

## Great News for Hospice Care Programme!



We have an excellent doctor in our palliative care team in Gomel. Irina has worked for many years in intensive care and over the last year has been learning about the very different skill of providing palliative care for children whose conditions cannot be cured. She works with a psychologist and two



nurses to provide medical and emotional support at home for around 20 families in Gomel.

We now have the opportunity to enrol Irina, along with Marina a doctor working at the Belarusian Children's Hospice in Minsk, into the Post Graduate Diploma in Palliative Care at Cardiff University. Much of their study will be online, but the course will include visits to Cardiff this autumn and next year, and both doctors will come to the UK in March this year to visit Francis House Hospice in Manchester, Martin House in Yorkshire and meet many specialists in palliative care.

The skills they will acquire through this programme will enable them to spread their knowledge throughout Belarus and greatly enhance the standard of care for children with life limiting conditions or in the terminal stages of cancer.

We are very grateful to the Raisa Gorbachev Foundation for their grant which will fund this programme, and also visits of doctors and nurses from the UK to Belarus to give training in palliative care.



### Local Contacts:

**Blantyre:** ..... Ellen Charlton - 01698 826133  
**Buxton & Longnor:** ..... Tracy Ryan - 01298 687272  
**Cheshire East:** ..... Nicola Thomson - 01625 522779  
**Craven:** ..... Suzanne Smith - 01756 709286  
**Endon & Stoke:** ..... John & Julie Gater - 01782 535000  
**Gloucester & Cheltenham:** ..... Helen Marcus  
..... 01452 855890  
**Glossop:** ..... Mags Whiting - 01457 865805  
**Leeds:** ..... Aidan Siney - 07710 187777  
**Liverpool:** ..... Marion Stoddart - 0151 284 7132  
**Lunesdale:** ..... Harold & Lynne Jackson - 01524 64743  
**Manchester University Students:** ..... David Wood  
..... 07972 668378

**Mid Essex:** ..... Chris & Stephanie Woodhouse  
..... 01245 361361  
**Monk Fryston:** ..... Margaret Miles - 01937557039  
**Newark & Retford:** ..... Jan Baxter - 01636 676545  
**Rugby:** ..... Pat Brown - 01788 567998  
**Solihull:** ..... Catherine McElholm - 0121 705 6724  
**South Manchester:** ..... Colette Moore - 0161 483 9720  
**Teesdale:** ..... Ian Findlay - 01833 622285  
**Totnes:** ..... Barbara Marshall - 01803 555227  
**Vale of Evesham:** ..... Jo Fairclough - 01386 462994  
**West Pennine:** ..... Lynne Hutton - 01706 522559  
**Wimborne:** ..... Barbara Lawley - 01202 856223

Visit our website: [www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk) Secure Donations can be made online

**Executive Director:** Linda Walker 01457 852621/863534 07976 653610 [ccprojectuk@gmail.com](mailto:ccprojectuk@gmail.com)

**Projects Co-ordinator:** Beth Saffer 01457 8852621 07966 285581 [bethr.ccp@gmail.com](mailto:bethr.ccp@gmail.com)

**Aid Co-ordinator:** Mike Allison 07711 124065 **Training Co-ordinator:** Eric Shedlow 01943 462794

**National Treasurer:** Catherine McElholm 07747 775218 [cath.mcelholm@gmail.com](mailto:cath.mcelholm@gmail.com)

**Trustees:** John Gater - 01782 535000 Mags Whiting - 01457 865805 Julie Gater - 07816 842322

**Consultants:** Dr. Marie Owen, Consultant Paediatrician; Pat Marsh: Respite Care Adviser;  
Peter Marks: Pharmacist; John Costello: Palliative Care Consultant; Rosemary Newton: Epilepsy Consultant  
Ian Fairlie: Consultant on Radiation in the Environment; Brian Bennett: Diplomatic Consultant

**Published by Chernobyl Children's Project (UK) Registered Charity No.1059832.**

A non profit making company, limited by guarantee Registration No. 3220045 (England & Wales)

Registered Office: Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 7DL

Designed and Printed by Olympus KeyMed in support of Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)

## CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

## ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Spring 2011

A quarter of a century on from the world's worst nuclear disaster the children of Belarus and the other heavily affected regions continue to suffer - and will do for many years to come. It is vital that this message is understood

by politicians, the media and the public, and we will be working with other charities in the UK and across Europe to



raise awareness in the run up to the anniversary on

April 26 and throughout this year. There are many events and activities planned and we hope that you will get involved with some of them. See our website for up to date information.



