

# Chernobyl Children's Project (UK)



AUGUST E-NEWS

[www.chernobyl-children.org.uk](http://www.chernobyl-children.org.uk)



## Summer Holiday Stress

Organising the recuperative holiday this year has been incredibly difficult and time consuming because the UK Border Agency has gone out of its way to make life impossible for Chernobyl charities. In 16 years we had never had a visa refused for a child, but this year we were issued about a dozen refusals. The visas were eventually granted on the second time of asking - after taking the children to Minsk to be fingerprinted again! - but Artem and Vova (pictured on the right) lost a week of their holiday before their visas were issued. And now the Border Agency are trying to introduce even more unreasonable rules and procedures for next year. UKBA bizarrely seem to be out to destroy the recuperative holidays altogether. We are hoping that all the charities can work together to fight this. If you would like to help by getting in touch with your MP, let me know and I will send you some more information.

Many thanks to all the group co-ordinators and host families for putting up with the anxiety and hassle. Once the children got here they all had a wonderful holiday. We had four new groups hosting this summer - Wimborne, Rotherham, Stafford and East Cheshire. They all enjoyed the experience and are already making plans for next year!

*Linda Walker, Executive Director*



## Volunteers return from a brilliant summer in Belarus

Our summer programme in Belarus went very smoothly this year! We sent 23 volunteers out in three groups to Ptich, where we hold a summer camp for children with special needs from Rechitsa and Zhuravichi children's homes. The children love the extra attention and enthusiasm of the volunteers, and the volunteers love them! Sammi (left) went for the first time this year and said "I don't know any of the volunteers who wouldn't want to return to help give the children another great holiday as we all agreed it was an incredible experience."

This year, I travelled with 6 volunteers to Zhuravichi and Vikov institutions. The work there is incredibly challenging, there are so many children and all are desperate for love and attention. But we had a brilliant group and everyone found it worthwhile, and are already looking forward to next summer!

Thank you to everyone who made this summer so much fun; the volunteers for their hard work (and great fundraising success!), the office staff in Belarus who did an excellent job of coordinating the transport and logistics, and everyone in the UK who raised funds and donated items for the camp. We couldn't have done it without you!

*Beth Saffer, Projects Coordinator*

PS You can now read volunteers' stories on our website ([link](#))



## Upcoming visits

We have two exciting visits planned for September. Firstly, Dr Natalia Savva is coming to take part in a specialist course at Cardiff University to train her in palliative care. She will also visit several hospices across the North West during her stay. Then in mid-September, a group of four social workers are coming from Belarus to learn about leaving care support services and transition to adulthood for young disabled adults in the UK. We hope both these trips will be inspiring and informative for our visitors, and will continue to improve the lives of children and young adults in Belarus.

## Chernobyl's Zone of Alienation

Photographer Darren Nisbett has finished a superb exhibition in Eton on 'Chernobyl's Zone of Alienation' and raised over £1000 for CCP in the process.

We are now running a joint Twitter competition to win one of his original prints. To enter, simply retweet 'Win a limited edition Chernobyl print @ChernobylUK #ccpphoto (Please RT) click here >[bit.ly/pRDg3V](http://bit.ly/pRDg3V)' or hashtag #ccpphoto for a chance to win!

To see images from the exhibition go to the website [www.darkoptics.net](http://www.darkoptics.net)



## Upcoming events for your diary

[Asphodel Puppet Show, Hastings, 4th September](#)

[9th Hills and Dales annual walk, Buxton, 10th September](#)

[1980s ball, Altrincham, 1st October](#)

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