Chernobyl, Áthas agus CLG

Tháinig an grúpa Áthas le chéile i mBaile Locha Riach le fáilte Uí Cheallaigh a chur roimh rothaithe a bhí ar camchuairt ar fud na hÉireann le airgead a bhailiú ar son 'Chernobyl Children's Project Ireland'. Cuireadh tae, brioscaí agus smailceanna bia ar fáil dóibh siúd ar na rothair.

B'as Cill Chainnigh na rothaithe agus d'éirigh leo suim s'acu sa rothaíocht a nascadh lena spéis sna cluichí gaelacha ar mhaithe le tacaíocht agus aird a tharraingt ar cúis is deacrachtaí pháistí Chernobyl.

Bhí turas speisialta eagraithe acu mórthimpeall Éireann uile ina raibh triúr ar rothair is duine amháin ag tiomáint. Bhí siad ag gabháil thart ar phríomhpháirceanna na gCúigí roimh cluiche ceannais iomána na hÉireann. Thosaigh siad i bPáirc Naomh Tiernach i gCluain Eois, Cúige Uladh sula

ndeachaigh siad ar aghaidh go Páirc Mhic hÉil i gCaisleán a' Bharraigh, Connacht. D'fhan siad thar oíche i mBaile Locha Riach, áit ina raibh roimh-chruinniú ag Micheál Ó Cíosóg 15 Lúnasa 1884 sular bunaíodh CLG. As Baile Locha Riach ar aghaidh go Staid Semple i Dúrlas, Cúige Mumhan agus ina dhiadh sin, lean siad ar aghaidh go Páirc a' Chrocaigh i mBaile Átha Cliath le tacaíocht a thabhairt don fhoireann iománaíochta i gcluiche ceannais na hÉireann. Mar a tharla sé, nuair a bhí siad ar cuairt ar na páirceanna seo, bhí deis acu cúilíní a scoráil le sliotar agus le liathróid peile. Gan amhras, bhí turas ar leith acu ar a mbealach go cluiche ceannais na hÉireann... seans go mbeidh dream as Co. Luimnigh ag eagrú turas dá leithéid ar an bhliain seo chugainn.

Tá rothaithe Chill Chainnigh agus Áthas as Baile Locha Riach beirt ina mball de 'Chernobyl Children's Project' atá eagraithe ar fud na hÉireann. Ghlac siad páirt i scéim speisialta i rith an tsamhraidh le páistí as Béalarús a thabhairt ar saoire go hÉireann. D'fhan cuid de na páistí le teaghlaigh sa chomharsanacht i mBaile Locha Riach agus i gCreachmhaoil ar feadh míosa. Is eagraíocht deonach í 'Áthas' agus tá súil ag an ghrúpa cuir leis an dea-obair ar an bhliain seo chugainn. Ba mhaith leo cuireadh a thabhairt do níos mó páistí teacht ar cuairt go Oirthear na Gaillimhe sna blianta amach romhainn. Má tá spéis ag éinne a bheith páirteach ar dhóigh ar bith, tá gach fáilte teagmháil a dhéanamh le Paula McLaughlin ag 087 9786086.

Chernobyl, Áthas and the GAA

The Loughrea Group Áthas (part of Chernobyl Children's Project Ireland) came out in support of one of their fellow groups from Kilkenny last Wednesday and gave them a great welcome to Loughrea. They provided tea, biscuits and refreshments for the cyclists that were due a well-earned rest.

The Kilkenny team of cyclists were undoubtedly keen GAA supporters and managed to combine their interest in cycling, hurling and also fundraise for their local group.

The Kilkenny group made up of 3 cyclists and a driver were on a sponsored tour of Ireland's provincial GAA grounds. The had cycled from Ulster's St. Tiernach's Park GAA grounds in Clones, to Connaught's McHale's Park in Castlebar before arriving in Loughrea where co-incidentally an historic meeting had been held before the foundation of the GAA 15th August 1884. Having left Loughrea, the

cycling team headed for Munster's Semple Stadium in Thurles and of course made their way to Leinster's and all- Ireland's stadium of Croke Park. On each visit, they had scored points with football and sliotar. It certainly proved to be a unique way of travelling to an all-Ireland final. Perhaps a cycling team from Limerick will organize a similar tour next for 2008.

Both the Kilkenny group and Áthas (Loughrea) are 2 of the many groups under Chernobyl Children's Project Ireland who participated in the "Rest and Recuperation" programme this summer bringing children from Belarus to Ireland for a much-needed holiday. Some of the children, who come from lives profoundly affected by the Chernobyl disaster, enjoyed a month with host families in the Loughrea/Craughwell area.
Áthas is run strictly on a volunteer basis and, after the success of this year, are hoping to increase the number of children visiting Loughrea/Craughwell area next year. If anyone feels that they can offer help in anyway - as a host or back-up family or volunteer helper at any of the events please contact Paula McLaughlin at 087 9786086.