



# New Beginnings

Safe Homes for Children

Registered Charity No: 1087263

## Dear friends and supporters

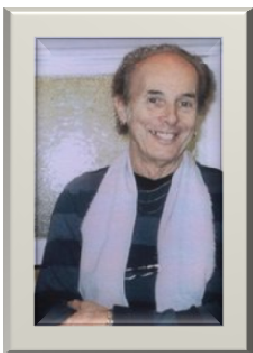
What a year of celebrations 2012 has been: First the Queens Diamond Jubilee. 60 years “what a wonderful life of dedication she has given us.” Euro 2012 football championship held in Ukraine, sad that England was unable to reach the final.



Wimbledon and “Andy Murray in the final” although he was not quite able to win. Now the Olympics and the Paralympics, where we are determined to do well. It’s good in this depressing time that we have something to celebrate and something to strive for. We must realise that there is always an upside to everything in life. Jesus taught us through his parables that life is not easy but the rewards are worth striving for and we just need our faith and determination to succeed.

## Pat Writes

On my last visit to Ukraine in April my trip was tinged with sadness as Michael Winstanley, a valued member of our committee and a huge supporter of New Beginnings had died suddenly. Michael was my travelling companion for the last few years and a valued family friend, so I was at a loss as to who would travel with me. My Husband would rather be the house and dog sitter so it was with great fortune to me that Kath Parsons, our Treasurer offered her services at her own expense to accompany me. This was a special visit for me as The Darnitsa District of Kiev was to honour me with their UK



equivalent of our “Woman of The Year Award”. This is the first time that the award has been given to a foreigner and was a great honour to receive.

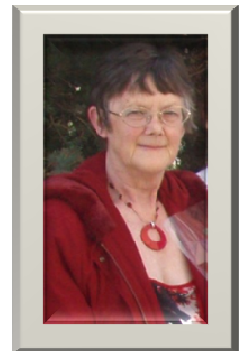


I was especially pleased as it proved that all our hard work forming a working partnership with the Local Government Department of Social Care has succeeded. Our Foster Father Sasha was also honoured as “Father of the Year” and both Sasha and Olena are recognised as the most experienced and successful Foster Parents in Kiev. They now have a voice in the treatment and welfare of children needing help whose lives are in crisis.

*We do not want anyone to find fault with our work, so we try not to put obstacles in anyone’s way. Instead in everything we do we show that we are God’s servants by patiently enduring troubles, hardships and difficulties.*  
*2 Corinthians 6 : 3-4*

## News from Genesis House

Eight years after I attended the opening of Genesis House, I was on my way to the Ukraine again. I wondered what changes I would see. Eight years ago there were two little children, Anton & Sophia, in the house soon to be joined by Marina. Since then there have been many more foster children all of whom have been successfully adopted. Now there were five teenagers in residence. Of course continuity is provided by the presence of Foster Parents Sasha and Olena and Olena’s Mother who keeps everybody right and makes sure the garden produces bumper crops.



**Patrons:** Mark Turner QC, Martin Bell OBE  
Rt Rev James Newcome Bishop of Carlisle, Gareth McKeever  
**Trustees:** Pat Harrison MBE, Paul Smith, Margaret Smith, Andrey Donsky  
Alexander Donskoy, Ivan Bespalov



The fruit trees that were planted at the opening ceremony continue to thrive (apart from the one Pat planted). Grandma also makes a wonderful Ukrainian delicacy “pirozhki” (dough filled with potatoes, egg, meat or cheese and then fried) for visitors to the house. I even had a master class in the preparation.



The children were delightful, always helpful (after all Pat and I were not the most agile getting in and out of the minibus) and so eager to please. They love to show off their musical talents and put on impromptu concerts for any visitors to the house. Viktor had only had his latest saxophone for a few weeks but was showing great aptitude. At Pat’s award ceremony the children delighted the audience with a very polished performance of the handbells. The boys love to show off their circus skills in juggling and aerobatics. They were delighted when we attended a show put on by their school.

The Children are all eager to learn and were fascinated by an exhibition of underwater life which we visited with them. They asked lots of questions and appreciated the artwork and photography. They are all learning English and asked Pat and I to hear them read. They are doing well but, not surprisingly, struggle to pronounce words like “Eisteddfod”, when we were reading about Wales.

Anastasia was a wonderful guide when we went into Kiev on the underground Metro.

