



Jacob's Well Appeal

Summer 2022 Newsletter

Aid to Ukraine

It seems so long since we heard the news that Russia had invaded Ukraine. In spite of months of warnings, it was a shock to the whole world that the Russians had crossed the borders and were waging a ferocious war with their peaceful neighbour. As soon as the refugees started to pour out of the country, Jacob's Well sprung into action and started appealing for food, clothing and other emergency supplies to help the desperate people. For the first few weeks of our Ukraine appeal, things were coming in faster than we were able to process it. It seemed like the whole country wanted to give to Ukraine! Schools in the area helped us by organising collections of food. Car loads of clothes and bedding started arriving, the volume of which we had never seen before in Jacob's Well Appeal's history. We appealed to all our medical partners and beyond asking for as many items as they could send us. They responded by sending us hundreds of pallets of high quality dressings. Fortunately, donations of money started to come in as well, so we were able to pay for the transport for all the items that were being given.

Our first truck of aid went into Moldova to help the Ukrainian refugees there. Then we started trying to send our aid trucks into Ukraine itself. European lorries refused to take the load beyond the border with Romania, so our large trucks had to be unloaded at the border onto smaller Ukrainian trucks. Later on we were able to hire Ukrainian trucks that were starting to come to the UK exporting their agricultural produce that would normally have come to the UK in shipping containers.

Denys Bilko, JW's Ukraine Director, oversees the deliveries of aid across Ukraine.



result of being exposed to the radiation from Chernobyl. Nadja Bilko established a branch of Jacob's Well charity in Ukraine to handle the aid that was being sent. The charity was called "Krynitsia Jakova", meaning Jacob's Well in Ukrainian.

In the more recent past, the charity had become dormant. Ukraine, like much of Eastern Europe, had become more prosperous and the need for aid was not so pressing. However with the war, all that changed overnight. Denys Bilko, the son of the former hospital director was now in charge of the dormant Jacob's Well Ukraine and contacted us straight away to see if we could do something to help his country. So right from the start of the conflict, Jacob's Well had a partner in the heart of Ukraine, ready to start distributing aid to where it was most needed.



We have sent 18 trucks like this one to Ukraine, plus 8 Luton vans. The Value of aid sent is well over £5 Million

Jacob's Well has a long history of working in Ukraine. On 26th April 1986, Jacob's Well's then medical directors, Drs. Peter and Beryl Beynon were on board a cargo ship heading for Poland, accompanying an aid container. Listening to the BBC news as the ship left the dock, they heard that there had been a huge nuclear explosion in Chernobyl, Ukraine, less than 500 miles away from where they were heading. Whilst in Poland the hospital technicians told them that the instruments they used to check the safety of their X-ray machines were indicating that the radiation level was 80 times higher than normal. It subsequently turned out that all the food grown in the fields in a wide radius, the milk from the cows etc was too toxic to eat. Jacob's Well launched an appeal to help the local people at that time which raised a lot of money. Later Drs. Beynon met Nadja Bilko in Kyiv, the leading research biochemist who was pioneering treatments for all the people suffering from Leukaemia as a

Over the last few years, we have normally sent one container per month overseas. Now, we started sending one or two trucks per week. There was one week where we had 5 trucks scheduled to go! You can imagine the increased work load in packing boxes, stacking pallets, writing lists (every single item on the truck needs to be listed along with its weight, price and expiry date!), phone calls, admin, etc. (Thank you so much to all our staff and volunteers who rose to the occasion and made it all work). Thankfully, we were joined by quite a number of new volunteers who wanted to do something to help Ukraine.



In Ukraine, Denys was offered the free use of a warehouse in central Ukraine, safely away from the conflict area, so our aid trucks can offload there. From there we send smaller trucks and vans to hospitals all over the Ukraine including the cities that we were hearing about on the news, like Kharkiv, Mariupol, Odessa and Cherkasy, Kyiv and the Donbass. Some of the aid goes directly to the front lines. In fact our aid has been distributed to over 100 hospitals and clinics throughout Ukraine as well as many local charities and government agencies.

Could you help us to send another truck of aid to Ukraine? Transport now costs £5000 per truck. By the end of July we will have spent all the money that we received so far for Ukraine.

We never cease to be amazed at some of the unusual things that come into our warehouse, often just at the moment that we need that particular thing.

