

## Killingi Nõmme Cultural Village of Europe and Forest Capital 2005



Kalle

2005 Will be very busy and interesting year for us. The beginning of the year was bad - we had a "small" tsunami. On January 9th, we had a strong west wind. As the weather was warm, the sea was not covered with ice and

the wind brought much water onto the coast. So about a quarter of our country capital Pärnu was flooded, and other areas near the sea were as well. The cellars and the ground floors were full of water. You could use boats on the streets. Wind broke very many trees, which damaged the houses. Many roofs of houses were damaged. As Kilingi-Nõmme is far from sea (about 30 km), it was not flooded, but many falling trees damaged some houses and cars. And some days without electricity and drinking water. Now the "small" tsunami is over but we seem to keep very busy now. Kilingi-Nõmme and two parishes decided to join into one bigger municipality. So we have a lot of meetings and discussions and many papers to fill in. In October we will have local elections. By then we hope to be the bigger municipality already. The problem is that in Estonia we have too many municipalities, the state supports the joining and offers some money for them who want to join.

Kilingi-Nõmme was given the title of forest capital of 2005. In Estonia is the tradition to have many capitals. We have a summer capital - Pärnu, and we have a winter capital too - Otepää. Of course they are not official capitals. Now they decided to have a forest capital too. This idea was launched last year. For 2005 Kilingi-Nõmme was chosen, we do not know yet who is next. The summer and winter capitals stay the same, the forest capital changes every year.

And of course we are Cultural Village of Europe. We try to do the best we can, but a lot depends on money. We have money for the may conference, but for the other events we do not know whether we do or not yet. We have written some applications, but it takes a lot of time to get an answer. In any case all visitors are welcome. I think that going a few days without food would be very healthy! I heard that there are very many fat people in Europe too.

## Europa Tour

Bert Kisjes

The preparations of the Europatour continue. On the 14th of July the Europatour will start in Wijk aan Zee. The start will be a workshop about the 'Relevance of Local Knowledge'. The Dutch minister of Agriculture has been invited to tell something about this item. Representatives of at least ten countries will participate in this in this workshop. The Europatour will be a work-holiday: there should be results.

The caravan carries many projects with it that should be done. When the caravan returns at the end of October it should have gathered a good story about agriculture and rural economy from the 55 villages that have been visited. The caravan will include somebody who comes from a farm, who

studied agriculture in Wageningen and now supports young farmers in the eastern part of Holland.

Facts will be gathered about public places in small communities. Buildings like town-halls, sports facilities, churches, church yards and schools will be photographed. The public buildings and places say something about community life. Therefore, a good photographer is needed.

The main goal of the Tour is to listen what people in the small communities say. Their remarks will be written down in a big book. An artist travels with the Europatour and it will be his task to make it a nice book. Museums may later quarrel who will get this item in its collection.

All villages with a choir will get the opportunity to sing a song – the song most dear to the choir. After the Tour a double CD will be made of it.

In all villages a meeting will be organized with the youth. The Europatour will explain the youth what the caravan is intending to do. >

The editors of 'The Rake' are searching for contact with journalists and writers in all villages. They need people for cooperation with the internet magazine in the future. A radio

The newsletter will also touch on an international congress of rural sociologists in August in Hungary. Who wants to propose another project can mail to the editor of this newsletter.



Artist-impression of the 'Tourbus'.

reporter wants to make a program. Radio reporters in the different countries will join the caravan and make programs in the national languages.

During the Tour four symposia will be held on four important small community topics. (see elsewhere in this newsletter).

For financing these activities have been divided into two projects. One project consists of the four workshops, the other is the Europatour. The first got a grant from a European Fund for the promotion of European Citizenship. The Europatour will be supported by the Dutch ministry of agriculture. Support has been asked

for to the Province of Northern Holland and the Community of Beverwijk. Now we are searching for support in the other EU countries. We will also ask for support among enterprises and private persons. For the success of the Tour it is necessary to have the commitment of many people in a lot of countries. It is possible to become spiritual owner of a part of the Europatour by sponsoring some kilometres. One kilometre costs € 8,70. 1100 km have to be sponsored yet.

