

A New Education Centre for Kitezh

After a delightfully full month of planning and envisioning at Kitezh and Orion in the autumn, I returned to Scotland filled with enthusiasm and inspiration to support the plans and ideas that are bubbling and brewing there. This dedicated group of people continue to grow their vision for the future for themselves, their children and their communities.

Ideas for new projects abound. The most exciting is our decision to build the Kitezh Community Education Centre, the cultural-educational centre for the community. It will consist of a two-storey building, in which there will be classrooms, an office, rooms for art and play therapy, an art studio, a library, a hall for dance and sport, and a small auditorium for meetings, concerts, film shows and theatrical productions.

The Education Centre will replace the existing old and far too small school house which has only one classroom, a library that doubles as a classroom, and a general meeting place. It will allow teaching to take place in a school rather than as an extension of home. Most lessons currently take place in people's homes and kitchens. The wonderfully creative drama productions that are an intrinsic part of the therapeutic process are performed in the communal dining room. The Education Centre will accommodate all classes in one complex rather than having the children wandering round the village from house to house, taking time which at present is more than a whole lesson.

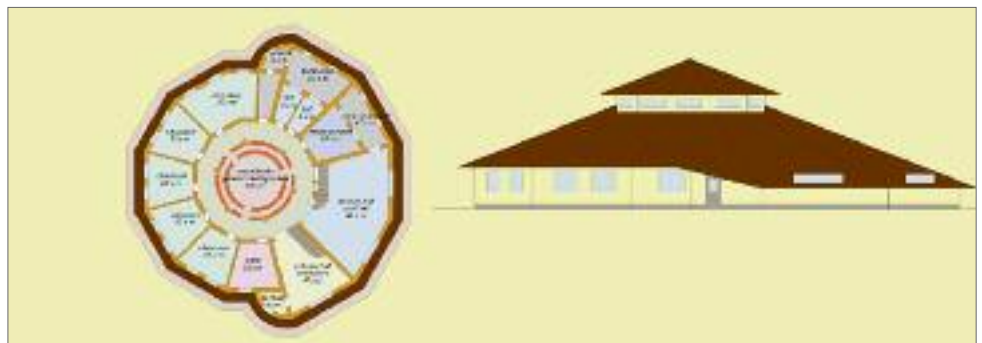
The Education Centre will provide a proper indoor gym and a theatre with dressing rooms, lighting and sound systems. At last there will be a dedicated, well equipped science room, an English classroom and enough space for up to a hundred children to attend the school. Recently, Kitezh School was officially designated as an experimental school which allows more freedom for creativity. Increasingly, Kitezh is receiving requests from parents seeking progressive education for their children and the new building will allow the school to expand the number of children it can accommodate.

The unusual shape of the building—its colour, its inner and outer decor and the use of natural materials in its construction will be employed in order to continue the founding idea of

Kitezh—to be a therapeutic and educational environment for orphans and children who have experienced traumatic situations.

The construction of the centre will fully enable Kitezh to hold seminars, provide family therapy training programmes, increase the quality of therapeutic educational work, attract new foster families and increase the number of children living in Kitezh.

The total area of the building is 650 square metres. The ground floor will be 500 square metres, with a second story of 150 square metres and a roof light. We plan to start the project in 2011 to be carried out in three phases over the next three years.



Stage 1: January 2011 – June 2011. Creating the design and architectural drawings. Roma Simukov from Kitezh will attend the Ecovillage Training at Findhorn to gain experience and ideas about ecological building and design. Architect Graham Brown from Findhorn has offered his services to design a circular roof without a central stave.

Stage 2: June 2011 – November 2012. Lay the foundations and build the outer structure.

Stage 3: November 2012 – August 2013. Complete the internal building work, staircase, and decoration.

This ambitious project will cost in the region of £400,000. We already have a seed fund of £30,000 to start it off. We will be seeking funds from many sources in Russia and abroad, and we encourage you to contribute in any way you can to this exciting and inspiring new dimension for Kitezh.

Liza Hollingshead

Kitezh Children's Community Network in Russia is an innovative approach to the therapeutic care of orphans. Foster families in Kitezh and Orion villages take children out of orphanages and raise and educate them together in a supportive rural community environment. Ecologia Youth Trust has supported the development of Kitezh since it began in 1992, providing professional training, raising funds to build the villages and running a programme for international volunteers of all ages to teach English and take part in every day life in the communities.