A great way of reminding people about Chernobyl and its consequences is to display a sticker in your car window (design above) and to wear a purple ribbon badge. This is to remind us all of the Purple Zones, those areas on the radiation map which received the heaviest fallout and will be contaminated for hundreds, or even in some cases, thousands of years.



### Chernobyl Challenge

Why not help us to raise funds by taking up a Chernobyl Challenge? You could run 5K, 10k or perhaps you might like to try a marathon! You could do a sponsored swim or bike ride, set yourself a weight loss target or try a bungee jump or a sky dive. The most exciting challenge we know of to date is Alex Walker's plan to swim the ten longest lochs in Scotland! You will find a list of 25 challenges and links to some websites to find out more at [www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk). There will be 5k Chernobyl Challenge walks in Stoke on Trent and Littleborough or you might like to take part in the London 10k in July, running through the centre of the city.

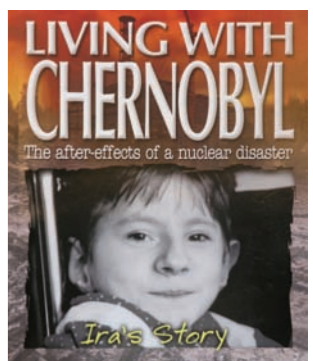


### Chernobyl 25 Candlelight Vigil

In towns and cities across Europe there will be candlelight vigils on April 25, the eve of the anniversary in memory of those who have died and in support of those still suffering today. Vigils will take the shape of a 25 or a radiation symbol. See our website at [www.chernobyl.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl.org.uk) to find out where your nearest vigil will take place. Bring a candle with you to the event, and if you can't take part, light a candle in your window at home during the evening.

### Creative Writing Competition

We are inviting schools to take part in a competition which will help their students to empathise with the children whose lives have been blighted by the disaster. Schools throughout the country have been emailed with details of the competition which is for children of 10 to 16 years old, and divided into three key stages. The judges will be children's authors Gill Lobel and Josephine Sweeney and a crime writing duo, known as Nicci French. Please have a look on the website and encourage any schools you are in touch with to take part. The deadline for entries is early July. Our book 'Living with Chernobyl' is a useful resource for schools and an interesting read for host families too.



### Non Uniform Day

We hope that taking part in the writing competition and possibly performing a play or reading (also on the websites) will inspire school students to raise money for us. We are asking schools to have a non uniform day, and our suggestion is that they hold this on around April 8, and ask students to bring in £1 to support us. Please do all you can to involve your local schools in this initiative.

## Family Home 2000

Our Family Home in the village of Klimovka, near Gomel, celebrated its tenth anniversary in November. The party was a joyous event, attended by newspapers and TV and many of those who helped to create the home and to support the development of the young people. Greesha and Liena have lived at Klimovka since it opened and it has made a profound difference to their lives. All the young people present made speeches and Greesha said simply "Thank you for giving me a life."



In recent months the house has been very busy with some of the young people from Duyanovka living in the home while repairs are underway at their institution, and others making regular visits. Ira came from Rechitsa Boarding School last summer and will live at Klimovka for a couple of years. She will then move on to a job and an independent life as five other young people have done over the last few years.

## Rodni Kut

We are very grateful to Miller Philanthropy who this year have given us a generous grant to support our children who live at Rodni Kut. This is a small family home which we set up in 2003 for children who came from Zhuravichi, or from the Home for Abandoned Babies. Ira, the youngest of the children, has moved back to live with her birth family but for Nazar, Stas, Anya and Anton, Rodni Kut will always be their home.



