

Kinship Newsletter 2010

Trustee foreword

It's been a year of exciting developments and change for Kinship. During the spring and summer we ran a hugely successful series of workshops at the Kingsway Children's Centre in Leamington Spa, developing a creative outdoor play area for babies and young children. This was a great opportunity to work in partnership with a local organisation (Action for Children) and with some new artists, as well as raise funds for our international work.



Kingsway Children's Centre

In August Tansy flew out to Ladakh in the far north of India to begin a playful dialogue with the White Lotus School; Matt and Sweetcorn were joined in Madagascar by Chris Bradley who made a film of their pilot project in a rural primary school. Perhaps most exciting of all has been the Trustees' decision to contract a development officer, Ruth Richardson, who has been doing sterling work managing the Kingsway project, fundraising and helping us achieve our vision for the future...



Madagascar

New Projects

Kingsway Children's Centre, Leamington Spa - "Pass It On"

After providing initial consultation activity designed to support the development of the outdoor play area at the Centre, Kinship were commissioned to commence the actual development of the space over the summer period. Artists worked with children from a few months to nine years of age to help create an inspiring environment that would serve its purpose of promoting children's creative play. Kinship, Kingsway and other Action for Children leads are now looking to initiate a larger scale outdoor play programme with the view to developing and sharing good practice. The *Pass It On* programme will involve children, parents, carers and workers working in partnership to explore and learn together about best practice in child-led, open-ended and process-led outdoor play.

"During this project I thought the Kinship team were intelligent, thoughtful, with a real passion for changing spaces and also changing people's expectations." *Project Partner*

Special thanks to: All at Action for Children's Kingsway Children's Centre, for your kind support and willingness to embark on such a rewarding journey.

We're now liaising with Action for Children to develop potential follow-up projects in the UK

Druk White Lotus School, Ladakh, India

During my month at the White Lotus School in August I was lucky enough to work with all the infant and nursery classes in the beautiful ARUP-designed art room. I've worked in a fair few classrooms in my time, but I was completely bowled over by the art room, which seemed to be a space that inspired play without me having to do much in the way of planning! Consequently, we had huge amounts of fun dressing up, singing songs, and telling stories — before getting down to the pressing task of making toy boats to float on the stream outside...

The philosophy behind each activity was to help the children realise that whatever they did indoors, in school, could be taken and played with outdoors. This idea, under the guidance of Prasad (Education Director) and Mr. Deep (Head) was then developed with the oldest children (Years 6 and 7) to create their own mandala designs for an ideal secondary school.

Tansy Troy

Special thanks to: Rachel and Phil at the Drukpa Trust, and to Jake at ARUP

We aim to make two more visits to Ladakh in 2010, focussing on story, sound and music.

Andafiatsimo Primary School, Ambatolampy, Madagascar

There seems to be a real freedom of play amongst the children we saw. There are children to be seen everywhere: on the streets, in the fields, playing in front yards. There is also a real creativity and resourcefulness with what little the children have; And there is a strong tradition of play, where certain games and types of play are handed from one generation of children to another. However children also have a lot of responsibility for day to day tasks. We saw children looking after younger siblings, tending market stalls, cooking and lighting fires.

Patricia our interpreter was fantastic — not only for translating but also for being a font of knowledge for resources and materials, and for knowing the community.

The children were involved in the process of physically changing the space and they were able to guide how the space developed. They even checked the structures for themselves before climbing or swinging on them — in stark contrast to children in UK who often simply assume all structures will be safe!

The film viewing was a particular highlight of the whole trip, just for the reaction from the children at seeing themselves on a large screen.



Making kites at White Lotus School

We had a projector to make the film cinema size and I feel this had a massive impact on the children that watched the film.

Surprisingly we observed that at break time many of the children seemed lost and quiet, quite unlike what you'd see in a UK playground. It felt the structures and materials we had put in place were therefore very much needed as an inspiration and focus for the play. I wondered if this subdued-ness stemmed from the freedom of play children experience whilst away from school, as opposed to school itself which perhaps is seen as a place to learn — in a very formal sense — rather than a place to play.

