



# Ecologia News

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## KITEZH RECEIVES HIGHEST STATE RECOGNITION

Dear friends,

I am pleased to be able to share some unexpected news with you: the Russian Federation has awarded me the 'Order of Honour'. As I'm sure you'll understand, this has greatly increased my self-esteem and given cause for a glass of vodka with my close friends. If there's one thing I regret, it's that you weren't here to join us.

It has been said that the award will be presented by the President of Russia. But the main thing is that this award makes Kitez h official, and proves that it has been accepted in society. For me, there's nothing more important in life than that. I really am very happy. But this joy is due to the fact that this idea is now receiving higher approval.

Despite the happiness at this official recognition, Orion, the new project which Masha Pichugina and the young Kitez h graduates, assisted by myself, are setting up, is currently without funding. The situation is becoming critical. This year we will need \$30,000 to install the gas and another \$30,000 to build the next house for a foster family. We remind you that people have



Dmitry & Masha Pichugina

already moved into the first house, built for two big foster families. But they simply can't live alone and isolated in this new place. We hope for your help, and the help of God, who is always with us.

**Dmitry Morozov**

### Kitez h official press release:

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, the governor of the Kaluga region, Anatoly Dimitrovich Artamonov, in a personal telephone call to Kitez h, informed the founder of the therapeutic community Dimitri Morozov that he had been awarded the 'Order of Honour'—a civil award of the Russian Federation. Dimitri Morozov thanked the Governor for this high appraisal of his work and said: "This is recognition of the successful work of the whole team of foster parents and teachers in Kitez h. This award belongs to all of the Kitezheans, who came here neither for glory nor money, but because they were called by their conscience to do so. It is they in particular who have created this community, which enables us to turn my scientific and philosophical views about raising children, into reality, into actual children's lives."

Let us remind you that not one of the Kitez h graduates has committed a crime, or drowned in the ocean of modern day life, none have become alcoholics or criminals. Half of our graduates have gone on to study at university. No government institution in Russia dealing with the rehabilitation, the raising and education of orphans and children in crisis has achieved such results.

On behalf of Kitez h, we would like to thank the leadership of the Kaluga region, the Committee of families and all our friends in Kaluga, Moscow, Ukraine, Great Britain and other countries. And we ask you to raise a glass and toast our success!

We are delighted to share this news with you. For us at Ecologia Trust and for all of you who have loyally supported us over the past decade, this recognition validates our faith in the concept and realisation of this extraordinary effort to transform the lives of orphan children in Russia. Large and small donations from individuals all over the world have built Kitez h. Without you, it would never have got off the ground.

Simultaneously, this recognition increases our commitment and determination to build not one or two but dozens of children's villages. We need your financial and moral support more than ever before. With your help, the number of children who can benefit from living in a Kitez h environment will increase exponentially. The Kitez h model and methods will impact the lives of thousands of children living in orphanages. Let's seize the moment! There is more work to be done.

**Liza Hollingshead**

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# Kitezh as a Therapeutic Community: Progress Report

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*David Dean is a consultant in therapeutic education for Ecologia Trust. His 30 years work in education culminated in leading a new and innovative therapeutic community for disturbed and emotionally damaged teenagers in Scotland. During the 17 years he was principal he contributed to education and social work training courses at Aberdeen University, chaired the Scottish Independent Special Schools Group and was vice-chair of the Charterhouse Group of Therapeutic Communities UK. He has acted as consultant to the Russian Ministry of Education for five years in its countrywide programme of reforming Russian residential special schools.*

*Currently he is a consultant in Russia, Romania and Uganda through the auspices of BESO/VSO and, in the case of Kitezh, the Ecologia Trust. He is also a visiting staff member in the psychology and sociology departments of the State University of St Petersburg.*

Dmitry Morozov invited me to become therapeutic education consultant to Kitezh in 2000 following a visit he made to me in Scotland.

In my five years' work with Kitezh I have been witness to the growing pains of any organisation where an inspirational leader has had the task of holding fast to the principles which drew him to the task in the first place and the challenge of keeping his colleagues with him in the process. Morozov has been uncompromising in this respect and a number of those who came to join him as builders of houses, layers of drains and improvers to the land have now moved on. Most encouraging is that now a new wave of young professionals has arrived and continues to come bringing sound teaching and caring skills to the community. My remit is to coordinate the training of all these adults together with the Kitezh graduates, mainly the psychology students in Moscow universities with the aim of ensuring that Kitezh reaches the standards required of a therapeutic community.

