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### **Experience of Team Work on Reviving “Botanist Vladimir Adamov's Farmstead”**

There is a lot of architectural monuments in Belarus which time and historical entanglements didn't have mercy on. Due to the absence of finance and proper care, once majestic buildings are destroying, and the memory of their owners is being erased. It is a great pity, especially if the owner was a person who deserves the attention of descendants. We believe that the school should not be detached. Teachers, pupils and their parents can be involved in solving the issue of promoting and preserving the historical and cultural heritage. As a result, an old abandoned manor, a palace or a park will become an educational platform for the formation of social responsibility of all who will participate in this activity.

In Bolshie Lettsy village, Vitebsk district, there is a former farmstead of the scientist, taxonomist, florist, geobotanist, dendrologist Vladimir Vladimirovich Adamov (1875-1939). It is located in 8A / 9 Sovetskaya street, to be more precise. He founded the botanical garden in Lettsy estate. Some of the plants from that garden became the basis of the botanical garden in Vitebsk and the botanical garden of Belarusian State University. Vladimir Adamov was an outstanding specialist in the systematics of flowering plants and applied botany. Over the years, the farmstead has fallen to decay. Currently, the memory of the scientist is preserved only thanks to the efforts of local historians and activists.

In the late 1990s, Arkadiy Mikhailovich Podlipskiy, an ethnographer from Vitebsk, the author of the book “Botanist Vladimir Adamov” in the series

“Life of the Remarkable People of Vitebsk Oblast” draw public attention to the legacy of Vladimir Adamov. The result of his educational work was that on July 5, 2000, a memorial plaque was established to the right of the farmstead’s entrance to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the birth of the scientist. The event took place thanks to the active support of Vera Petrovna Duk, the director of Velikoletchanskiy orphanage, who studied the scientist's heritage with her pupils.

In 2008, historian Mikhail Leonidovich Duk became the director of the school under Velikoletchanskiy orphanage. He began to study the history of Bolshie Lettsy village, its tourist and educational potential. Implemented the idea of creating a children’s travel agency. Together with geobotanists and VSU staff, ornithological routes were created on the former Lettsky's farmstead. Several excursions for birdwatchers were carried out. In September 2015, in cooperation with Vitebsk public organization “VITEBSK4ME” (“Vitebsk for Me”), Stas Silki’s idea of conducting “Holiday at Adamov’s Farmstead” was implemented. At that time, Stas was a student of the Faculty of History of VSU n.a. Masherov and a graduate of the Iterhistory courses. This is how the tradition of holding the “Adamov’s Fest” began. To date, it has already been organised six times. The orphanage became the venue for the first four festivals.

Collaboration of pupils of the SEE “Vitebsk Grammar School #1 n.a. Z.I. Alferov” and the current owner of the farmstead began in February 2019. That time, Maxim Leonidovich Zhukov received the farmstead (a building of 420 square meters and a plot of land of 0,15 ha) in accordance with an investment agreement with Vitebsk regional executive committee with the aim of implementation of the investment project on the introduction of the building into economic turnover and the creation of a cultural and craft centre. Anna Vasilievna Zhukova, the History and Social Science teacher of the Grammar School, supported her husband in the implementation of this social project. It was planned that the educational work will be continued in collaboration with teachers and pupils of Velikoletchanskiy orphanage,

and the pupils of the grammar school will take part in events and promotions. The main achievement of the investment project was that it became possible to hold events directly in the building of the farmstead and the surrounding territory.

At that time, the farmstead was in an abandoned state. The Zhukov's family, employees of the orphanage, pupils of the grammar school and their parents removed garbage from the surrounding territory and from the premises of the farmstead (about two tons of garbage were removed). By the summer of 2019, the farmstead was ready for holding cultural and educational events. On June 16, the fifth “Adamov’s Fest: Looking for Happiness - 2” was held; it was the first time when this fest was held on the territory of the farmstead. The educational part of the event was a local history excursion with birdwatching elements. It was led by Galina Zakharova, a representative of the public association “Protection of Homeland Birds”, and Mikhail Duk, a local historian. Some Belarusian groups performed in the second part of the fest. Pupils of the grammar school provided volunteer support at the event. The same assistance was provided during the “Botanic Party” on July 25, 2019. The main guest of the educational party was Arkady Mikhailovich Podlipsky. The measures taken made it possible to attract funds for linking electricity and preserving the building. The events were covered in the Republican mass media. The TV and radio companies “Vitebsk” and “ONT” reported on the farmstead.

