

# NEWSLETTER

DELIVERING A FUTURE OF HOPE

## Energy Emergency

Ukraine Declares Energy Emergency as Winter Crisis Deepens



Ukraine has declared a state of energy emergency as Russian strikes on infrastructure continue whilst winter conditions worsen.

“The consequences of Russian strikes and worsening weather conditions are severe,” President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote this month. And it’s not only displaced families who are struggling to survive the cold, the Kyiv Independent reports.





## Ukraine Declares Energy Emergency

“Pechersk, a leafy and affluent neighbourhood in central Kyiv, was once a symbol of comfort and stability. Its pre-revolutionary apartment buildings sit quietly behind tree-lined courtyards, far from the city’s main roads. In peacetime, many Ukrainians dreamed of living here.

Now, in the fourth winter of the war, temperatures inside these apartments have fallen to just 3°C without additional heating, and they are still dropping.

The thick brick walls that once insulated residents from the noise of the city now trap the cold inside. Large windows offer clear views of missile strikes at night, followed by the complete darkness of power outages, but they also let precious heat escape. After a mass Russian strike on January 9, one such elegant building is barely fit for habitation.

“This is the coldest winter I’ve ever known in this flat,” said one resident, who left her apartment days after the attack and is now staying with friends. “Because of the cold, the blackouts, and the constant attacks, it’s simply unliveable.”

Across Ukraine, civilians are increasingly sharing resources to cope. In cities, towns and villages, local authorities have established so-called Invincibility Points, sheltered locations powered by generators where residents can warm up, charge phones, and keep essential devices running. Mobile phones, often used as torches during blackouts, now require constant recharging.

And this is where support from abroad can make a real difference.

“Everything we supply as part of our winter campaign is important, but generators are more vital than ever,” says Mandy Haynes, Lead Trustee with New Forest for Ukraine. “Pre-loved units can be repaired and put straight into service, and brand-new generators can be purchased for around £300.”

With temperatures forecast to plunge to as low as –20°C in February, the need is urgent. As winter tightens its grip, practical support of heat, power, and light could be the difference between endurance and despair.





## Resilience In Action

“When the power went out, I put my phone in my pocket and walked to the Centre of Resilience”.

I already knew the generator would be running. You can hear it before you get there. Chattering away with a noise that's begun to mean light, warmth, and a chance to breathe. Inside the tent there were extension cords everywhere and a long table full of phones, power banks, and chargers that didn't belong to anyone in particular.

I plugged in my phone and sat down. The battery was almost empty, and so was I. The strikes last night didn't allow for much sleep, and with the power cut my phone was the only light I had.

While it charged, I stayed. Someone offered me tea. A woman next to me was waiting for her phone to turn on so she could call her son. A group of kids were charging phones just long enough to send messages to teachers. No one rushed anyone else.







## Resilience In Action

Charging a phone here is never just about the phone. It's about knowing you can call someone if you need to. It's about getting some news, sending a message that says "I'm alive," or just scrolling for a few minutes to quiet your thoughts.

The generator, possibly one provided by your charity, kept everything going. The lights stayed on. The kettle boiled. The small heater and other people's bodies gave us warmth inside the insulated tent. The phones slowly filled with power.

By the time my battery was full, I felt stronger too. Not because the war was close to being over, but because I wasn't facing it alone.

I unplugged my phone and stepped back out to face tonight's darkness. Behind me, the generator kept running. The Centre of Resilience stayed open, ready for the next person who needed to recharge, in every sense of the word.

"Can you thank everyone who helps with these petrol generators? Thanks."



## The Thank You's Continue

As part of NFFU's monitoring of aid distribution, we include "Thank You" cards in Ukrainian and English with each shipment. These cards allow the name of a donor or supporter to be added as a personal message, and invite recipients to take a photo and send it back to us once the aid arrives.

This is just one of the hundreds of heart-warming messages we received this month, from a young mother named Katerina. Her message read:

"Hello, knitters! I'm very glad to receive your gift for my newborn baby. Thank you very much!"



"Hello, knitters! I'm very glad to receive your gift for my newborn baby. Thank you very much!"