I'm Building My World: therapeutic process at Kitezh

The Game called 'I'm Building my World' is the backbone of the therapeutic method unique to Kitezh that has been developed over many years. Children whose view of the world is that they are powerless victims, learn that *they* can change their world, *they* can create the world that they want. Thus they learn to be responsible adults who are in charge of their own lives.

All children when they come to Kitezh are invited to join the Game. Regardless of age, everyone starts at the beginning as 'Pups'. At this level there are three steps to be accomplished: to know the rules of the community (a guide to personal conduct), to demonstrate the will to study, and to show a degree of responsible personal independence. The exact form and recognition of these steps is tailored individually to each child. Each child chooses a Mentor and every week they meet in small groups with their mentors and discuss their progress. The child decides which step to work on and with the guidance of the mentor chooses a goal to achieve. It might be to turn up on time to every lesson with the right equipment and homework done or to brush their teeth without needing a reminder, or simply to remember to say 'thank you' after a meal. It is in the small groups and around supper tables at home that the real therapy takes place and allows the structure of the Game to become real. By giving the children responsibility in the kitchen, garden and animal care the therapeutic living and learning environment becomes alive and constructive. In this continuous step by step manner, the attitudes learned in the orphanage are gradually eradicated.

Every week at the Sunday community meeting each child's achievement is acknowledged and they are applauded for their success. The Game has a certain quality of magic about it. When a child has accomplished all the steps as a Pup, there is a wonderful ceremony designed individually for each child and a loving welcome by the whole community as a 'Student'.

Students, while still working with the guidance of their Mentors, now take responsibility for themselves. Their aims are higher and more demanding than Pups. They work with trust and honesty, will and openness, good manners, harmony, beauty and finally, patience.

Sometimes the children go through a prolonged phase of falling short of the standard they have already achieved and may 'fall back' to the Pups level and have to work their way up again to become Students once more.

Once they have achieved all the steps of the Student level, they go through another beautiful and dramatic ceremony and graduate to the Mentor level. Then they may create their own crest above the door of their house, a visible symbol of significant achievement. It is the hope and intention of the Game designers that the senior children will achieve this level in the last year or two before they graduate from Kitezh. Mentors have responsibilities for younger children and are regarded as more equal to adults.

Art therapy is also integral to the therapeutic work. Yasin Omar who trained with Scottish art therapist, Beverly A'Court, describes his work:

Our approach to art therapy fits well with the Game. It develops the ability to set an aim and achieve it, get positive approval and feedback. This is very important. Approval helps develop

self-esteem. The children make something, and receive positive feedback. If they don't like what they have done, we ask 'how can you change it? Or can you accept it as it is?' We use a non-directive approach. Art therapy is like a mirror and we support the child to solve problems himself. Because we live with the children, we can see the changes that happen in their lives, not just in the art room is learning to become more contained and her drawings reflect this as well as her behaviour at school and at home. Another child who is obsessed with getting everything perfectly right learns to make mistakes and to be happy with less rigid order. The children receive special attention through their art therapy sessions, with a person who is not a teacher nor a parent, but someone who is a supporter, a listener and an observer.

In play therapy the non-directive approach also gives the child the opportunity to play out his inner conflicts, his childhood experiences, his aggression and his sadness. In a safe, supportive environment he is free to express himself as he chooses, as long as he doesn't harm himself or another person. After a series of sessions in art or play therapy, the therapists write up their con-



Yasin & Vadim

clusions and share them with the Pedagogical Council so that all adults can support and understand the child's development. This integrated approach is central to the care of children in Kitezh.

In his report to Kitezh after his last consultancy visit in May 2010, therapeutic consultant, David Dean commented,

Therapeutic living and education at Kitezh has been developed with similar attention to the emotional, social, educational, physical and spiritual needs of children found in the Planned Environment Therapy movement in other countries. The result is a whole dynamic living experience which impacts positively on the individual and the group.

