



# Ecologia News

SCOTTISH CHARITY SCO 23976

JULY 2004

## BREAKING NEWS.....

### KITEZH PREPARES TO BUILD A SECOND CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

**F**or years we have envisioned a network of Children's Villages all over Russia based on the Kitezh model. The time has now arrived. The next Kitezh village, Orion, is born. Only a year ago this was an inconceivable pipe dream.

Orion is the inspiration of the older children. These youngsters are now studying at university to prepare themselves to build a new sister Children's Community where they can use their experience of growing up in a loving, therapeutic environment to help other children. No one knows better than they what it means to be abandoned or orphaned and how to help other children recover their self esteem and make a life for themselves. One of them, Masha Pichugina, will become the head of the new community.

A prestigious visit to Kitezh last year by the Vice-Prime Minister for Social Work and the excellent relations between Kitezh and the Kaluga government made it possible to acquire a beautiful 20 hectares of land between Kitezh and Moscow.

The relationship between Kitezh and Orion will be very close. Dmitry Morozov has released his leadership of Kitezh to Sergey Khlopenov and the Council to concentrate on starting Orion. Each is a separate legal entity linked by a Council of Guardians to support and advise both communities. Each community will have its own income-generating activities, and they will share resources. Each community will offer different opportunities to the children and they will be at home in both, so there will be a steady flow of people between the two.

**O**rion is near the village Innina, in Zhukov District of Kaluga Region, 75 kilometres from Moscow. It is very close to gas and electricity and a good small road. The place is very beautiful. Beautiful natural surroundings help to heal a child's soul! Two hundred metres from our land is a river and a big thriving forest. The core of Orion will be a circle of six family houses, six small cottages for teachers and volunteers, a cultural centre with a small auditorium for performances, a school and sports centre with a swimming pool, essential for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of children. The circle will enable a developing environment for damaged children. Around the houses will be vegetable gardens and sports fields.

We expect this settlement to be a strong educational and cultural centre for Zhukov District. The proximity to Moscow has already created great optimism in the hearts of all the friends of Kitezh in Moscow. It will be ideal for running psychological trainings with participants and teachers from Moscow University, Institute of Psychology etc. We will include children from Kitezh in these training sessions which will also improve the education in Kitezh.

At present we are finishing the architectural plans for two houses (see right) and for the whole Orion settlement. An architect friend did the drawings for free, but we still have to pay an additional \$2,000 for a geological study and \$2,000 for a topographical study. We will also pay \$3,000 to the local architectural authorities for technical approval. All this before we can start to build. In comparison to normal prices this really isn't very much, and we still need your help!

We hope that Kaluga Region will finance the most expensive part of the construction: gas, electricity, water and the road. We think that an achievable aim is to build two houses by the Autumn in which a small group of the first citizens including Morozov and Pichugin families will live.



So we are full of optimism! There is still not enough money for a car to travel between Kitezh, Orion and Moscow (\$5,000) and I am slowly going crazy using local buses but I try to think of this as a spiritual challenge! To cover all our expenses for the winter and next year as we establish new families and foster children I believe we will need altogether about \$100,000.

Please convey our thanks to all our international supporters for their help. At last we can prove that their belief in our work is justified.

**Dmitry Morozov**



# Behind the Scenes at Ecologia

Someone commented recently that we write extensively about what is happening at Kitezh and seldom about what we do 'in the background' at Ecologia Trust's headquarters in the north of Scotland. We are:



**Rhiannon Hanfman** (left), formerly a Trustee, now has the exacting job of managing our travel programmes. She organises volunteers' travel to Kitezh as well as managing Findhorn Ecotravels, the independent travel business that helps to keep Ecologia going.

**Christianne Hartsthorne** (centre), mother of two small children, keeps our accounts and our small office space in order.

**Liza Hollingshead** (right), founder and director of Ecologia Trust, manages projects and trainings in Russia and the UK, generates new ideas and battles to stretch the eternally inadequate budget!

**Susan McDonald** assists with fundraising and **Jane Rasbash** gave valuable help with our application to the UK Community Fund.

**Eleven volunteers** were at Kitezh over the year with another four due to arrive soon. They are from the USA, Germany, Holland and Britain. All report that their time is challenging, fascinating and rewarding and many promise to return. After years of struggling with the changing restrictions of the Russian visa system, the best news is that Kitezh now has the right to invite volunteers themselves.

**Independent travel** has picked up this year and our flat in St Petersburg is full for most of the summer. We have had increased requests for help with invitations and visas and personalised tours which we arrange through our wonderfully efficient agent in St Petersburg, Svetlana. Our first experience of organising a visit to St Petersburg for a disabled traveller went very well. It is shocking how few places can accommodate a wheelchair. How people find us is something of a mystery, so thank you to those of you who have recommended us to your friends.

