

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

Supporting Children of Belarus since 1995

Charity No 1059832

www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

News from Gomel

May 2020

Covid-19

You may have read about the virus having taken hold in an orphanage in Minsk Region, but as far as we know there are no outbreaks in any of the institutions and schools we support, and everyone is safe and well at Klimovka (right) and Rodni Kut. The Mayflower Centre and all the Day Centres are closed now, and people working in the institutions are working there for two weeks and then having two weeks at home to reduce daily cross contamination.



The President still insists the virus is not a threat, but the majority of people seem to be acting as responsibly as possible. People are having to take holidays from work, either paid or unpaid, there is no furlough scheme and no support for businesses.

US Embassy Funded Project to Support Families with Children with Disabilities

This is a similar project to the one undertaken with Unicef funding last year. It involves assessing the children's needs and working with the local authorities to make sure that there is a co-ordinated approach from Health, Education and Social Protection. The project is taking place in Buda Koshelevo, Chechersk and Dobrush, all areas where there is a high level of Covid infection. Assessments of the children and families have been made, but now the work has had to be suspended until later when it is safe for social workers to visit the families again.

UNICEF Project to prevent children going into the Baby Home

Natasha Samoilik, the Director of our partner organisation 'Supporting Children Together' and our accountant Larissa, take it in turns to work in the office and work at home to keep as safe as possible, and supervise the work on this project.

Natasha has written to Privalov, the Deputy Governor and the Directors of Education and Health asking for their support for this project. Privalov, who we brought on an educational visit to the UK two years ago, has already expressed his strong support.





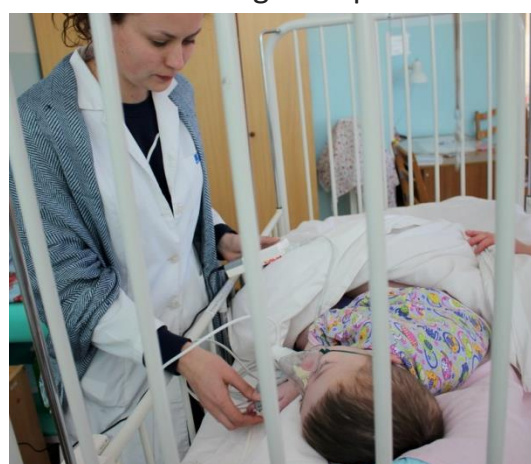
The idea of the project is to support struggling families to enable them to keep their babies and young children at home; where this is not possible to place the children into suitable foster families; and to remove healthy children from the Baby Home either back to their birth families with support or to foster families.

This is something we have been trying to



do for more than 10 years! Jean Holt first organised training to try to move things in this direction in 2008.

We are delighted that now the plan has the backing of Unicef and the Ministry of Health, so it should happen at last. Before the end of May there will be an online training delivered by Svetlana Rhyzhikova, the Unicef Manager responsible for post Soviet countries. Then SCT and Unicef will work out

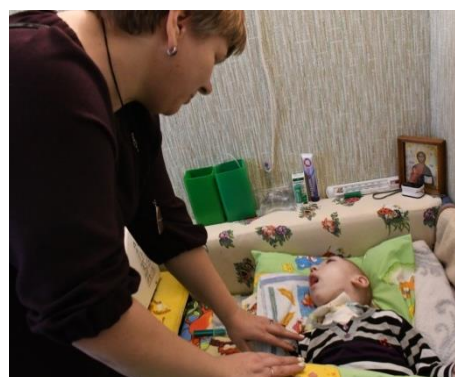


how much they can do online, and how much work they need to delay till it is safe for visits to take place again. Hopefully next spring Stephanie Bishop and Elise Lazell from Essex County Council will be able to go back to Gomel to deliver training for this project.

The plan is that in the second year Unicef will fund, and SCT will implement the next steps and turn the Baby Home into a Palliative Care Centre both for children living there, and to support families who are caring for their very poorly children at home.

Home Hospice Team

The Region's Chief Paediatrician, Tatiana Velikanava, (right) is very involved in supporting both the Unicef project and the work of the hospice team.



We are currently funding a doctor and two nurses, part time, and providing transport for them to visit families. Parents are anxious not to visit polyclinics and are happy for the hospice staff to come, with PPE, to see their children when support and advice is needed, which can't be delivered by phone. Support is now

being extended to families all over the region, although this is mostly done by phone and Skype. There are also more children than ever before being sent home from the Cancer Hospital at Barovliany, after their treatment has failed and Ludmilla, the doctor, visits them at home.

Irina Kalmanovich has worked as our Hospice doctor for the last 10 years. She has now retired from the hospice team but still works in the Intensive Care Department at the Children's Hospital. We wish her all the best for the future.



In Memory of Alex 'Sandy' McLaren

Chernobyl Children's Project has just lost one of its earliest members and a key supporter of the charity throughout its 25 years.

Alex McLaren became the first National Treasurer of the charity within weeks of its launch in 1995, and looked after the accounts for many years as the charity grew to encompass groups all over the UK.

He supported the charity in many other ways and drove a truck out to Belarus to deliver humanitarian aid to hospitals and orphanages.



In 2006 Alex and his wife Carole attended a ceremony at Buckingham Palace when the charity was recognised for its significant work in Belarus.