It is obvious that drawing attention to such objects of cultural heritage helps in finding investors for its preservation. In the summer of 2018, Velikoletchanskiy orphanage was disbanded, and the active cooperation of the education system in the field of educational activities was put at risk. Pupils and teachers of the grammar school interested in working with the legacy of Vladimir Adamov decided to create a community that would major in educational activities on the basis of the farmstead, tell about the scientist through social networks, participate in events that could help in working with this “place of memory”. The educational centre was named “ZYOLKA”. Translated from

Belarusian, the word “zyolka” means “dry medicinal herb”. The grass that dried up and became history. Since the work on Adamov’s legacy unites botanical and historical topics, we decided that this name would correspond to the essence of a social project aimed at establishing an educational centre for working with a place of memory such as the farmstead of botanist Vladimir Adamov. The centre’s logo was developed by Anna Olekhovich, a member of our team and a graduate of the grammar school in 2019.

The centre “ZYOLKA” faces several challenges. First of all, holding events and activities on the territory of the farmstead. Second of all, dissemination of the information about the farmstead and the activities of the centre through the media and the Internet. Finally, the accumulation of all information on the website of the centre.

These three areas can form the basis of a universal model for the work of the school community with any place of memory. Such work does not require large financial costs. It is carried out by pupils. It is quite effective in achieving the goal of drawing attention to a specific object of historical and cultural heritage.

The result depends much on the team. The team of our grammar school consists of pupils from 9th-11th grades, teachers of Biology, History, Geography, Computer Science, philologists, and parents of students. The work of the student community is led by Maria Gorovaya and Vladislav Shatilo, the pupils of 11th grade. The teachers were united by Anna Vasilievna Zhukova. The team has clearly assigned responsibilities. Mutual assistance is actively carried out.

In June 2021, the centre “ZYOLKA” organized and held an event “Botanic Party” dedicated to the birthday of Vladimir Adamov. About 60 people came to participate in this event, mainly the pupils of the 10th grade who attend the profile camp “Erudite”. Before the start of the event, the pupils held an action “Clean up the Farmstead” and prepared it for meeting the guests. The programme of the event began with an excursion “Looking for a Botanical Garden”. It was conducted by Anna Vasilievna Zhukova, a History teacher, who told about the history of former Adamov's farmstead, as well as Lyudmila Evgenievna Svetik, a Biology teacher,

(the participants were had been previously divided into two groups). Lyudmila Evgenievna's task got complicated by the fact that she had never been to Bolshie Lettsy, and the excursion really turned into a joint fascinating search for trees and plants that could belong to the former garden as well as the study of the plant watering system that had been invented by the scientist. Then the pupils worked in four teams. Each team had to go through the quest "Get to Know Zyolka". Representatives of each team were sent to clean the mowed grass in the surrounding area, and other participants mastered the quilling technique during the lesson "Postcard for a Botanist" in a prepared creative workshop being guided by young artists Ekaterina Krasilnikova and Mikhailina Kuleshova. Moreover, representatives of the teams worked on planting plants near the farmstead. A master class on planting the astilbe was conducted by a teacher of the Russian language, an amateur florist Svetlana Alekseevna Fleganova. Each team gathered and defended the "Bouquet of Health" which was assessed by Polina Shlyakhtunova and Grits Angelina, the pupils of the Chemistry and Biology profile. Furthermore, each team drew and presented the project "Adamov's Farmstead in 10 Years". Daria Palubinskaya and Ksenia Gorolevich entertained the guests with "Flower Fortune-Telling".

After the activities, the participants were invited to the "Tea Party at Adamov's" with a 19th century samovar and a concert prepared by the children. An ecological party with a historical accent ended with the awarding of the winners, participants and volunteers.

Visual products were prepared for the event. Ilya Zhlobich, a graduate of the grammar school in 2021, was responsible for the development of the concept. A follow-up media release about the event was posted on Instagram and Facebook, and an article was published in "The Teacher's Newspaper". The team of the centre "ZYOLKA" participated as speakers in the motivational training course for teachers "From Idea to Project 2.0" on the educational platform "PRoMOTION of Educational Initiatives".

In parallel with the events, work is underway on the centre's website which contains documents and information about the history of the farmstead, fate and scientific activities of Adamov, and the articles already published in the media. Information about the events held, recommendations for teachers and pupils on working with historical and cultural heritage are posted. This block of work is supervised by Elena Igorevna Polskaya, an Informatics teacher.

New knowledge, experience of participating in a social project and working in a team are the results of a particular event organized by teachers together with pupils and for each other. The idea, which had been initially implemented by several like-minded people, grew into a project that brought together a large team of popularisers of the heritage of botanist Adamov. This is a work model that can be easily changed taking into account the circumstances, time and age of the participants.

The team of "ZYOLKA" is convinced that the work of educational institutions on promoting the historical and cultural heritage can be quite effective. One of the promising tasks is to make up an interactive map of places of memory that have educational potential. Teachers and a team of pupils can work on the preservation of such places in the format of a socio-cultural project using the experience of an educational centre accumulated on the basis of the former Vladimir Adamov's farmstead in the village of Bolshie Lettsy of Vitebsk district.

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