



Finns United



The Newsletter of the Finnish School in Manchester

Issue 9 March 2006

"Vappu in the Park 2006"

Vappu / May Day Picnic Saturday 29th April 2006

If and when the weather gets better, let's celebrate VAPPU, 1st of May, together at Longford Park in Chorlton. We intend to head to the park straight after school on Saturday 29th April, to be there from 12.30pm onwards. Please bring your own picnic and drinks. In the event of rain, we will gather after noon at The King's Ransom pub in Sale, next to the Sale Metrolink station.

Don't forget your hats!

Christmas Party 2006

It is never too early to think about Christmas! Put the date of 16th December in your diary now, as we will have our traditional Christmas Party at the school in Sale after the lessons. Ho ho ho...

Joulubazaar / Christmas Bazaar

Thanks to all who took part in our Christmas Bazaar last December. The event was well received by locals and was a great opportunity to showcase our school and a range of Finnish products.

Finland Domestic Flight Offer

Blue1 are offering domestic flights on some of its routes for a mere 10 euro + tax.

For full details and restrictions visit

<http://www.blue1.com/travel/service/offers/domfinonsale/rules/>.

But don't delay as there is limited availability!

Remember Teemu?

Those of you who came to 'Jyttyt' (dance) a few years ago may remember our DJ for the night, Teemu Metsälä. Teemu has since been busy making music, and his band, Boys of Scandinavia, has just released a new single in the UK. Since January 06 the Boys have played ecstatic live gigs in Finland and Russia, and supported WhoMadeWho. For more information, see www.boysofscandinavia.com.

Teemu's one-man project, Roger, is also going strong, there is now a new single called 'Kids and Thieves'. (www.rogerpeople.com)

Subscribers to the Expatrium magazine may also be interested to read Teemu's interview in issue no 49.

Sad tidings

Aune Sohor, a loyal, long serving friend and supporter of the Finnish School passed away on 15th March 2006 at the age of 75.

Aune will be sadly missed by all of us. She made an invaluable contribution to the atmosphere and practical running of the school. All who frequent the school will have enjoyed her home-baked 'pulla' from the coffee shop or picked up a Finnish journal from the library, which Aune used to organise. She took to any task effortlessly and always with a smile.

Aune had been admitted into hospital where she was treated for a broken arm, following a bad fall in the snow. Unexpectedly, she suffered a cardiac arrest the day before being due to return home.

All of us at the school will remember the kind, helpful and softly smiling Aune. Our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

Aune will be laid to rest on Thursday 23rd March 2006 at Shore Edge Methodist Chapel, Buckstones Road, Shaw. A collection will be arranged at the school on Saturday 25th March, the proceeds of which will be donated to the British Heart Foundation at the request of Aune's family.

On behalf of the
Finnish School
in Manchester

Jenni Viitanen
Chair



Summer Excursion to Ullswater

Sun 11th June 2006



Join us on a summer excursion to the beautiful Ullswater in the Lake District on Sunday, 11th June! The trip will provide some much needed fresh air, beautiful lakeside scenery, and a healthy walk or visit to a historic family home.

The day will begin with a cruise on Ullswater. The 19th century steamers, now converted to oil, cruise the length of Ullswater, one of the most beautiful and tranquil of the English Lakes (www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk).

Those wishing to walk can leave the boat after 45 minutes at Hotown, and walk along the lakeside back to the starting point at Glenridding (7 miles), or opt for a shorter walk around Hotown. The longer walk is said to take approximately three hours, but we will reserve an extra hour for picnics and paddling in the water!

Those who are not feeling so energetic, may choose to cruise all the way to Pooley Bridge to

enjoy its coffee houses and lakeside scenery.

There is then an opportunity to travel by coach to the nearby 18th century house, Dalemain, which is well known for its Tudor and Medieval rooms, and its beautiful gardens, first planted in medieval times. To this day we are still able to find an 18th century tulip tree, and the UK's largest silver fir tree. The historic family home, which hosts family portraits, silver, china and glass collections, also has a tearoom in its medieval hall (serves teas and light lunches). There are also short woodland and riverside walks. And do not forget to visit the countryside museum! For more information, please see www.dalemain.com.