In Holland the bankaccount is 1073.74.781 Iban number NL65 RABO 0107 3747 81 BIC: RABONL 2U. Readers in other countries can announce what they want to contribute and a banknumber in their own country will be given (village@cultural-village.com). The international transfer of payments is rather too expensive to do it in another way.

The conclusion of the Europatour will take place in Belgium, within easy reach of Brussels. The EU Commissioner for Agriculture has accepted the invitation and will have dinner with us. At this dinner consisting of local food the Commissioner will get a fresh report of the Europatour. After the Tour the materials and thoughts will be worked out. The new Magazine The Rake will disseminate the results.

## Four workshops with village themes

**EUROPA TOUR**  
RURAL EUROPE IN 90 DAYS

Jacky de Vries

Four workshops will take place during the Europatour, where themes important to villages and rural areas will be discussed. The first meeting will take place in Wijk aan Zee and will be the start of the month-long journey through Europe.

Inhabitants of a village know a lot about their environment. In Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands, inhabitants know that plans are doomed to fail if local knowledge is not put to use. People have been finding this repeatedly for decades. That is why, on the 15th and 16th of July, a workshop will be organized on this theme – the first workshop in a series of four.

A telling example is the toxic sludge from the North Sea Channel near the village. Planners from outside the village wanted to store the sludge in depots on the beach. This angered the inhabitants of Wijk aan Zee, who did not want to sacrifice their beach. They eventually found a better solution: the sludge turned out

to be an excellent raw material to make bricks. In Wijk aan Zee a project is now on its way to make local knowledge accessible to governments and planners, for example in the context of housing.

The workshop that will be held the 6th and 7th of August in Kilingi Nomme, Estonia, will revolve around villages and culture. Forty participants from four European villages will participate. It will show that in small communities culture is foremost about joining in, doing things together. This contrasts the cities, where culture is more a business of individual professionals. Within the covenant of cultural villages, the inhabitants have had to cooperate the last few years to get all the projects up and running. This has strengthened integration within the villages; moreover, it makes the villagers become aware of their strengths and weaknesses. Representatives of the cultural villages will tell more about this in Kilingi Nomme.

During the workshop in Pergine Valdarno, Italy, the 2nd and 3rd of October, we will discuss the generation gap. The larger the community, the

larger the generation gap. Young and old in cities have almost no contact with each other, but in a village they cannot avoid contact. Pergine Valdarno is an excellent place to discuss this subject, because that is the place a film festival is held every year on the generation gap.

The final workshop will take place on the 18th and 19th of October in Kreiz Breizh, Brittany, France. The inhabitants of this village will provide insight into the relationship between the village and nature. Nature is a strong attraction for artists and tourists. Modern ways of agriculture and pollution are serious threats to the well-being of nature. The question is how villagers can use nature, even if it seems economically unattractive. This meeting will be attended by (among other people) an economist, a landscape architect, a farmer and an ecologist.

# The devil dug a paradise

Bert Kisjes

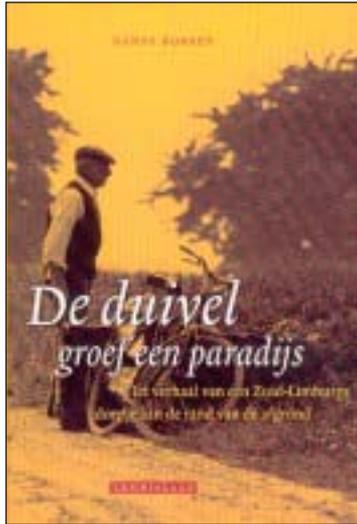
The village Rooth lies on the Margraten Plateau in southern Limburg, Holland. The plateau has received no small amount of interest recently because of a visiting VIP. President Bush will visit the war cemetery on the plateau. The plateau consists of chalk, and, besides the Pietersberg, it is the only place in Holland where chalk is mined. The village is doomed to disappear because the cement industry wants to mine the chalk beneath the houses. Perhaps the military graves will have to move as well.

