



Newsletter

June 2009

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1. A word from Ingrid

Hello everyone!

First of all I would like to extend a huge apology from the Committee.

Last year, at the AGM we were informed that we would not be able to hold 3x3 during our usual week. This was because of a wedding that was to take place. In November we were advised that the wedding had been cancelled and we could have our usual week. However, we had a breakdown in our communications and many of you were not informed.

Please accept my apologies on behalf of the Committee, I know that it has affected at least one family's ability to attend and we feel terrible about this.

We had a fantastic number of participants last year; I hope everyone who came can return and that we get some new families attending. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please pass their details on to Monika or anyone else from the Committee; all our contact details are listed at the end of this newsletter. If anyone hasn't returned his or her application forms yet, could you let Monika know that you will be coming so she can organize accommodation?

As usual I'm going to go into some detail about what you need to bring with you and what to expect, however, if there is anything you are unsure about please contact anyone from the Committee (details listed at the end of this newsletter).

We have just received news from Straumeni this week that we will be unable to use the swimming pool during camp. This is because urgent works need to be carried out to the filtration system, but this is very

expensive and unlikely to have been done by the time we arrive.

2. What to bring

- National costume – (for boys it is enough to have a white shirt, smart trousers and a prievite (woven tie)). If you have a spare costume, or if you are struggling to get a costume together, let me know as soon as possible and I will try and pair you up.
- Musical instruments, triangle; recorder; flute; violin; kokle; cello; guitar; harp.... (we are hoping that there will be someone to guide an orchestra)
- Fancy dress costume.
- Best clothes for the Saturday night Ball (Balle)
- Pencils, pens etc
- Items for the table-top sale
- Donations for the children's tombola and the "big" raffle.
- Donations for the Xmas Fairs (held at Straumeni and Bradford each November)
- Some adults use the skills they have to raise funds during the week (e.g. reflexology or massage), if you would like to help in this way, please bring along any equipment/supplies you will need
- Although you will get drinks at mealtimes, and the café and bar are open at other times, some people like to bring along their own tea and coffee making equipment (including kettle)
- Don't forget your phone, camera or video equipment and any chargers you might need
- Photos and other documents and resources in keeping with this

year's theme – **Latvian Towns**.

These will be copied for project work and the Yearbook and will be returned to you. NB If anyone has family that came from a town in Latvia and they have any photos, or even memories, start gathering these now.

- **Ideas!** If you have any ideas for activities, bring them along too. The committee is only there to get the week together and try to sort out any issues that arise – this is **everyone's** camp; please share your good ideas.

3. Rules

Reminder of the rules:

- All children are expected to participate in the activities provided, **including classes**.
- Children are the responsibility of their parents/guardians at ALL times. This includes supervision at swimming (when the pool is available) and in the evening after bedtime. There is an organized night patrol, and whilst this allows parents to participate in other activities, (including visits to the bar) it is only for checking that young children are okay and to inform parents of any problems. If parents/guardians do want to use this facility they must let the night patrol know how and where they can be contacted.
- **NO ALCOHOL** must be brought or bought for the consumption of anyone under the age of 18. Abuse of this rule could jeopardize the future of 3x3 Straumeni.
- The law on smoking – this applies to Straumeni. It is important for the safety of others that no one who is part of 3x3 smokes in their room or dormitory.
- At mealtimes there is a rota for cleaning the dining room. All participants are expected to take their turn in this.

- Any damage, even if accidental, must be put right
- Participants are asked not to use the nursing home area (new participants will be made aware of where this is when they arrive)
- Finally, I would like to remind everyone of the importance of punctuality as there is a lot to get through during the week. Punctuality also sets a good example to younger participants and reinforces the ethos of mutual respect in 3x3.

Although the main aim is to have fun, we have to have these rules. They are there for the benefit of all participants **and** the residents at Straumeni. Some are for health and safety reasons, others are there out of respect for others and yet more are there because 3x3 is about sharing, e.g. cleaning rota.

