

# UK-AID

Felsted Aid for Deprived Children  
Charity Registration No. 1099750

## Helping the Victims of Chernobyl

# NEWS

SUMMER 2017



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## On the Road to Ukraine...

In March we took **three vans** and **two trailers**, carrying approximately **6½ tonnes of humanitarian aid**, to the Revival Centre in Chernihiv. The **1,700 mile drive** to Ukraine took **four days** and enabled us to deliver vital items such as toiletries, medical aid and children's shoes/clothes. While there, we were treated to a heart-warming concert performance by the children at the Centre. Charles Lee, one of our drivers and a Member of The Magic Circle, also performed for the delighted children and their families and made a range of balloon animals.



*"We know about your help. Thank you very much for everything UK-Aid does for us!"*

We hope you like our new look newsletter and hope that it gives you an idea of the wide range of charity initiatives with which we have been involved this year. Please feel free to send us any photos, articles or ideas that we can consider including in future newsletters!

Alan Hilliar and Pauline Craven





## Visits in Ukraine

While in Ukraine, we always go and visit disabled and poor children in their homes in the local community. **Nastia**, for example, who lives in a single room with her family and has been supported by Felsted Prep School for many years, was overwhelmed to be presented with a new light-weight wheelchair, donated by David Davidson, which will enable her to achieve even more success in her wheelchair ballroom dancing competitions.

Amongst many other individuals, we visited **Vitaly**, who is confined to a wheelchair and is almost completely blind and deaf. Vitaly is a victim of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and his father, a worker at Chernobyl, has recently died. Vitaly therefore desperately needs our charitable support in order to obtain vital medication for his worsening condition.

## Meet Lawrie!

Our latest transit van has arrived, bought at cost from Gates of Harlow.

The purchase was made possible by a donation from the estate of a long term supporter Lawrie Woodley for which we are very grateful and after whom the van has been named 'Lawrie.'



## Our new logo

We are delighted that **Dr Charles Lee** has come on board to help with the promotion and marketing of UK-Aid. A resident of Felsted and ex-Head of Drama of Felsted School, Charles has overseen the design of our new logo (see front cover) and has helped to refresh and update all our communications, including this newsletter. His services as a professional photographer have also helped to create a record of the work that we do.



## Accordion concert

We were delighted to welcome the **Kyiv Classic Accordion Duo** to Essex. The three concerts in Hoddeston, Dunmow and Felsted raised over **£2,200** for the Revival Centre in Chernihiv.

"Thank you for your kindness and support..."



## Visitors from Anglia Ruskin

We were recently visited at the warehouse by representatives of **Anglia Ruskin University**, with whom we are hoping to develop a fruitful working relationship. Our visitors seemed very impressed with our operation and hoped that students would be able to gain work experience with UK-Aid in the future.



# Aid by the lorry load

On 20th July a mega lorry carrying over **13 tonnes** of our aid departed for Ukraine. It had taken **13 volunteers** over **7 hours** to load the vehicle which carried vital items for use by the Revival Centre, local orphanages and children's hospitals, and poor families. Alan Hilliar was at the Revival Centre when the lorry arrived on 25th July and was able to help with the unloading process.



*"Your help is vital. You know, in such a bad situation even a small help is needed, and your support is enormous".*



# Warehouse News

All our aid is of high quality and the volunteers who pack the boxes of clothes are told 'If you wouldn't wear it yourself or put it on your children, don't send it!'

**We still need help** and are always grateful for donations of:

- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Sanitary wear
- ✓ Disposable Nappies
- ✓ Good quality clothes
- ✓ Washing powder
- ✓ Toilet Rolls
- ✓ Clean bedding and blankets
- ✓ Warm ladies' and men's coats
- ✓ Winter shoes for adults and children



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of **Nykolai**, an old friend of UK-Aid for many years. Over the years we have been guests at his house on many occasions and have sampled his home-brewed Samagon vodka. Although



extremely poor, his hospitality was always warm and generous. He will be much missed.

# Revival Centre

In January, the Revival Centre experienced a serious fire. Luckily, no one was hurt, but the smoke damage was considerable. The staff worked for three weeks, unpaid, on the clean-up operation. We therefore put out an urgent appeal and raised enough money for all the staff to receive a week's wages. As a mark of their gratitude, on the final night of our March visit to Ukraine, the six van drivers were treated by the staff at the Centre to a fabulous Ukrainian concert.



The construction of a new **therapy pool** (above), **hospice** and **respite wing for parents**, is now almost complete and we were able to see the remarkable progress being made during our March visit.

“We know about what you’ve already done for this Centre and for us, and we’re very thankful.”



## Meet ‘Dr P’

Dr Vasil Pasichnik, known to most people simply as ‘**Dr P**’ continues to be the driving force behind the Revival Centre. Aply supported by his wife, Dr Natalia, Dr P is an indefatigable figure who is much loved by all the **217 staff** and over **2,000 children** who are treated at the Centre each year.



## Summer BBQ

In August, Alan and Pauline hosted a **BBQ** at their home for **all the volunteers** to say thank you for all their hard work and support. Alan was master of ceremonies who managed to set fire to a gazebo roof and produced so much smoke from the sausages and burgers that the local fire brigade almost had to be called!



## Thank yous

**Brenda Simpson** held another of her successful coffee mornings in Whitby. Not only did she raise over **£800** but also filled one of our vans and trailer with aid. This is her **7th coffee morning** and over the years she has raised a



magnificent sum of nearly **£8,000** and collected a huge amount of aid. Thank you Brenda and Mike and all helpers for all your efforts on our behalf.

We would also like to express our thanks to **Robert and Jilly Osborn** for the continued donation of warehousing on their farm for which we are enormously grateful. Without their generous support, we would be unable to continue with our work.

Finally, we would like to thank all our **loyal volunteers** who work so hard with us and all the **donors** who support us.

For more information on our work, please visit our website [www.felstedaid.org](http://www.felstedaid.org)

## Can you help us?

Contact us on 01371 238941 or 07884 426551 / 07979 067268