Journalist Nanne Dorren has written a book titled *The Devil dug a paradise – the story about a village in southern Limburg at the edge of the abyss*<sup>1</sup>. It is a well-written little book about the fate of a village over a period of more than thirty years. About the role of the inhabitants, the village government, science, the province and the chalk industry. About the way in which the conflict of interests is developing. It is surprising to notice that the common good is in fact closest to what the inhabitants are fighting for. They have to decide between their jobs and their homes. One might choose his job, while another may reach a different conclusion. The decisions are seldom unanimous. At other and higher institutions self-interest appears to be the main drive – though of course they present it as the common good.

Chalk mining has created a chasm that is considered a paradise to Dutch geologists. They can find many fossils in the chalk and that makes it attract a lot of scientists. They want to expand their paradise, to the detriment of the inhabitants. To the cement industry, the plateau is the cheapest place to get a resource it needs. Inhabitants fight to be able to live where they were born. To the province, the future of the ENCI is important. How do you decide between a community and economic interests?

Chalk has always been mined on the plateau. Only since the scale of mining increased have problems arisen. There are alternatives, but it is a question of expenses. There are no large deposits to mine chalk from in Holland. You would need to go abroad to find those, which slightly increases the expenses. Because of this slight increase, you are better off digging away a village.

Mining causes problems everywhere. Rich deposits are always the places where wars are fought. This phenomenon is worthwhile to study. If Bush can take that much away from his visit to Margraten, something will have been gained.



<sup>1</sup> Nanne Dorren: 'De duivel groef een paradijs', uitg. Lemiscaat ISBN 90-5637-694-2

## Symposium for woodcutters

In Bystré, the Czech Republic, a symposium for woodcutters will be held from the 23rd to the 30th of July. Bystré is surrounded by lush forests and has a vibrant tradition of woodcutting. Interested people from any country can apply at Bystré's e-mail address: [podatelna@bystre.cz](mailto:podatelna@bystre.cz)



## Dear everyone!

A little time went by after you left, and one by one all the beautiful events and happenings of the week started to sink in... I must admit there were a few tears (of happiness) about how everything came together and what a truly magical week it had been.

It's amazing how things like this start out as an idea, then some planning, and then with the loving help of so many people it turns in to something so amazing! Really things like this should be on international news, they show how much humanity and love is in the world, and it spreads. All of you touched my heart, I enjoyed your stay and wish I could get to know you better, you all seem wonderful people and I feel blessed to have met you and to have shared this funny, busy, creative, exiting, wonderful beautiful time with you! Thank you for all your help and beautiful emails!!!

Ivy

P.s. I'm trying to get my mum to drive Frans, Jelle, Martin and myself over to Denmark as soon as possible in our little skoda-car to see you!!!

P.P.s We've started a YOUNG cultural-village web page, where we can keep contact with young people throughout Europe, <http://groups.msn.com/CulturalVillageofEuropeforum> please all join and post your personal messages and links!!! (you can even write in Danish if you please:))



# Call for papers

The Rake is an internet-based magazine that aims to gather the too often unheard voices of the people living in the European countryside in a form that is accessible to all Europeans. It grew out of the movement Cultural Village of Europe. The first edition will be published July 1st, 2005.

The Rake wishes to bring the role of rural areas

in the 21st century to the attention of the whole of Europe, both countryside and city.

We would like to see essays, interviews and reports of up to 2000 words on topics like:

- village life
- economic development of the countryside
- the relations between villages and governmental institutions

- the importance of rural areas and their people to Europe
- rural aspects of European policy and the European constitution

Deadline for abstracts is May 12th.

Any questions can be directed to The Rake: [village@cultural-village.com](mailto:village@cultural-village.com)



The Rake is seeking contributions for its baptismal (and further) editions.

## Leader+

The European Union, years ago, established an organization to strengthen the rural economy by supporting projects that help the development of the rural economy.

How does this work? Sparsely populated areas (less than a hundred inhabitants per square kilometer) can join into a leader region. Such a region comprises a few areas and villages. Together they decide what kind of developments they want to encourage. Each of the organizations and villages can apply for projects to develop the area. Leader provides a third of the needed funds. The rest should be provided by the government and the applicant. There are now 900 of these regions in the European Union. This system of subsidizing, where the region is in charge, seems to be the model for subsidizing in the new European rural policy. People are satisfied with the system.

