

# Chernobyl Children's Lifeline

*Wirral Link*

*End of Visit Report 2—30 June 2018*



Our visitors arrived at Manchester airport after leaving home in Stolin the evening before. It was lovely to meet the children and to welcome our leaders, Anna and Luda.



We hosted 14 girls : Alesyia, Aliona, Anisia, Anna, Anzhalika, Aryna, Dasha, Karyna, Katya, Lera, Lilia, Maryia, Nastya and Sofyia and 10 boys : Dennis, Igor, Losha K, Losha T, Mark, Siarhei A, Siarhei D, Vanya, Vitali and Vlad. The children were hosted by 18 families across the Wirral and 10 families hosted for 2 weeks, which worked very well.

As always, we are very grateful to Holmeswood Coaches of Ormskirk for providing the transport to and from Manchester Airport.

## CLOTHES SHOW

We met up at The Heart of Egremont Centre for the annual Clothes Show. The children had the opportunity to select clothes and shoes both for themselves and their siblings. A big thank you for all the donations.



## The Important Stuff

All of our visits start with a trip to the Dentists. None of the children look forward to it, but it is a necessary part of their stay. This year 13 children required a total of 24 fillings. Dental care is kindly provided by Steve Wright at Thornhedge Dental Practice, Moreton and Andrew Morton at Hamilton Square Dental Practice, Birkenhead.

10 children also benefited from new glasses courtesy of Harris Opticians in West Kirby and Heswall and supported by Orrell's Opticians in New Brighton. All of the children who needed glasses also received a pair of prescription sunglasses and all of the other children were each given a new pair of sunglasses. Losha's mum was worried that her son would not be able to continue with his Karate as his eyesight seemed to be deteriorating. The Optician was very reassuring and confirmed that Losha could continue with the sport he loves.

## Happy Birthday Wishes

To add to the fun, we were lucky enough to celebrate 2 birthdays this year. Losha Kazakevich was 10 and Anzalika celebrated her 11th birthday.





..... and now for the good bits. We enjoyed lots of good times and the weather was sunny and warm for the whole of the holiday.

### **West Kirby Sailing Association**

The Commodore, John Burthem and Mrs Burthem were very welcoming, taking the children on the marine lake and then providing a delicious lunch in the club house. No-one fell over board!



### **UTS Foundation Gym, Hoylake**

What better way to work off the lovely lunch — trying out the equipment at the UTS Foundation Gym.

**We enjoyed an energetic morning at Blacon Adventure Playground**



Once again, Chloe Salusbury, very patiently taught the children a street dance which they performed at the farewell party.

Thank you to Christine and Sarah Gibson who provided lovely evenings learning Lacrosse and participating in activities with St Stephens Brownie Group





## Fun days out at local attractions

Jayne and Joe's Magical mystery tour of Liverpool included a ferry across the Mersey and a visit to the Maritime Museum in the morning. A lovely lunch at the Slaughter House Pub courtesy of Wallasey Breathe Team was followed by an interesting hour at the Museum of Liverpool. Joe treated the children to a ride on the Carousel before they all enjoyed the wonderful views from the Echo Big Wheel. The day was rounded off with refreshments at Community Soul Cafe in Wallasey and building sandcastles on the beach.





## We spent some unforgettable times in New Brighton

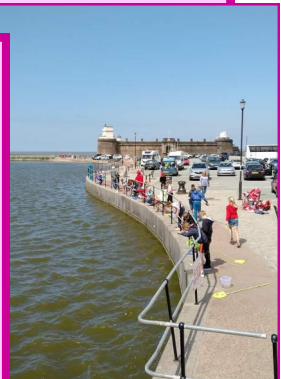
As well as hosting 2 boys, Simon and Laura Hynd welcomed us to Bubbles World of Play where we played and made bears. Thanks to Pete and all of the staff for looking after us.



We were invited to Morrison's for activities and lunch. The children got to pick their own fruits to sample and taste some lovely cheeses and ham followed by lunch in the cafe. After decorating ginger bread men and making masks, the Morrison's Bear presented all of the children with a teddy bear and a gift. Many thanks to Ruth and Eleanor who took such good care of us. The day finished with Crab fishing.



The children were very excited and greatly impressed when the pirates marched up to greet them. An amazing afternoon of fun and games on the beach followed by tea and ice cream at Vale Park Cafe





## Our regular favourites .....

A day at South Wirral High School, baking cookies, enjoying craft activities and playing sports They made many new friends

Ice skating and lunch at Little Sutton Methodist Church



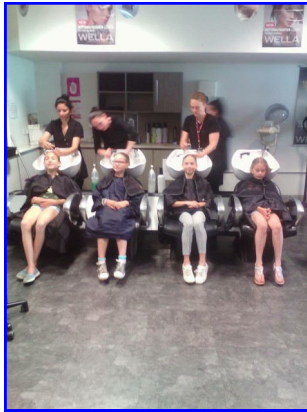
Lunch at Wirral Hundred Pub, Great Sutton followed by bowling courtesy of Whitby Methodist Church





## The children also enjoyed . . .

A number of fun filled days with the staff and students at Wirral Metropolitan College. They had fun doing sports at The Oval and Beauty Students kindly prepared the girls hair, nails and make-up ready for their farewell party.