In 2004, following a presentation made to them in the UK by Morozov, Kitezh was accepted as an international associate of the Charterhouse Group of Therapeutic Communities, UK.

Recently Morozov has been awarded the Order of Honour from the Russian government. The significance of this recognition is that the Russian establishment may now be seeing in Kitezh an alternative model of child care which would allow a reduction in the grossly oversubscribed system they have followed for years of institutionalising children. In this respect

the move to create Orion as an extension of Kitezh but nearer to Moscow where it can be both pioneering in its own right and create a training facility reaching out more conveniently to the pedagogical institutes in the capital is very timely indeed. The full support of the Governor of Kaluga Region on whose territory stand both Kitezh and Orion cannot be underestimated.

Morozov, as President of the Kitezh Children's Community of Foster Parents, now has around him a team of talented colleagues he can work with and who look to him for that continuing visionary flair which he is able to give. Sergey Khlopenov, now the elected leader of Kitezh is multi-talented as is the Director of School the doctoral candidate, Maxim Anikeev.

The challenges of course remain. Recruiting more foster families is the highest on the list. They need to be found and suitably accommodated both in Kitezh and Orion. Buildings they and their children live in need to be built and maintained. The culture which currently is so effective needs to be preserved. The current initial flow of young professionals needs to increase so that those who are there have their own social as well as professional needs met. Again the training and development programme needs to be ongoing and eventually transferred into Russian hands whilst maintaining international links.

The support of small and large contributors, largely through the efforts of the Ecologia Trust enables the training programme and much else in the way of development to take place. The recognition of the success of Kitezh by the Russian authorities, in particular in Kaluga Region, the continuing support of HSBC Bank, Moscow and others has made it possible for some of the considerable potential of Kitezh to be realised.

As yet the Russians are unable to match their effusive praise with adequate funding. They are trying though, and painstaking negotiations are quietly proceeding at the moment. However, in a country where teachers can go unpaid for two months and agreed funding for feeding children at Kitezh does not arrive when they need it, we must agree that the continued lifeline that funders from abroad extend to Kitezh-Orion to develop exciting professional initiatives is critical.



David Dean at Kitezh

**David Dean, OBE**

# World Runner Considers the Impossible

Rosie Swale Pope is heading into sweltering temperatures. Twenty months and over 13,000 km after setting off from her home in Wales, Rosie Swale Pope is contemplating the toughest choice yet.

Can she make it alone and on foot, through the uncharted wilds of far northern Russia to the Bering Straits and beyond? The 58-year-old adventurer is now in the gold-mining hub of Yakutsk gathering her strength and considering her options. She's also enjoying her first hotel bed in many months.

The most testing stretch of her route so far has taken her the entire breadth of Russia most recently passing the abandoned gulags of eastern Siberia—and through two treacherous winters. Yet incredibly, her spirits are as high as when I met her on the road to Moscow over a year ago.

"People have been spoiling me all the way," Rosie enthuses by telephone from Yakutsk. Drivers toot and blow kisses as they pass, lorry drivers stop to make me tea and old ladies keep dragging me to their homes to use the bathroom!"

An old lady gave her slippers to run in when her trainers turned to rags, and during the big-freeze last winter a generous local policeman presented her with his stripy thermal long-johns.

Now it's June, Yakutia is swarming with mosquitoes and heading towards stiflingly hot. But for months, Rosie was battling temperatures of minus 45 and below.



"The winter was very hard and it seemed to go on forever," Rosie tells me.

"I was fighting the frost every single second. My tent poles snapped, the stove barely worked, and it was so cold it was impossible to wash. I can't believe I made it!"

The hard slog of the road took its toll in November when Rosie was diagnosed with double pneumonia and forced to hang-up her trainers for a while to recuperate.

Rosie's determination to complete this run is not only to fulfil a personal goal. She's also trying to raise money for charity, including the Kitezh community. Inspired by Rosie, the children there are organising their own fundraising run later this month.

Nature has thrown up other dangers for Rosie besides the weather, though. She describes one night when her tent was surrounded by a pack of wolves.

"They were howling and sniffing around," Rosie says. "Luckily they didn't seem very hungry."

