



Finns United



The Newsletter of the Finnish School in Manchester

Issue 8 November 2005

Christmas Bazaar, Party & Carol Singing Saturday 3rd Dec 2005



This year the traditional Christmas Party will be held on **3rd December** from **11 am – 3pm**. Apart from the usual arrangements, including **Santa and buffet (nyyttikestit)**, we are holding a **Christmas Bazaar** in the lobby and **Kauneimmat Joululaulut (Carols)** in the chapel.

There will be Finnish handicrafts for sale, but please if you are baking / cooking for the buffet, throw in some extra to sell at the Bazaar, which is open to the public. The school is hoping to raise money for improvements to, for example, our library service.

As we are expanding our annual Christmas event from previous years, please feel free to spread the word among your friends and neighbours and bring them along for a taster of a Finnish Christmas!

Looking forward to seeing you on 3rd December St. Mary Magdalene's Church, 44 Moss Lane, Ashton on Mersey, Sale, Cheshire.

Tervetuloa! Welcome!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **NO** traditional Christmas party on the 17th December.

FEEDBACK FROM THE AGM MEETING 2005

Our 2005 AGM meeting was held on Saturday 3rd October. One of the main points to come out of the meeting was the need to develop a stronger identity for our school officers and clearer information for new members.

As part of this, we have developed a Welcome Pack for new members, including a list of committee & function members, and teachers. We will also post a list of the committee by the coffee shop at school for all to see. Please feel free to get in touch with these key members about any matters relating to the school.

We are also always keen to encourage more members to play an active role in the school - if anyone would like to become more involved, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

We also appointed a new treasurer (Noora Hyvölä) and secretary (Marianna Koli). Thank you to these brave souls! And a huge thank you to Olli Aro for being our trusted treasurer for the past 4 years. He now steps down to take a well-earned rest.

2006 School Dates

Remaining dates in 2005
3rd & 17th December

Spring 2006 School Dates:

14th & 28th Jan
11th & 25th Feb
11th & 25th March
8th & 29th April
13th & 27th May

We meet on Saturdays from 10 am to 12.15pm, at St Mary Magdalene's Church, 44 Moss Lane, Sale. Driving instructions at www.finnsunited.org.uk

Students welcome at any time – no need to register in advance!

For more info, please contact Leena Kirk, tel 0161 4285341, leenakirk@yahoo.co.uk,

Independence Party 10th Dec



Let's celebrate Finnish Independence Day together on Saturday, 10th December, 8pm.

The party will take place at 'Bar 38' which is in the town centre, at the bottom of Peter St, M2 3NQ, tel. 0161 835 3076.

Come and enjoy Finnish music in this stylish and popular bar. Entrance fee, £5, includes a drink. Smart casual dress – although you might like to rise to the occasion.

Member's Page

Thank you to all the members who supplied articles for this edition of the newsletter. If anyone would like to contribute to future editions, please send articles of no more than 400 words to christina_aro@yahoo.co.uk or laura_linkomies@hotmail.com.

A Piece of Finland

- By Päivi Turunen

On a recent trip to Scotland, at the beginning of September, the persistent rain in Glencoe drove us further inland to find shelter and bluer skies. We ended up in Aviemore which we hadn't visited before and, according to a friend, where we should find "a Finnish forest".

Now, my expectations were quite modest, having heard people say this so many times in the past seven years I had called England my home. "Oh, Lake District, don't go there if you want something different, it's just like Finland..." or "You know, there is a great big forest around where I live, it's just like you'd been transferred to Finland". Hmm, maybe to an unpractised eye. I love the Lakes and British forests; apart from the newly planted monotonous tree fields they have varied nature - and they are so different from "kangasmetsä", the ubiquitous Finnish coniferous forest with a floor of springy mosses and crumbling lichens.

Nothing, therefore, could prepare me for the first sights of Glenmore Forest. The heather moor changed into open woodland where sunlight played on the yellows and reds of the bark in tall pine trees. The forest floor was thick with familiar-looking mosses, grasses, and brushwood: lingonberry, bilberry,

crowberry, meadowsweet, juniper and many more.

Soon we came to Loch Morlich, nestled in the low-lying hills. The luscious, open forest floor, majestic pines and the lake's sandy shoreline truly created an illusion of, say, North Karelian countryside. We parked the car on a forest track and followed a fast-flowing brook for about an hour. Wading deep in soft mosses and brushes I found a good spot, sat down on a tussock and filled my belly with ripe lingonberries. I rarely get to go to Finland at this time of the year so this was great! The only thing missing was a Finnish Spitz, "suomenpystykorva", curled next to me to keep me company.

There was a tidy camping site by Lake Morlich, and a few places rented bikes and other outdoor gear. And there was even a reindeer farm - the only reindeer herd in Britain! However, at least out of season the place felt very serene and spacious, far from the crowds.

If you don't fancy the five-hour drive to Aviemore and Glenmore Forest you can take a direct flight to Inverness and hire a car. I noticed Eastern Airways return flights from Manchester start from £109. And if you can't bolt off to Scotland just yet, you can get your share of fresh air in the vast woodlands of Cannock Chase, off M6 in Staffordshire, or in Macclesfield Forest and many other places nearer home.