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY:

- 8.30 Leave from School, Sale
- 11.00 Arrive in Glenridding
- 11.15 Steamer departs
- 11.55 Steamer arrives in Hotown, which is a starting point for the walk
- 12.25 Steamer arrives in Pooley Bridge
- 13.30 Coach picks up from Pooley Bridge Pier
- 13.45 Arrive at Dalemain
- 16.00 Depart from Dalemain
- 16.15 Coach picks up walkers from Glenridding Pier and heads towards Manchester
- 18.15 Back in Sale

Please note that although the 7mile walk from Hotown to Glenridding is along a well established path, you should bring sturdy boots. The walk does not include strenuous hill climbing, but has some gentle climbs. Please bring a picnic and waterproofs, just in case! Alternatively, there is a shorter walk around Hotown, with boats returning to Glenridding (1.20pm, arriving at Glenridding at 1.55pm, and 3.10pm arriving at Glenridding 3.45pm). It is also possible to walk around Pooley Bridge, but the routes take you quite quickly to small roads.

Steamer tickets (single) to Hotown cost £4.60 (£2.30 for children) and to Pooley Bridge £6.30 (child £ 3.15) (children 5-15 years, under 5-years travel for free)

Tickets for Dalemain House cost £6.50 (or £4.50 if we get together a group of 12)

Cost of bus journey depends on the numbers, but we anticipate £10 per adult (children free)

Tickets can be purchased at school from Jenni Viitanen and Laura Linkomies, or call Laura on 0161 4347322 to book a place.

Hope to see you all there - fingers crossed for a sunny day!!!



Horsing Around

- By Robin Hill

I have just spent the first week in March staying with my friends Päivi and Eero in North Finland. The weather was beautiful every day, with very cold nights (about -30 C) but bright sunny days. The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the forest.

Anna Maria lives in a fine old house in the forest about 40 km north of Rovaniemi. Her household consisted of a ginger cat with a striped tail who liked to jump on your shoulder and pretend she was a tiger, three dogs (two lapinkoira dogs a bit like chows and a large black dog of doubtful parentage) and three horses. The Finnish horse, a mare called *Siiri*, was going to take us into the forest.

It seemed to take a long time to prepare all the harness pieces and leather straps but Anna Maria did this every day and knew exactly how to put it all together. Finally, *Siiri* was backed between the shafts of the antique sleigh, or *reki*, and Päivi and I climbed into the back to sit on reindeer skins with a warm rug over our knees. Anna Maria climbed in front, took hold of the reins and we were off.

We took a narrow track through the forest and were soon completely alone in a silent world. Trees heavy with winter snow were sometimes completely bent over into perfect arcs, their tops trapped in the snow until the spring.

The black dog invited himself along, sometimes racing ahead, sometimes following behind and sometimes just running alongside.

It was not difficult to imagine what it would be like to have a pack of wolves following us! *Siiri*, however, seemed to enjoy his presence and travelled at a fast trot to keep up with him, the bells on her harness jingling continuously and the noise from the *reki* runners surprisingly loud because the snow was frosted and hard. The air on our faces stung as we raced along.

The track was so narrow that the horse together with the sleigh could not turn round easily and we travelled deep into the forest before eventually we came to a widening in the track and turned for home. We then learned that *Siiri* was pregnant and expecting a foal in May, so she was (reluctantly) persuaded to make the return journey at a pace more in keeping with her condition.

Even so, the house and stables came into sight all too quickly and the drive was over. A few sugar lumps for our horse completed the transaction (although we later found out that one of our seats was actually a bale of hay - a sort of emergency fuel supply, at least for one member of the party!

For us – a meal of home-caught, home-smoked perch and pike eaten with black rye bread and Finnish beer.

Suomi on ihana !!



Kesämuistoja Kuopiosta

- By Pirkko Hill

Miehelläni Peterillä ja minulla oli viimeinkin mahdollisuus viettää koko kesä Suomessa. Olimme siellä yhteensä viisi ja puoli kuukautta.

