

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN'S PROJECT (UK)

ПОДДЕРЖКА ДЕТЯМ БЕЛАРУСИ

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Summer Newsletter 2023

Our Work Goes On in Belarus

Hosting children for summer holidays seems like a distant memory now, as first the pandemic and then a tragic war have made it impossible to bring children out of Belarus for recuperation.



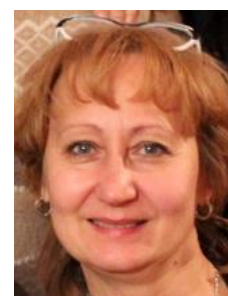
But we still have much to do in Belarus. We have two Family Homes, in the village of Klimovka, near Gomel and in the town of Rogachev. At **Family Home 2000** at Klimovka, Liena and Greesha celebrated their 40th birthdays this year. Sasha, who was the inspiration for setting up the family home, no longer lives there but comes back to celebrate all special occasions.



At **Rodni Kut** the young people enjoy the garden and games and activities at home, with Papa Sergei and their carers. But Nazar, Stas and Anton hope that maybe next summer they will get the chance to have a sanatorium holiday again. And Anya dreams of the day she will go back to visit her family in Devon.

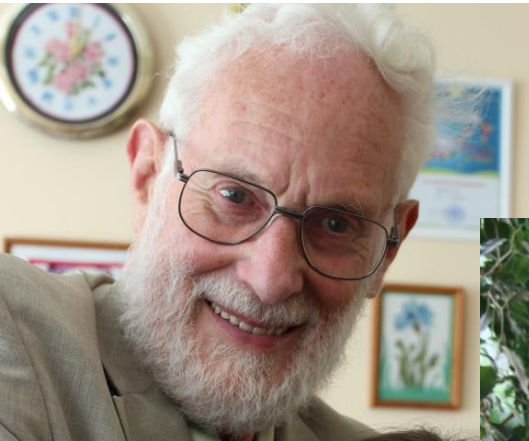


Following a major project with UNICEF a couple of years ago, we continue to support families fostering children in Gomel Region, and to help get more babies and young children out of the Baby Home and into local families. We recently finished a project to support teenagers with mental health problems and hope to do something similar again in the near future. We fund a psychologist who works with families whose children are receiving palliative care, and will soon be reintroducing support for extra carers at Zhuravichi and Vikov institutions. All our work in Gomel Region is co-ordinated by Natasha Samoilik who maintains a close relationship with heads of institutions and with the Regional Social Protection, Education and Health departments.



Natasha

In Memory of Wonderful Supporters of



Dr. Tom Fryers passed away in early June this year. It was in 2012 that we first met Tom, who gave CCP a very generous donation from his Trust fund 'Action for Disability'. Most of Afd's work was in Kenya and India, but Tom decided to adopt us too, and has given our charity at least £10,000 every year since then. He and his wife

Barbara have also held many concerts to raise funds for us and involved their local church in Kendal in supporting us too.

In 2013 Tom came on a visit to Belarus where he met Nazar at Rodni Kut and visited many of the organisations and institutions we support



Barbara Cox co-ordinated our Buxton and Longnor group for many years. She was famous for the amazing Garden Parties she and husband David organised at their home near Longnor. Such were Barbara's powers of persuasion that people came from great distances to these events and she raised thousands of pounds every year.

The Buxton group hosted children with diabetes every year. They always gave the children a great holiday, and Barbara made a close connection with the Children's Diabetes Association in Gomel.



She collected enormous amounts of humanitarian aid to send to them and raised extra funds to purchase test strips and other support for the children. Barbara and David were regular visitors to Gomel.

In 2016 Barbara received a British Empire Medal for her services to Education and to Chernobyl Children's Project. She received her medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire.

Barbara died in October 2022 and is greatly missed by many in Belarus as well as members of our charity and the team at Chernobyl Aid UK.

the Children and Young People of Belarus



Mags Whiting, who passed away peacefully last month, played a vital role in Chernobyl Children's Project for almost 30 years.

In April 1995 Mags and her husband Ken drove our first ambulance out to Belarus, the country most affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and they fell in love with the country and its people.

They had just retired when they joined the newly launched Chernobyl Children's Project, but they soon became busier than ever, driving five more ambulances across Europe and organising and leading aid convoys to Belarus. The ambulances were given to hospitals in some of the most contaminated areas and lorry loads of aid provided support for orphanages, schools and family associations.



Mags and Ken took on the running of our Glossopdale group, finding host families, organising activities and welcoming children into



their own home too, for a recuperative holiday. Most of those who stayed in Glossop were young children who travelled with their mums.

Mags always gave lots of love and care to the mums, as well as the children, as she realised they were in great need of a therapeutic holiday after all the stress during their child's treatment.

Mags and Ken have been at the centre of of the charity since the beginning, inspiring people to start groups in other towns and supporting all our work in Belarus. No-one could have been more dedicated than Mags to supporting the children whose lives had been affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

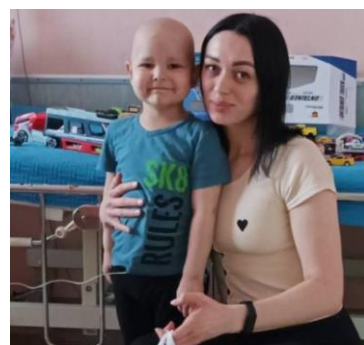
She made many visits to Belarus with CCP Executive Director Linda Walker, helping to develop the charity's work there. When Mags and Ken retired from running the group in Glossop, there was a huge party to celebrate their many years of work and when they stepped down from the Management Team the charity made them 'Honorary Trustees'. Thank You Mags for everything.





Children in Trouble

We continue to work with the children's cancer charity 'Children in Trouble'. They facilitate the deliveries of medicine from the United States to cancer hospitals in Minsk, and regularly deliver food to support some of the families in the Children's Cancer Hospital. They are also able to organise some holidays at a Sanatorium in Belarus whilst it is not possible for children to go abroad.



Thank You Julie!

Julie Raftery continues to organise incredible fundraisers for us. In February her Ladies Lunch raised £1,000 for Air Ambulance and £1,000 for CCP and this month the annual Foxton Trot brought in an amazing £4,000, with other smaller events in between!



Sadly, many charities have had to end their work in Belarus. We were sorry to see this happen for **Friends of Gomel in Aberdeen** (seen here on an early visit to Belarus)

and **Children of Chernobyl Wells**, who have also worked in Gomel Regions for as long as we have and have brought many groups of children to Somerset. We are grateful that both charities have entrusted us with their remaining funds to support children and young people in Gomel Region.



The End of an Era for our Shop in Crook

Gerald Hirst has managed our shop in Crook, Co Durham since we took it over ten years ago. He has done an incredible job and almost everyone in the town knows Gerald and likes to pop in for a chat and to donate or buy some goods. Although everything is sold very cheaply, the takings in the shop have gone up and up over the years and it has been a wonderful resource for us.

Gerald plans to retire this summer and devote more time to the travelling he loves. He will be greatly missed but we look forward to welcoming our new manager, Claire Pears.



Visit our website: www.chernobyl-children.org.uk Secure Donations can be made online

We are very grateful to all the individuals, businesses and groups who continue to support our work for the children and young people of Belarus.

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