

# Brainstorming of prodigies

13th Republican Gathering of Inventors and Innovators takes place in Minsk

By Svetlana Gavrilova

It's no secret that today's labour market is experiencing a serious deficit of qualified staff. It's thought that more than thirty percent of employers worldwide face this problem, with sanitary technicians, electricians and builders among those most in demand. With more people than ever pursuing comfortable and prestigious 'office jobs' the number of skilled vocational workers is suffering.

Society tends to judge those undertaking vocational careers harshly, assuming that their chosen path is the result of lack of ability to enter university. Of course, it's an assumption that lacks substance, as the 13th Republican Gathering of Inventors and Innovators has once again proven.

Gathering students and employees from vocational

and secondary specialized education institutions, among those taking part was 3rd year student Anatoly Tsitrinov, from Gomel State Vocational Electronics College. He explained, "I've worked out a method to teach electrical installation visually, a parabolic solar collector for heating water instantly and a hand-held air-conditioner." His work on the latter won him a Presidential Prize. The small-sized wonder is easy to install and, in just a few minutes, can cool a room of 65 cubic metres! At the gathering, he presented his visual teaching manual for electricians.

Roman Zagrebnev, 20, is so well known in his village of Chepeli (Pruzhany District) that he receives a flood of visitors each time he returns. There are always items needing repair: a telephone wire, a television set or a car radio. The student of



Young inventors sometimes surprise even venerable scientists with their projects

Beloozersk State Vocational Electrical Engineering College tries to help everyone

and plans to become a fully-qualified electrician. His teachers have faith in his

abilities. His own invention is a sensor hob which automatically turns on or off by

sensing a pan above.

The director of the Smilovich Agricultural Professional College, Yury Korsik, tells us, "Events such as the Republican Gathering of Inventors and Innovators emphasise once again how many talented boys are training in vocational professions. I think that chiefs of Belarusian enterprises should show interest in similar events. Of course, the developments presented have not been tested or trialed; they are flights of the imagination. However, a kernel of good sense can always be found. Children are tomorrow's inventors so we should listen to their ideas. Don't stereotype young people. It's not necessary to have a higher degree or a post-graduate qualification to be respected and successful. Vocational jobs are essential to society, so training in these professions is invaluable."

## Religious icon-bearing procession of history

Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Kirill to visit Belarus to celebrate 1025 years of Christianisation of Russia

By Sergey Novitski

The Belarusian capital and its regions are to host various celebratory events, including a Divine Liturgy led by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia. There will also be an international conference devoted to the role of Christianisation in the fate of the Belarusian, Russian and Ukrainian people, hosted by the National Academy of Sciences and in the National Library of Belarus.

Heads of Orthodox churches will attend the Liturgy, scheduled for 29th July in Minsk, taking place in the open in Nemiga Street. About 10,000 people are expected to take part, alongside the Metropolitan of Minsk and Mogilev — Catholic Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz, and the Apostolic Nuncio in Belarus — Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti.

An exhibition of unique church plate and vestments is to go on show at the National History Museum.

In September, *The Orthodox World* touring icon exhibition will open in Minsk, presenting more than 60 unique 18th-early 20th century icons — from private collections and from Moscow's Museum of Russian Iconography. The State Tretyakov Gallery, the National Kiev Pechersk Museum Reserve and other museums and Orthodox churches, particularly from Serbia and Moldova, have also donated icons for the touring exhibition.

## Polesie Robinsons on bicycles



Bicycle tourism growing in Belovezhskaya Pushcha

Cycling holidays seem to be enjoying greater popularity among visitors to the Belovezhskaya Push-

cha. Despite a late start to the season this year, April has seen numbers boom: over 3,000 cyclists (considerably more than in April 2012). May last year saw the great-

est number of cyclists registered to date: some using bike hire and others arriving on their own cycles.

The Rokada (Moscow), Veles (Vladimir) and Svezhy Veter (Kobrin) cycle clubs organised tours for members, taking advantage of the five cycle paths laid out through the beautiful landscape: 'Reserved Oak Forest', 'Lake Loop', 'Tsar's Meadow', 'Forest Mysteries' and 'Animal Crossing'. Their length varies from 2-16km.

This year, two new cycle routes have been added: 'White Grove' and 'Tikhovolya'. These take visitors on fairly long routes through flora and fauna in Europe's oldest forest.

New driving and hiking routes are also opening, with 'Memory' launching on the eve of Victory Day, embracing sites connected with WWI and WWII. Soon, visitors will be able to take the 'Pushcha Robinsons' path, with an overnight stop.

## Knights' battles on Zamkovaya Hill



Knights' battles are fascinating spectacle, even today

By Andrey Kurbatsky

Participants from nine countries brought together by Braslavskie Zarnitsy-2013 International Festival of Traditional Culture

In total, the Festival brought together around a thousand people: choir members, performers, folk masters, members of historical reconstruction clubs and numerous guests. They gathered in Braslav from across Belarus, Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Armenia and Venezuela for the kaleidoscope of events.

*Braslavskie Zarnitsy-2013* opened at the district House of Culture with artistic activities and a disco, after a ceremony in the square near the Blessed Vir-

gin Mary Catholic Church. In addition, there was a regional singing contest for choirs: *Braslav Choir Assemblies*. The National Academic People's Choir of Belarus (named after G. Tsitovich) also gave a concert.

Meanwhile, the *We're United by Braslav Land* exhibition opened at the Museum of Traditional Culture; in the evening, The Sword of Brachyslav delighted visitors, as knights battled on Zamkovaya Hill, reviving the chivalry of past centuries. The holiday finished with a colourful firework display.

The event ended with a theatrical parade from the town square to Lesnichevka woodland park, and a splendid gala-concert, alongside a contest of crafts and an open air party.