Fun Day courtesy of Kier Construction and Heron JFC



## Tour of Liverpool Football Club



A day of activities at The Hive in Birkenhead



Tennis and a barbecue at Thorndale Lawn Tennis Club

## Farewell and Thank you

We had a lovely farewell party, the children put on a fabulous show full of singing and dancing and we had a disco and face painting.

The children presented their host families with a love heart expressing their love and thanks for all they have done.



So it is time to say goodbye to our visitors. The month has flown by and we all have wonderful memories to treasure.

Everything went very smoothly at Manchester Airport and the children were through security in good time to catch their flight home.

**It would not have been possible to organise such a busy 4 week holiday for our Chernobyl Children without donations from many organisations and individuals, free access to many of the activities and hard work by a whole range of individuals.**

**Our heartfelt thanks to you all and we hope to see you again next year.**

**A very special thank you to Jayne, Michael and Joe and all of the volunteers in our shop who raise most of the funds to enable the visit to happen.**

**Thank you so much  
Lynne, Garth and Maria**



## News from Belarus

Anna, Luda and the children all arrived home safely—all of the bags arrived at Minsk — A special thank you to Helen McCracken for managing to secure more than 25 suit cases for the children to take home their many gifts, clothes and presents for their families.

### Message from our Leaders, Anna and Luda :

All parents have been in touch with us and they are very obliged and grateful to the Link Committee and every member of it, especially Lynne and Garth Goddard, for their assistance, organization of all the outings, trips, excursions, for their help, entertainment, the welfare and safety of the children during their stay in the UK. Most of the parents noticed that their children have changed greatly when they returned back to Belarus. They became more responsible, healthier, more attentive and sociable.

Parents of Ivan Basayeuski and Dzianis Belavus are very thankful for the trips and the excursions which were very interesting. Kids live in the small villages and haven't any chance to see life abroad. The children kept asking lots of questions when such amusement parks and museums would appear in Belarus. Many of the children came from difficult backgrounds. Some no longer have a father due to illness or alcoholism. Many families have no work. Anastasiya Vabishevich, Darya Harbar and Valeryia Hardziyeuskaya are from such families. That's why so important to show another side of life to Belarusian children.

Vitali Hmir's, Uladzislau Lemiaza's and Aliaksei Kazakevich's parents are very happy. The boys are full of impressions from everything they have seen in Liverpool and Wirral area; especially they enjoyed Blackpool and Liverpool Football Club.

Siarhei Andrusevich's mum sent the words of gratitude to the host family for care and to the dentist who tried to treat the teeth. The photocopy, we hope, will help the dentist in Stolin to do the best for Siarhei.

The parents of Mark Drachou and Maryia Yuryshynets said that the children feel much better now after a holiday in the UK with fresh food, clean air and vitamins.

Karyna Komar and Alesia Chynikaila suffered from carsickness, but now they don't. Their mothers said that the girls have become more optimistic and sociable.

The parents of Anzhalika Bahdasaran and Aliona Vabishchevich noticed that their children have changed greatly after returning back from England. Their faces are not pale and their appetite is good now.

The parents of Anisiya Shauchuk and Katsiaryna Yakimovich consider that their daughters received great experience of correct behaviour, the girls have good manners now. Katsiaryna has become polite, tidy and calm.

Sofiya Prus's and Hanna Dzemianchuk's parents thank the host family for the warm clothes and boots for winter.

Parents of Aliaksei Trapets and Yahor Ukrainets appreciate the optician appointment for the eye test which was done in England for their sons. They said that the boys really enjoyed the activities the host family had planned for them. They are very appreciative because they just cannot do this at home. The children went home healthier with boosted immune systems and have had the experience of a lifetime.

Aryna Haradnik's mum thanks the host family for their assistance and support and warm attitude to her daughter.

Siarhei Dabrynets's mum told us that England was the unforgettable experience for him. The day out activities with lots of fresh air is really good for Siarhei.

The children had some days with their hosts. All of them were very nice and devoted to the children. We must say that all the children were settled and liked the host families very much. Psychological conditions surrounding the children were friendly. Psychological microclimate between children and their host families, who were very hospitable and friendly, was established. The children's health has improved. They have benefitted from the fresh air, clean water and nutritious food which has helped to remove the radioactive contamination from their bodies and also strengthened their immune system. Bringing children to England for a recuperative break gives their immune system such a huge boost,

it can help them through the critical developmental phase of adolescence when they're prone to various cancers and illnesses. Thank you to all the host families and relatives, as none of this would be possible without them. Every child will keep love, care and heart warmth of the host families in their memory and their hearts. We would like to say the words of gratitude to everybody for care, respect, love, kindness and help to our children from Belarus. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

For the children, the important thing is the memories and friends they made, and for some there will be a new-found desire to study languages, or it might change their attitude to school. But the parents set great store on the health benefits. They all say "Thank you for doing this, it means so much ..."

**Don't forget to check out our facebook page :  
Chernobyl Children's Life Line—Wirral Link**