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CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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 NEWSLETTER NO.31 SPRING 2006

IMPROVING CARE FOR DIABETIC CHILDREN

In December Stuart Bootle, a doctor specialising in the care of diabetes, traveled to Gomel with Linda Walker. He visited a number of hospitals and clinics, and in the company of the Diabetic Association, visited families whose children had developed severe problems due to poor control of their diabetes.

Stuart came back full of enthusiasm for two initiatives - to raise money to support children with diabetes in Gomel Region, through medical contacts and through our Buxton and Longnor group who host diabetic children in the Summer. And secondly, to set up a research programme which he hopes will result in significant improvements in the care and control of diabetes in Belarus.



REMEMBER CHERNOBYL TWENTY YEARS ON...

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the World's Worst Nuclear Disaster, CCP(UK) has been working with other charities in Britain, setting up a website, launching an Appeal and a Schools Writing Competition, producing merchandise and planning activities to keep the ongoing health effects in the public eye



Those who were young children at the time of the accident are now having children of their own, and there is a high incidence of disability or genetic disorder in these children, with many others developing cancer during their first couple of years.

In Wales, where very small amounts of caesium from Chernobyl contaminated the land, there are still fields which may not be pronounced clean for another 10 years. And yet in Belarus and Ukraine people, continue to live on land which received more than 1,000 times the level on the Welsh hills.

LOCAL CONTACTS

Aberystwyth: Galina Latypova	01974 241079	Gloucester & Cheltenham: Helen Marcus	01452 855890	Rugby: Pat Brown	01788 567998
Alsager, Crewe & Haslington: Georgina Greenhalgh	01270 214521	Glossop: Mags Whiting	01457 865805	Sleaford: Fiona Robertson	01529 300395
Anglesey: Arfon Wyn	01248 810451	Leeds: Harold Bowden or Lisa or Jacqueline	0113 293 1633 0113 247 5744	Solihull: Catherine McElholm	0121 705 6724
Basingstoke: Wendy Green	01256 462693	Liverpool: Helen Kibbey	0151 293 3416	Southend: John West	01702 558682
Blantyre: Ellen Charlton	01698 826133	Llandinam & Newtown: Roger Locke	01686 624229	Taunton Deane : David Crisp	01823 432892
Bromley & N. Kent: Tracy Shahab	0208 467 7653	London: Pat Allen	0208 533 5838	Teesdale: John Lowles	01833 640190
Buxton & Longnor: Barbara Cox	01298 83225	Lunesdale: Harold & Lynne Jackson	01524 64743	Totnes: Sue Carlyon	01752 894799
Catterick: Mark Milton	01748 818249	Mid Essex: Keith Plaister	01245 472262	Vale of Evesham: Jenny Powis	01386 792909
Craven: Bob Hodgson	07732 661739	Monk Fryston: Roy Holland	01977 683054	West Pennine: Stuart Carmichael	01706 379817
Dales: Christine Haswell	01748 833049	Newark: Jan Baxter	01636 676545		
Endon & Stoke: John & Julie Gater	01782 535000				

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

National Treasurer: Sandy McLaren 01457 854496 **Groups Co-ordinator:** Julie Gater 07816 842322

Trustees:

Mags Whiting 01457 865805 John Gater 01782 535000 Mike Allison 01977 684632 Harold Bowden 0113 293 1633

Consultants:

Dr. Marie Owen - Consultant Paediatrician; Peter Marks - Pharmacist; Sue Carlyon - Disability Specialist; Pat Marsh - Respite Care Adviser;
 Jean Holt - Foster Care Adviser; Geoff Wright - Child Care Officer; Ian Fairlie: Consultant on Radiation in the Environment; David Walker - Building Projects Manager.

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.chernobyl-children.org.uk SECURE DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE

20TH ANNIVERSARY CHERNOBYL APPEAL

'We, the undersigned, believe that inadequate resources have been made available by the International Community for genuine research into the continuing effects of the Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster.'

We call for the creation of a research fund, administered by the United Nations, to conduct independent studies into other health problems besides the massive and universally recognised rise in thyroid cancer'.

This is the introduction to our appeal which can be signed on the website www.rememberchernobyl.org or downloaded from the site so you can collect more signatures. We can also send you copies from the office. Please give this as much support as you can. It will be handed in to the United Nations at the end of April.