I found an invigorated and purposeful community. Children were engaged and engaging. Adults were focussed, enquiring and thoughtful about their work. They were also encouragingly ambitious for their young people and celebrating of their successes. Here is a remarkably committed and talented adult group each with great strengths to offer in many diverse ways but principally as foster parents and teachers. The lengths they go to equip themselves mentally, emotionally, spiritually and intellectually for the task of living together and acting in the best professional interests of the children is considerable.

Kitezh & Orion News

Family Home Built in Memory of Teresa O'Neill

In 1999 Dr Teresa O'Neill, British social work academic, researcher and teacher, and passionate advocate for social justice was one of the first professionals to visit Kitezh, invited by her close friend and colleague, Madge Bray. Her gentle manner and clear sight gave the inexperienced foster parents much support in their effort to create a therapeutic community for children. We were all very sad to hear of her death three years ago, and gratified that her family decided to contribute substantially towards building a family house at Orion in her memory. The house is now complete and, appropriately, includes a special room for play therapy. It is a new home for Arina Tkachenko and her family. Arina, a psychologist from Voronesh, came to Orion a year ago, where she discovered her place in the world. This year her childhood sweetheart, Alexei,

came to join her. They have two foster children, Danila (4) and Valeria (13) and also offer a home to Anton (12) from Smolensk who is taking part in the special education programme offered at Orion. Arina runs the kindergarten for the youngest children, and Alexei, formerly a tractor salesman, says he has learned more skills in the past four months than he did in his whole life and he is happy about that. The children are also happy to have loving parents and a beautiful home to live in.



Update on Orion Security

At the end of August we experienced two nights of terror at Orion. Some strangers came at night, and shot down three goats of our small herd. It was the first time we had such intrusion from outside, and of course we were extremely worried and concerned about the security of our children.

Orion is a big open space, and we didn't want to enclose it with any kind of fence. Openness to the world is one of the main therapeutic principles in child care here. But this terrible incident showed us that we must somehow make people know that Orion is a special place for children and they are not allowed to come in without permission and kill the animals! So



to protect ourselves and our children the only choice was to put fencing around it. We asked our friends and supporters in Russia and abroad to help us raise funds and to our

great joy we had an immediate response. Thanks to their generous donations we've managed to buy all the necessary materials and start the installation of the fence.

Our thanks to all who contributed to an urgent need, especially Premium Engineering LLC, the exclusive Russian partner of Red Mountain Energy Corporation who contributed last year to the installation of gas boilers at Kitezh. They donated \$15,000 as well as their hands, time and energy.

On 16th October we held Volunteers Day at Orion for thirty-two volunteers from Premium Engineering. The group was energetic, positive and hardworking. We managed to do a lot together. They also talked with the children about work, responsibilities, difficulties in gaining targets and meeting deadlines, who showed great interest in these questions. They plan to return at the end of October to finish the job. The fencing and the gate will be in place before the end of November. A wonderful conclusion to a stressful situation. The fence will give the families and children a much needed sense of security.

Katya Gurkhina, Kitezh Centre, Moscow

The Dragon Never Sleeps!

Now, after the scorching summer, is the season of mellow fruitfulness. The wild plumb trees droop with purple fruit. Ripe apples litter the village streets. But the crop of klookva (cranberries) is wretched. The bog where they grow is only slightly damp. As I flew into Moscow, I looked for the signs of fire and saw none. It's true that there was a great deal of destruction in Voronesh and other regions south and east of Moscow but the grass and field fires around the more northern cities have all gone. The rain of the past weeks has healed much of the scorched earth. It can't replace the burned crops and forest but everywhere is greening up again.

In August there were about fifty children here in the scorching heat and then the rain, participating for three weeks in a Lord of the Rings style role game called Dragon Age, full of drama and action. It has taken the Master-of-games a year to prepare for this, manufacturing wooden swords and shields, battle axes, armour, money and many other artifacts. The children were taught how to fight and how to score the fight. Then the world changed, with tribes of elves dancing in the forest, magicians learning the arts of healing at the magic tower

(where we store water), the kings and queens, and the princess celebrating in the Hall of Kings, and the dwarfs searching in the wilderness. For three weeks the forest rang with the drama of battles and treaties and camps and the roaring dragon. (It's amazing what you can do with flexible plastic pipes and plenty of ingenuity.) A wonderful time was had and many of the participants from Moscow will return next summer. Thus Kitezh plays and earns an income through our knowledge of children.

Who needs computer games—go for the real thing!