The children have flourished in the care of their foster father, Sergei, and a group of 'mums'. As they grow the house is becoming too small for them, and this summer we hope to finish the extension which will give them plenty of space, where Anya and Stas can practice their walking, and other children and young people can visit and share their home.



## Training Programme

Although Jean Holt has handed over co-ordination of the training programme to Eric Shedlow, she will be joining Eric to give training in Gomel in this her twelfth year. They are going to focus on developing child centred care in the institutions and on training Belarusians who will pass on their knowledge to others.

We have also been asked for help with training in the care and treatment of children with epilepsy; in the fitting of shunts and gastrostomies; and in uro-dynamics for children. In an exciting new development we have been invited to be involved in consultations over the creation of new laws about the care of disabled people living in institutions.

Miller Philanthropy has also given us a grant to support training and educational exchange visits, which is wonderful as this is possibly the most important and effective part of our work.

## Humanitarian Aid Programme

We have a convoy going to Belarus in April and Mike Allison's team will be joined on this trip by TV personality Jeremy Spake. On his return Jeremy plans to load an articulated truck with aid and take this out to Gomel in the summer. A production team will join him on the trip and film some of our projects in Belarus with a view to a series of programmes in the autumn. Jeremy will also be taking on a Chernobyl Challenge to raise funds for us. We are delighted to have his support!



## Recuperative Holidays 2011

We will have a number of new groups hosting children this summer - in Dorset and Cheshire, and hopefully also in Stafford, Surrey and Exeter.

Our Buxton group has always hosted children with diabetes and it is great news that the group in Liverpool have offered to invite diabetic children too this summer.

Solihull group has invited teenagers from Svetlagorsk Orphanage every summer for the last seven years. The orphanage has now closed and the group will host children from a village school in Svetlagorsk, most of whom have never had the chance to go abroad.



Our other groups will host village children from contaminated areas or children in remission from cancer. Some of these will be very young children who come with their mums and some will be older teenagers, up to 19 years old.

A group of young children in remission from cancer came with their mums for a winter holiday in the midst of our heaviest snow. They arrived on the day Heathrow was closed and were one of the very few flights to get through to Gatwick. The mums were bemused as Minsk Airport never seems to have any problems coping with snow and ice! The mothers and children spent the Christmas period with families in Buxton and the rest of the holiday, staying together at Denis Moors' Centre in Longor on the Staffordshire border. As always the New Year Party was a highlight of the visit.



## Congratulations to Denis and Ira

In early February Denis held a big party to celebrate his 60th Birthday. No presents, donations only, was the strict order of the day and the evening made a wonderful £2,000 to help us finish the extension at Rodni Kut. All the guests were delighted when Denis announced his engagement to Ira Svistun. Ira has been coming to Britain as a superb interpreter with groups of children for over ten years. We wish her and Denis all the very best for the future.

## Summer in Belarus

We will be sending volunteers out to Belarus as usual in the summer to work with around 100 children and young people with disabilities at a sanatorium or summer camp. We hope to use a new sanatorium this year 'Romantika' which is about 8km from Gomel. This will make it easier to involve lots of Belarusian students and volunteers, including a group of medical students who perform concerts for our Klimovka residents. The Belarusians are always very popular with our young adults, who can chat to them in their native language!



We also plan to take a group of experienced volunteers to Zhuravichi and Vikov institutions in the summer, so that even more children and young adults can benefit from the care and attention of our volunteers. Although it can be very emotionally challenging, the benefit to all is immeasurable and it also shows staff at the institutions different ways of working with disabled children. This will be our third summer of this project and it has been very successful.

We always host training days for our volunteers, and this year we are planning a residential team building weekend. If you would like to know more about the camp email Beth at [bethr.ccp@gmail.com](mailto:bethr.ccp@gmail.com) or for any of our projects have a look at our website [www.chernobyl-children.org](http://www.chernobyl-children.org).