

FRIENDS OF CHERNOBYL'S CHILDREN SOLENT

This Charity is based at the Gosport Methodist Church and as the financial year closes at the end of August, there is time to have the accounts audited (with the figures prepared for sending to the Charity Commissioners) and have the 11th Annual General Meeting in November.

On the financial side, there was income (including generous contributions from local Methodist Churches), of £7117, with expenditure on the children's visit of £7629. You will immediately see that resulted in a deficit of £512 on the year, but we do have some reserves, and so we remain solvent. Many years ago our auditor reminded us that our reserves should not be allowed to build up too much as the money is really for use with the children.

The meeting was in three parts, with the business taking the first hour, and then a curry meal taking the second hour, and then a video presentation given by our Chairman (Linda Young) and Co-ordinator (Keith Stroud) following their very recent visit to Belarus, and meeting many of the children.



There is still much hardship in the Mogilov area of the country, with many people living in "high rise" apartments where they often share kitchens and bathrooms/toilets with several other families on the same floor. It is difficult for us in Hampshire to take these conditions on board. We anticipated that 14 children will be invited for next year, only one of whom has been before. All these children were met by our representatives on their recent visit. Most are from "one-parent" situations, (the other parent likely to have died due to cancer type problems), or from "Children's Homes" where orphans are cared for.

I pass on to all friends our thanks for your continuing support (particularly financial) and hope that this brief resume will show that there is still a need for these children to have 4 weeks of non contaminated food and drink, along with clean air. Visits to the Optician and Dentist are also part of our programme, both these businesses giving their time and expertise freely and without charge.

Derek J Slaymaker (Trustee and Treasurer)
November 2009