**Please Scan the QR Code to Donate**

**For more information please visit:**

**[www.newforestforukraine.org](http://www.newforestforukraine.org)**

**NEWFORESTFORUKRAINE | Charity Registration 1208709**





# Our Winter Campaign Needs

Your support can provide warmth, food, and hope when it is needed most

## LIGHT & HEAT

Reliable heating, lighting and cooking devices. Generators used or new, phone rechargers, small electrical heaters, emergency camping stoves and gas, single element electric hobs, candles, batteries.

## GENERATORS



## HEATERS



## STOVES



## PHONE RECHARGERS



## WARMTH

Warm clothing and winter gear. For all ages and sexes including thermal footwear, gloves, hats, sleeping bags. Knitted blankets for infants.

## WARM CLOTHING



## SLEEPING BAGS



## BLANKETS



## GLOVES - HATS



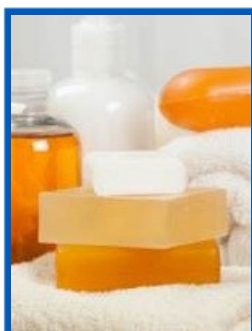
## HYGIENE

Hygiene, Sanitation and First Aid / Medication supplies. Soaps, shampoo. Shower gel, toothpaste, creams. For all ages and sexes

## TOOTHPASTE CREAMS



## SOAPS SHOWER GEL



## MEDICATION



## FIRST AID



## FOOD SECURITY

Nourishing foods and drinks, ambient in cans or packaged, along with snacks, tea and coffee, biscuits, infant milk and food supplements. Thermos flasks, metal mugs.

## FOOD CANS OR PACKS



## TEA - COFFEE BISCUITS



## INFANT MILK



## THERMOS FLASKS



# Our Winter Campaign Needs

*When our NGO's open winter pallets, they pray they'll find the key donations from our winter campaign:*

- 1.** *Reliable heating, lighting and cooking devices. Generators used or new, phone chargers, small electrical heaters, emergency camping stoves, single element electric hobs, candles, batteries.*
- 2.** *Warm clothing and winter gear. For all ages and sexes including thermal footwear, gloves, hats, sleeping bags. Knitted blankets for infants.*
- 3.** *Hygiene, sanitation and first aid / medication supplies. Soaps, shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste, creams. For all ages and sexes*
- 4.** *Food security through nourishing foods and drinks. Ambient products that will survive without chilling in cans or packages, snacks, tea and coffee, biscuits, infant milk and food supplements, plus Thermos flasks with steel linings and metal mugs.*

*All the above items are top of our winter campaign needs. Your support can provide warmth, food, and hope when it is needed most.*

*A small act of kindness today will help a family stay safe and warm through the coldest days, so get it to us, we will get it to them.  
Guaranteed.*



## Martin Plaut Running for NFFU

Martin Plaut is a journalist and academic specialising in conflicts in Africa, especially the Horn of Africa. He worked as a BBC News journalist from 1984 to 2012 and is a member of Chatham House. As of 2019, Martin was a senior research fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies of the University of London, has authored multiple books including his latest 'Unbroken Chains', and a strong supporter of NFFU.



'I grew up running along one of the most spectacular routes in the world. On Table Mountain, with Cape Town spread out below me. As a young South African it was a joy to behold. But there was always something that wasn't right: it was Robben Island - the prison that held Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners for so many years. Today, happily, it is a museum commemorating its grim past. But I am - at the age of 75 - still running.

This April I will be doing a 10k for NFFU. Not just because the forest is so beautiful, but because the cause is so vital.



When I first came across NFFU I was blown away. Not just by the mountain of goods that have been taken to Ukraine, but by the passion of everyone who worked there. Whether they were packing in the hub or sewing at home, there was such love and dedication to the task.

And the people of Ukraine need it so badly! Whether it is the blankets so beautifully knitted or the generators that can replace the country's damaged power supply in the dead of winter, the aid is vital.



## Martin Plaut Running for NFFU

'I got to know some of the organisers and spoke to the women who distribute the donations in Ukraine. It was easy to feel the warmth and the dedication of everyone involved.

So, I am delighted to be running in the New Forest for such a wonderful cause. And I will bring something with me from my time in the Cape. It is the determination to stick with the cause, for as long as it takes.