Further information:

www.aviemore.co.uk/members/glenmoreforest/default.htm,

www.easternairways.com

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/recreation,

www.unitedutilities.com

First Impressions of Finland

- By Mike Hanson

When I heard about an international translation conference being held in Tampere earlier this year, I decided it would be an ideal opportunity to visit Finland. Like most Brits, I didn't speak a word of Finnish, but having liked the other Nordic countries I'd visited, I had high expectations of Finland, and I wasn't disappointed.

My first impression of Finland, on arrival at the airport, was the language. To the untrained English eye, it is really exotic-looking and opaque, and I was glad of the bilingual signs at the airport, to find out the meaning of words like *määräpaikka*, *avoinna* and *lentoasema*, and even just to find out where to reclaim my baggage. In this sense, it's more like going abroad to Japan than to France...

The organisers had arranged a tour to Lapland beforehand, and so, one Saturday evening in late July, I found myself in the company of a party of translators, boarding a sleeper train from Helsinki to Rovaniemi. For anyone brought up in overcrowded England, waking up to the vast wilderness of Lapland is quite a culture shock in itself - a pleasant one, I thought, though it may not be to everyone's taste. Just trees and lakes for mile after mile, with the odd elk wandering across the road to stop drivers dozing off. The landscape (or is it the elks?) seems to create a calmness in the way that people drive, as I

don't think I saw anyone tearing along at 100mph, despite the empty roads; even in urban areas, nobody seemed particularly impatient.

I also got a good impression of Finnish urban life from Tampere. The city stands on a series of rapids between two lakes, and apparently used to be known as the "Manchester of Finland" on account of its textile industries, though little remains of these now except museums. Instead, rather like our UK counterpart, its economy is now based on high-tech industries (so Nokia is just a small town near Tampere?) and services, particularly education.

My abiding impression of Finland though, was a sense of harmony and community that is often lacking in Britain. I liked it so much that I signed up for classes at the Finnish School, and look forward to seeing whether I get an equally favourable view of it in the long, dark winter.

Chinese Whispers ...

Word on the grapevine is that former Finnish School in Manchester Chairperson and current Events Officer, Mari Pelkonen, is bound for one of the most populous nations on earth - China. The Lonely Planet describe China not as a different country but as a different world. We are sure that Mari will embrace this challenge and make the most of her new work opportunities in one of the most up and coming destinations in the world. Mari will also be able to keep up to date with happenings in Finland through the Shanghai Suomalaiset! Congratulations Mari and sincere thanks for all your hard work for the Manchester School. And don't forget to keep in touch!

Finnish Presidential Elections

There is an opportunity to vote in the Finnish Presidential election, which take place at Manchester Business School on Saturday 7th January, from 10 o'clock onwards. The second date for the run-off between the top two candidates will be at the same venue on 20th January, if required. Further particulars from Leena Prothero on 0161 445 0909 or leena@prothero.demon.co.uk

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Seeking inspiration for Christmas presents?

Maybe these will inspire...

For children:

Kirjoita joulupukille!



Nyt kaikki lapset miettimään mitä kirjoittaa joulupukille! Pukkihan asuu Suomen Korvatunturilla muorinsa kanssa, ja odottelee toivomuslistaasi. Joulupukin mielestä neljä aivan erityisen tärkeää lahjaa ovat Peace, Love, Health ja Chocolate. Tiesittekö muuten, että joulupukilla on kammarrissaan peili, joka näyttää aivan tavalliselta. Sillä on kuitenkin mahdollista tehdä muitakin, kuin peilata. Kun joulupukki pyyhkäisee peiliä parrallaan, hän pystyy kurkistamaan kenen tahansa lapsen huoneeseen...

Joulupukille voipi kirjoittaa ositteeseen **Santa Claus' Main Post Office, Santa Village, FIN-96930 NAPAPIIRI**. Pukki saa kirjeitä 150 maasta ympäri maailmaa, ja kaikkein ahke-

rimmat kirjoittajat ovat englantilaiset, japanilaiset ja puolalaiset lapset.

Katso myös www.santaclaus.fi, jos haluat tietää mitä Korvatunturista ja sen asukkaista kerrotaan. Joulupukin puuhia voi seurata myös webcamin kautta!

MERIROSVOJA ITÄMERELLÄ

Juuri ilmestynyt lasten tietokirja Merirosvoja Itämerellä on vauhdikas historian tietokirja Itämeren merirosvoajoista tuhannen vuoden ajalta! Kirjassa kerrotaan oikeiden merirosvopäälliköiden seikkailuista, kuninkaiden valtataistelusta ja sopimuksista kaappareiden kanssa, merenkulun historiaa, laivoista ja hansakauppiasta.