Andrew Aikman

From Scotland to Georgia—with Love

At 4:00 am on 4th October 2010, five excited and sleepy Pupils from Thornlie Primary School in Lanarkshire gathered at the school gates, said goodbye to their families in the lamp-lit dark and set off on a remarkable journey.

Some had never been to an airport before and none had ever travelled so far—and they were going to the Republic of Georgia for the latest chapter of their multi-dimensional whole-school project.

Last spring the school received an invitation from Professor Manana Doijashvili, rector of Tbilisi State Conservatoire:

It is known that your pupils have been actively engaged in project work in Georgia and that your pupils have been very busy working on behalf of a small disabled Georgian boy who is in need of surgery. As part of their efforts, we know that they have been learning our traditional Georgian polyphony and performing in Scotland in order to raise funds. We would very much like to invite your children to bring their music, and to join us at our forthcoming Symposium on Traditional Polyphony. We will be delighted to welcome them as guests, and in fact, they will be the first children from outside the country to perform for us here in Georgia.

While focused on performing, the nine-year-old children also had another thought: to go the Temi community in the foothills of the Caucasus, and to see their friend Datuna and the other residents there. With this in mind they had jammed their suitcases full of family donations as well as essential band-aids and wound-dressings, to donate alongside money raised by their classes.



hat buying expedition with Nana

five would have to stand up and be brave on their own, and in the best Georgian polyphonic tradition—‘listen with the heart as well as the ear, hold your own part strong, and work in harmony with others’.

And sing they did—mostly unprompted—to appreciative passers-by at Heathrow airport, to an ovation from the rest of the aeroplane at Baku Airport, on the bus, to a street-gathering of old Armenian men at Ortachala, in the backstreet Tbilisi Bakery, and to a tearful family gathering at Zaza and Nana’s

house, as well as alongside Georgian youth choirs, on State TV, and for Patriarch Ilia 2nd, Georgia’s spiritual leader for the last thirty years. Not to mention warm, loving and rapturous receptions for their two performances at the Symposium.

And on the final day their bus bumped and wound its way across East Georgia, to the Temi Community in Gremi, where the five singers donated their gifts, comforted abandoned puppies, ran around the muddy grass, cuddled wee old ladies, played with Datuna, and clapped along to the residents’ impromptu dance demonstration. The pupils sang and were sung to, and a toast was made to all travellers.

A destination is rarely a journey’s end; one way or another it’s always a stopping-off point, a part of a longer journey. What really matters therefore is how you travel, which should be with some spirit and courage and good intention. In those five magical days, the five singers generated good feeling all around; no whining, no bickering, just sowing seeds wherever they went, in themselves and others, with lots of openness and laughter and good grace.

I texted parents on the way home: *Children have been totally great—generous, friendly, brave, kind, polite and brilliant. An absolute credit to their school and their country, to their families and to themselves.*

Perhaps you can join me in an extension of that final toast: to Zoe, Amy, Nicole, Rebecca and Lucy, to all their fellow travelers, and to all good journeys of the past present and future. Mravalzhamier!

David Hughes,
Head Teacher, Thornlie Primary School

Thornlie is a small school serving one of the poorer parts of Wishaw in North Lanarkshire. Seven years ago, it had the highest suspension rate per child in Scotland and its level of attainment was noted as one of Scotland’s worst. Since then it has worked hard, focusing on meaningful whole school projects in order to try and make differences to its immediate and wider environment, and in so doing, to its own community members. Engaging with the Datuna Project has been an essential part of this process of transformation.



