

ECOLOGIA YOUTH TRUST NEWS

AUTUMN 2006

NEW IMAGE, NEW NAME, NEW LOGO

After we re-registered Ecologia Trust as a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status we decided to change our name and logo to reflect the true spirit of our work protecting children and protecting nature. Our new logo aims to capture the joy and vitality of youth, leaping to the stars to reach their dreams within a vital, green world. We hope you like it.

New website: we are thrilled with our new website designed by Marijke Wilhelmus—do have a look at www.ecologia.org.uk. A new brochure will appear soon.

New volunteering opportunity: Las Cañadas ecovillage in Mexico hosted a Youth Conference in July to which we were invited. A group of energetic young people gathered to form NextGEN, a networking organisation to support and inspire the next generation to create the kind of world they wish to live in—clean water, clean air, clean food, clean lifestyle. Las Cañadas embodies all these values, with organic bio-intensive gardening, home grown food, solar showers, composting toilets and reforestation of the ancient cloud forest. The founder, Ricardo Romero welcomed our idea to expand Ecologia's volunteering opportunity to young people seeking hands-on experience in permaculture and an integrated ecological lifestyle. As with Kitezh, Las Cañadas is another inspiring example of a place where people are putting their dreams and aspirations into practice to create a better world.

New developments at Kitezh: Orion is growing apace. A small dedicated team of resident members with five children is supported by the larger family at Kitezh. A steady stream of adults and children travel from Kitezh to Orion to help with the building and to take part in the Kitezh style of special intensive education: children from one class spend a week at Orion 'plunging' into history, art, English or Russian. The round school building now has a second circular dining hall attached to it and next year they hope to build a third one to provide a sports facility with a swimming pool.

New children: each year Kitezh hosts summer camps for children from local orphanages. This year over 60 children

took part, and of those five new children have joined families at Kitezh and Orion. So we are looking for new godparents for them too. Three young adults have joined the team of energetic parents and teachers Kitezh this year.

New Honours: That Kitezh-Orion is succeeding in significantly raising the profile of their model and winning many new admirers is reflected in the three prestigious awards won by Kitezh community members over the last 18 months. Last year founder Dmitry Morozov won the Order of Honour awarded by the Russian President. This year, Tamara Pichugina was presented with a 'Super Mum' medal for her exceptional work as foster mother to eight orphan children and Sergey Khlopenov received an Order of Merit from the Kaluga Region in recognition of his work as Head of Kitezh Community. In addition, Kitezh School received a prize as among the best schools in Kaluga Region in the category 'School of Social Partnership' for its work with children with special needs.



Las Cañadas volunteers



Kitezh volunteers

New Moscow Representative: We say goodbye to Esther Daniels with gratitude for all she has done to raise the profile of Kitezh in Moscow, her fundraising efforts and her excellent support for our volunteers. We wish her well in her new job in Moscow and are delighted that she will continue to be involved with Kitezh. We welcome Francesca Hewitt, a former volunteer who recently graduated from Oxford University. We are fortunate to have such a high calibre of young people supporting us and our work.

Your contributions and continuing support towards the development of Kitezh and Orion are as always welcomed and appreciated. It is satisfying to know that the success of Kitezh is largely thanks to all of you, donors and volunteers, who have supported it from its modest beginnings. Your contribution cannot be over estimated. Without you, none of this could have happened. Thank you.

Liza Hollingshead

A note from Kitezh, 31 July 2006:

It's pissing down here; I could have stayed at home and enjoyed summer in Scotland. Oh well, I'd have missed the Summer Camp at Kitezh. For two weeks everyone (almost everyone) plays a wild game of blood and guts, battles in the forest at night, assassination and Star Wars (Civil War re-enactors eat your hearts out!) There are daily Galactic news bulletins and shock-horror announcements at breakfast, fighting breaks out in parliament (just like the real thing, but more real.).

