

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 7DL

E-mail: ccrccprojectuk@gmail.com

Registered Charity No 1059832

Tel: 01457 862112 / 863534

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

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Our Summer holiday programme started early at the end of May with a visit by young disabled children and their mums to Sleaford, where they stayed with families, and then Southend where the group all stayed together at the Grosvenor Hotel near the seafront.

In June, Teesdale brought young children in remission from cancer, with their mothers, and similar groups were hosted by Glossopdale, Newark, South Manchester, Evesham and Crewe & Alsager. The Newark children spent the second half of their holiday at Denis Moors' Centre near Buxton where they were able to join in with the activities organised by the local group for the diabetic children from Gomel.

When children are having their treatment in hospital in Minsk and the mothers are going through such a stressful

time, they look forward to the day when their child will be well enough to enjoy a holiday abroad.

Blantyre invited children from Rogachev and Mogilev. This is the first time we

have brought children from Mogilev Region, where there are still many children from poor families who have never had the chance of a holiday abroad.

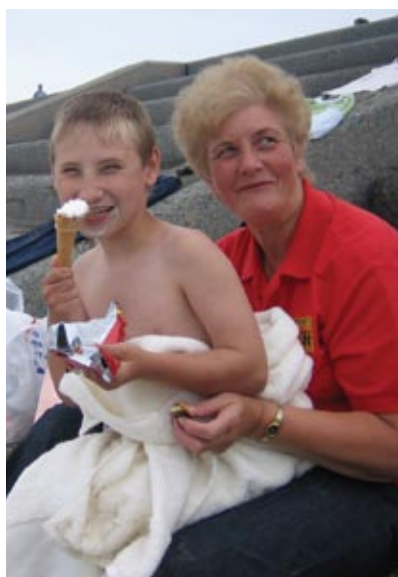
Children and teenagers who have had cancer came to Liverpool, West Pennine, Aberystwyth and Endon, and Solihull hosted teenagers from Svetlagorsk Orphanage. The Liverpool children started their holiday with a week in Wales and then enjoyed a trip to London with the support of our Bromley group in Bromley.

Endon families also hosted children from an orphanage. These were eight and nine year olds from Ulookavye, which is a home for children with learning difficulties.

Some of the children were very challenging to look after! However, with extra support from families and other members of the group, the children's stay was made possible and they benefited enormously. Anton - pictured left with his host mum, became a different child, from being very serious, timid and hardly speaking, to smiling all the time, as he learned new skills, feeding himself with a knife and fork, pushing a scooter, responding to love shown to him and trying to make conversation with those around him. We hope that through our training programme in Gomel we will

be able to help children like Anton find local foster families.

Vlad was part of a group from a school in Kalinkovichi who stayed in Leeds, and children from this district also came to Gloucester. Monk Fryston children came from villages in Gomel and Mogilev Regions and Catterick and Mid Essex as always hosted children from the Dobrush district, near the borders with Russia and Ukraine. Rugby always host a group of teenage girls from Gomel Region.



Educational Visits to Belarus

In April we took teachers Nicola Thompson and Linda Lloyd and consultant paediatrician Diana Jellinek, all from Rodney House Special School in Manchester, plus urology specialist Mary White to visit our projects in Belarus. They shared their expertise with staff at Rechitsa Boarding School and Zhuravichi Children's Home and also at Vikov, where we employ two teachers to work with some of the young adults who live in a rather grim institution. They had a very happy visit to Rodni Kut, which staff from Rodney House School have always supported. All four are committed to giving ongoing support to disabled children in Gomel, collecting specialist aid for us and offering their expertise whenever we need to consult them.



In June we organised a visit for some key people in some of our own groups – Colette Moore from South Manchester, John and Sylvia Crampin from Gloucester, and Helena Jones from Buxton – accompanied by Glyn Strong who is a journalist. They visited all our projects in Gomel, Rogachev and Minsk and returned full of renewed enthusiasm for gathering funds and support for the work of CCP(UK). Colette is seen here enjoying a dance with Greesha who lives at our 'Family Home 2000' at Klimovka.