Datuna

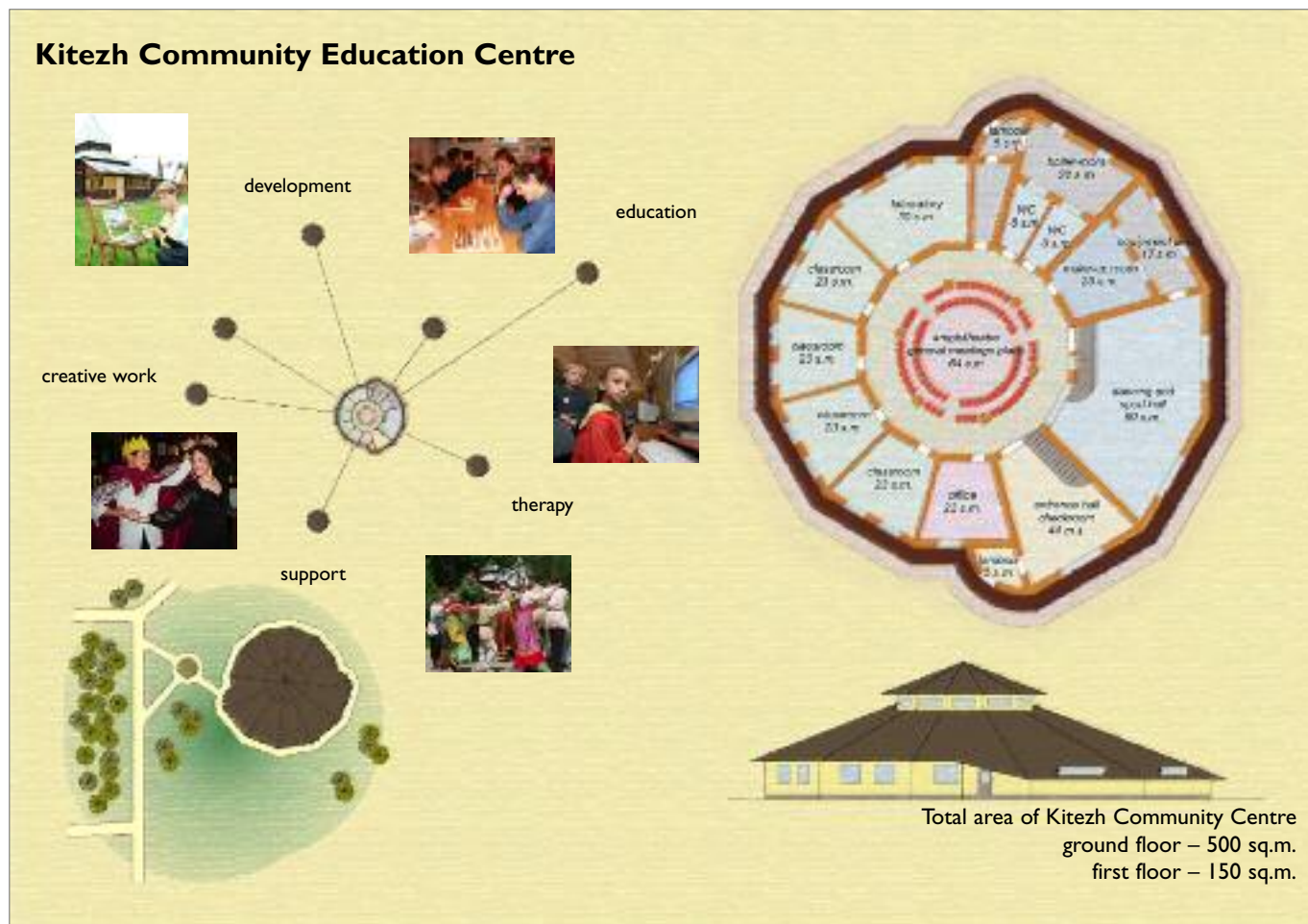
Datuna’s Medical Fund

The life saving operation for Datuna is scheduled for May 2011. We have £12,000 set aside and it will cost a further £20,000 even though the staff of Edinburgh Sick Children’s Hospital will donate their time for free. Thornlie School will be hosting and performing at a Fundraiser at St Cuthbert’s Church in Edinburgh on 23rd November, featuring the masterly Georgian Choir Shav nabada. £10 tickets available from ht@thornlie.n-lanark.sch.uk or 01698-352539. Your donations to boost their efforts will be exceptionally welcome.

Upcoming Projects

Kitezh Community Education Centre

The Education Centre will provide an indoor gym, a theatre with dressing rooms, lighting and sound systems. There will be a dedicated well-equipped science room, an English classroom and enough space for up to a hundred children to attend the school. The centre will fully enable Kitezh to hold seminars, provide family therapy training programmes for parents and children, increase the quality of therapeutic educational work, attract new foster families and increase the number of children living in Kitezh. Cost: approximately £400,000 over three years.



