

## Stars and vintage cars make Eastern Europe event a big success

THE Iron Curtain descended on one Newcastle venue last weekend for a celebration of all things Eastern European.

Stars from the recently released film '*Mrs Ratcliffe's Revolution*' joined organizers MADE IN USSR - a not for



profit

organization, which aims to promote Russia and Eastern Europe as important centres of business and culture – and guests, at the Star and Shadow cinema in Battlefield, Newcastle for the three-day celebrations.

The rare Soviet Moskvich vintage car from the film, which in the true-life story, the Ratcliffe family drove from Bingley in Yorkshire when defecting to their new home in Berlin, East Germany, was a guest of honour alongside other motorized relics from the Soviet era such as the legendary 'Ushastik' - a big-eared Zaporozhets ZAZ 968, and a Trabant or 'trabi' car, which has in recent years developed an intriguing cult status.

Young stars Brittany Ashworth (Alex Ratcliffe) and Jessica Barden (Mary Ratcliffe), who now plays Kayleigh Morton in *Coronation Street*, talked about their roles in the film, which also starred Catherine Tate in the lead as Mrs Ratcliffe.

The event, which was sponsored by Northern Film and Media, The Northumbria English School, Jump2Russia and DTF Couriers, also featured traditional and modern Russian and Eastern European music, a Russian dance troupe, the film screening as well as traditional food and drink.

Christine Goodwin, of the Northumbria School of English, explained: "The event was both extremely useful and very important as it served to unite the people of Eastern Europe and the North East.

“Local people had the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into a fascinating culture and language, make new connections, and enjoy wonderful entertainment at the same time. We were delighted to sponsor this very well-attended event, supporting diversity and promoting cultural links.”

For more information on MADE IN USSR, visit their web site at [www.madeinussr.org.uk](http://www.madeinussr.org.uk).

For more information on the film ‘Mrs Ratcliffe’s Revolution’, visit [www.mrsratcliffesrevolutionmovie.co.uk](http://www.mrsratcliffesrevolutionmovie.co.uk).