Kuopion seudulla oli ihana kesä, meillä oli 5 viikkoa hellettä ja sen jälkeen sopivan lämmintä - joitakin töitä tuli myös tehtyä mökillä. Meillä on myöskin rakennuspuuhat käynnissä joten kiirettä on riittänyt. Nyt rakennus on nousemassa, mutta sanoisin teille jotka olette ajatelleet rakentaa Suomessa; valitkaa tasainen paikka ja varokaa kauniita kallioita!

Meillä kävi monia vieraita; lapsia, ystäviä jne, joita viihdytimme kalastellen ja viettäen mökkielämää. Näytimme vieraillemme myös Pohjois-Suomea. Kävimme jopa ihmettelemässä uutta arkkitehtuuria Oulussa ja tervehtimässä joulupukkia. Tämä miellytti tuttavaperheen rouvaa, jolla on lapsenlapsia, mutta aviomies ei ollut oikein varma ennen kuin luki että ei ole elänyt jos ei ole nähnyt joulupukkia!

Kävimme myös "Eevan talossa" joka on noin 35 km Kuopiosta ja 10 km Karttulasta. Saimme erinomaisen päivällisen ja ystävällisen kohtelun emännältä. Tosiaankin vierailun arvoinen paikka. Löysimme myöskin erikoisen "bed and breakfast" – paikan Hartolasta, Jyväskylästä etelään. Ihastuttava paikka mäen päällä, ihana näköala järvelle ja metsään. Hyvä ruoka ja miellyttävä emäntä Anita (hänet löytää myös Internetistä).

Suomessa oli erikoisen hyvä marja- ja sienikesä. Vietin paljon aikaa metsässä - mieheni epäilee että minulla on "love affair" läheisen metsän kanssa ja niinpä taitaa ollakin. Missä voi

olla rauhallisempaa ja kauniinpaa!

Mutta eihän kesä Suomessa ole vain mökillä olemista ja metsissä samoamista. Suomi on erikoinen maa kesävihteiden suhteen; on näytelmiä, musiikkijuhlia, oopperaa, lavatanssia ja kaikkea muutakin mitä vain mieleen tulee. Valitettavasti en saanut kaveria Nilsin Oopperajuhlille, mutta mieheni lähti kumminkin Kuopiossa esitettävään "La Traviataan", joka oli erittäin onnistunut esitys, mutta mitenkäs muuten Jorma Hynnisen ja Marjo Palon laulaessa. Peter myöskin uskaltui katsomaan "Pitkä Järveläisiä", joka oli millä kielellä tahansa ymmärrettävä "country frolic", ja hänellä oli oikein hauska ilta. Niskavuoren Hetan kohdalle hän kumminkin veti rajan.

Mieheni kävi heinäkuussa Kuopion Yliopiston ulkomaalaisille tarkoitettua suomen kielikurssia viikon verran. Valitettavasti meillä oli vieraita juuri silloin, ja neljä viikkoa olisi muutenkin ollut vähän liikaa. Takaisin kouluun ensi kesänä! Vaikka hän ei oppinut puhumaan suomea, hän on itsevarmenpi kielen suhteen, ja sanoo jopa lauseita!

Lokakuussa Suomessa alkoi "sentit peliin" kampanja. Maa- ja kotitalousnaiset, Martat, Sydänliitto ja Diabetesliitto ovat ottaneet asian käsiinsä. He auttavat ihmisiä perustamaan ryhmiä, missä yhdessä saisi kadotettua ne ylimääräiset 2,5 cm vyötäröltä, jotka lähes jokaisen suomalaisen pitäisi laihtuttaa. Valitettavasti sydänsairaudet ja diabetes ovat jälleen puheenaiheita. Päivän seminaarissa tuli selväksi, että liikunta ja hyvä ruokavalio tekevät ihmeitä. Innostuin niin että ostin kävelysauvat, joita käytin rakennusmiesten huviksi postia hakiessani. (Lisätietoja kampanjasta saa "www.maajakotitalousnaiset.fi.)

Nyt olemme määrässä Englannissa ja odottelemme kevättä!