It took many years to free South Africa, but we never gave up. It may take years to get Ukraine back on its feet. But we know in our hearts we can do it!

The fundraising link for Martin's event is

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/martin-plaut-4?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=WA](https://www.justgiving.com/page/martin-plaut-4?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=WA)



### Martin's fundraiser for New Forest For Ukraine

Help Martin Plaut raise money to support New Forest For Ukraine



New Forest for Ukraine will again partner with the New Forest Marathon in September 2026. If you are also a runner, walker or just a supporter, please consider getting involved.

There are early bird discounts available from Mandy -  
[info@newforestforukraine.org](mailto:info@newforestforukraine.org)



SEPTEMBER  
**2026**



**NEW FOREST  
NATIONAL PARK**

**SIGN UP**

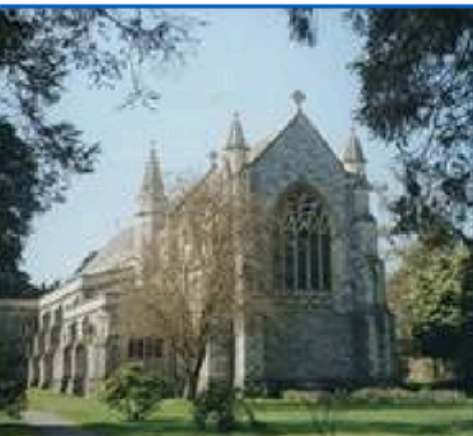


**NEW FOREST  
MARATHON**

**13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026**



# EVENTS UPDATE 2026



## Sun Jan 10

### Christmas Swap

January is usually a quiet month for the Events Team, but we were fortunate to be invited to the Brockenhurst St Saviour's Christmas Swap again this year, on 10th January. A car full of wonderful donations left the church and was delivered to our Lymington Hub.



## Sun Jan 18

### Romsey Support Group

On Sunday, 18th January, we saw an amazing turnout at the Romsey Support Group Trench Candle Workshop. It was lovely to see so many of our supporters busy making these vital candles.

A record-breaking 900 trench candles were made, all of which will be delivered to the Hub for their onward journey to Ukraine. Well done, Romsey Support Group, Roland, Emily, Oksana, and everyone for organising another great workshop.

We not only returned to the hub with 900 trench candles but also a trolley load of donations kindly donated from the group.

For those unfamiliar with trench candles, they are based on a World War I concept and remain a vital aid in Ukraine today. Not only do they provide light and heat, but some can even be used to boil a kettle or heat a tin of soup.

The Romsey Ukraine Support Groups next session is scheduled for March 8, 2026 at Woodley Scout Hall, Braishfield Road, Romsey, SO51 0PB - For more information, contact Roland Matthews at 07505 507825 or email [roljmat@gmail.com](mailto:roljmat@gmail.com).

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website or follow us on social media [www.newforestforukraine.org/](http://www.newforestforukraine.org/)

# EVENTS UPDATE 2026

**theWI**  
**INSPIRING WOMEN**

## **Ludgershall WI**

Thank you to the Ludgershall WI for inviting NFFU to their breakfast meeting to give a talk about the work we do for Ukraine.

It was encouraging to leave with so many great ideas about how they can support the cause, and we are grateful that they will also be promoting us in their community magazine.

## **Sat Feb 28 Romsey Abbey**

Finally, on 28th February, we will be at Romsey Abbey with the Romsey Support Group to recognise the anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This will be an evening event. Earlier that day, we will also be at Our Lady of Mercy and St Joseph Church, Lymington, who have kindly invited us to host a Tombola at their Coffee Morning, 10:00-13:00 to mark the anniversary.

So watch this space - further details on the 2026 events plan will be available soon.

## **The Events Team**

Behind the scenes, the Events Team has been busy organising the 2026 events calendar.

An agenda for the year has now been created, and plans are well underway, including two Ukraine Days.