Manga-sarjakuvista vaikutteita saanut kuvitus viihdyttää nuorta lukijaa. Kirja sopii yli 7-vuotiaille. Kirjailija RoopeHollmen (FM) on aiemmin kirjoittanut lapsille Suomen keskiajasta. Kuvittaja on Sanna Luotonen. Kirjan koko on A4+, sidottu, 48 sivua.

MERIROSVOJA ITÄMERELLÄ voi tilata www.akateeminen.com tai www.suomalainen.com tai hakea hyvin varustetuista kirjakaupoista.

For more info contact: anne.hetemaa@facto-kustannus.fi

For book lovers:

Heikki Turunen: 'Hongan Tarina' WSOY, 2005

- Anna Alajoki

Minä mykistyin avatessani äidiltä saamani syntymäpäivälahjapaketin, jossa oli tiiliskiven vahvuinen suomalainen kirja: Hongan tarina, joka on kirjailija Heikki Turusen syväluotaus Honkarakenne OY:n perustajien Saarelaisen veljesten henkilöhistoriaan ja yrityksen kehitykseen.

Harvoin kukaan jaksaa edes ajatella, että otanpa tuosta 600-sivuisen kirjan lueskellakseni sitä iltani iloksi. Takakannen esittelyn luettuani minulle kävi toisin. Istuin ja nautin siitä illan jos toisenkin, ja niinpä suosittelen Heikki Turusen kirjaa lämpimästi joulunajan lukemiseksi.

Heikki Turuselle tyypilliseen tapaan teksti on hersyvää: murre-sanoilla rikastettua ja kirosoin vahvistettua, mutta samaan aikaan sekä herkkä että maskuliininen kuvaus pohjoiskarjalaisen kyläyh-teisön elämästä. Turunen kuvaa erityisesti Saarelaisen perheen isän kykyä luoda perusta ainut-laatuaiselle perheyrietykselle hiil-tyneen kodin raunioilta maailman johtavaksi hirsirakennusten tuot-tajaksi. Idearikkaan ja työtä pelkäämättömän isän pääperiaat-teet - ahkeruus, rehellisyys, uskal-lus ja usko tulevaisuuteen - ovat menestyksen avainsanoja tänäkin päivänä.

Hongan tarina on Turusen sanoin 'kertomus puusta, ihmisestä ja yrittäjyydestä'. Tarina on monella tavalla mielenkiintoinen, hauska ja mukaansa tempaava. Siinä missä Honkarakenteen maailman-kuulut hirsirakennukset symbo-lisoivat monelle suomalaisuutta, Hongan tarina on myös kuvaus valtavasta annoksesta suomalaista sisua, joka on tunnusomainen pala identiteettiämme.

Hongan tarinan myötä avautuu läheinen suhteemme luontoon, ja oma kansallinen käsityöläis-kulttuurimme. Kirja on myös dokumentti hirsirakentamisesta ja suomalaisesta yrittäjyydestä me-nestystarinana, johon pelkällä onnella ei ole osaa eikä arpaa.

Uskomaton tarina. Lue ja nauti.

For all the family:

SONGS FINLAND SINGS

- Barbara Helsingius

With greetings from Finland ...
... I would like to tell you about something you may - or may not - already be familiar with!

A couple of years ago I completed a project where I tried to "give wings" to some of Finland's most beloved songs. Sponsored by cultural foundations I managed to convince a company to publish the songbook "Songs Finland Sings" which was very well received by critics and music lovers.

Later - after requests from, among others, Finnish schools wanting to use the book in teaching English, I received further sponsorship, decided to skip the record companies and produced two CDs. On these, every song is in English, with two as funny lessons in our national languages.

The inspiration for this difficult task came from the rewarding feedback I have had when singing my English versions of Finnish evergreens to international audiences - "Finally we know what the Finns are singing about!" - and I am eternally grateful to my sponsors, as record companies and publishers have no interest in cultural ventures of this kind. I am also grateful to the 31 artists and 2 choirs that, without any compensation, wanted to join the effort AND, of course, to all those giving me such great feedback.

By now the songs have reached most corners of the world and the reasons for this and the target groups are numerous. Some people want to please friends, others wallow in nostalgia, some practice the language... many do all of this thoroughly enjoying the good

music. It would be nice to have you among them...

Barbara has kindly donated a copy of the songbook and one of the CDs to the Finnish School in Manchester for our enjoyment.

To purchase the CDs or for further information about the project, contact Barbara Helsingius on tel/fax +358-9-801-1389,
barbara.helsingius@pp.inet.fi

Finnish School Calendars

Finnish School Calendars for 2006, courtesy of Finn-Guild, are available from the school shop at £4 each. Look out for our children's group drawing in September 2006!

STAY WITH A REAL FINNISH FAMILY

Northbound Travel are proud to be the first travel agency in Finland to provide a home accommodation service. With them you have the unique possibility to stay with a genuine Finnish family, dine with your hosts and experience a real cultural exchange as a part of your holiday. A great opportunity for our students to test out their Finnish language skills! To book your home accommodation, visit http://www.northboundtravel.com/english/palvelut_kotimajoitus.htm

Oikein hauskaa joulua ja hyvää uutta vuotta kaikille!