Babushka Tamara's house: To celebrate the 60th birthday of Tamara Pichugina, foster mother extraordinaire and acknowledge her contribution to Kitezh, a small house will be built with space for her many children to visit her. Building is planned for 2012. Cost £20,000.

Two-Family House at Orion: To keep pace with the increasing number of foster families wishing to join Orion, they are building one more house for two families this year. The logs are there, and, funds permitting, the house will be completed in 2011. Cost £30,000.

For the school:

Science laboratory equipment	£3,000
Interactive Projector	£1,000

Bakery & cheese making equipment: A special dairy and bakery will be built onto the existing communal kitchen at Kitezh. In the meantime, a large oven and food mixer is needed. Cost £2,000

Respite Holidays for children: To send forty children on a summer holiday by the seaside. Cost £3,000.

Winter food storage: A root cellar to store vegetables over the winter. Because of the low water table they need information on how to build this to keep the temperature right.

Travel abroad, training and youth exchanges:

The 2009 Youth Exchange between Kitezh and Scotland raised the awareness of the value of travelling abroad to broaden the minds of both adults and children at Kitezh. We are planning:

A school exchange to offer foreign teenagers the opportunity to take part in the Summer Camp Role Game or make a historical journey to the Golden Ring and in exchange host the young Kitezhans in their own country. We are keen to find a school that is interested in developing a new exchange programme.

Roman Simukov will participate in the Ecovillage Training at Findhorn in February 2011. Cost £1,500

Volunteering Abroad: Sergey Shibaev seeks a three-month work exchange position abroad. He can contribute his IT, building and farming skills and will be a wonderful guest. £500 for travel costs.

Ecologia Youth Trust Annual Report – 2010

This was a busy year at Ecologia Youth Trust with three flourishing projects on the go. With an active team in our office in Scotland and enthusiastic project champions in the field we accomplished a great deal. At our Annual General Meeting, our trustees and staff enjoyed fascinating presentations by key members of each project.

Thailand: Project manager, Ame Janchum visited us for the first time and gave a moving account of her personal experiences supporting the migrant workers and their families living in the Pang Nga and Ranong provinces of southern Thailand. Not only is the project making an impact in human rights on local and national levels but also on a personal level. Ame described how she is sometimes called out at night to support unfairly arrested migrants and stands up to the authorities concerned with her small son on her hip, determined to reach a fair outcome. Invariably she succeeds. Ame and Jane Rasbash were invited to give a paper at the Human Rights and the Environment Symposium at the University of the West of England, Bristol which was very well received. The success of this project goes way beyond the goals set out in our grant application due to the dedication of our partners, Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation. The Big Lottery funded project comes to a close in January 2011. During Ame's visit we worked hard to prepare a new funding proposal to DFID, the UK Development Agency to take the project to the next level. The result will be announced early next year.

Georgia: Madge Bray described her personal drive to support the severely injured Georgian boy, Datuna, who, after two visits to Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital is finally due to have a life-saving operation next year. Madge is passionate about the healing power of Georgian song and with Datuna introduced it to Thornlie School in Lanarkshire. The impact on the Scottish children of one small boy, so optimistic and engaged with life in spite of terrible disabilities, has been immense. The children have taken to singing Georgian music like ducks to water and raised the money to pay for a wheelchair access ramp for Datuna at Temi. One boy from a very poor home commented that he feels rich now, and very fortunate in comparison with Datuna.

Kitezh-Orion: David Dean, back from his annual consultancy visit to Kitezh and Orion gave a positive review of the changes he has seen there since his previous visit. It is remarkable how much has been achieved in both communities in this past year.

Perhaps the greatest achievement at Kitezh on a physical level was the installation of gas boilers in every house thanks to the generosity of our donors, Red Mountain Energy Corporation and others, and the local authority. Instant hot

water and heating without carrying coal and shovelling ash has freed the members to concentrate on their real mission—their work with children.

There are six new foster children in Kitezh, four of whom are energetic pre-schoolers calling for the reestablishment of Tamara Pichugina's Kindergarten which has its own beautifully equipped house. Orion completed one more family house and four new children are settling in to their new homes. They are all eagerly awaiting Godparents through Ecologia's Adopt a Godchild programme.

