

# Two years on aid team keep up Ukraine support

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**T**HIS week marked two years since Russian forces invaded Ukraine and started a full-scale war that led to large parts of the country being reduced to ruins.

When Putin's forces began launching missiles at their neighbouring nation on February 24, 2022, the world stopped and watched in horror.

Two years on the war is no longer at the top of the news cycle and subject to round the clock coverage.

But, with no end to the conflict in sight, the situation in Ukraine remains just as desperate with people there every bit as much in need.

Which is why members of Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid Collection Point (MUA) continue to deliver help to the country and are still in urgent need of donations.

The team of about 70 volunteers has, according to figures from this month, delivered £4m worth of aid to hospitals, orphanages and children's centres.

During the last week the latest convoy of donations travelled to the country, a lengthy journey made more difficult with issues at the border crossing.

More than 20 trips have been made and as they have continued the team has gone deeper into Ukraine to get a fuller picture of the effects of war.

Emily Knutton, from MUA, said: "Unfortunately, the war is still going incredibly strong and people are suffering even more especially during the winter period."

"As it's not in the news anywhere near as often



● One of the many Ukrainian children to benefit from MUA's work



● Some of the members of Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid Collection Point



● All packed up - one of the many vehicles loaded with essentials



● Aid is packaged up ahead of being driven to Ukraine



● A Ukrainian children's centre that has benefitted from donations

people have no idea that its still going on and still just as bad.

"For two years, Ukraine has been facing bombs, missiles, drone attacks and whole families scattered and torn apart.

"We are determined to carry on supporting and standing by Ukraine until this awful situation is finally resolved."

Aside from those who journey to Ukraine other volunteers sort, pack, label, weigh and stack donations.

These donations can take many forms.

Every day items include clothes - often hand-knitted by donors, blankets, toiletries and medical equipment.

There are also larger

items such as white goods and electricity generators.

And MUACP itself can need help to keep going - recently a donation of tyres helped kit out vans that deliver the aid.

While donations of wool and knitting needles have helped Ukrainian women make crafts.

Sometimes the recipients of the donations are

right in the firing line of the Russian military.

Emily said: "A lot is going on in Ukraine, we got contacted from a woman's and children's group we provide donations to the other week."

"Literally a few hours after a missile attack took out all of Dnipros power, so no heat or electric. The winters there are unbe-

lievable compared to what we have."

MUACP has tried to attain charitable status several times but has so far been unsuccessful.

Although it has managed to become classified as a not for profit organisation.

Emily added: "Although not what we were hoping for, it's still good news and would

never have been possible without all the support we have received."

The group is still also raising money for Ukraine as well as taking aid.

Anyone wishing to donate can visit justgiving.com and search 'We're raising £20,000 to Continue to supply critical aid and vehicles to Ukraine.'

## Police team up to play their part

POLICE officers who volunteer with Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid have also set up their own group to bring help to the country.

Jim Clark, from Macclesfield, founded Cops for Ukraine with Rob Stordy - who is also a PC with Cheshire Police's rural crime team - last year.

It was set up with the

chief aim of helping police colleagues and their families in Ukraine and its latest donation was over female sanitary products

This was done in conjunction with HeyGirls.

PC Clark was part of trips with MUA and what he saw led him to get even more involved.

He said: "As we approach the second

anniversary of barbaric acts against humanity and the mass displacement of communities and innocent people now is an even more important time to support and act."

"The work that Macclesfield Ukrainian Aid has undertaken over the past two years is something quite remarkable."

"From my first trip I

have seen the greater world and the absolute need to help those less fortunate in quite a different light."

PC Stordy added: "The impacts of war are multifaceted, we are keen to do all we can to support our Ukrainian colleagues in as many ways as possible."

Both have thanked members of MUA for their help.



● PCs Rob Stordy (left) and Jim Clark