Training Programmes

A very successful week of training in 'Leaving Care' was delivered for staff at a Boarding School in Gomel in April. Working in conjunction with an Italian charity 'Forum' we

have embarked on a three year programme of training, which also includes employing 'mentors' to support the young people in their final years in care. The two mentors came on an educational visit to Yorkshire in July, and a busy programme of training is planned for the autumn.

Supporting Children with Cancer

Our hospice team in Gomel continue to give wonderful support to families with children with terminal cancer or chronic diseases. Our doctor Olga is seen here visiting a patient at home. Andrei, one of our nurses, will visit the UK in the Autumn to look at hospice care here, with a nurse from the Republican Children's Hospice in Minsk.

We also plan to bring psychologists from the Children's Cancer Hospital in Minsk to spend a week visiting hospitals and meeting medical teams in the UK.

All our work in support of children with cancer has been greatly helped by a donation of £7,200 from Carlisle Chernobyl Children in Danger who decided to pass all their funds on to us when they closed their accounts this year. This money will also be used for the purchase of medicines for the hospital when we receive urgent requests.



Congratulations Ira and Simon!

Ira Zuyonak has worked for CCP (UK) and for the children's cancer charity in Minsk, 'Children in Trouble' for the last five years. She first met Simon Clark when he went out to Belarus with an aid convoy in 2005, and they were married in Minsk this July, with two days of celebrations being attended by many friends and family from Britain.

Ira has been a wonderful asset to both charities and we are delighted that we won't be losing her completely. She and Simon will be living in Manchester for the next year while Ira studies for an MA in International NGO Management and she still plans to give some of her time to supporting our work.

Thank You Alder Hey Hospital!

Allessia is a bright and bubbly eight year old who has spina bifida. She is an orphan and lives at Rechitsa Boarding School for children with Physical Disabilities.

Last November surgeons at Alder Hey Hospital agreed to operate on Allessia's back and to provide her with a shunt. And not only did the surgeons and their colleagues give their time for free, but they managed to acquire the sponsorship needed to cover the costs of Allessia's stay in hospital.

It was a lengthy process making all the arrangements and getting permission for Allessia to go abroad for an operation, but eventually she came to Britain in June.

The operation, carried out by spinal specialist Neil Buxton was a total success and



Allessia has also been given other tests and treatment to help her kidney function. All the staff at Alder Hey have been fantastic and Marion Stoddart, co-ordinator of our Liverpool group gave tremendous support to Allessia and her carer, with regular hospital visits as well as stays at her home where Allessia won the hearts of the whole family.



We are very grateful to Maghull Developments and Nottingham Rehab for their financial support, and to Paul May, the Neurosurgeon responsible for initiating Allessia's treatment.

One of the most exciting aspects of the visit was that we were able to bring the Chief Neurosurgeon from Gomel Regional Hospital to observe the operation, and that both Mr May and Mr Buxton have expressed an interest in making a visit to Belarus in the near future, to help supervise shunt operations for children in Gomel.



Towards the end of the visit Allessia was able to spend more time away from hospital and she had a wonderful time staying with the family of Colette Moore, our South Manchester Co-ordinator.

Life Changing New Equipment for Gomel Regional Hospital

In May Consultant Urologist Malcolm Lucas travelled to Belarus with Stuart Taylor of Albyn Medical to set up the Urodynamic testing equipment which had been delivered some weeks earlier on our aid convoy.



This piece of equipment allows doctors to properly assess their patients and to take action to prevent damage to their kidneys.

In October last year doctors from Gomel Regional Hospital came to Swansea, Sheffield and Wakefield for training in using this equipment. They learned a great deal and Malcolm was delighted with how much had been put in place before he arrived in Gomel. Stuart calibrated the equipment and Malcolm and the local doctors saw a dozen patients together, many of whom were tested. Anatoly Kasim, Chief Doctor of the Hospital and a urologist, was so proud of the new acquisition that he invited the TV cameras in to film it.

