

# CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

## ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Summer 2022

## Still Busy Times for our Team in Gomel



Volunteers would also be heading off to Belarus to work with children and young people with disabilities at the Holiday camp or at Zhuravichi. Many of our volunteers are really hoping that

Late July is the time our local groups would usually be welcoming children and teenagers from Belarus for a health boosting holiday. But for the third year running this is not possible, first because of Covid, and then the war in Ukraine.



they might be able to get to Belarus next year.

But for Natasha, Director of 'Supporting Children Together' and responsible for all our programmes and projects in Gomel Region, life is as busy as ever.

She was asked by Unicef to organise a support programme for the refugees who have come to Belarus from Ukraine.

**unicef**   
United Nations Children's Fund



Natasha and colleagues delivered training in assessing and meeting the needs of families to staff from health, education and social protection departments and are now working with some of them to deliver practical and emotional support to refugees.



## Teenage Mental Health Project

With funding from Action for Disability we are supporting teenagers in Gomel who have mental health issues, or who have autism or ADHD. The psychiatrist and psychologists are working with fifteen teenagers, organising group sessions twice a week in the Central Children's Polyclinic, with 7 or 8 in each group, and doing individual work with children and parents when needed. One of their biggest issues is the schools which tend to send children straight to the psychiatric hospital when there are any behavioural issues, sometimes without consulting parents first. In the next phase of the project Natasha will organise some training for psychologists working in the schools.



## Foster Care Support

Following our last major project with Unicef, we have continued to provide training and support for families fostering children, particularly those taking in either children with disabilities or babies and toddlers. There are now just 35 children in the Baby Home and 20 of them are receiving palliative care. The project is having a break over the summer and then in September will start again and try to find foster families for a few more of the children in the Baby Home.

## Children's Palliative Care Team



In recent years the Health Department in Gomel has taken responsibility for Children's Palliative Care. But we have continued to work with the team in Gomel, providing transport to visit families and funding extra hours for the doctor, psychologist and nurses.



We use the wonderful minibus which we were able to acquire with a Rotary International Grant in 2020 and the salary costs are sponsored by Godel Technologies.

The team's base has now moved from a polyclinic into the Baby Home. We hope that eventually the Baby Home will provide some respite care for families caring for palliative children, as the Ministry of Health told us this was their goal some years ago.



## Family Home 2000 at Klimovka.

Liena and Greesha both celebrated their 40th Birthdays this year. Liena has many health problems but is still thriving under the wonderful, loving care of Larissa and the rest of the care team.

Liena and Greesha remember that when they moved in, when they were just 18 years old, David Walker was there, after working for 8 months to prepare a beautiful home for them in 2000.

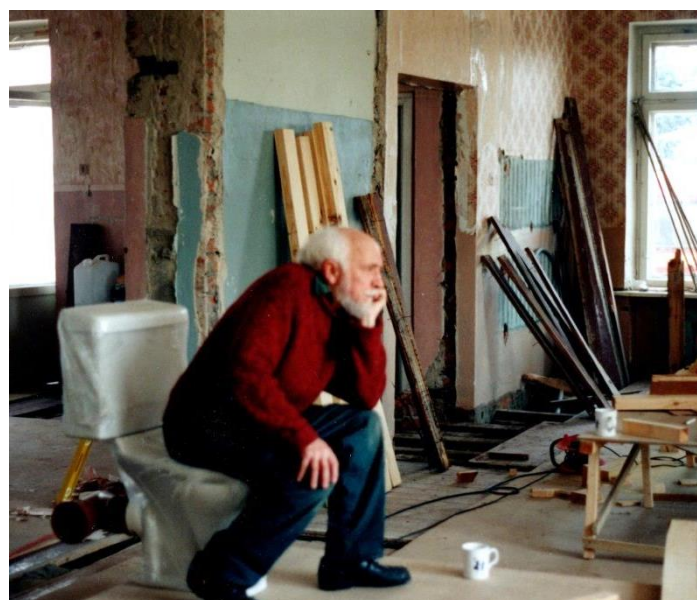
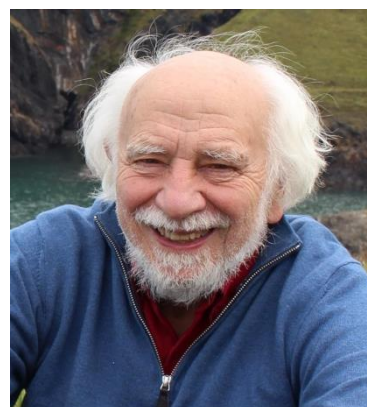
It was a massive job to turn an empty kindergarten into a comfortable and fully accessible home.



