

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Kinder House, Fitzalan Street, Glossop, SK13 7DL

Registered Charity No. 1059832

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

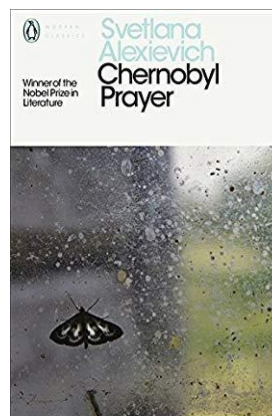
Tel: 01457 863534

Summer News 2019

Chernobyl Drama brings 1986 Disaster to Life!

During May and early June a superb series about the Chernobyl accident aired on Sky and HBO.

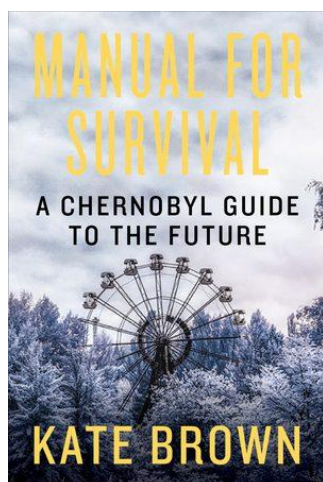
It depicted with eerie reality the chaos of the accident, the courageous actions of the liquidators and the attempts to cover up first the existence and then the extent of the disaster by the Soviet authorities.



Much of the work was based on Svetlana Alexievich's deeply moving 'Voices from Chernobyl' which was later reprinted as 'Chernobyl Prayer', and for which she won the Nobel Prize. If you have not read it do try to get hold of a copy. Alexievich says 'This drama has completely changed the perception of Chernobyl'

The series was so brilliantly written, directed, filmed and acted that it has been hailed as a masterpiece and voted the most popular series ever produced.

Interest in all aspects of the Chernobyl disaster and its aftermath has soared with constant articles across the media. We have had interviews on BBC Online, in the Manchester Evening News and Closer Magazine as well as with local papers and radio stations. And donations through our website from people as far away Australia, Canada and the US.



Another powerful testament to the impact of Chernobyl is Kate Brown's book '*Manual for Survival*'. She is a historian and a lecturer in environmental and nuclear history who spent 10 years researching this book. She discovered how radioactive food was shipped around the Soviet Union and even sent abroad as humanitarian aid; how reports of massive increases in many diseases were covered up, not just by Soviet authorities, but also by Western Governments and even the United Nations. She believes this is because they were anxious for the effects of radiation from the nuclear bomb tests not to be discovered. This book makes clear the irreversible impact of nuclear fallout on every living thing.

Foster Care Training

As part of our ongoing efforts to have children with disabilities fostered into families, Stephanie Bishop and Elise Lazell spent a week in Belarus in March. They are both senior social work managers from Essex County Council. They delivered training to professionals working in Foster Care and to existing Foster Families and they took part in a very fruitful Round Table Discussion with the Director of Education for Gomel Region and others responsible for Foster Care.

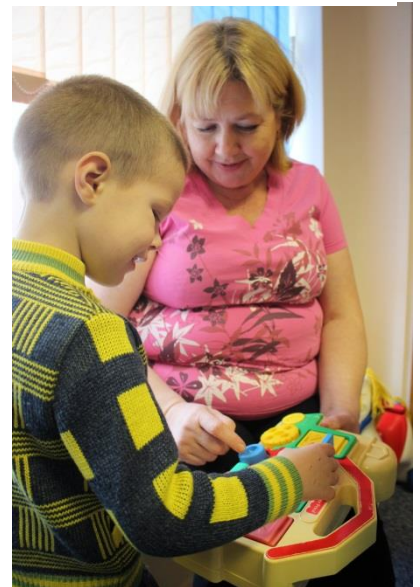


In Minsk they met representatives of the Ministry of Education, the National Adoption Centre, UNICEF and the British Embassy. This was Stephanie and Elise's first visit to Belarus, but we hope it will not be their last! We are very grateful to the British Embassy for funding the visit and the training programme.



UNICEF Project

Our partner organisation in Gomel, 'Supporting Children Together' have been acting as the Implementing Partner for a project funded by UNICEF. Working with families with disabilities in three districts of Gomel Region, the aim is to improve the level of care and the co-ordination between services offered by local authorities.



A group of mothers take part in art therapy in Rogachev, and a child from the project is cared for at the Mayflower Respite Care Centre in Gomel.

In a new initiative in Rechitsa we have funded respite care for children involved in the project there.