Our student group has grown as four young people left Kitezh to study in Moscow and Kaluga. We are grateful to Baker Botts Moscow for their continued support for the students' higher education. Vasily Burdin enjoys his work experience with Baker Botts as he prepares for a legal career and Valentina Kanukhina is in her final year at university preparing for a career in journalism and interpreting.

Both communities are moving forward with food production in their determination to become more self-reliant. The farm at Kitezh with goats, calves, chickens and turkeys is in the good care of a new family, Irina and Roma and their two-year old daughter, Grata. They provide wonderful fresh goat's milk and cheese. At Orion, the goats and chickens provide milk and eggs and next year they will expand the goat herd and introduce sheep.

Volunteers have become an essential part of community life and the excellence of the children's English is testament to their contribution under the tutelage of Andrew Aikman, who is now officially a member of staff in Kitezh School. This will be his fifth year there and we hope he will be there forever! We continue to review the Volunteers Programme to make it enjoyable and valuable to volunteers and community alike. The Russian Language Course is growing in quality and more students are becoming interested in improving their language skills.

The recession, however, has taken its toll on us as with many small charities across the country. Core funding for Ecologia's office and staff is an ongoing challenge. When faced with the choice to expand or contract, we unanimously agreed that expansion is the only way forward. So in the coming year we are committed to investing in our future with a new, more visible website, increase the number of volunteers and to succeed with the new projects described overleaf. We appreciate our supporters very much, and hope we can count on your continued backing to achieve these ambitious goals.

Liza Hollingshead



Peace-Building in Southern Thailand

Beaten, burned, drowned, suffocated, sexually abused, trafficked, ripped-off, and always, eventually, rounded-up and pushed out—violence against migrants from Burma—makes the headlines daily in the Thai media. But when the storyline turns to those responsible, a curtain of silence descends over the issue of those who perpetrate these abuses.

(Human Rights Watch Report)

The tsunami area of Thailand has many migrant workers from Burma working in dirty, difficult and dangerous jobs that Thai people do not want. Conflict, misunderstanding and abuse by the host population and authorities is common. Brought up to distrust each other, there is two-way discrimination often leading to fights, maltreatment and worse. In the last newsletter we highlighted the gritty reality and huge gaps between policy and practice of migrant workers gaining nationality verification and official documents. This challenging situation is ongoing and the vast majority of migrant workers are very vulnerable regarding their basic human rights.

The lack of opportunities for both Thai and migrant worker youth exacerbates this situation and there are often incidents of inter-ethnic conflict. Ecologia Youth Trust in partnership with Thai NGO Sathirakoses Nagapradipa Foundation (SNF) and the Right Livelihood Foundation are now in the third year of supporting youth in Southern Thailand. In this short time great headway has been made in peace building, community activities and innovative self-reliance.

The core activity is residential inter-ethnic youth camps for Thai and migrant worker youth of different religions and ethnicities. The youth camps are ground-breaking in building friendships and encouraging more tolerant attitudes and values in the young people. Many of them have maintained friendships they have formed there and have become involved in organising self-reliance and inter-ethnic activities in their communities in Phang Nga and Ranong. There are now sixty-seven active Thai and migrant worker youth and peace building activities, which include:

Peace Building Events

These include health and legal training, Buddhist activities and football matches. Earlier this year there was huge excitement as migrant workers performed in a Temple Fair. This was the first time they had been invited onto the stage at a community event and they used the opportunity to showcase their culture and dance in a positive light. This is empowering for the migrant workers who are generally unseen at community events and educational for the Thais who tend to have a negative view of the migrants.



Batik making: There are now weekly classes for both migrant workers and Thai children to make brightly coloured batiks. Batik was first introduced as an art therapy activity after the tsunami and now is a tool for peace building as children interact while they produce the vibrant designs. Some of the work is exhibited and sold at the Tsunami Museum, the batik instructor's house and other marketing outlets are being sought. *

Won Totri Group, Ranong:

SNF is working with twenty inter-ethnic youth between eleven and fifteen from Ranong. One fascinating project is a water bicycle made from solid waste, innovatively designed to manage and research conditions in the mangrove forests.



Youth Livelihood Projects

Through our Small Project Fund we support young people to attain sustainable livelihood. Learning together, taking risks together and sharing with other project groups, both Thai and migrant worker, is fundamental to this youth initiative.