I think this first visit achieved its aims: to gather information about children's play, build links with the community and get an understanding of issues affecting children. It suggested the potential impact Kinship might have on a community and has given some very strong pointers to future ways of working in Madagascar.

Matt Shaw

Special thanks to: the Dodwell Trust, Niry Rakotomalala and the Embassy of Madagascar

Chris's film will be screened at the Play Research Network event (see below), and at the next Kinship party — please come and see it!

We aim to return to Madagascar in October.



Kingsway



Madagascar



Please come and see an exhibition of project photos at the next Kinship party (see below)

Other News

Funding

We have been very fortunate to be one of the beneficiaries of the legacy of Jenny Raper, who sadly died in 2007. Jenny worked as a secretary for the World Health Organisation, and was involved in Geneva-based NGOs such as the one that supports the Tibetan Children's Village (where Kinship worked in 2004 and 2005). It was through TCV that she got to know Tansy and the work of Kinship.

However Kinship receives no regular or core funding, and very much relies on the goodwill and time given in kind by its Trustees and volunteers, and of course the generosity of its loyal supporters! We are currently raising funds for our continuing work in India, Africa and the UK. If you're interested in making a donation to Kinship, please contact us by email at info@kinship.org.uk or phone 07751 847517.

Organisational Development and Call for Volunteers

Our new development officer Ruth Richardson is currently drawing up a three-year business plan, and working on an organisational development grant application to the Arts Council. However we are also actively seeking part-time volunteers in the following areas:

- artists and playworkers (project workers)
- marketing
- accounts
- legal (solicitor)
- web design
- human resources
- international programmes and education
- play and arts professionals

We'd also like to recruit new members to our Board of Trustees.

If you'd like to get involved, or you're interested in developing a project with Kinship, please email us at info@kinship.org.uk or phone 07751 847517.

Trustee News

David has been busy managing the work in Madagascar, and overseeing post-production of Chris Bradley's film of the project.

Fred is following up a request for Kinship to work in a school in Kenya.

Hester is finishing her MA at the National Film and Television School, and collaborating with Polish animator Magda Osinska.

Matt will be resident play artist at the Sceaux Garden Estate as part of the South London Gallery *Making Play* programme.

Tansy is working as Music and Creative Arts Co-ordinator at Primrose Hill Primary School.

Dates for the Diary

Kinship AGM

Sunday 24th January from 12.30pm

Royal Festival Hall

Level 4 foyer

Please phone 07751 847517 to find us

Play Research Network meeting

Wednesday 27th January 11am-3.30pm

Olympia (Balcony of the Grand Hall)

Hammersmith Road

London

W14 8UX

To attend contact Josie Gleave at

jgleave@ncb.org.uk or call 020 7843 6350

Fundraising Party and Art Auction

Saturday 20th March 4pm to 8pm

Can you donate an artwork for the auction?

Venue to be confirmed - watch this space!

About Kinship

Kinship is made up of a group of established artists, engineers and educators. We work in partnership with organisations, children and young people, volunteers and the wider community to create imaginative opportunities for play for children – regionally, nationally and internationally.

Kinship's approach is to explore a child-led, open-ended and process-led way of working to promote children's rights to a voice and a say in how they play. Kinship's work for children ranges from creating inspiring indoor and outdoor play spaces, delivering multi-disciplinary participatory arts programmes and providing support and professional development opportunities for adults working with children through professional development schemes.

Kinship's provision of opportunities for creativity, experimentation and self-expression promotes the five outcomes* for children and young people and helps build successful, confident communities.

For more info please see our website

www.kinship.org.uk

To unsubscribe:

We would love to stay in touch but do let us know if you would no longer like to receive communication from us.

Alternatively, please forward this email to anyone who may be interested in our work.

KINSHIP is a UK-registered charity, number 1112519