

## В гайдах только девочки - Guides are girls only



This year Lake Selyava has become a *Treasure Island* for girl-guides from Zhodino, Borisov, Molodechno and Great Britain. That is the name of the camp in which the representatives of the youth movement got together.

Great Britain was represented by the girls from Hampshire North. Together with the girls the most experienced UK guides – Jenny Cole, Pat Lloyd and Robbie Hill – arrived in Belarus.

Home hospitality for the girls from the UK followed the camp. They stayed for a couple of days with the host-families in Minsk region. In Zhodino the group did the sightseeing, went for a walk in the local park, had a party in the Centre of Tourism. One of the most memorable meetings took place in the Library where everyone was greeted by Anna Mihireva who created a Sunday club “In the footsteps of Paddington Bear” a year ago. An exhibition of books in English as well as a presentation of the club was organized. The club works in three areas – Guiding, reading books about Paddington Bear and studying English.

Anna Mihireva has been involved in Guiding since she was 13. Here is her story: “We meet at the weekends, read stories about Paddington Bear, and learn new English words and phrases. Then we do guiding activities and decide what kind of good deed we can do for our community in the near future. There are 70 girls in the club at the moment”.

At the meeting one of the most active Adult Guides from Hampshire North, Robbie Hill, told about the beginning of the link between Hampshire North and Belarusian Guides 20 years ago. It all started when a group of girls and adults with Ludmila Muzychenko visited the UK to join the World Guide Camp where they met the members of Girl Guiding Hampshire North. The link and friendship has been on since then. Girls from Zhodino are active members of the Association of Belarusian Guides. They are actively involved in many activities both in Belarus and abroad. The girls take part in summer camps and live in tents in the woods or by the lake with the minimal comfort. Leaving Zhodino English guests thanked everyone for the warm welcome and expressed their hopes for the link to go on. Then some info is provided about Guiding being a non-political etc. movement.

*Kindly translated by Katya*