My overriding impression was of a happy house and home with very friendly intelligent children. They had arrived at Genesis House with many problems but they are now a credit to all the hard work of Sasha & Olena. I could not imagine what life would have been like if they had all ended up in orphanages, what future would they have had then. Now they are ready for mainstream life and have something to look forward to.

I feel very privileged to be part of this charity which with limited income has managed to achieve such a lot in the Ukraine and gained the friendship of the people.

*Kath Parsons – Treasurer.*

Changes are now taking place at Genesis House.

Andrey & Anton, the two brothers who were left to stay in a skin clinic for months because the authorities forgot about them, have now been re-united with their older Sister.



Our Foster parents worked hard to make contact with this young woman and for the last 12 months have been preparing the boys for living with their Sister. Andrey is training to be a Builder and Anton is now skilled in taking care of himself. It is wonderful to see a family re-united and having a chance at a normal life instead of being separated and lost in the Welfare System. Their Sister rings our Foster parents regularly to ask for advice and with their help, the family are all doing well.

Anastasia, Anton and Vova are the three siblings that came to Genesis House when their Mother lost her parental rights due to severe neglect.

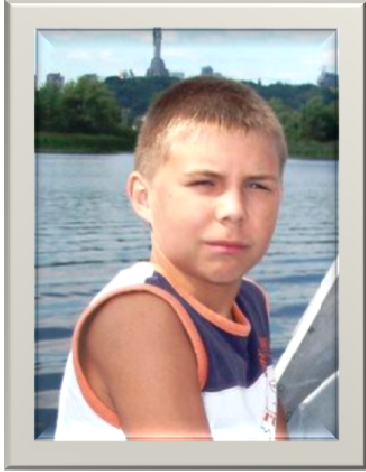


Having got these three children to be self-supporting, our Foster Parents are now working with their Mother with a view to

reuniting them as a family. The children will work towards being totally confident to take care of each other and their Mother who despite the previous neglect, they still love. What a success when this family is eventually re-united. They will no longer be abandoned children with no future but with our support, a real Family. Thank the Lord. Viktor is his usual bubbly self, studying hard with his music and circus skills and like all the other children, he is very helpful in the garden. The children all had their annual trip to The Black Sea and had a wonderful time. They came back sun tanned and healthy from all the sea air.



## Our new boy



Vitaliy Davidenko, 13 years old. His mother died in 2010 and since then he has lived in an orphanage. He has a loving father, Viktor, who was not married to Vitaliy's mother, but they lived together as partners and led a normal family life. When Vitaliy was born, his father was a military officer serving in Chechnya. He came home after getting

seriously wounded and settled down with Vitaliy's mother and older brother who is now 20. Before the mother's death they had a loving stable family life but after her death it turned out that Vitaliy was classed as an orphan as Viktor was not officially registered as his father. He was consequently taken to an orphanage despite his father's efforts to prove the connection.

Almost two years later he is still fighting the system and there is a good chance that he will get a court hearing later on this year to enable him to get his son back. In the meantime, we welcome Vitaliy into our Genesis House family to protect him from the harsh conditions of living in a state run institution, bring him up to date with his schooling, attend to his health issues and most importantly show him all the love and encouragement he needs. We will be in constant contact with Vitaliy's father and help him to reinstate the necessary documents required to get Vitaliy back to his family home. God willing we will then have another family reunited.

## Borispol Disabled Centre

All the children and young adults have just returned from The Black Sea where they spent two weeks with their parents or carers. It is great to see them all so happy and carefree enjoying the sea and sun. The Paralympics has shown the world how, with support, disabled people can compete on almost all levels.

I have seen in our disabled centre our young people fight and train like any athlete to attain some degree of mobility, dexterity or just the dignity of being able to use the toilet. To me these young people are all Olympians and each deserve a gold medal. I had tears in my eyes in April when I saw the struggle and willpower our children used to put on entertainment for Kath and myself and the joy in their faces when we smiled and laughed at their performances. I hope to bring Valentina, the Director of our Disabled Centre to England next year to allow her to experience how we deal with disabled children and young adults. I also want to let her see how we deal with Autism and Cerebral Palsy to enable her to approach her government for additional funding to support their affected children.

