

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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A Wonderful Summer!

Autumn News 2018

All the children who came to stay this summer were in remission from cancer. They were lucky to have lots of sunshine, which meant more time out enjoying the fresh air, having fun and boosting their immune systems.



Our **Glossop and New Mills Group** hosted five young children with their mums. They stayed for the first week in the Torrs Apartments in New Mills and then moved to stay with host families in Glossopdale, Hayfield and Mellor.

Kristina celebrated her fifth birthday with us, but most of the other children were six years old. For the first time we had a baby in the group, and six month old Valera came along on all the activities. The children and their mums returned home happy and healthy with lots of good memories.

Kristina celebrated her fifth birthday with us, but most of the other children



The children visiting our **Staffordshire** group lived for three weeks with host families and had an exciting and action packed week at RAF Shawbury.

The children spent lots of time in the countryside – climbing the Wrekin, building dens and visiting Fordhall Organic Farm; they went to Waterworld, on the Churnett Valley railway and pony trekking; were

able to try their hand at gymnastics at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre and at acting at the Regent Cinema in Hanley.

A day at the seaside was another highlight of the visit, as was a day of activities at the impressive YMCA Centre in Hanley

Most of our visiting children also visited dentists and opticians, not so much fun as the adventures, but an important part of their visit, especially for those who needed fillings or new glasses.





Our **Solihull** teenagers divided their holiday between staying with host families and at Linsworth School in Birmingham. They had days out at Warwick Castle, Stratford and West Midlands Safari Park; they went climbing, sailing, cycling, swimming and horse riding; went to Drayton Manor; met Birmingham Harley Davidson Club; learned some circus skills and had a day out in London.

Thank you to everyone who provided free activities for Solihull and all our groups, and to all the wonderful host families without whom these recuperative holidays would not be possible.



Our **Endon and Stoke-on-Trent** group hosted teenagers, as always, although they were a little younger than usual this time, with most being around 16. All the group came together for Group Leader Ludmilla Nazina's 70th Birthday. The young people took part in a whirlwind of activity, including a weekend at Alfrey Camp where they enjoyed jet skiing and canoeing. Alton Towers, a day in London, 4 x 4 driving and a trip to JCB were other highlights of their visit.

After a fortnight staying with families, they moved to Cicely Haughton School at Wetley Rocks, where they spent the second half of their holiday.



We had a fantastic group of volunteers going to **Zhuravichi and Vikov** institutions this year, led by Lynne Murphy who was on her 12th visit to Belarus!



The last few children still living at Zhuravichi have now been relocated by the authorities so Zhuravichi is now an entirely adult institution, but the lovely director who thinks of the residents as family, is hoping that the children will be able to return to their former home once they turn 18 years old. All of the volunteers, including several going for the first time this year, worked very hard to ensure the residents of the two institutions had a fortnight to remember.

A change of director at Vikov meant that, finally, the old ladies could enjoy some pampering and have their nails painted which they loved. And at Zhuravichi, for the first time, some of the wheelchair-bound residents were treated to a cooking session in the kitchen funded through a CCP / US Embassy project.



Marcin Witek, on his fourth visit to the Camp, led our first group of volunteers at **Ptich Sanatorium**. They gave all the children and young people an amazing holiday. The young people pictured above live at the nearby institution at Kapatkevichi and this is the first time we have involved them in the holiday.

There were games of volleyball and football; a karaoke and regular discos; a 'lost in the forest' game; outings to local towns and museums; parties and picnics; and lots of art and craft sessions. Other children staying at the Sanatorium joined in many of the activities, and for some it will have been their first time meeting children with disabilities. And 17 year old Lilia Kamysh did a brilliant job as interpreter for the group.

Maternity Visit to Manchester and Birmingham



Two Belarusian doctors have just spent a fascinating week in September visiting hospitals in Manchester and Birmingham. Tatiana Velikanava is the Chief Paediatrician of Gomel Region and Irina Burlakova is the Chief Gynaecologist. They were looking at all aspects of pregnancy, delivery and post-natal care.

In Manchester they visited Tommy's Research Centre at St Mary's which runs many specialist clinics, and toured the Consultant led and Midwife led wards, visited the Birth Centre at Wythenshawe Hospital and had a tour of Manchester Children's Hospital with the Medical Director.

In Birmingham they visited Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull Hospitals, and learned about screening programmes, diabetic care, specialist clinics, high and low risk pathways, ultrasound protocols, breastfeeding support and the role of the health visitor.

Many thanks to Community Midwife Viv Carberry, a member of our Solihull Group, for organising a brilliant programme in Birmingham. And to Dawn Matthews, a midwife specialising in Hypnobirthing, who is a member of our Glossop Group. It was Dawn's visit to Gomel last year which sparked the idea of an educational visit, to share ideas and knowledge which might help to improve the experience of childbirth for mothers in Gomel.



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