Book & Film Reviews



Anja Snellman: Rakkauden Maanosat (Otava 2005)

Anja Snellmanin uskollisena lukijana odotin paljon tältä romaanilta, enka todellakaan pettynyt - luin kirjan heti kaksi kertaa! Kirja kuvaa koskettavalla tavalla yhden ihmissuhteen kaaren tutustumisesta avioliiton kautta eroon. Kirjaa on luonnehdittu osittain omaelämäkerralliseksi, mutta on mahdotonta sanoa, mikä kirjassa on faktaa, mikä fiktiota - sen verran vivahteikas Snellmanin oma elämäkin on ollut. Pääpiirteittäin romaani kuitenkin seurailee aika tarkasti Snellmanin omaa elämää - on journalistimies, lomapaikka etelän saarella, sairaut vanhemmat, jne.

Kirjan nimi, rakkauden maanosat, viittaa Snellmanin omaperäiseen ajatukseen siitä, että kaikki rakkaustarinat kulkevat vääjäämättä tietyn kaavan mukaan, ja kulkevat eri maanosien kautta: 'Aasiassa syödään kynttilänvalossa ja viihdytään vuoteessa päiväkausia, Australiassa videohyllyrivit ja vyötärön ympärös kasvavat, ja miehen tuoksu korvaa vauvan tuoksu. Amerikka on kukoistuksen ja uusien mahdollisuuksien aikaa, Afrikassa tulevat yksinäinen unettomuus ja jäytävät rutiinit. Euroopassa hankitaan koira ja ystävät alkavat erota, Grönlannissa kirjoitetaan listoja toisen huonoista puolista. Etelämantereella lapset tulevat murrosikään, juodaan liikaa ja nukutaan sohvilla.'

Snellman on mestari käyttämään suomen kieltä, sivuille voi suorastaan pysähtyä maistelemaan sanoja. Tässä kirjassa Snellman kirjoittaa sydäntä verellä, ja tarinaa ei voi lukea liikuttumatta. Suosittelen kaikille romantikoille ja hyvän proosan ystäville.

- Laura Linkomies

Asne Seierstad (2002). *The Bookseller of Kabul*. Little Brown: New York.

Would you like to know more about different cultures and especially women's situations? Why not to start by reading *The bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad (available in Finnish as *Kabulin Kirjakauppias*).

In her fascinating account, published as the story of *The Bookseller of Kabul*, Norwegian journalist and commentator Asne Seierstad documents her experiences of living with a middle class Afghan bookseller Sultan Khan, his two wives and extended family during her three months visit to the newly liberated capital city, Kabul in 2002.

Drawing on and combining her award-winning professional journalistic experience and her western life experience (and one might add, her young age - the blurb says she is 23), Seierstad's first-hand experience gives us westerners a perspective on intimate issues of family life from sadness to joys, especially women's life in the strict Islamic tradition in Afghanistan. The story runs fast between a private world of women and the more public lives of men. With her feminine eyes and by wearing a Burqa herself, Seierstad observes daily situations also through her Burqa net. She paints a unique picture of a short period of life in an Islamic country, which had just found a new way of life between firing forces of the modern world and Afghan traditions. - A very interesting book.

Devdas (2002) (DVD). Mega Bollywood Pvt.Lmt. Released by Eros.

Another way to focus on different cultures is films. I keep my recommendation in Eastern cultures and introduce an Indian film *Devdas*. The film captures and

wonderfully depicts how Indian society has been working since the Ancient times. Based on the tragic eponymous Bengali novel, by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, *Devdas* has been released on celluloid several times because of its popularity among Indian viewers. The last and perhaps the most glamorous version with breathtaking scenes, dances, songs and music, unbelievably beautiful clothing and the most sparkling Bollywood stars, Shah Rukh Khan (as Devdas) and Aishwariya Rai (as Parvati), has been on screens since 2002.

The saga tells how Devdas, the son of a rich landlord in the early days of 20th century Bengal, falls in love with his childhood companion Parvati, Love is in the air throughout the film, but the film shows how Parvati's family overrides the love between the couple. Marriage is not only between people in love, but between families. Thus, love is not honey to the couple. Their families put pressure on them and insist on preserving duty and the social order of the traditional caste system and inter-class marriage, still in existence in India. With these traditional principles the family can really separate lovers.