But off the battlefield I'm trying to make windows for an extension. There is a super new combination machine (from Belarus) in the workshop; BUT almost every other usual power tool is missing. There is only one power socket! The tools consist of one old jigsaw; one per drill, one small sander, a broken planer and a masonry drill. The workbench came from Uncle Vanya's garden shed. They have one tape measure, four chisels, no claw hammer, no router, not one cordless drill and not a single hand plane; not even a grinder. It's ridiculous. There are tools available in the shops and prices are not unreasonable; and there are two good craftsmen here, willing and frustrated by the lack of tools. It would make life so much easier if we had just the basic power and hand tools. Please help to tool this place!

I'm off to paddle in the rain and remind myself how to make windows.

Communicating with 'the world' from this island in the Russian forest is a game of roulette. I try the IT, and send my signal down the wire; it skips from pole to pole for hundreds of kilowattz, swinging round the white ceramic insulators to...and I wait for the return byte(s) to be collected by the dish on the wall. Sometimes it works. If you are reading this, then it did! Sometimes text works and even the phone, for incoming calls.



Andrew Aikman in the workshop at

all who have donated to the 'Power to Kitezh and 'Power to Orion' funds.

All your donations are put to good use. When I return next summer I will have photos of the product of your help; please keep it coming.

Now I'm off to smell the damp mushrooms in the forest; chanterelles (they call them 'little foxes')

Spakoiny noch

Andrew Aikman

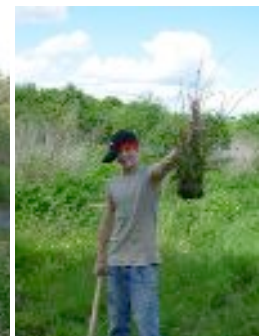
Reedbed Project is Successfully Completed



The children participated in the water testing with great interest.



The wetlands at Kitezh and Orion are now operational. The plants are growing and the water flowing out of the reed-filled ponds is clean enough to water the fruit trees.



The right plants were chosen and planted with the help of every adult and child who was available.

Godparent Visit to Russia – Cuno & Vasya

My name is Cuno Becking and I live in Amsterdam. I am a professional artist and have been working in France and Italy where I have lived with my wife Seraphina and my son Raphael. I have known Vasya for six and a half years. Liza introduced me to the idea of being a godparent when I lived at Newbold House in Scotland. I thought it was a great idea to become a godfather to a Russian child at Kitez. I wrote many mails and letters and sent some *presents*.

When I was ten years old Liza brought me a card from this man Cuno. With the card there was a photo of Amsterdam and on the back a note from him. He sent photos of his wife and his son and the place where he lived. He sent me a box of sweets and a small radio. I still have it. He was very excited when he saw that I saved all his presents. He had tears in his eyes!

When I met Vasya last winter I felt I did the right thing. I only went for one week because I did not want to impose myself too much. Our contact was good from the beginning and I feel a lot of love for him. I hope that my son Raphael can meet him and that they can become brothers (sort of) when Raphael is older (he is 8 now). Vasya is a great host and a very sensitive boy.

It was at night and I was asleep. Irina came and woke me up to tell me my godparent had arrived. I jumped up and got dressed and went into the kitchen. I recognised him from photos and gave him a big hug. It was like a dream. His face was very kind. Next day I showed him Kitez instead of lessons, and told him all about my life, and he told news me about his life

We walked around Kitez and I explained how I had changed all my realisations. He was so interested in me. It was a surprise to me. He has everything— he has a house, a good job, he is doing everything he wants, so I wondered why he was so interested in this boy living in Russia? It was a big surprise for me.

In Kitez I followed the kids' daily rhythm – exercises in the morning and lessons; I was very impressed with Vasya's knowledge of PCs .

I saw a play by the children of Jeanne d'Arcfantastic! Very well done! Vasya played guitar for me and sang a song

in my log house while there was a beautiful carpet of snow outside. I made a small movie of it.

I came with a lot of luggage and left with one small bag and a lot of beautiful memories. Thank God I became a godparent of a child of God in Russia. I consider myself a lucky man to have, finally after 6 years, met Vasya.

