society, politics, culture and language. Note: lectures are in Russian only. Lecture programme to follow by the end of March.

Participants may book a place on either one or both days.

Date: Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th April 2010

Time: 10am-4.30pm daily (registration 9-9.30am)

Venue: SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London SW9 6AB.

Application deadline: 12th March 2010; payment deadline: 27th March 2010.

How to apply: Contact the address below and ask for an application form or go to the SCRSS website: www.scrss.org.uk and download/print the application form, complete and return by post to the SCRSS no later than 12th March 2010. The SCRSS will confirm your booking on receipt of your application and payment.

Note: places are limited and early booking is advised.

* The seminar is organised by the SCRSS in conjunction with the City of St Petersburg Administration, St Petersburg University and the St Petersburg Association for International Co-operation. SCRSS Seminar Advisor: Dr Roy Bivon. *

Célébration des 40 ans de la Francophonie

La Francophonie a 40 ans le 20 mars 2010. À cette occasion, Abdou Diouf, Secrétaire général de la Francophonie, adresse le message "Préparer la Francophonie de demain", qui peut être consulté (texte et vidéo) sur le site Internet dédié à la célébration du 20 mars: <http://20mars.francophonie.org/>.

RESOURCES

Historical and cultural calendar in French

Danièle Bourdais has recommended the following website:

<http://www.lessignets.com/signetsdiane/calendrier/index.htm>. It is a calendar based on Canadian history and culture. Find out what happened on your birthday!

Testez vos connaissances - Ah! Les participes passés ...

The following site has caused quite some amusement and debate amongst Linguanetters.

How many answers will you get right?:

http://www.olf.gouv.qc.ca/ressources/auto_eval/dictee_trou/dat_20021114.html.

Study guides for foreign films

A post on the MFL Forum has drawn attention to these great study guides, available to download free from the Cornerhouse website. They cover films in a variety of languages, including French, Spanish, German, Italian and Mandarin Chinese:

<http://www.cornerhouse.org/resources/?page=49873>.

Anime

The Japan Foundation, Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai is pleased to announce that they have launched a new website called Japanese in Anime and Manga: <http://anime-manga.jp>. There are only two kinds of content so far, but more stuff will be coming soon.

Le systeme solaire

The following website has been recommended on the MFL Resources Forum as being a good source of information but having quite simple French: <http://www.planete-astronomie.com/>.

Free Haitian Creole learning materials

In response to the need for widely available Haitian Creole learning materials to assist in the relief and reconstruction efforts in Haiti, the Indiana University Creole Institute, under the direction of Dr. Albert Valdman, has put a free sample of its best-selling textbook Ann Pale Kreyol (Let's Speak Creole) and the accompanying audio exercises on its home page. Please pass this announcement on to any and all interested parties. The home page is:

www.indiana.edu/~creole.

Anti-smoking website

Danie Bourdais has flagged the following site in response to a query on the MFLR Forum as having 'some real fun ideas for "campagne anti-tabac"': <http://de-de.help-eu.com/pages/index-1.html>.

French site with games

Marie-France Perkins has recommended the following site:

<http://www.internetsanscrainte.fr/le-coin-des-juniors/dessin-anime-du-mois>. She said on the MFLR Forum, 'I think that it is worth investigating. Lots of great games and could be used in PSHE. I am going to use it with my Year 10.'

More about MYLO

Graham Davies has drawn attention to the following blog posts after a meeting of MYLO 'ambassadors' at CILT HQ on 8th February:

The ICT4LT blog: <http://tinyurl.com/ykzjmz3>

Chris Fuller's blog: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ejbnc>

Isabelle Jones's blog: <http://tinyurl.com/ygkzmyyn>

Storybirds for creative writing

The MFL Resources Forum have been discussing using Storybird to help with creative writing in MFL: www.storybird.com. The following wiki was also recommended: <http://mfl-storybirds.wikispaces.com/>, and you can see how Chiltern Edge used it in a lesson on Saira Ghani's blog, here: <http://tinyurl.com/y8zryzx>. Marie-France Perkins has also posted the fruits of her Storybird labours; you can see them at: <http://storybird.com/books/mon-zoo-extraordinaire/?token=ykgtyf>.

'Va Bene?!': fighting clichés with irony

The initiative Va Bene?! puts verve back into Germany's relationship with the dreamland of Italy and vice versa. Part of this is a lovingly ironic film by Bruno Bozzetto:

<http://www.goethe.de/uun/bdu/en5579961.htm>.

Recommended German websites

The following websites have been recommended by the MFL Resources Forum as possible German alternatives to much-loved French websites Les clés de l'actualité and Mon JT Quotidien: <http://www.tivi.de/fernsehen/logo/start/index.html>; <http://www.blindekuh.de/>; <http://www.sowieso.de/zeitung/>.

Music from Russia, Belarus and the Ukraine

The Scots-born professor of Russian literature at UCLA, Neil MacFadyen, runs a website dedicated to new music from Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. He has told Scotland-Russia Forum that he adds new material every day of the week! The website therefore comes 'highly recommended': <http://www.moscow.ucla.edu/>.

SURVEYS AND COMPETITIONS

Japan Webpage Contest for Schools

The Japan Foundation London are delighted to announce the launch of their brand new Japan Webpage Contest for Schools: <http://www.japanwebpagecontest.org.uk>. This is a new contest organised by the Japan Foundation London, and supported by ALL, the British Council, CILT, the Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh, the Embassy of Japan, and the Japan Society.