Therefore the heartbroken Parvati accepts a marriage to another man, and the shattered Devdas tries to find happiness from alcohol and by a courtesan in Calcutta. – Where is true love that is pure, chaste, undemanding and immortal? Find out about love in the Indian way of life and enjoy the three-hour spectacle of *Devdas*!

Happy Easter - Anna Alajoki

ONNEA !!

Onneksi olkoon Tuuli Töylille ja Carl Elmbergerille ihanan poikavauvan johdosta! Pikkuinen **Axel Lauri Vilhelm** syntyi 28 helmikuuta Macclesfieldin sairaalassa. Potra poika painoi syntyessään reilut neljä kiloa!
Onnea koko Suomikoulun puolesta!!



Annual Competition for Finnish School Students

Under 15 year olds design a t-shirt and adults and young adults write new lyrics to the Finnish national anthem. The first prize is a visit to the Finnish Embassy in London! Send your entries to Hanna Lähtevänoja, Finn Guild, 1A Mornington Court, Mornington Crescent, London NW1 7RD, by the end of April.

Piirustuskilpailu lapsille

Suunnittele kuva kesäiseen t-paitaan! Kyseessä on Finn Guildin piirustuskilpailu, ja voittanutta t-paitaa myydään sitten myöhemmin Guildin kautta. Kilpailuun voivat ottaa osaa kaikki alle 15-vuotiaat, ja voittajia valitaan useita, joten nuoremmillakin on mahdollisuus päästä palkinnoille! Palkintoina on suomalaisia kirjoja ja musiikkia, joten nyt kynät suihkimaan. Kuvissa voi käyttää tekstiä tehokeinona.

Uudet Maamme-laulun sanat

Aikuiset ja lapset voivat myös kisata siinä, kuka keksii parhaimmat (uudet) sanat Maamme-lauluun. Tässäkin kilpailussa palkitaan useita, ja voittajat pääsevät Lontooseen päivävisiitille suurlähettiläs Jaakka Laajavan vieraaksi.

Kilpailutyöt Hannalle yllä olevaan osoitteeseen huhtikuun loppuun mennessä.

Kesäleirit kutsuvat!

Kesälukioseura järjestää Suomessa kursseja ulkосуomalaisille lapsille ja nuorille. Mukaan pääsee jo 7-vuotiaana! Kurseilla harjoitellaan suomen kieltä, mutta myös leikitään, retkeillään ja harrastetaan. Kurseja järjestetään eri ikä- ja tasoryhmille heinä-elokuun aikana. Lisätietoja www.kesalukioseura.fi

Jos osallistut, kirjoitathan lehtemme kokemuksistasi!

Viikonloppu suomen kielen parissa

Finn-Guild järjestää suomen kielen viikonloppukurssin 26.-29.5.2006 Hassocksissa, lähellä Brightonia. Kurssi sopii niin suomen kielopintoja aloittaville kuin edistyneillekin oppilaille, sillä kurssin osallistujat jaetaan tasoryhmiin. Viihtyisässä Stafford Housessa on täysihoito, tai viikonloppuun voi osallistua myös päiväoppilana. Lisätietoja kurssista www.finn-guild.org tai e-mail hanna.lahtevanoja@finn-guild.org

Finnish Intensive Language Weekend

Finn-Guild are arranging a Finnish Language Course on the weekend of 26th-29th May 2006 in Hassock near Brighton. The course is suitable for both complete beginners and more advanced students, with experienced teachers for all levels. Accommodation at Stafford House on a full board basis. Day pupils are also welcome. Further info from Hanna Lähtevänoja, tel. 020 7387 3508, or e-mail hanna.lahtevanoja@finn-guild.org

Study Finnish in Finland!

Finn-Guild offers you an opportunity to study Finnish language 5 - 10 August 2006 in the beautiful nature surroundings of Harjattula, Turku. The course is suitable for all adult students interested in the Finnish language. There are study groups for total beginners, intermediate and advanced level students.

Finnish Language Test

The next Finnish Language Test will be in London on 28th October 2006 – we are holding an exam class at the school for anyone interested. New members are still welcome on the course.

What Finnish Food Should You Serve to a Foreigner?