## In Memory of David Walker

David died in May this year, and Liena and Greesha are amongst many in Belarus who have fond memories of him.

David also made Rodni Kut in Rogachev into a suitable home before the children moved in during 2002; he designed the Mayflower Centre in



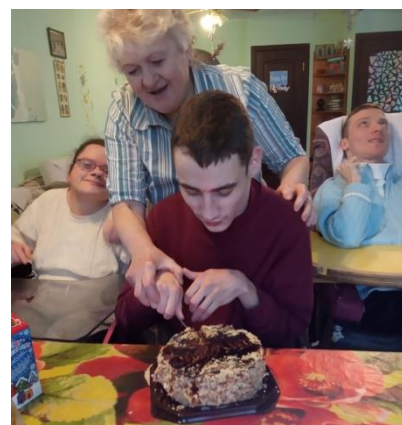
2003 and then designed and worked on the extension at Rodni Kut some years later.



## Rodni Kut

Anya lives in Rodni Kut, our Family Home in Rogachev, but she always spent several months every year having wonderful holidays with the Edwards family in Devon until 2019.

She is missing her English family, as they are missing her, but continues to live happily with Stas, Nazar, Anton and Papa Sergei and their great team of carers.



## Children in Trouble

We continue to support the children's cancer charity 'Children in Trouble' in Minsk, which we have been working with for 25 years. They deliver food parcels to families in the Cancer Hospital at Barovliani; sometimes provide the hospital with items of equipment; complete all the paperwork for medicines which come into the country from the U.S.; and fund rehabilitation holidays within Belarus for some of the children.





## Julie Raftery - Fundraising Superstar!

**Escape from Chernobyl** was a year long challenge, set up by Julie, where participants had to cycle 2,665 miles, the distance from Chernobyl (by a rather circuitous route!) to central England. It was a huge success with



dozens of teams taking part and it finished on the Chernobyl Anniversary this year.

In June the **Foxton Trot** took place and was more popular than ever. Between the two events **Julie raised just over £7,000!!**



And she is not finished yet! The **Croft Canter** takes place in September. If you are a runner have a look and see if you would like to take part

<https://www.evententry.co.uk/the-croft-canter-2022>

## #biggestlittlecharityshop

Our shop in Crook continues to provide a wonderful resource for the local community as well as a terrific source of regular funds for CCP. Knowing what a hard winter it is going to be for so many people, Gerald and his team decided to start selling stuff for Christmas right now, so people can just buy a few bits when they call in to the shop. It has proved a very popular idea. Many thanks to Gerald and all the volunteers for their great work.



## Keeping in Touch

Enjoying lunch at Rechitsa Boarding Home are Zhenya and Nastya. We are delighted that the Directors of institutions in Gomel region are sending us pictures of their children and young people, whilst our volunteers are not able to get out to Belarus to visit them.



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

*Thank you to everyone who has continued to support us in these difficult times. We have enough money in Belarus to fund all our projects till early next year and we are seeking a way to make a further transfer soon.*

*Special Thanks to 'Action for Disability' Trust, Godel Technologies and Fiona Hughes*

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