As well as the expected, we have sent many unexpected items into Ukraine, including;

Bullet proof vests, Life Jackets, Examination couches, Stretchers, Hospital beds & Gurneys, Tents & Sleeping Bags, Trauma & Burns dressings, Wheel chairs, crutches & Zimmer frames, Oxygen concentrators, Medical disposables & instruments, First Aid kits, Survival packs, Drip stands, PPE, Torches, Dressings, Theatre items, Toiletries, Toys & Gift Boxes, Bedding, Clothes & blankets, Nappies & sanitary pads, Medicines, Colostomy bags, needed for those with abdominal blast injuries, Food & Pet food

thousands of animals have been abandoned by those who have fled as refugees. Local charities are attempting to feed them).

Shocking Statistics

The Russians have destroyed over 347 hospitals and clinics.

78 Ambulances have been shot and destroyed.

8 Million Ukrainians have fled the country, causing the largest refugee crisis in Europe since the Second World War.

Over 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and 30,000 wounded 35,000 Russians soldiers have been killed with many more wounded.

The hospitals near the conflict zones are full of blast, burns and crushing injuries. Over 560 people are wounded every day.

Many doctors and nurses have fled the country leaving a small number of staff working very long hours in buildings that are often deliberately targeted by the Russian Military.



Helping Ukrainian Refugees in Moldova

We sent one truck to our partners, ORA International, in Moldova. This included food, clothes and blankets to enable them to help the Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. We have also since sent them £10,000, as they are accommodating quite a number of refugees at their centres across Moldova.

Helped by an angel?

Three ladies from the same Church left a town that the Russians were attacking in the early morning on foot. Walking for days, they kept

singing worship songs quietly, trying to avoid the roads and the Russian army road blocks. After days of walking, they finally reached the Ukrainian border and walked towards the guard post with their hands in the air. The Ukrainian soldiers greeted them and told them that they were safe and could take off their white armbands. The soldiers said, "We watched you from afar and realised you were civilians. But where is the 4th man who was walking with you? The tall guy that we saw walking beside you 3 girls? The ladies believe that God had sent an angel to escort them throughout their difficult journey!

Fire in Ouagadougou Hospital

For years JWA has supported the “Source de Vie” hospital in Burkina Faso that provides free healthcare for the poorest people in the city. We helped to build a maternity, surgical and radiological unit and also supplied solar panels to reduce their large electricity bill. Unfortunately, earlier this year there was a fire in the old part of the hospital. Fortunately, all patients were successfully evacuated without injury, and the fire didn't affect any of the new buildings or the solar panels.

We are now trying to raise money to repair this area of the hospital, which in truth needed restoration before the fire damage. The total cost of the work is £25,154 which will be done in 3 phases – roof and ceiling, painting, masonry and tiling and then electricity. The fire was probably caused by faulty electrical wiring so having the area re-wired properly will be a blessing. If you could help with this, please send your donations with the reference “the hospital fund”.



Jacob's Well has been supporting the **Sierra Leone Autistic Society** for several years. As well as their original school in the capital, Freetown, they have also established the first two day-care centres in rural areas – there is no other provision for Autistic children nation-wide! As well as providing a much needed service for Autistic children, it has also helped to increase awareness of disability. They are currently appealing for funds to build a larger school on land donated by the government. Jacob's Well Appeal sent a 40ft container in February containing items for the new school as well as various other equipment that they currently need. We also sent some medical supplies for local hospitals. The pupils' parents wrote to say that many of their families were crying happy tears because they couldn't believe that people so far away could care that much for their children who are shunned by their own communities.



Above. Volunteer Stuart Bemrose. We are donating 2 tractors to West Africa this month along with a Multi-sheller. These enable the local women to plough, plant and thresh their crops.

Children's Drawings from Ukraine.

The boys have always drawn tanks. Today the girls also draw tanks. They draw tanks that protect houses with thick, thick walls. Where you can hide everyone you love — Dad and Mom and Grandma and Grandpa, even if they live separately. But it's better they're all together now. Also in the house is a cat or a dog or a hamster or fish in an aquarium. You can also hide your favourite bike or your favourite doll behind the thick walls of such houses - and all your friends, and a lot, a lot more besides. And that's why you have to paint the walls over and over again, because there's so much that you want to protect - so much that you love...