4. Registration, payment and opening events

Registration takes place on Sunday from 2pm.

There will be signs up telling you where to find Monika, so that you can book in and pay (cash or cheque, sorry we don't have facilities to take card payments).

I can confirm that final prices for this year are as follows (based on full week at camp):

Adult = £140.50

11-16 = £130.50

2-10 = £109.00

LNPL donation

The LNPL have always supported 3x3 with a generous donation. The donation is £6.50 per day per participant (i.e. those who are allocated to a class). This will be deducted from the above prices. Our heartfelt thanks to the LNPL who continue to support us in this way. In fact a huge thanks you to all our supporters, including the DVF clubs.

Getting Settled

When you arrive you will see notices posted in the sleeping quarters showing room allocations. Please feel free to put your belongings into your rooms before booking in.

At 3.30pm on Sunday we will have an opening ceremony. This takes the form of a short service, followed by a procession to the flag where camp will be officially opened with the raising of the flag and singing of the Latvian National Anthem:

*Dievs, sv t Latviju,
M s' d rgo t viju,
Sv t jel Latviju,
Ak, sv t jel to*

*Kur latvju meitas zied,
Kur latvju d li dzied,
Laid mums tur laim diet,
M s' Latvij !*

There will be time then to settle in a little before your evening meal. Any new participants will be shown where things are and given a short "Welcome"

Hopefully this will give everyone an opportunity to say hello and get to know newcomers before classes begin on Monday morning.

5. Other things you might need to know

Meals

Participants receive 3 meals per day. These are eaten communally. Prior to each meal we sing the following song – if you don't already know it, you certainly will by the time the week is out:

*Met, Dievi i zelta krustu
P r šo visu istabi u*

*Met, Dievi i zelta krustu
P r šo visu istabi u*

*Lai pa da kas nav dis
Lai padz ra kas nav dz ris*

*Lai pa da kas nav dis
Lai padz ra kas nav dz ris.*

We ask that once you have decided where to sit for meals, you stick to the same table (otherwise there is a temptation for some to beat the rota system by swapping tables each day)

To avoid congestion young children and their parent/guardian are served first, regardless of which table they sit at.

After you have finished, plates etc should be cleared away to make life easier for the people on the dining room cleaning duty for that mealtime.

Notices and information are given out at mealtimes so it is really important that you are punctual for meals.

A vegetarian option is available at each meal.

Supplies

If you have forgotten something or need supplies, a Tesco Store is a short drive away. For anything that Tesco's can't supply, there are other stores a little beyond Tesco, or in Rugby itself.

If you are unable to get your supplies yourself, there are usually 1 or 2 people who go out each day and will get your shopping for you.

Medical Needs

Please remember to bring along any medicines, inhalers etc that you or your party may need.

The hospital, should anyone need it is in Rugby.

We do have first aid kits, but again, you may wish to bring your own supplies of plasters, painkillers and the like.

If your child is unwell during camp with anything that may be contagious, please let the teachers know and keep them away from classes and other communal activities until they are better to avoid others becoming unwell. Basic common sense really, anything that would keep your child away from school should keep them away from 3x3 classes

Guests

Please invite friends and relatives along to the Concert on Saturday (starts 3pm) and the Balle. You should make a booking for **anyone** who needs to stay over, even if it for just one night or for one meal. There is room on the booking form for this.

Information

A list of people you can go to for information or with queries throughout the week will be made available when you arrive

6. Classes and Programme

All class activities have an emphasis on Latvian culture and traditions and give participants an opportunity to learn a little of the Latvian language.

If your child is young, perhaps not yet in school, or particularly shy you are most welcome to stay with them.

You are also invited to participate in the language classes that will be led by Ilze each morning.

We will be retaining the new format of all classes being held in the Swedish Room.

There is a break in the morning where snacks and drinks are served in Café Riga. This is a chance to use any new Latvian language skills.