This is your chance to shout about your school's Japan-related activities and win up to £1000 worth of prizes!

The contest is open to any UK primary or secondary school that is teaching Japanese or doing any kind of project related to Japan. Your school does not need to be teaching Japanese to enter the contest.

To enter the contest, all you need to do is make a simple webpage about the work that your school is doing with Japanese or Japan. This could be a blog, a wiki, or a page that's part of your school's website. You can enter an existing webpage or create a new webpage from scratch. Your page can be made by just one teacher, or by teachers and students working together.

Your webpage could feature:

A project with your Japanese partner school

A report on your school's visit to Japan

A report on your school's Japan Day

Japanese or Japan-related resources that you have made to help your students

Japanese language work made by students
Other Japan-related work by students, e.g. from geography, history, art, sports, music,
intercultural understanding, cross-curricular lessons
Students' experiences of learning Japanese or about Japan
An overview of Japanese at your school
...or anything else

The deadline for entering the contest is Friday 26th March.

Please visit the new contest website for full details, and for lots of tips and ideas to get you started: <http://www.japanwebpagecontest.org.uk>.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Woodruff at the Japan Foundation London on 020 7436 6698 or kim.woodruff@jpf.org.uk.

Russian Young Translators' Prize 2010

Academia Rossica are happy to announce that the Rossica Young Translators' Prize will be awarded for the second year. Entrants are asked to translate one of three extracts (each around three thousand words) from recent novels written by some of Russia's foremost contemporary novelists. The shortlist will be announced on the 21st April at the London Book Fair. The winning translator will receive £500 and have the opportunity to travel to Moscow to take part in a translators' congress in September 2010. All shortlisted contributors will be honoured at a special event at the London Book Fair.

This year the jury will consist of senior translators who have been among the winners of the Rossica Translators' Prize in previous years, such as Robert Chandler, Amanda Love Darragh and Oliver Ready. This board will not only provide the best possible critical overview of all submitted texts, but it will also be an exciting opportunity for a future generation of translators to get in contact with their role models.

Further details of this competition, including the extracts to be translated, will be published on the Rossica website: <http://academia-rossica.org/en/all-events>.

ALL Russian Essay Competition 2010 - deadline reminder

A reminder about the Association for Language Learning's Russian Essay Competition 2010: The deadline for submitting essays is the 8th of March 2010. If your students have not yet entered this event, go to: www.resources4russian.co.uk/essay for more information. Don't forget to confirm your interest by email: info@russianessaycompetition.co.uk.

ECML looking for UK representative

The European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) is an international body that supports the implementation of language education policies based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe. It aims to facilitate and stimulate discussion around language learning by inviting language experts, trainers and researchers to participate in workshops around Europe.

They are currently looking for a delegate to represent the UK in the second ECML workshop of 2010, 'Content and language integrated learning through languages other than English - Getting started' and 'Good Practice', which will take place on 9-11 June in Graz, Austria. You will be teachers of German or French as a second language, French/German language trainers or language education policy experts. You will need to be familiar with content-based foreign language teaching and the principles of the CLIL approach – and you will have good to excellent command of German and/or French. It's an opportunity to share your expertise and discuss ideas in an international context.

If you are interested in putting yourself forward for this workshop, please do get in touch. CILT is responsible for nominating the UK delegate, so you will need to write to Alice at:

Alice.Moran@cilt.org.uk to request an application form. This form should be completed and sent back by 23rd March. You can find out more about the workshop here: <http://clil-lote-start.ecml.at/> or <http://clil-lote-go.ecml.at/>.

Give-Me-That-Spiel (or-any-other-German-loanword) Competition

'Spiel', 'doppelganger', 'zeitgeist', 'stumm' are just a few examples of German loanwords in the English language. The DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) would like to draw attention to this sometimes unexpected German heritage by encouraging students to look at the loanwords in a playful way. How would you bring a concept like "kitsch" or "angst" to life? Students may choose whichever medium they prefer: a story, a photo, a film, it's all up to their

imagination! The competition is open to all undergraduate and postgraduate students registered for a Bachelors/Masters/PhD degree at a UK university, except German nationals. Deadline: 16th April 2010.

For more information and online registration, please visit: <http://london.daad.net/loanwords>. If you would like to receive competition posters and postcards please send an email to Cecile Reese at the DAAD London Office: reese@daad.org.uk including your postal address.

What do YOU think?

We want to make this newsletter as useful as possible, so your opinions matter! What would you like to see in the newsletter? If you have any comments or feedback (good or bad!) then please let me know at susanna.shapland@pearson.com. It is your newsletter - have your say.

NB You can **subscribe** at any time - it's absolutely free! If you are reading this newsletter and are NOT yet a member of the BBC Active Language Teachers' Club, then you can contact me at susanna.shapland@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution, or sign up online at www.bbcactivelanguages.com.

NB You can **unsubscribe** at any time. If you'd prefer not to go on receiving the e-mail club newsletters, please e-mail me at susanna.shapland@pearson.com with your full name and educational institution with the message 'Unsubscribe' - or write to: Susanna Shapland, BBC Active Languages, Mezzanine, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL.