

# Brighton Lifeline Humanitarian Aid **NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2004

Welcome to the spring newsletter, which is just a brief update to keep in touch with you all – there will be a full newsletter as soon as I'm in the country for long enough! Following our fact-finding mission in Albania in August (where we met the kids pictured on the right), we unexpectedly managed to squeeze in another convoy to Ukraine, where we were luckily in time for the celebrations of the first birthday of the youth group *Our Generation*. The party included their HIV-awareness theatre performances and some fantastic music & comedy the kids have devised themselves.

We plan to build on the success of this party by under-writing public concerts which the kids will organise themselves. These will give them a chance to reach out to the rest of the Ukrainian public, but will also encourage their self-confidence and skill in running their own fundraising projects.

We also spent time talking about what they need from us in future. At last, I believe we've overcome their fears about asking for more than friendship. Their experiences of the corrupt bureaucracy which traditionally pervaded their country had left them convinced that no "official partner" can also be a *friend*. Breaking through this is a success in itself.

Meanwhile, Bob Chase from our partner *Bear Essential Aid* flew out to meet the builders working on toilets & showers at the Berezna orphanage for children with mental illnesses. I'm delighted to report that the outside plumbing work, and the toilets in the school building were finished in time for winter and the final stage



**Above:** Children in the Bathorë shanty town in Albania saying "falaminderit" – thanks – for your help giving them safe water.

of facilities in the dormitory block are underway. We still need to pay the builders for this final stage and as ever your help is the only way that will happen – please give if you can.

At Christmas *Blanch House* hosted a second "Canvas" art raffle, and our share of the proceeds from that will be going towards the water bore-hole in Albania. We are also planning to hold another art event, this time a more affordable "open house"!

Meanwhile, Nick Briscoe was really moved by the people he met when he came with us to Ukraine in November. He went back in March to work with musicians and a dance troupe, with a view to supporting their efforts and holding a concert next year featuring local Ukrainian bands and some musicians and bands from the UK. His energetic efforts have also led to two fantastic music-based benefits in Brighton and we hope to hold regular music & food nights at Japanese restaurant *Moshi Moshi*.

Finally, future dates: our next trip, to Ukraine, will leave on April 9th. We'll then be in Albania early in the summer.

*Kieran Turner, Co-ordinator*



**Left:** In November we took with us Gus Watcham from Brighton-based children's party company "Nosebag". The photos show children at the Perlina school and Berezna orphanage in Ukraine who thoroughly enjoyed her workshops in making hobby-horses!