The idea behind Leader+ is a so-called bottom-up approach. The region itself determines what happens, not the central government. The Leader organization binds many people with its plans. This is for The Rake a reason to seek contact with Leader+. Leader undoubtedly counts many Rake-readers among its participants. The magazine can also publicize well a lot of model projects in the Leader regions. And the organization of Cultural Village, at the head of which is the Mayor's Council of the eleven villages, will guarantee a bottom-up approach.

The Rake does not have in mind the interest of a particular village or region. That makes it difficult to fit it to Leader+. Leader+ regions ask themselves what use The Rake is to them, and they find that they will benefit exactly as much as other regions. Common interest is not a priority, though. Who will take the initiative? Which Leader region is prepared to help realize The Rake?

# 'Anchise for the elderly'

In the evening of the 2nd of April 2005 a celebration took place in the Meeting Room of the Paxos Municipality Council in honor of all the members of the "Anchise for the elderly" Program, who had recently returned from Florence. Invitations went out to all the members of the Anchise Group, their relatives and friends and to all the experts helping realize the program's activities. Our guests heard our Mayor, Mr Spyros Bogdanos explain how Paxos managed to become part of the Anchise Project, they learned a few things about ARCA, the organizer of the program in a European level, the project's funding and about its activities and goals in Paxos. The main attraction though were the photos of the 8 Anchise members during their March trip to Florence and the very interesting stories they all had to tell us. The evening ended with a small party with drinks and cakes made by the ladies taking part in the "Anchise for the Elderly" Group.

The purpose of the meeting – as the group's tutor stated – was to help make the group members feel proud about their work and about their many achievements through the Anchise Program and to inform the local community



*Elderly people from Paxos in Florence*

about the Program's purpose, activities and results. It was part of an effort to break the distrust existing about an initiative dedicated to a part of our society – the elderly people – who are usually never considered eligible for such richly funded and progressive projects.

We sincerely hope that our soon to start trip to Holland and the village of Wijk aan Zee will be as successful as our Florence experience was and we are looking forward to welcoming both the Wijk aan Zee and the Pergine Valdarno Groups to Paxos on the 5th of May.

## Kreiz Breiz Cultural Village organization

Since the first of January the Association Kreiz Breizh, the local organisation of Cultural Village in Brittany, has employed Anne Hauvespre since the first of January. She is in charge of the coördination of the activities in Brittany and of coordination with the cultural village network.

## European Day in Brittany

At the occasion of the European day (9th of may), Cultural Village of Kreiz Breizh organises an exhibition in Rostrenen from the 13th may to the 27th may. They will present the European community organisation and on the other side the cultural village project.

On the last day we will make a conference on the same theme as in Kilingi-Nömme in order to explain to the people in Brittany what they learned there. At the end a little cocktail party will be organized with specialities prepared by persons from the different European countries who live in central Brittany.



*Celebration in the meetingroom of the Paxos municipality*

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### CULTURAL VILLAGE of EUROPE

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**Colophon:**

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Schachdorf Ströbeck participates in the Corus Chesstournament in Wijk aan Zee since 1999. During the tournament the village plays a match against Wijk aan Zee. The organization of the Corus Chess Tournament accepted an invitation in May 2004 to come and visit Ströbeck's yearly tournament. At this occasion they remarked that the mayor did not have a chain of office. At the end of the last Corus Chesstournament in January Ströbeck's mayor Rudi Krosch got a chain of office existing of chess pieces.

# Chain of office makes Rudi Krosch speechless

**Städteleiter wählen Teilnehmer beim größten Schachturnier der Welt**  
**Überraschung gelungen: Amtskette machte Ortschef sprachlos**

Der Chef des Organisationskomitees des Schachturniers, DPF Viss, überreicht Bürgermeister Rudi Krosch mit dem Ehrenpreis zum Ende des sportlichen Anlasses.

Die große Überraschung gelang dem Organisationskomitee des Corus-Schachturniers, das am Ende des Jahres 2004 in Wijk aan Zee stattfand. Die Organisatoren wollten, dass der Bürgermeister von Ströbeck eine Kette aus 11 bis 12 Schachstücken erhält, die als Amtskette dienen soll.

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