Another morning she woke to discover a giant bear print outside her tent.

It is the bears—as well as the sheer logistics of it that are making Rosie think twice about her original plan to strike northeast from here through Chukotka towards the Bering Straits.

Chukotka does not even feature in most guide books because it is a restricted zone, accessible with special permission only. It is also one of the least hospitable places on earth, and unlike big-budget, celebrity adventurers, there is no jeep or team of medics waiting round the corner for Rosie.

"People told me what I've done so far was impossible," Rosie argues, clearly still unconvinced Chukotka is totally impossible but she adds, she does not have a death wish.

So she is looking at an alternative route from Magadan. She could fly to Alaska and start running again towards Wales from the far side of the Bering Straits.

"If I get a break en-route, or see a way to do it, I will reconsider Chukotka" Rosie insists.

But just crossing the 1700 km east to Magadan should be testing enough for now. There's barely a road to speak of and numerous rivers to navigate.

"The Russian scientists say the River Aldan is impossible to cross in summer, but the locals seem to do it. Perhaps I can perch on something and set across. It should be lovely."

**Sarah Rainsford**  
BBC correspondent to Russia



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## Working at Kitezh Centre

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I will be leaving Kitezh Centre in September to continue my University studies in the UK. Working at Kitezh Centre has been an amazing experience and nothing if not varied. While my remit—to raise fund for Kitezh/Orion within the foreign community in Moscow—is clear, how I go about it is entirely up to me. I can make of my job whatever I want. I have the freedom to plan my own schedule and strategies. One of the best things about my work is that I am able to maintain my connection with Kitezh. In fact, this is the most important thing of all. To understand and support the vision and ethos of Kitezh is essential and to be an effective representative it is important to be a trusted member of the Kitezh family.

My tasks can involve anything from meeting a volunteer at

the airport to attending a social function at the British Embassy to picking up or delivering documents. The list of requests is surprisingly varied.

In addition to fundraising, raising awareness about Kitezh/Orion has been a major part of my work. This has meant making contacts with the media, networking and speaking to as many people as possible in the business community and in other NGOs about the project. As the ex-pat community by its nature is highly transient, there are always new people and new opportunities.

This has been a fun and unusual, if at times daunting position. I have loved my time working at Kitezh Centre and would encourage anyone with a love for Kitezh, a fascination with Russia and a willingness to expect the unexpected to apply." (See ad on back page.)

**Dena Fisher**

# Ecological Wetlands project is up and running at Kitezh

On 31st March 2005 Ecologia Trust signed a contract with the British Council on behalf of DEFRA to build two natural wetland reedbed systems for Kitezh and Orion. A month later Galen Fulford, our waste water treatment specialist arrived in Russia to design the reedbeds and to train the Kitezh builders. This system, which uses the natural ability of plants to cleanse and purify water, provides an innovative and ecological approach to the problem of how to deal with troublesome waste water that typically pollutes the surrounding countryside, rivers and streams. Now Kitezh and Orion Communities will be a demonstration of a clean, natural alternative to this eternal problem.

Not only does it solve the problem of waste water, but it also gives the builders an opportunity to gain new expertise that they can use to build wetlands for other villages in Russia. Two young men who grew up at Kitezh, Kiril Pankratov and Sergey



Kiril and Galen



Zhuravlev came from orphanages as young boys with very little future. Now, as young men, they are key members of the reedbed building team.

Another important aspect of the project is education: during the summer, the children at Kitezh will be involved in the building work and planting the 5,000 water plants that will keep the water clean. They will also be part of the monitoring team to test the water as it flows out of the reedbed. As they participate in the project, they will learn practical biology, botany and eco-chemistry and so will understand how important clean water is to our world.

## Work for Kitezh in Moscow

Ecologia is looking for an outgoing, motivated, well-organised person to be a

### Volunteer PR and Fundraiser for Kitezh-Orion

Based in Moscow you will

- Network with the ex-pat community
- Raise awareness about Kitezh-Orion
- Create and maintain links with other NGOs
- Provide support for Ecologia and Kitezh-Orion
- Create and maintain promotional material

This is a volunteer post that provides accommodation and a modest living allowance. Start September, 2005.

For full job description and more information contact Liza at Ecologia Trust, (01309) 690995; info@ecologia.org.uk

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.



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