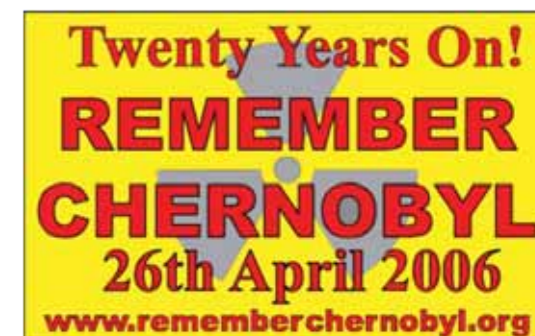
CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS

Former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo will be joined by senior journalists from BBC and ITN to judge this competition which can be found on the 'Remember Chernobyl' website. We have used excerpts from accounts written by Belarusian teenagers for the tenth anniversary of the accident to inspire school students to write about what they might have felt like if they had been caught up in the Chernobyl Disaster and had to leave their homes for ever. We have asked young people to write an essay or a poem and we will award prizes to the winning pupils and schools in each of the Key stages 2, 3 and 4. The deadline for the competition is March 26th, so if there is still time when you read this, please encourage your local schools to take part. They could use our book 'Living with Chernobyl' as a resource for background reading.



LEAFLETS AND MERCHANDISE

The Remember Chernobyl coalition has produced a leaflet, kindly printed by KeyMed, which all charities can use and we have car stickers, envelope stickers, lapel labels, badges and wristbands. We hope that all our groups are already using these and that you will all hold at least one event in April under the banner 'Remember Chernobyl' with part of the funds from this going to the Belarusian Children's Hospice, which is the main focus of fund raising for the coalition. Please send details of your events to linda@ccprojectuk.fsnet.co.uk so we can put them on the website, and make sure you check the site regularly to see what other events are planned.



A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME

Six young Belarusian children and their mothers enjoyed a very happy Christmas with families in Sleaford, our newest group. The children, all aged about four, had recently finished their treatment after having cancer when they were very small. We hope that the holiday will have given them a boost and set them on the road to recovery. The children, and their mothers spent the first few days at Denis Moors' Outdoor Centre, near Buxton, and after Christmas in Sleaford they all came back to the Centre for New Year.



Christina and her mum, Zinaida, stayed with Fiona Robertson and John Hodgkison's family. Six year old Robert's verdict on sharing his Christmas with Belarusian visitors was 'Brilliant! I can't wait to do it again!' He won't have long to wait as the Sleaford group, which Fiona now co-ordinates, are planning to host a group of children with cerebral palsy and their mothers at half term at the end of May. The mums and children will then finish their holiday at the seaside, staying in the Grosvenor Hotel at Southend, which has very generously been offered for free by Pat Henstock.



TERNICHKA FOLK GROUP TOUR

In June we will be bringing a Children's Folk Dance group, 'Ternichka' to perform concerts which we hope will raise both awareness and funds. The group will arrive in the country on June 15th, spend their first night in Southend (courtesy of Pat Henstock again!) and then perform in Evesham (16th) Gloucester (17th) Manchester (19th) Leeds (22nd) Stockport (23rd) Stoke (24th) and Bath (25th).

We hope that the folk dance group may be accompanied by several children with circus skills and in each place local children will also perform. The Belarusian group will spend half their visit staying together at Denis Moors' Centre.

The concert tour will be co-ordinated by Frank McGregor of our Endon Group



NEW MINIBUS FOR CHILDREN AT RODNI KUT

In November Sergei Gryn, Foster Papa to the children living at Rodni Kut, came to Britain with Anya, one of the carers. They visited special schools and discussed plans for the children's future care and development with the families who support them when they are in Britain. Then Sergei drove back to Belarus with our aid convoy, in the Ford minibus which we had bought with a grant from the Clarke's family's Eucalyptus Trust. The minibus is now Sergei's pride and joy and when the weather improves after the winter freeze, the children will go on regular outings for swimming and picnics as well as traveling to school and kindergarten.



MAYFLOWER CENTRE

Not a single member of staff has left since the Mayflower Centre first opened its doors in June 2004. The Centre continues to be a source of inspiration for social services departments, many of whom hope to set up something similar in the future. The Deputy Minister for Social Protection was a recent visitor. And besides the care which is offered to over 50 families of disabled children from Monday to Saturday, the Centre now hosts a group of disabled young adults on a Sunday. One young man said he felt his life had just begun, and one of the mums brought Natasha a bouquet of parsley to say 'thank you'.



