

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline

Wirral Link

End of Visit Report 1—29 June 2019



Our visitors travelled through the night from their homes in and around Stolin ready for a 9.00 am departure from Minsk to Manchester.



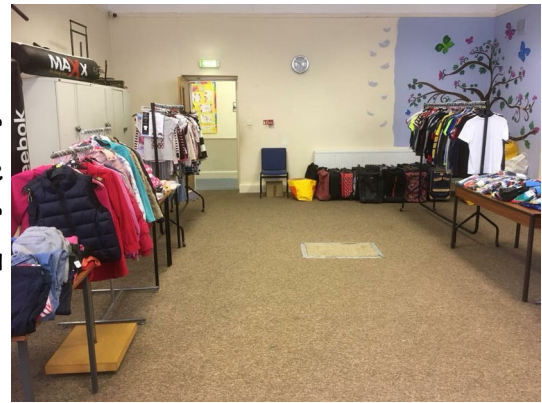
We hosted 6 girls : Ksenia, Lera, Liya, Maryana, Nastya and Veranika and 9 boys : Anton, Dima, Maksim, Misha, Pasha, Sasha G, Sasha S, Siarhei and Styopa. Our group travelled with 4 children who were staying in Chester.

The children were hosted by 11 families across the Wirral and 8 of the families hosted for 2 weeks, which worked very well.

The flight arrived early, so we were back on the Wirral before 12.00 pm. Holmeswood Coaches of Ormskirk kindly provided the transport to and from Manchester Airport again.

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.



Dentists/Opticians

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 6 children required a total of 10 fillings. Dental care is kindly provided by Steve Wright at Thornhedge Dental Practice, Moreton and Andrew Morton at Hamilton Square Dental Practice, Birkenhead.

Happy Birthday Wishes

Pasha celebrated his 10th birthday while the group were away at Colomendy Outdoor Centre. We all enjoyed the birthday cake!



We enjoyed lots of good times and new experiences ...

We spend a great morning ice skating at Deeside Leisure Centre, followed by lunch at Little Sutton Methodist church. This year we spent the whole afternoon at the church enjoying activities with Lisa. BBC One Show also spent the day with us filming for a short piece to be shown on the One Show sometime soon.



The children were presented with bags of goodies to take home and share with their families



We enjoy free access to Europa Pools in Birkenhead, where the children learn to swim and enjoy the slide and waves.



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



3 fun filled days at The Oval with Maria Meagher and the students of Wirral Metropolitan College. These days are always very popular and bring out the competitive nature of many of the group.



We had the best of times in New Brighton

We were invited to Morrison's for a full day of activities and lunch. The children started with hot chocolate in Costa and a trip around the store to pick some goodies to try. After a delicious lunch, Riverside Primary Choir came in to entertain us. We had a very interesting tour around the life boat station and arrived back at Morrison's in time to meet the ice cream van. There was still time for a show from the puppet theatre and to get our faces painted. We are very grateful for all of the wonderful gifts from the Life boat station and Morrison's. Before we left there was a surprise appearance by Mickey and Minnie. Many thanks to Ruth and Eleanor who organised the day and took such good care of

us.



A visit to New Brighton has to include our annual visit to Bubbles World of Play. As always Simon and Greg made us very welcome. The children spent lots of time playing and having lots of fun. Following a delicious lunch and meeting Mr Bubbles we made and dressed a bear.

A visit to The Pirates of the Black Pearl is always very special and is a unique experience for the group. The children all wholeheartedly embrace the activity, and thoroughly enjoy their pirate adventures including, walking the plank, tug of war, hunting for buried treasure and taking on the pirates in duels. The day is concluded with some amazing bubbles in Vale Park and tea and ice cream at Vale Park Cafe.



Our regular favourites

Community Soul cafe for tea and cakes followed by their first ever visit to a beach for a sandcastle building competition. We were very impressed by their creative ideas



We always enjoy the challenges at UTS Gym in Hoylake. It is a great opportunity to test our stamina.

Freedom at Cheshire Oaks kindly stepped in when the sailing was cancelled for a morning of bouncing fun.