The Committee have been working hard to ensure that we have new teachers in place to make up for Bob and Dace who have semi retired from 3x3 after many years of invaluable support.

This year Solveiga will be able to join us again for 2 days to teach us some dances and she has just confirmed that one of her colleagues from Dublin who is a music teacher, she will teach basic Latvian songs with movements that anyone will be able to take part in, regardless of their Latvian language level.

We are also lucky to have Martins Ugunspūtns coming to join the teachers. Martins is coming from Latvia and is particularly interested in crafts of various types, including ice sculpture and music. Of course he will also be able to assist with language development.

We look forward to Martins and Solveiga joining us.

After Classes

As usual, we will end the day with a free for all game of rounders.

Evening events include how to play Kokle. If anyone is interested in this and doesn't have a Kokle, please let Monika know.

The evening programme also includes Bingo; quiz; treasure hunt; children's talent/fancy dress contest and disco with tombola; Annual General Meeting, bonfire; nature walk and is rounded off with the end of camp dance on the Saturday night.

Themes

There is one main theme each year, as noted above, this year the theme will be centred around Towns of Latvia, except Riga, which we have already covered fairly recently.

We would really like to focus on the towns that parents and Grandparents came from, so any information you have about this, please forward it to us as soon as possible.

Alternatively, it might be somewhere you have or the children have visited. Either way, if you have any photographs or other resources about the town, bring it along and we will use it in the lessons.

7. Fundraising

You won't get away from this one, fundraising is incredibly important.

Anything we raise during the year or during the week of camp goes towards keeping 3x3 going, so, you will be asked to:

- Make donations for the Christmas Fairs;
- Buy some numbers from the “Numbers Club”
- Treat yourself to a massage or a reflexology session;
- Buy something at the tabletop sale;
- Chance your luck at Tombola
- Buy a raffle ticket or ten,

8. End of Camp Concert

On the last full day at camp the participants get the chance to demonstrate what they have achieved in just a week both in the exhibition and in the concert (both held in the afternoon.

Immediately after the concert we hold the official closing ceremony, where the flag will be lowered.

Do get friends and family to come along to this if you can, with cameras, recording equipment and tissues. It is always remarkable to see how much can be achieved in such a short time, and it is even nicer if the young people can share their achievements with people who are close to them.

Then it is a countdown to party time.

Dancing shoes must be packed for this event, it is forbidden NOT to join in.

Live music will be provided by Bob and Dace – they just can’t keep away. Please take part in this event, it is a chance for us all to let our hair down after all our hard work during the week. Having live music is a real bonus, if we don’t use it we will lose it!

Not surprisingly breakfast on Sunday is served a little later.

Before leaving you will be asked to strip your beds and leave your rooms as clean as possible, and you will need more room going home than arriving because whatever you dearest have produced during the week will be going home with you.

9. Contact details and useful addresses

Please contact any of the committee listed below with queries you have regarding 3x3 or news you wish to pass on in the next newsletter.

Ingrid Dzerins:

Email ingridddzerins@live.co.uk or

ingrid.dzerins@incommunities.co.uk

16 Rossefield Road, Heaton,
Bradford, BD9 4DA. Tel 01274
548620

Rita Harrison:

Email ritharrison@hotmail.com

43 Ashwell Road
Heaton
Bradford, BD9, tel. 01274 826102

Monika Hall

Email HIT00TS@AOL.COM

22 Wentworth Crescent
Holmebeck Park
Bradford
BD4 0QX
0784 668 7022
01274 652652

You may be interested in checking out the following websites:

www.3x3.lv

Although mainly in Latvian, there is a small English section that can be accessed by going into the section called “Jaunumi” and going into Kalendars.

Straumeni Address:
CATTORPE MANOR,
CATTORPE,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE17 6DF

FINAL REQUEST FROM ILZA – IF ANYONE HAS A LAP TOP - COULD THEY PLEASE BRING IT TO CAMP TO ASSIST WITH THE CLASSES MANY THANKS