Bamboo and coconut products: five young people received Project funds to make products from bamboo, coconut shells, and natural waste. They are refining product design and SNF is supporting and encouraging them to look for marketing channels.

Raising catfish and organic vegetables: Ban Khuekkhak, a group of migrant worker youth have received 21,930 baht for a project raising catfish and growing organic vegetables. While waiting for funding, Ecologia enabled them to buy fish species and fish food. They now have 5,000 catfish. Project partner Grassroots Human Rights and Education have donated land.

Tsunami Orphanage House Youth Group under Duang Prateep Foundation (Thai): Three participants received 22,500 baht (£470) for growing flowers to sell. Working with thirty of the orphans they have planted marigolds, crown flowers, and jasmine, commonly used in making the colourful garlands that are used in Buddhist ceremonies.

Our project will end in January 2011 and it is very encouraging that inter-racial cooperation and friendship is slowly increasing in the area. Many cross-cultural events and youth-led self-reliance will continue after this project ends, contributing towards harmonious and self-reliant communities. These small steps give hope of a more tolerant, peaceful and sustainable society in the longer term.

Jane Rasbach

* Ecologia Youth Trust has a selection of the batiks for sale at £20 each. All proceeds go to the youth project in Thailand.



Volunteers Reunion at Kitezh – June 2011

It is fifteen years since Juliet Allen, our first volunteer, went to Kitezh in 1995. Since then over 250 people from many countries have volunteered at Kitezh and more recently, at Orion. Each one is remembered and everyone at Kitezh and Orion wants to see you again.

We invite you to return to a wonderful re-union with the community and with as many as possible of the graduates of Kitezh who were here during your stay.

We are planning a great two-week programme starting with three days of celebration to coincide with Kitezh's birthday. Naturally there will be the banya, barbecue, theatrical productions, and lots more including explorations of the new directions and developments at Kitezh. We invite you to get involved—help us brainstorm a new volunteers programme, finish the small Guest House, revive the herb and vegetable gardens, and of course, take part in arts and crafts, music, sport and other activities with the children.

Hony Pern, a volunteer in 2008 says, *“Two years ago Tamara told me about her dream of seeing all the past volunteers reunited in Kitezh for a grand party, to rekindle and strengthen ties between the community and people all over the world. This will be an opportunity to see this dream come true, and I sincerely hope that many of us past volunteers will join in what promises to be a heart-warming experience!”*

We are planning special trips to Bezdon Lake, a forest hike, and a visit to Yasnaya Polyana. Extra days in Moscow also possible. There will be more on all this closer to the time.

We warmly encourage our former volunteers to organise



fundraising activities before or after the reunion to contribute towards building work planned for 2012 – it is Tamara's 60th birthday on 18th August 2011 and the Kitezhans intend to build a *Babushka Dom* for her. If everyone who has ever volunteered at Kitezh raised £100, the house would be paid for in no time! You can set up a fundraiser page on the Virgin Moneygiving website.

Dates: 15 – 29 June with the option to stay on for the summer. Or come for only a week if that is all you can manage.

Cost: £445 plus visa and airfare. Please let us know soon if you are interested. You will be very welcome.

Gifts from Kitezh – with each purchase you are helping the children

visit us at www.ecologia.org.uk

Kitezh: A Community Approach to Raising Children in Russia.



Dimitry Morozov's inspiring account of the birth and development of Kitezh Children's Community.

Traditional Handmade Rag Dolls & Domovoi House Spirits



The dolls are made without the use of needles or pins to signify perfect safety. height approx 6”
Domovoi house spirits bring good luck to your home. height approx 5”

Gift Certificate for all occasions. Send one as a gift to your friends & family & they will know you have sponsored a child in Kitezh. Each Gift Card has a photo and description of an individual child.



Just a Little Run Around the World



Rosie Swale Pope's amazing account of her incredible 20,000 mile journey.

Luxury Handmade Cards pack of 4



Handpainted Greeting Cards. Each one as individual as the child who made it. pack of 6



The Cristofori Foundation - Kitezh Benefit CD. Beethoven: Choral Fantasy; Brahms: Clarinet sonata 1 & 2; Schumann: Fantasiestücke. Recorded in Moscow

Read all about our work online and make a secure credit card donation today to help us help them.

