



BELARUSSIAN NEWS

September 2019



From the photos and comments from members of the County group who went to Belarus this summer the Link is destined to continue “for the next 20 years” as one girl said in her summing up. They experienced camp with 94 participants, (Guides, leaders, younger children and their parents) being cooked for by 2 leaders, Lusya and Lena, on an Army Field Cooker. The “Menu” consisted of whatever was available from the nearest shop, but they survived.



We learnt that Olga, had been at the first camp the County went to, in 2001. She was a pupil in Lusya's school and returning from the camp she was determined to become a Guide, staying on to become a leader, a member of the National Board and completing 2 terms as Chief Commissioner before taking on her current role of dealing with all the finances and organising and running the camp.

On one of the days in home hospitality the majority of the group with local Birds, Guides, Leaders and some parents took up the invitation to visit the local library in Zhodino (a town about 40 mins from Minsk where the leaders/units we communicate with live). We were shown around and saw an Exhibition of photos/clothes/domestic equipment from each of the decades from 1940s. Due to shortages of paper to print caused by the War in the early 1950s you could exchange a pile of papers for a book.



In the summer of 2017 Anya had nowhere to meet with her BIRDS but with Lusya's help in September 2017 they were given the use of a room in the Library. They called themselves The Paddington Bear Club and themed some meetings around Paddington. There are now 70 children meeting on a Saturday in the Library, 30 of them belong to BIRDS, about another 30 attend to share the activities but have as yet not joined, and the rest go to learn English as their parents wished them to do this. Some of their English lessons were based on Paddington, learning body parts and clothes, and stories are read to them during the sessions - English versions as well as Paddington himself were sent out by us. It was good to learn he is being well used and looked after.



Anya, having told us about the activities of the girls, introduced a presentation on activities of the Association of Belarussian Guides which was followed by 2 girls who are in her Girl Guiding group, Maya and Lara, separately playing a short piece on the piano, very confidently.

A photographer and reporter from the local Newspaper conducted an interview at the end of the session and Belarussian Guiding got very good press. (Translation in Trefoil news!)



We felt very pleased for Anya that with few resources or assistance for meeting places she was promoting Guiding so well. Mention was made of the craft items we went out too....so that will continue as well, especially now we know where they are being used.