An email support system has now been set up to iron out problems and we hope that the availability of this equipment will do much to improve care for patients in Gomel,

especially some of the children in the orphanages. We are very grateful to Malcolm Lucas and to Albyn Medical and Olympus KeyMed whose combined support made this initiative possible.

Yura's First Holiday

Thirty-five year old Yura has such severe cerebral palsy he has great difficulty speaking and even more in being understood. When he struggled to say to visitors from the UK that his mum had said he should have *one* sanatorium holiday in his lifetime, we had to agree. He lives in Vikov, a boarding home for people with mental disabilities, although his problems



are purely physical. When Yura joined some thirty other young adults with various disabilities at Ptich Sanatorium in July, he not only enjoyed many experiences he had never before dreamed of, but he was able to spend the first quality time with his mum for many years. We are grateful to Victor Mizzi and Chernobyl



Children Lifeline for sponsoring the holiday for ten of the young people.

Amongst the volunteers who worked their socks off to give these young people a holiday to treasure in their memories, was Chris Doody, on his fourth visit to the holiday camp, and this year staying on for an extra stint working with a hundred plus disabled children from Zhuravichi and Rechitsa Boarding Homes. Our many enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers from the UK were joined by students from Minsk, making sure that the children got all the support they needed. A report on this holiday will be in the next newsletter, and further information on all our projects can be found on our website: www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

A Special Thank You! Derek and Ann Hinchcliffe were amongst our first hosts of young children with cancer and their mums in 1996. They enjoyed the experience so much it inspired them to become foster parents for their local authority. But this meant that they could no longer host Belarusian kids. So 10 years ago they decided to stage a cricket match amongst local pub teams to raise funds in support of the Glossop Group. Every year, rain or shine, this match has taken place on a ridiculously bumpy hillside. It has been enjoyed by all, and has been a very successful fund raiser – this year bringing the local group more than £3,000.

Local Contacts:

Aberystwyth: Sue Williams – 01970 832382

Alsager & Crewe: Georgina Greenhalgh - 01270 214521

Blantyre: Ellen Charlton - 01698 826133

Bromley & N. Kent: Liz & Paul Hodgson – 0208 462 7925

Buxton & Longnor: Barbara Cox - 01298 83225

Carmarthen: Jean Williams – 01267 275222

Catterick: Jason Living - 01677 424202

Craven: Bob Hodgson – 07732 661739

Endon & Stoke: John & Julie Gater - 01782 535000

Gloucester & Cheltenham: John Crampin - 01242 521318

Glossop: Mags Whiting - 01457 865805

Leeds: Harold Bowden - 0113 293 1633 or

Aidan Siney – 07710 187777

Liverpool: Marion Stoddart – 0151 284 7132

Llandinam & Newtown: Tony Orme – 01686 413030

Lunesdale: Harold and Lynne Jackson – 01524 64743

Manchester Medical Students: Jonathan Helbrow – 07896 018680

Mid Essex: Chris & Stephanie Woodhouse – 01245 361361

Monk Fryston: Jenny Allison – 01977 684632

Newark & Retford: Jan Baxter – 01636 676545

Rugby: Pat Brown - 01788 567998

Sleaford: Sean Gurney – 01529 309387

Solihull: Catherine McElholm - 0121 705 6724

South Manchester: Colette Moore – 0161 483 9720

Teesdale: John Lowles – 01833 640190

Totnes: Barbara Marshall – 01803 555227

Vale of Evesham: Jenny Powis - 01386 792909

West Pennine: Nobby Ainscoughe – 01706 818764

National Co-ordinator: Linda Walker 01457 862112 / 863534 or 07976 653610 **Aid Co-ordinator:** Mike Allison 01977 684632

National Treasurer: Catherine McElholm 0121 705 6724 **Groups Co-ordinator:** Julie Gater 07816 842322

Trustees: Mike Allison: 01977 684632 Mags Whiting: 01457 865805 John Gater: 01782 535000 Jean Holt: 01756 792196