The first year of this Project has been very successful. Geoff Wright and Lewis Greaves have delivered training to all the staff involved and Geoff will help them prepare case studies.

The Project is now expected to expand into other regions of Belarus, and other districts of Gomel Region. Supporting Children Together will continue to co-ordinate the work in the Gomel area.



Mental Health Project

Child Psychiatrist Kay Harvey and ADHD Specialist Nurse Sally Trowse, both of the Pennine Care Foundation Trust in Greater Manchester, made their second visit to Belarus in June.

They worked with parents (left) and delivered training to doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists and teachers. They covered working with children who self-harm or feel suicidal; coping with challenging behaviour; and many aspects of working with children with ADHD or who are on the autistic spectrum, and were enthusiastically received by all who heard them.

Making Plans for Summer

Children and Teenagers in remission from cancer will be spending a happy four weeks this summer with our groups in Endon & Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford, Solihull, Gloucester and Glossop & New Mills.

These are Solihull teens at last year's leaving party.

Groups are currently completing their itineraries for the summer which will include theme parks and seaside trips, climbing and water sports as well as



simple walks in the countryside, picnics and barbecues.

Glossop & New Mills will host 10 year old children, and in addition they have invited 9 year old Angelina who goes to Special School No 5 in Gomel.

Angelina has very severe sight problems. Her mum, who will come with her for the holiday, does everything she can to help Angelina's education, making her tactile numbers, shapes and letters.

They will meet teachers from special schools who can show them activities for children with sensory impairments.

Our Great Volunteers

We have five groups this summer heading out to Ptich Sanatorium, Rechitsa Boarding Home and Zhuravichi. Some of them got together for a preparation weekend in May at High Ash Farm Near Buxton. They are a perfect mix of returners – some whom have been many times to Belarus – and enthusiastic new volunteers.

They have been doing some great fund raising online; the Persula Foundation, which has supported these holidays for many years, donated £3,000 this year, and the Volunteers Annual Ball at The



Cresta Hotel in Altrincham raised £1,500.

This will enable us to provide holidays for young adults with disabilities from a number of different institutions; plus for mums and children from The Mayflower Respite Centre and for the young people who live in our Family Type Homes.

They will join children from Rechitsa Boarding Home, and the volunteers will organise games and sports, and arts and crafts for them, giving them all an unforgettable holiday.

Raising Funds to Support our Work

Endon & Stoke-on Trent held a Chernobyl Anniversary Dinner and Auction which raised £3,000 and organised games and stalls during the Endon Well Dressing Event over three days, plus a car boot sale which altogether raised £1,500

Glossopdale & New Mills staged a sponsored Kinder Trespass, and a children's 'Spring Up Kinder' event which raised over £2,000 and an Auction of Promises which raised £1,800.

Solihull has raised a good part of its funds this year through individuals asking for donations for special events. When Allan & Julie Kirke got married, and when Robin Johnson celebrated his 70th birthday, donations were requested and over £5,000 was raised between the two events.,

Stafford Co-ordinator Margie Haslop, as well as raising funds for the group's summer visitors, is also working with Rotary Clubs in District 1210 to fund a new minibus to send out to Belarus.



Great British Festival

We had a CCP/ 'Supporting Children Together' stall at the Great British Festival in Minsk again this year. It was organised by our colleagues in Gomel and hundreds of visitors came to the stall and picked up information about our work.



Talented Belarusian Violinist performs for Chernobyl Children's Project

Mischa Linden first came to the UK as a child to stay with a Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Group. His host Mike Hewitt managed to get him a place at Chethams School of Music in Manchester and Paul McCartney helped to sponsor his fees. Mischa now lives in Manchester and he is keen to raise funds to support children in Belarus. He is seen here playing at IKEA in Burtonwood where he has twice played for CCP. Glossopdale & New Mills group will organise a concert for him later in the year.

Vital Medicines for Children's Cancer Hospital

In May we received an urgent request from the Hospital in Minsk for an expensive drug called Cosmegen which is needed to treat many types of childhood cancer. We passed the request to **Godel Technologies** in Manchester, who give us wonderful support for several of our projects in Belarus.

Their response was amazing! They immediately gave \$20,000 to buy 120 vials of Cosmegen which will provide life saving treatment for at least 10 children.

Please have a look at our website www.chernobyl-children.org.uk to see our latest news, information about our groups and our activities in Belarus

You can **Make a Donation** through the website or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ccprojectuk)

or Text '**CHERNOBYL5**' to **70085** to give **£5** (you can put in any number up to 20)

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

ccprojectuk@gmail.com

01457 863534

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