Every summer, when children came to stay in Glossop, he and Carole hosted the interpreter in their home and took part in organising all the activities of the visiting children.

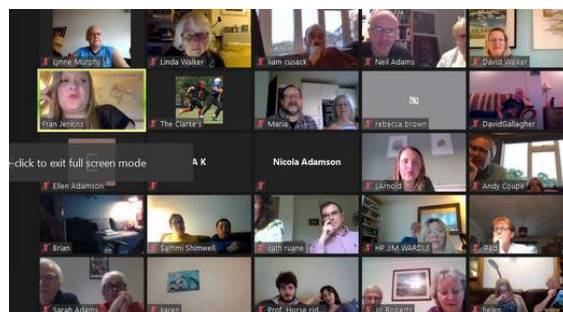
He will be missed by his many friends in Chernobyl Children's Project throughout the country.

Alex was 85 years old and passed away on April 21st.

Thank You for your wonderful support!

We have had a tremendous response to the appeals we have sent out online and by post. Thank you so much to all who have donated and to those who set up Facebook fundraising pages, which elicited fantastic support, especially Lana Hiken who raised nearly £4,000!

Lynne Murphy and Brian Hardwick organised a virtual balloon race which was very popular and raised over £1,100



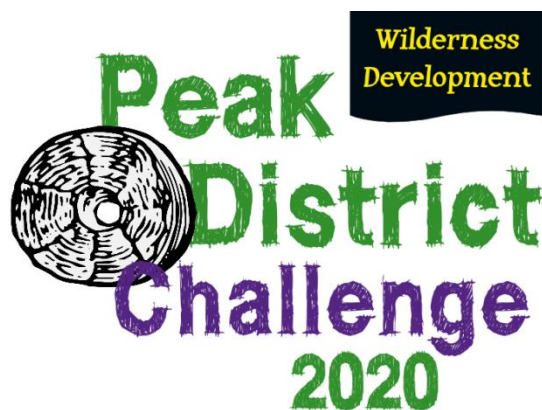
Over 60 people took part via Zoom in our pub quiz last Saturday night. Many thanks to Fran Jenkins and Ellen Adamson for organising it and to everyone who took part. The winners will be announced on our Facebook page and on our website www.chernobyl-children.org.uk

CCP is signed up for the **Peak District Challenge**, which the organisers still hope will be able to go ahead in September. If you sign up to take part and gather sponsorship for CCP, it will be a good incentive to get fit! If it has to be delayed it will take place next year. Details below.

18-19 September 2020

The Peak District Challenge is a picturesque trekking challenge that offers five levels of difficulty for hill walkers and runners: 10km (Back before Dark), then 25km (Copper), 50km (Bronze), 75km (Silver) or 100km (Gold Ultra).

Each distance has a target time to try to beat, from a manageable 3 hours to walk 10km and be Back Before Dark, up to a huge 24 hour target to complete the 100km Gold Ultra Peak District Challenge.



The routes all start at Hathersage and are anticlockwise loops.

The **Back Before Dark 10km** follows the pink line to Shatton and back.

The **Copper 25km** Challenge follows the red line anticlockwise from Hathersage to Baslow.

The **Bronze 50km** Challenge follows the orange line on this map past Castleton then Tideswell and Baslow.

The **Silver 75km** Challenge takes the silver route shown, covering large distances over relatively less hilly terrain.

The **Gold Ultra 100km** Challenge follows mainly the outermost route, following the yellow line

shown above between checkpoints. It's the longest and steepest route.

Visit <http://goo.gl/maps/r6ulJ> for a closer look at the provisional routes. Final routes are revealed 7-days before the event. You can self-navigate round the challenge, or there is the option of following a flagged route or joining a guided route on the lower challenges.

Support and Refreshments

On the way round, checkpoint crews monitor teams' safety and provide drinks and snacks along with motivation and encouragement! Water stations are provided, and for 25-100km routes refreshments along with a stew supper on Saturday evening are included in the price of your entry.



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We are holding an **Online Auction** to raise funds. An online auction works in a similar way to a physical one except people bid on the website.

Do you have an item which you would be happy to offer for auction, and willing to post out in mid-June? We are looking for new or as-new items, under 2kg, which can be easily wiped down or washed by both you and the buyer, in order to minimise risk. Minimum worth should be £5 – but we can set a reserve if it's an item which shouldn't be sold too cheaply.

Vouchers would also be great, but we're reluctant to ask local businesses who are likely to be struggling at this time. If, however, you have a contact who you think may donate a voucher (which would be good promotion for them), please do ask them.

If you have anything to donate, **please email photos and brief descriptions** of the item/s to us at glossopauction@gmail.com and we will put them on the auction site. Buyers will pay through our PayPal account and we will let you know when payment is received so you can package the item and post it. You will be able to claim back for postage if you wish.

The auction will run from **9am June 1st - 9pm June 15th**.

If you have any questions, email or phone 07547 191 980.

Thank you,

Helena Gannon (Glossop and New Mills Group)



Don't forget to nominate Chernobyl Children's Project For a £1,000 award! 500 awards will be made to charities by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. You will need our charity number which is 1059832 and nominations finish on Sunday May 24th.