After his visit my view of the world changed. Before that, I thought that everyone thinks only about himself and his family but Cuno thought about me. I started to try to be like him. I saw that he was an example of how not to be selfish. It taught me how to love. Dima said it was the first person who woke up love in my soul because it was really strong. It changed my view as now I know I can help others without only getting something for myself. After this I just gave *Kiyanis* (Kitez currency) to someone in Kitez and didn't expect it back; I made a bicycle for my brother just for fun, I gave my bicycle to children to ride. Maybe I did this before, but now I can do this with feeling. And I have some joy in giving. It is much more important that my god parent came to visit me than all the presents he could send me because his visit was a biggest present. Presents cannot teach me something. I could speak with Cuno but I can't speak with a bicycle!



Vasya Burdin & Cuno Becking at Kitez

ROSIE RUNS CHICAGO MARATHON

At the last report Rosie is about 50 miles from Edmonton, Canada and making approximately 17 miles a day.

Although she is tired she has been trying to make as good time as possible in order to make it to the Chicago Marathon on 22nd October. Has anyone run so hard and fast and under such circumstances just so that they can run some more in a marathon! But she wants to do it to give an additional boost to raise funds for The Prostate Cancer



Society and the Kitez Community. She also welcomes any donations towards her own fighting fund to keep her on the road.

By the time you read this she will have run the marathon and returned to her route heading eastward across Canada and towards Greenland and then home. As she faces a third hard winter on the road, please remember her and give to Kitez on her behalf.

Kitezh in Spring: 10-day tour to Russia

29 April - 9 May, 2007

Once again we are offering our ever-popular tour to Russia, including three days in Moscow and a week in Kitezh. This tour is designed for who would like to travel in a group and are only able to visit Kitezh for a short time. Join us for this heart-opening adventure. An ideal opportunity for godparents to meet their godchildren.

Ingrid Börger, a school teacher from Berlin came in Spring 2006:

“I spent two weeks at Kitezh, which I found very good to get a taste of Kitezh and it gave me the desire to spend more time there. It was an excellent experience, because it was fun and at the same time it has made me think about what is important in life. I was thrilled that all the things I had to offer (card making, juggling,



Indian head massage, English and German teaching) were so enthusiastically welcomed. I was amazed by the children’s (and adults’) eagerness to try new things, their joy and their gratitude. For many years I wouldn’t go to Russia because I had heard about so many negative dangers. My stay in Kitezh and Moscow has rekindled my interest in Russia, the language, the people and literature. And the wish to visit Kitezh in the future has given me a reason to brush up my Russian.”

Ingrid brought the materials for the lovely new greeting cards you can see below. Children and adults loved making them so much, Ingrid sent over another big box of materials to make lots more cards to sell in aid of the children in Kitezh.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

For £10 (or more) you can send one as a gift to your friends and family and they will know they have sponsored a child in Kitezh. Each gift card has a photo and description of an individual child and picturesque rural Kitezh on the back.



By receiving this card you have sponsored a child in Kitezh Children’s Community in Russia. Thank you.

Wishing you
a very Happy Christmas
and
a Joyful New Year
from

Marina Sinko (19.12.95) is one of seven orphan children from one family who all are fostered in Kitezh. Marina is always smiling! She is always ready for a cuddle and she likes to have pretty things in her hair.

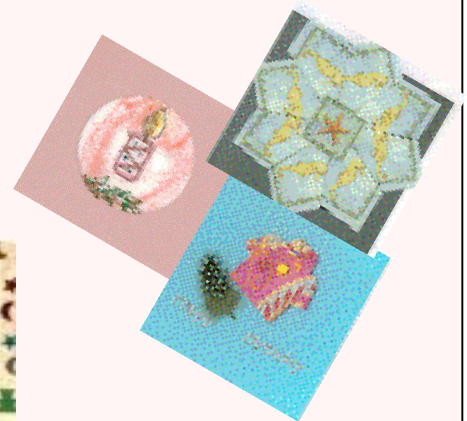
Greeting Cards for all occasions

Handmade by the children of Kitezh

Pack of five £5



Each pack as individual
as the child who made



Price per card £1.50

You can make a secure credit card donation to Ecologia Youth Trust through our website. Look for this logo.



Ecologia Youth Trust
The Park, Forres IV36 3TD
Scotland
Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1309 690995
email: all@ecologia.org.uk
www.ecologia.org.uk