



CIWEM

East Midlands Branch

EVENING MEETING PRESENTATION

Wednesday 5th April 2006

Derby Sewage Treatment Works Visitors' Centre, Severn Trent Water plc

Refreshments from 5.30pm; Presentation will start at 6.15pm

Chernobyl – Twenty Years on from the World's Worst Nuclear Disaster

April 26th 2006 is the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. Time has not been a healer for Belarus, the country worst affected by the disaster. Two million people continue to live on land contaminated by radiation; every day, parents feed their children on food they know is harmful - they have no alternative. Each year more children fall ill with diseases linked to the radiation and babies are born with cancer or genetic disorders. It is impossible to predict how much harm may have been inflicted upon future generations.

A coalition of Chernobyl Children charities in the UK and Ireland are currently working together under the banner "Remember Chernobyl" to raise awareness about Chernobyl's legacy of pollution and ill health.

Chris Broome, Principal Engineer at Scott Wilson in Mansfield is an active member of the largest Chernobyl charity in the UK, Chernobyl Children Life Line, and is Chairman of one of the local Links of that charity. He has visited Belarus on several occasions since his first visit on a Study Tour to Minsk with CIWEM in 2001. He has seen at first hand the tragic consequences of the accident - children's cancer and bone disorder hospitals, orphanages, recuperation centres where children go for 3 weeks with their entire school to improve their health and continue their education at the same time. He has stayed with the families of children who have come to the Matlock area of Derbyshire for recuperation holidays and seen the conditions they have to endure day in day out. The climate is harsh - in winter, the temperature can fall to -30 degrees, the ground is completely frozen for 4 months of the year.

Chris will also be showing a short award winning documentary film shot in Belarus in 2003 by one of the Irish Charities, entitled "Chernobyl Heart" which gives a vivid account of the disaster and its awful consequences on the land, agriculture, the food chain and the health of the people.

This meeting contributes 2 hours towards CPD.

CIWEM gratefully acknowledges the support of Severn Trent Water in providing the venue and refreshments for this meeting.

Directions - Please see overleaf for map and directions.