

14th February, 2017

Dear RTG Members,

I hope you are well. I'm writing with a heavy heart to give you a quick update that I (Joe Burrows) am stepping down from the position of Chair of the RTG. A few recent, rapid and unexpected changes in my personal circumstances have necessitated that I focus my attention elsewhere. In the interim between now and the appointment of the next Chair, the Committee and the Conference will be led by the exceptionally inspirational and enthusiastic Katya Solovyova; I'm sure you will join me in wishing her the utmost success in doing so.

Apologies that this news comes in the form of an email; I would have loved to have communicated this to you in person, but I am afraid I won't be able to attend the Conference this year and thought it best you found out asap (we'll be sending out an email with an updated Conference schedule later today). I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee and to you as a member, for your years of support, contributions and energy while I have chaired this group; I have thoroughly loved every second of it and again reiterate my thanks that I've had such a motivated and passionate team of Russian pedagogues along side me. I will continue to contribute to the Committee and will be attending events in the years to come; I look forward to our next meeting and our continued collaboration in the promotion of Russian in the UK.

Wishing you all the very best, and thank you for the years of support; yours faithfully,

Joe Burrows