

# CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

## ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Registered Charity No. 1059832

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Summer Newsletter 2021

### A Family for Every Child

Five year old Misha is one of the children who have found a loving family as the result of the UNICEF project carried out by our partners in Gomel, Supporting Children Together (SCT).

The final conference took place in June. Natasha from Rogachev, who was one of the speakers, has adopted Misha and his three siblings!



Thirty nine babies and toddlers have been moved from the Baby Home during the thirteen months of the project, almost all straight into families, and two thirds of the young children who were taken from their parents and given orphan status during this period were found families and avoided going into the Baby Home at all.



Our Natasha, Head of SCT, who co-ordinated the project, was also one of the speakers. Tatiana Radachai, Director of UNICEF in Belarus, and Yury Bogdanovich, the Head of Priorbank, who sponsored the project, gave gifts to some of the foster and adoptive families.



The local authorities, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF were delighted with the results of the project. Congratulations to Natasha and all the team!

There are now just 30 children in the Baby Home and half of them are in need of palliative care.

We will continue supporting Foster Families in the coming months, and hope to help more young children and more children with disabilities to find loving families.



## Happy Birthdays at Rodni Kut!

Nazar passes a present to Anya on her birthday in early June, and just a few weeks later it was Nazar's turn to celebrate his birthday.



In 2017 Nazar came to spend his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday with Helena Gannon and family. And Anya has been coming to Devon for two long holidays every year for the last 18 years, until Covid stopped her last year. A new baby has been added to the Edwards/Thompson extended family in Devon since Anya last came, and she can't wait to be able to come over and meet her.



## Julie Raftery – Star Fundraiser

In 2017 Julie Raftery met the teenagers from our Endon and Stoke group who were enjoying a fun day at Kingsbury Jetski Centre where she is a member. She heard about the work of CCP from Ingrid Boulton, who was hosting two of the teenagers. Julie was so impressed by the attitude of the young people after all the difficulties they had gone through that she decided she wanted to support our work.

She talked to a friend, Matt Hanson, who became equally enthusiastic about supporting CCP. He started sponsoring days out for the teenagers and collecting clothes for them. The Foxton Trot was his idea, but as he had not organised a running event before, and Julie had done the Croft Canter for the two previous years, she took over the co-ordination of the event, with Matt working hard alongside.



They jointly organised a massive litter pick last year and Julie is running the mammoth 'Escape from Chernobyl' this year, plus a number of smaller events.

The Foxton Trot which took place last month raised over £2,500, and benefited from sponsorship of the medals and the medical support for the event from [Paul Clark Services – Road Transport Industry Engineering](#) It is hoped to make it an even bigger event next year!

In total Julie Raftery, with support from Matt and other friends and colleagues has raised an amazing **£14,000** over the last three years! She certainly deserves a medal for that!





## Craft Appeal for Vikov and Zhuravichi

Every summer volunteers take bags full of games and craft and sports equipment with them to the Holiday Camp or the institutions. As Covid has prevented a second summer of Volunteer travel to Belarus, Lynne Murphy put out an appeal for funds to buy materials for Vikov and Zhuravichi. She was overwhelmed by the generous response from volunteers who donated more than £1,000!

Vikov have had a large grant from the German Embassy so the funds Lynne has raised have been used to buy craft materials and stationery for Zhuravichi and Rechitsa Boarding Homes.

## Support from Action for Disability

Every year we get a generous grant from 'Action for Disability' a Trust Fund run by Tom Fryers, who came out to Belarus in 2013 to visit some of our projects. Since then he has helped to provide ongoing support for Rodni Kut and Family Home 2000 at Klimovka, and funded many other projects.

This year we are using some of Tom's funds to help Zhuravichi Boarding Home repair the roof of a building they want to use for an Independent Living project, and to buy some of the equipment for it.



We will also fund a Mental Health project to support children and teenagers in the community and try to keep them out of the psychiatric hospital. There will be more about this in our next newsletter.



And finally we will employ two young people in Rechitsa who have very mild learning disabilities, to provide respite care for children with more serious disabilities.



## Thank you Godel!

Godel Technologies, based in Manchester, gives us wonderful support by funding some of our salaries in Belarus every month, helping to support Hospice Nurses, carers at Klimovka and carers and teachers at Zhuravichi and Vikov.



## Children in Trouble supporting the Children's Cancer Hospital



We have worked with 'Children in Trouble' in Minsk since 1997 and in recent years we have invited all the children who come for recuperative holidays through this charity.

They have been busy this year doing the paperwork to clear huge amounts of medicine donated from the US, which goes to many different hospitals; gathering food parcels for some of the poorest families at the Children's Cancer Hospital; buying the hospital some surgical instruments; and organising holidays within Belarus for some of the children in remission from cancer. CCP helps to fund the

ongoing costs of running their charity.

We very much hope that next year we will be able to invite children in remission from cancer to holiday in the UK.



## Our Shop in Crook, Co Durham

Since the shop re-opened in April they have been doing a roaring trade!

Gerald and his team do a brilliant job and are so well supported by the local community that the donations keep pouring in and there is a constant stream of customers. The shop has been taking around £4,000 a month even though it is only open four days a week.

Thank you so much to everyone involved.



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

*We are very grateful to all the individual donors, businesses, trusts and foundations, local authorities, church and peace groups, our own group co-ordinators and host families, trainers and sanatorium volunteers who continue to give so much time, energy and financial support to the children of Belarus and who have been supported us through the pandemic.*

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