Food glorious food. Or is it? Finn-Guild are calling for Brits to give their comments about Finnish food – both positive and less positive! These comments will provide the basis for a survey about Finnish food, in particular suitable dishes to feed foreigners. This probably comes off the back of a certain well known French politician's comments about Finnish food being only second worse to British food! Send your ideas in to FinnGuild and they might well feature in the next edition of Horisontti. Send to: Finn Guild, 1A Mornington Court, Mornington Crescent, London NW1 7RD

Celebrate Easter the Finnish Way!



Easter is a time to welcome in the Spring, even if much of Finland is still buried under a layer of snow! Here are some ideas for celebrating Easter in true Finnish style!

Grow Grass

Most of Finland still being void of grass over the Easter period, it is little wonder that Finnish families like to grow grass (rairuoho) on their windowsills to bring in the Spring. Why not buy some seeds for yourself and have fun sowing them in pots or egg shells on the windowsill – remember to give them a trim from time to time to keep them tidy. Children can have added fun making cute chickens, hares and even Easter witches to live in the grass!

Enjoy Easter Delicacies

Pasha – a creamy dish which is set in a special box embossed with Orthodox symbols. The name comes from the Greek word for Easter. Eaten on its own or spread on top of Easter buns.

Mämmi – this infamous Finnish delicacy is a bit like Marmite, i.e. you either love it or hate it!!! A dark brown porridge made of water and sweetened rye malt, it is eaten with sugar and cream.

Recipes for these dishes can be found at <http://www.finnguide.fi/finnishrecipes/cat.asp?c=2>

Dress up as Easter Witches

On Palm Sunday Finnish children traditionally get dressed up as witches with sooty faces and scarves tied around their heads, decorate branches of willow (virpomisvitsa), and go from house to house. They whip the branches in the air, reciting the poem "Virvon, varvon, tuoreeks, terveeks, tulevaks vuodeks, sulle vitsa, mulle palkka" (I whip you fresh and healthy for the coming year, you get a whip, I get a treat). Normally children get some money, candies or chocolate eggs in return!

Decorate twigs

Pussy willows are ancient Easter decorations. They can be decorated with ribbons, painted eggs and feathers. They are also brought inside around Easter time where they bud and leaf in vases, to remind people of the coming spring.

Did you know ...

... that every day of the Finnish Easter Holy Week (Piinaviikko) has a traditional name?

Palmusunnuntai (Palm Sunday), maitomaanantai (Milk Monday), tikkutiistai (Stick Tuesday), kellokeskiviikko (Bell Wednesday), kiirastorstai (Bad Thursday), pitkäperjantai (Long Friday), lankalauantai (Thread Saturday) and sukkanunnuntai (Sock Sunday).

For more information about Easter in Finland visit Virtual Finland on <http://virtual.finland.fi/netcomm/news/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=26050>

Hauskaa Pääsiäistä - Happy Easter!

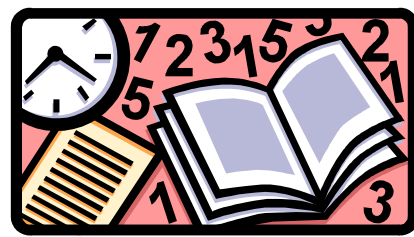
Finnish model for teaching in small groups being exported abroad

Education experts from 30 different countries gathered recently in Helsinki to learn more about Finland's impressive educational records. Finland's scores in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) attracted over 130 teachers to participate in a seminar organised by the Finnish National Board of Education.

Education expert **Fred Booker**, who previously lived in Finland for a long time but now works in Zambia, was almost shocked at how traditional education in Finnish schools seems to be nowadays.

"Teachers have been forced to adopt more traditional teaching methods as the teaching groups have become larger", said special advisor **Mariatta Melto** from the Trade Union of Education in Finland.

Source: *The International Edition of Helsingin Sanomat*



Remaining Spring 2006 School Dates

**25th March
8th & 28th April
13th & 27th May**

We meet on Saturdays from 10 am to 12.15 pm, at St Mary Magdalene's Church 44 Moss Lane, Ashton-on-Mersey, Sale, M33 6GD.

New members welcome at any time. No need to register in advance – just turn up on the day.

**Further info:
www.finnsworld.org.uk,
Leena Kirk: 0161 4285341.
Christina_aro@yahoo.co.uk**