Sailing on West Kirby Marine lake. Poor weather meant we had to rearrange the sailing for later in the month, but even then it was too windy for the sail boats. The children weren't disappointed with the speed boats.

Our first visit to Link with Emmanuel Christian Fellowship youth club where we met and made new friends and made some beautiful gifts to take home to families.



Our regular favourites continued



A lovely morning at South Wirral High School in Eastham, baking chocolate brownies and enjoying a game of football



Followed by a wonderful afternoon at Thorndale Tennis Club learning to play tennis and finishing with a barbecue



An exciting day at Blacon Adventure Playground, playing football, games and making candy floss



A fabulous lunch at The Wirral Hundred Pub in Great Sutton followed by 10 pin bowling at Cheshire Oaks provided by Great Sutton Methodist Church



The children also enjoyed ...

A memorable day out in Liverpool with Jayne and Joe. We travelled over on the Ferry, visited the Maritime museum, where we had a very interesting talk by Dave about the Titanic. A delicious lunch at the Slaughter House pub was followed by 18 holes at Junk Yard Crazy Golf and we still had time for ice cream before getting the train home. A big thank you to Wallasey Breathe team and Terry May for contributing towards the day.



A day at the Hive in Birkenhead where the children get to have a go at almost every activity they can think of. Wall climbing, playing musical instruments, football, playing computer games, styling their hair and painting their nails were among some of the many things they enjoyed.



Farewell and Thank you

We had the best time at the farewell party, the children sang some beautiful Belarussian songs and performed the dance they had learned with Chloe. They thanked their host families for a fabulous holiday and for their hospitality.

We then enjoyed 2 hours having a wonderful magic show and dancing games



A big thank you to Wirral Metropolitan College for hosting the girls for a pamper day before the party. They all had their hair, nails and face made up

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 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, Angela, Ian, Ralph, Jayne and Michael**

News from Belarus

Anna, Maryia and the children all arrived home safely—unfortunately not all of the bags arrived in Minsk with the children, but they have now all been delivered to their homes.

Message from our Leaders, Anna and Maryia:

The next day after the arrival home **Maksim Tsupa's** mum phoned to thank and said that her son is so impressed and happy, she feels gratitude to all the people and especially the host families. "I can't recognise him. He is so confident and happy! He used to be so shy and quiet that I can't believe." she said.

Stepan, Misha and Anton Baranouski's father said that they couldn't make the boys to keep silence even for a while. They are full of impressions, eager to share and have renewed enthusiasm to study English. Their mother sends her thanks for the glasses for the boys, which will help them with their school work.

Maryanna Skrabet's She wanted to return to England the second day after coming back, says her mum. Her family expresses their enormous gratitude for a year's supply of vitamins sent for each of their eight children and say a special thank you for school supplies, which is a big help for the family and the clothes for their new born son.

When **Veranika Rabushka's** mother asked what her daughter enjoyed most of all, Veranika said, 'Everything!!!! It was so cool!!!'

Lera Kishkel doesn't want to take off the bracelets and clothes she has been presented with. Her dad sends big thank you to all volunteers, especially host families for giving Lera the holiday of a lifetime and for making her feel so comfortable and part of the family. She misses everyone.

Anastasia Zanimonskaya's grandmother notices that her granddaughter's appetite is better. She has always been a poor eater and Granny struggled with her about food.

Dima Vabishchevich's parents say he enjoyed spending time with the pirates and going on different rides and tells his brothers and sister about England every day.

Ksenia Pashkevich's mum says that this trip is a real fairy tale for her daughter, escaping from reality. Ksenia as other children of this area is expected to look after younger siblings while her parents are working or tend livestock and maintain the vegetable patches on which they rely for food.

All the parents are grateful for the dental care and eye test their children have been provided with.

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 always say, "Thank you for doing this, it means so much..."

All the parents thank the host families for hospitality and taking care of their children. Much of this venture would not be possible without the help and generosity of so many. As no one stands as tall as when he stoop to help a child.

Contact Us :
For further information about hosting or helping during next year's visit,
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