**Rosie Swale Pope's Run** has pre-occupied us all. Providing back-up support for her has been a challenge but so interesting! In the winter, we were on the phone almost daily to her or various suppliers and supporters devising strategies to get vital supplies to her, and to give her moral support. To date Ecologia has received £2,500 in sponsorship for Rosie's Run, a quarter of our target of £10,000 to build a new house for a family. Please do keep those sponsorship donations rolling in!

**Ecologia supports six students** through their university education with the help of our international Godparents. These youngsters are all committed to using their education and experience of growing up in Kitezh to work in the next Kitezh village.

**Our Godparents scheme** continues to be a pleasure as we get to know you personally. It brings its rewards to both children and Godparents with a steady flow of gifts and letters between them. The consistent financial support that Godparents provide is so important to give the children those extra treats they could not otherwise afford.

**The two-year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund** is nearing completion with satisfying results. The Kitezh Centre has proved its worth and is now actively engaged in supporting the start of the Kitezh-Orion project. Dena Fisher has been a great asset. She provides an essential link between Kitezh and Ecologia Trust, welcomes our volunteers in Moscow, provides a home base for Kitezh there and has produced a fine Kitezh website in English. Dmitry Morozov's book *The Guide for Foster Families* was translated into English and is due to be published in Russian any day now. The Kitezh-Orion village development is evidence of how much Kitezh has grown in capacity since the project began.

**Ecologia Trust's input into staff training has put Kitezh on the map** of professional foster family and therapeutic care for orphans. Kitezh has developed a standard of professionalism in their work as a result of our social work and therapeutic education trainings. Our task was to find and send the best professionals in the field to Kitezh. This we most certainly did. Social Work innovators from the UK have made a huge impact and the ongoing consultancy in therapeutic education and community by David Dean OBE has been of particular benefit to the community.



David Dean & Masha Pichugina in Scotland

Recently, we gave four members of Kitezh the opportunity to take part in professional trainings in Britain. 19-year old Masha Pichugina took part in an Ecovillage Training at the Findhorn Community in preparation for her leadership role in Kitezh-Orion. She said:

*"I grew up during this training. I understood that we are not alone, that Kitezh is not the only place in the world doing this work. I understood that if we want to build a new culture and a new relationship to our planet, it is important to develop our children, and if we want to work with children we have to improve the relationships between adults first."*

Marina Maximova, Julya and Sergey Khlopenov came to take part in different training programmes. Marina joined a Findhorn Foundation community programme followed by a weeklong internship with Moray Educational Psychology Service. Julya spent an intensive week's training in Art Therapy and her husband Sergey visited the Mulberry Bush and Cotswold Schools, members of the

## . . . And at Kitezh Centre—Moscow

When I first arrived in Kitezh as a hapless volunteer a year and a half ago, it was never part of my plan to live and work in Moscow to represent Kitezh and Ecologia Trust, nor to be involved with high-profile fundraising events and the ex-pat community. My original briefing for the work at Kitezh Centre was to set up a website, provide administrative and logistical support for Kitezh, meet the volunteers and to network within the ex-pat community in Moscow. All of these goals have been achieved in a way which has exceeded all expectations.

The past nine months have seen a big element of change, and an intense period of activity for the Moscow-based team. New people, new energy and new ideas have resulted in one of the most dynamic and successful stages of the Kitezh Centre's development. With support from Liza and Rhiannon at Ecologia, the unrivalled drive and determination of Carrie Disney, and the inspiration and sheer whirlwind energy of Rosie Swale Pope, Kitezh has benefited from a considerable increase in local funding and a 'through the roof' rise in awareness of the project here in Moscow.

To coincide with the presence of round-the-world runner Rosie in Moscow, a group of Kitezh kids, pensioners, runners, Embassy staff and others participated in a Fun Run across Red Square and along the Moskva River that ended with a reception at the British Ambassador's Residence. Journalists and film crews were on hand to capture the huffing and puffing arrival of the runners, and the lively post-run speeches given by Rosie and Ambassador Roderick Lyne.

The internationally renowned concert pianist Martin Berkofsky generously gave of his time and his talent in a breathtaking performance at a benefit concert for Kitezh. It was a joy and a rare honour to hear him play. The children sat around the piano, mesmerized by both the man, and the music...

Most recently, the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce chose Kitezh as its nominated charity for a seven-a-side rugby tournament, with Kitezh children as mascots for the eight teams followed by a grand fundraising dinner afterwards. It was a great success, with fun and games for everyone!

There are three things, common to all these events, which strike me the most and which deserve a special mention:

- The tireless efforts of Carrie and the organisers. These events have all been huge undertakings requiring an incredible amount of

forethought and planning in often very tricky circumstances.

- The generosity of the participants who have given not only their money but their time, enthusiasm, patience and moral support, without which none of the events would have been possible.

- The outstanding behaviour of the children and young adults of Kitezh who, when thrown into a world so alien from their own,



Getting ready for the Fun Run

took everything in their stride in a well-mannered, confident and cool-headed way...testament indeed to the good work that Kitezh does.