How do you draw a smile on your mother's face when she's always crying? How do you draw the face of your Daddy, which you have not seen for three months and is beginning to fade in your memory? How do you draw a cat that no longer looks affectionately at you on the window sill, but cowers in the corner every time the siren wails outside the window? These are the drawings of girls, little Ukrainian girls who have learned to fear, and little Ukrainian boys who have learned to cry from the pain they endure daily.

What colour is the sky? And the sea? What about the road under your feet? What if you can't see the sky for weeks? What if you have to watch the road very carefully so that you don't step on a mine?

What if the mine is just like a flower, even if it's made of metal? Your parents will explain that the flower made of metal is a mine - it only looks like a flower. If taken by hands or disturbed it will explode in to your face...

Have you ever seen a grey-haired child? Today we have so many children who have become grey during the war...Grey children. In the 21st century. In Ukraine. In the heart of Europe.

War is not just about fighting. It's the lack of joy. It's when no one laughs and adults are anxious and silent. It's the smell of damp cellars and hospitals. War is the smell of death. It is the absence of medicines and other essentials. It's in the drawings of children - a house with very thick walls and a tank at the entrance...

Please visit our Ukraine Branch's Facebook page and website:

www.facebook.com/JacobsWellUkraine www.jacobswellukraine.com

Reusable Sanitary Pad Project in Ghana

Our Reusable sanitary pad project continues to change the lives of teenage girls in remote African communities. We teach the girls how to make reusable sanitary pads out of locally available material. The aim is to reduce the number of girls who drop out of school once their periods start because of hygiene reasons. The girls are also taught about sexual health during these lessons. Since our newsletter in Dec. 21 we have run 2 more projects; one benefitting over 120 girls in a large school, the other reaching 5 rural communities in N.Ghana. We are soon to start 3 more projects in rural Ghana supported by the Skegness Rotary Club and the Souter trust. We have also recently been approached by the Wa Municipal Education Directorate who want us to assist 500 school girls in highly vulnerable areas in this region.

We are now looking for £3,500 to cover the costs of this project.



JACOB'S WELL APPEAL
NEW YEAR'S CHARITY BALL
SAT 7TH JAN 2023
7pm - 1am
Lazaat Pavilion, Cottingham
Arrival drink, 3 course dinner
Live 80's music from Smooth Operator
DJ & dancing
DRESS ELEGANT:
Dinner Jackets & Long Dresses
RAFFLE/AUCTION PRIZES NEEDED
IF YOU CAN HELP PLEASE
TICKETS £45.00 PER HEAD
To book please call 01482 881162 or email office@jacobswellappeal.org
Why not make a night of it and stay over, lovely rooms available:
£55 Single occupancy B&B \ £65 Double occupancy B&B
Call Lazaat direct to reserve 01482 847900

DONATIONS: - Via Internet Banking

Account Name: Jacobs Well Appeal
Account Number: 67235135
Sort Code: 08-92-99

Do you have email? If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, save costs and the environment, please send your email address to office@jacobswellappeal.org with your name and postal address, so we can update our database. Thank you!

Warehouse Sales;

Sat 20th Aug & 26th Nov, 9am - 1pm @ Jacob's Well Yard, Beverley, HU17 0JX

Charity Sales:

Sat 30th July, 17th Sept, 15th Oct, 9am - 3pm @ Toll Gavel Church Drive, Beverley, HU17 9AA

Legal Changes

Jacob's Well Appeal has now become a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Our previous constitution was 40 years old and much has changed in charity law since then. The new structure gives more legal protection for trustees and also enables us to do charitable work within the UK, which was not within our remit before.

Unfortunately, it also means that we have had to change our bank accounts. If you give to Jacob's well via standing orders, please could you update your payment listed below. You can get a form from our office, our website using the QR code below or going to the website and clicking on the DONATE button.

MEDICATION

Sadly we are no longer able to send patients' medication abroad. If you send us your medication, even if it has never been opened, we will have to pay to have it destroyed. Please return it to your local pharmacy.



A HUGE thank you to all our amazing volunteers and to all those who support us by donating money, medical supplies, items to sell, knitting blankets and making shoe boxes. **If the monies raised exceed the amount needed for the projects mentioned in this newsletter, we will use the extra money to fund similar projects.**