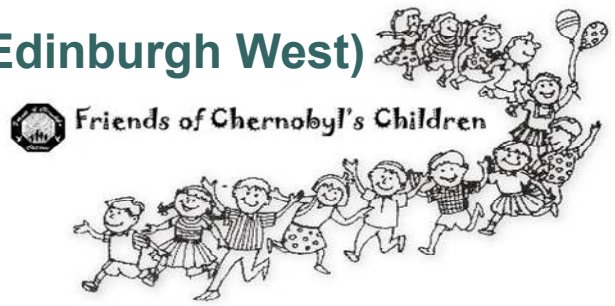


Friends of Chernobyl's Children (Edinburgh West)

Newsletter ~ Issue 5 ~ December 2011



Welcome to our "new look" newsletter. We hope that you enjoy it, and would always welcome thoughts and ideas on what to include in the next issue.

2011 June (Edinburgh) & September (West Lothian) Visits

The end of another successful year with 16 children visiting with our Edinburgh group in June, and a further 17 children with our West Lothian group in Sept/Oct.

The children all had a fantastic trip, with the

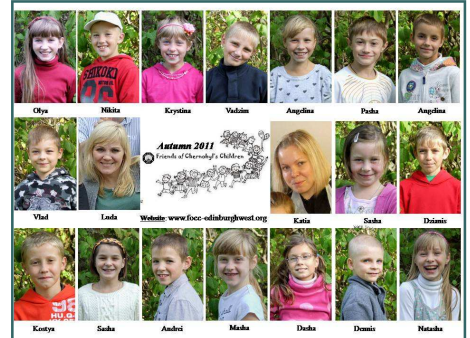


new children (8 in 2011) all settling well with their host families, while the "old-timers" slipped easily into their homes from home.

Highlights of this year's visits included Edinburgh Zoo, lots of swimming, the Taxi Parade, the Royal Highland Show, the Trampoline Centre, the Forestry Commission, visits to the beach, Potter Around, Museums, Fire Station, Whitburn Community Centre, Motherwell College and some fabulous visits to our local schools. And, of course, the magnificent West Lothian Thank You concert!

We have also greatly enjoyed the support of (and visits to) Specsavers in Livingston, and to our dentists in Bathgate and Leith.

We were also delighted to have 9 of our older children on Private Summer Visits in July.



All of the children returned safely home, and will no doubt be telling friends and family all about their wonderful host families and about their adventures in Scotland. Roll on the 2012 group visits!

Children's Corner

In 2011 we invited 8 new children to visit us. In our Edinburgh group we welcomed Melissa, Tanya, Dziana, Dima and Vadzim, while in West Lothian Sasha, Dasha and Denis (pictured) were our new starts.



With great sadness we also had to say farewell to 9 of our children who had completed their formal 3 to 5 years with our Edinburgh group—Elina, Yulia & Tania (pictured right), and Anya, Yana, Ksusha, Maxim, Nikita

& Vlad. We hope to be able to keep in touch with all of our children through our Summer private visits and during our trips to Belarus.



Our Edinburgh group is looking to recruit host families for new children in 2012. Please get in touch with Ian if you, or someone you know, would like to find out more.

Key Dates for 2012

Trip to Belarus

9th to 16th March (or 11th to 16th March)

West Lothian Group Visit

2nd to 30th June

Summer Private Visits

27th July to 10th August (Gatwick), or

4th to 18th August (Manchester - our preferred option)

Edinburgh Group Visit

9th Sept to 7th Oct

Fundraising

Tough times call for tough and creative measures, and our fantastic fundraisers have come up with a huge variety of activities throughout 2011.

Sky diving, bicycle races, Ladies Lunches, Gentlemen's Sports Evenings, West Highland Way, Magic Concerts, Coffee Mornings, Cake Sales, Santa Toddles, Discos & Dances, Newspaper Competitions and Duck Races to name but a few.

We have also received generous donations from businesses, individuals, and many of our local schools have supported our activities through their own fundraising.

Thank you so much to all who have supported us throughout 2011.

No doubt 2012 will continue to be a challenging year for fundraising, but we are always keen to support new and creative ideas to help us fund our activities.

Committee Matters

The FOCC Edinburgh West Committee comprises of the following roles and appointments:

Chair: Janice Smith

Secretary: Shirley MacGillivray

Treasurer: Val Blair

Group Co-ords: Ian Smith & Kenny Turnbull

Activities Co-ords: Susan Hay & Bob Pattinson

Provisions Co-ords: Sandy Paton* & Clare Cotton

(* to be confirmed at next FOCC AGM)

Contact Us

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News from Belarus

Belarus has been hit hard by the world Financial Crisis. In May '11 their currency was devalued by 56%, and has continued to slide in value against other world currencies. In March '11 £23 would buy 100,000 BYR, it currently buys over 300,000 BYR. The impact for the Belarussian people is felt most painfully in the prices they now have to pay for their basic food items, making our support more important than ever.

Stop Press

Our West Lothian children received a substantial gift of essential groceries in early December.

Given current economic conditions, the Committee has authorised a further gift of groceries for all of our Belarus families to be distributed in Feb '12.

New Year is the big celebration in Belarus over the festive season with the Orthodox Christmas being on 7th January.