Now, Kitezh Centre is once again due to undergo a period of change. By the end of the year both Carrie and I will be moving on, office funding is running low...but no matter what happens, I'm sure that the new people, new ideas and new energies will once again bring about a successful period of evolution and growth for both Kitezh, Orion and Kitezh Centre. For myself, thanks to the wealth of experience I have been given, when my time finally does come to leave, I'll be a lot less hapless than when I arrived. Volunteers take heed—when you come to Kitezh anything can happen!

**Dena Fisher**

---

Charterhouse Group of Therapeutic Communities. At the end of their visit all three spent a day at Camphill School in Aberdeen. Sergey commented:

*"Visiting all these different places was an opportunity to look at Kitezh's work from the outside. In every case there were elements that made us think about how to reach a similar professional level with our children within Russian culture and traditions. Our thanks to Liza and Ecologia Trust. Kitezh would not have been as it is now without your assistance and support."*

With a second village on its way, Ecologia remains committed to strengthen the options for a different way of life for under-privileged and disadvantaged children in Russia. We can only do

this if our own core funding becomes more stable. Although we have applied for a further grant for a follow-on project with Kitezh-Orion, we cannot rely on this. Over the next six months we will concentrate on making ourselves sustainable, on finding sources of funding to enable Ecologia's back office to run smoothly so that we can continue to do this important work. We would appreciate your help to identify sources of core funding or by way of donations. It is difficult to put ourselves before Kitezh-Orion, but without Ecologia Kitezh would lose a major route for international funding and training. Please continue to support our work.

**Liza Hollingshead**

---

**Christmas Cards. . .Order Now. . .Christmas cards . . .order now**  
*Lovingly made by the children of Kitezh packs of 10: £5.00*

---

# Rosie's Progress – 4,000 Miles Along

After a hard winter running through the Baltic states and western Russia, Rosie reached Moscow in March pretty much on schedule. There was a battalion of admirers awaiting her and Carrie Disney did a fantastic job of organising publicity events for her there. Rosie visited Kitezh for a few days with Liza and Dena to see for herself the place her run is supporting—and fell in love with the place, with all the children there and they with her. After a week of celebrations and fundraising events, off she ran again, from the very spot on Red Square where she arrived, towards Siberia.

A godsend was a state of the art buggy from Mothercare in which Rosie can push her 18kg pack instead of carrying it. This has enabled her to move much faster and arrive at Omsk ahead of schedule.

From 3rd April to 30th June Rosie ran over 1,000 miles eastwards through forests and across plains until she made a brief stop in Omsk. By the time you read this, she will have reached Novosibirsk, then will take a train back to Omsk to run the Marathon there, in support of the Western Siberia Railway Hospital.

Rosie says she is very brown, very thin, very tired and very happy. She doesn't mind having the label of 'mad adventuress' but what is important to remember is that if, by what she is doing, she can actually help a child or buy a patient's medicine—then that is the real adventure.

Please continue to support her.



(1) Wales, the first step of a long journey, October, 2003;  
 (2) Outside Riga, New Year's Day, 2004; (3) Camping at the Embassy, Moscow, March; (4) Leaving Moscow;  
 (5) With Vadim & Sandra at Kitezh;  
 (6) Celebrating with Liza, Kitezh;  
 (7) Jim Newman delivers the buggy, Columbine;  
 (8) Omsk – 4,000 miles later

**For those who have been thinking about a visit to Kitezh..... Let's do it!**

**27 April – 7 May 2005 and optional 3 days in St Petersburg 8 - 11 May**

We have had so many requests from Godparents and interested supporters of Kitezh for an opportunity to visit Kitezh we decided to organise an adult group visit at the best time of the year—before the mosquitoes take hold!

2 days in Moscow in a three-star hotel: Red Square, Kremlin, the marvellous Tretyakov and Pushkin museums, Tolstoy's house.....

7 days at Kitezh in the Guesthouse to enjoy the hospitality and warmth that awaits you! Relax in the Banya (sauna), go for walks in the beautiful Russian countryside, see 2<sup>nd</sup> World War relics in the field, and take part in community activities as you wish, as well as interact with the children. Opportunities for creativity: paint with the resident artist, make traditional Russian crafts or share your musical talents. Optional 3 days in St Petersburg: enjoy this beautiful city on the water in your own way—the palaces, Hermitage museum, St Isaac's Cathedral and more... We will simply add on the cost of your overnight trainfare and hotel and book your flight to return from St Petersburg.

**Cost:** £1,320 per person including airfares from London, accommodation, meals & transport.

Please register your interest by 31st December so we know how many people are going to join us.

You can now make secure credit card donations to Ecologia Trust through our website.

Look for this logo on the Kitezh 'How Can You Help' page.



**Ecologia Trust**  
 the Park, Forres IV36 3TZ  
 Soctland  
 Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1309 690995  
 email: all @ecologia.org.uk  
 www.ecologia.org.uk