## Euro 2012



One of our UK supporters, a local businessman Sean Cafferty is an avid football fan and during the Euro 2012 Championship flew to Ukraine to support England. While he was in Kiev he got the opportunity to meet our Genesis family and below we get a diary of his experience:

### England V France. Donetsk.

Dave and I fly to Kiev and spend the night at Genesis House. What a welcome from Viktor and all the kids! They all played their musical instruments for us and then we watched a football match on TV. There were pictures of Kendal and The Lake District on the walls in Genesis House, which made me feel very proud of the link we have with New Beginnings. We visited Olena's mum the next morning and she told us how proud she is of Andrey, her Grandson. Sasha and Olena were wonderful to us. They took us to the airport and we flew off to Donetsk to watch our first football match.

### England V Sweden in Kiev.

Travelled back from Donetsk on the new high speed train, it was great. Sasha and Oleya met us and took us to central accommodation they had arranged near the new Kiev stadium. They tricked us though and drove us into a dark yard and pointed at a derelict house that was falling to the ground. We would have fallen for the joke if it were not for the tears that were sneaking out of Sasha's eyes!

### England V Ukraine.

I popped home for a few days to see my wife and 4 sons, Dave stayed at Genesis House. He helped paint the kids playground. Viktor took him touring around Kiev to the galleries and museums.

### Quarter Final, England V Italy in Kiev.

Sasha met me at the airport and we went to Borispol Hospital to collect Anastasia so I saw what New Beginnings had achieved there. There were new beds and bedding, decorated children's wards and Sasha explained that they had provided all the new windows and supplied a new fridge for the children's milk. We went back to Genesis House and played basketball and picked vegetables from the garden with the children.



I had a really special evening out as I took Sasha and Helen out to eat. They explained everything about their devotion

to Genesis House. I saw Sasha having many paternal one to one conversations with the children.

Went to the game. England were knocked out on penalties again. The day after failure is usually a sad one, however, Sasha and Oleya took us swimming at the river with a picnic and to visit their friends. It was a really happy day. We learned a lot from our trip. Dave and I have been to tourist locations like South Africa and Portugal to watch football. We both agreed that the wonderful people who looked after us at Genesis House made it our best trip ever. May they continue to carry on doing the excellent work they do with these children.

Sasha, Olena & all the Genesis House family, we miss you!  
Lots of love,  
Sean and Dave x

### **Thank you for your support**

I would like to thank all our supporters for their generosity in helping us to help so many children to have a NEW BEGINNING in their lives and a positive future with God's help.

On a final personal note, my Granddaughter Charlotte gave birth recently to identical twin boys making me now a Great Grandmother of four great grandchildren. As I am an identical twin, it was an especially exciting event for me and my Identical Sister.

### **One in a Thousand**

As you know, Genesis House is up-and-running now. However, our work is not done yet. It takes approximately £12,000 a year to sustain the project. It sounds an awful lot of money, but would only take 1000 people to donate £10 a year.

#### **Would YOU like to become One in a Thousand?**

Your donation for one or more consecutive years would provide for the children and ensure their future. In return for your gift each year you will receive regular updates on the life of Genesis House.

If you would like to make a donation, set up a standing order or become "1 in 1000", please fill in the form and send it to us with the cheque made out to **New Beginnings**. **If you do not pay tax, please tick "NO GIFT AID" on the form.** The donations made through Gift Aid mean that your gift could be worth more without any further cost to you simply by completing the form. This will help us to recover the cost of the postage. Only a small proportion of money donated to New Beginnings goes towards running expenses of the charity! All members of our committee are dedicated volunteers. Therefore, when you make a donation you can be sure that the majority of it will go straight to the children and **not** to cover various administration expenses.

### **Beneficiaries**

By remembering us in your Will you could be allowing us to help children in crisis to give them a chance to live their lives to the full.



### **Donation Form / Gift Aid Declaration**

I would like to become 1 in a 1000

I would like to make a donation

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make cheques payable to New Beginnings)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and would like New Beginnings to reclaim tax on the enclosed gift.

NO GIFT AID

Note: You must pay an amount of income tax and / or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give). Otherwise, tick "NO GIFT AID"

New Beginnings will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

If you would like to set up a standing order, please contact us for bank details.

Thank you!

### **Get in Touch!**

**New Beginnings Charity**

**C/O Pat Harrison MBE**

**Vineyard Cottage,**

**45 Appleby Road,**

**Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 6ES**

**Tel: 01539 727158**

**E-mail:**

**pat.newbeginnings@yahoo.co.uk**

**[www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk](http://www.newbeginningscharity.org.uk)**