AIDAN WINS O2 UK COMMUNITY AWARD

The famous BAFTA building in the heart of London, hosted the 2005 'O2 Community Awards' event last October, an annual celebration that recognises some of the achievements and contributions that O2 people have made within their local communities and further afield, through fundraising, development work and volunteering.

Aidan Siney, enthusiastic member of our Leeds group, and regular member of our aid team, was the UK winner and joined staff from the O2 group - Germany, Ireland, Airwave, UK and the Isle of Man - at the ceremony where he received his award, and CCP(UK) received a wonderful cheque for £4,000. Many congratulations to Aidan, and many thanks to O2 and to all Aidan's colleagues at the company who regularly help with Sunday convoy loading.



AID DELIVERIES

Our aid team based in Selby, Yorkshire, is led by the ever energetic Mike Allison (seen below visiting an orphanage) He has ambitious plans to make a further four convoy journeys to Belarus this year matching the activity of 2005 during which we sent over 15,000 items and boxes of aid of the widest range possible and weighing over 100 tonne. Our aid reached many of our regular receivers and included notable new additions including the village of Teleshi where, with funds raised by our Buxton and Longnor Group we were able to provide a full trailer of aid and equipment to enable the refurbishment and re-opening of the kindergarten there, and support many others in the village. The Psychiatric hospital for children in Gomel asked for specific aid which we delivered in November. Chernobyl Children Outreach have provided financial support to buy furniture for Teleshi and have 'adopted' the psychiatric hospital.



TEAMWORK WITH OTHER CHARITIES

A major and growing feature of our aid activity has been the delivery of aid to the Gomel and Minsk regions on behalf of other charities. We are also grateful for the support of charities in the UK who supply items for our convoys. Already this year we have collected a considerable supply of bikes and wheelchairs supplied by the Inside Out Trust - all in pristine condition having been renovated in UK prison workshops. Chernobyl Children in Need provided some thirteen pallets of notebooks and writing paper for schools.

We recently collected 35 beds and mattresses from the fire brigade in Manchester that will be a real boost for a kindergarten or orphanage in Belarus and Lilian Whiteley, with the support of Rotarians in Filey, has supplied nappies and incontinence pads to the value of over £3000 through their fund raising activities on our behalf. Rose Edwards and the staff at Linpac of Featherstone raised a superb £2500 towards convoy costs. Our groups in Endon, Buxton, Catterick, West Pennine, Glossop and Lancaster provide a regular supply of aid that is sorted, prepared and packed ready for convoy. Companies are an excellent source of aid, supplying us with surplus products which are enthusiastically received by schools and orphanages in Belarus.

The aid team continues to grow not just in size but in the intensity of the work and commitment of the individuals - too many to mention everyone. However, we have our warehousing at Selby provided by David Campey and our vehicles serviced by Paul Campey of Waincliffe Motors Ltd in Leeds. Ian Lacey of Lacey Haulage uses his own vehicle to collect aid and, like Paul and David, provides and drives his vehicle on convoys. Their activity saves the charity considerable cost and is much appreciated.



Our team in Gomel led by our Director Liena Fedorchuk and supported by Nikolia Korytko provides tremendous support in the preparation and operation of the convoys. Without their input and expertise the aid operation - and all our projects in Belarus - would just not be possible. Our first convoy this year leaves UK on March 26th and we plan to make a delivery into the Bragin area, just outside the Chernobyl zone, and deliveries to Gomel and Minsk. Further convoys will deliver in June, September and November.

We have many commitments in Belarus besides the projects mentioned in this newsletter - Family Home 2000 at Klimovka, for disabled young adults; a Palliative Care Team in Gomel; a Foster Care Training Programme; and ongoing support for several orphanages, schools and associations for children with cancer, diabetes or disabilities. Our groups do a great job fund raising and we have wonderful support from Rotary Clubs, Churches, Quaker Meetings, Companies and generous individuals. But we are always in need of more funds so that we can not only meet our current commitments, but can expand our activities in Belarus. If you could make us a donation we would be very grateful. This can also be done securely on line on our website: www.chernobyl-children.org.uk