## **DELIVERING A FUTURE OF HOPE**

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website or follow us on social media [www.newforestforukraine.org/](http://www.newforestforukraine.org/)





## Aid Away - January 2026

As winter bites across the whole of Europe, our hub teams stay warm by working hard on receiving, sorting, checking, packing, palletising, and wrapping aid for shipping to our NGO partners in Ukraine. Those volunteer NGOs meanwhile endure even colder Ukraine weather to get the aid allocated and delivered to those waiting. It's not been easy, as January has seen a record number of strikes upon Ukraine including civilian transport facilities.

Sad to report that one Kyiv aid hub, used by Nova Poshta who manage our last mile deliveries to NGOs, was struck by a missile mid-January. The building was destroyed but fortunately this time no one was killed, and delivery of NFFU aid was not affected.

**January saw our team process 28t** of aid and share it over three 15.5-tonne articulated trucks. Load 63 departed on 6th January, Load 64 on 22nd January, and Load 65 on 28th January. These follow the 170 van loads sent before we transferred to the less frequent but higher volume truck loads. Including everything so far, we are proud to report a **738t total volume of humanitarian aid** shipped from Lymington by NFFU. We are amazed by what our community has achieved, and whilst it sounds like a lot, when shared between 4-5 million displaced, please be aware each family still gets a bare minimum

## Aid Away - January 2026

After our sorting team's carton or bag items, using vacuum packing if required to compress clothing and bedding, they are shared into predefined pallet boxes to fulfil each NGOs monthly wish list. Pallet boxes are filled to the brim and capped with a lid, but moving 28,000 kg of aid in a single month is also a significant achievement for a volunteer team, only made possible by a steady flow of donations, a hard-working volunteer force, self-innovated packing techniques, and maximising every inch of space on each pallet and each truck.

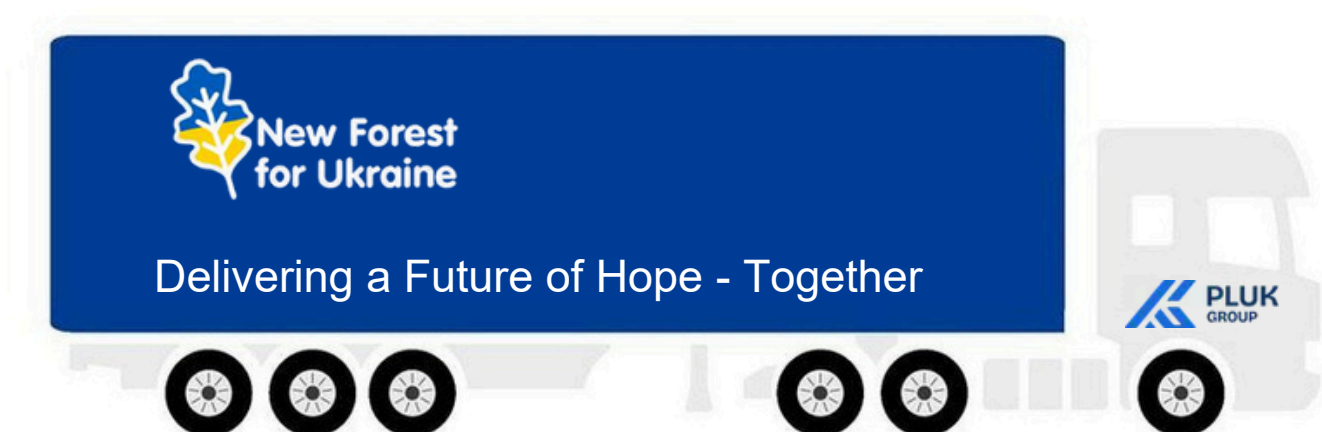
Once filled, every pallet box is wrapped in black plastic for added security and weather protection, minimising the risk of damage to contents. Labelled with address and content details, and when sponsored a large message label, pallets are stacked one upon the other, ready to load 52 pallets that fill every inch of a truck.

### Please Sponsor a Pallet

You can make a meaningful contribution by sponsoring a pallet for **£50** and include a personalised message 2,000 Miles to Ukraine.

Each sponsored pallet will carry a message of hope from you on printed on a large label; your words will be a reminder that the world has not forgotten them, that someone, somewhere, still cares.

To extend your impact even further, full truck sponsorship is available for **£2,600**, helping vital aid reach thousands more.



**Please Scan the QR Code to Donate**

**For more information please visit:**

**[www.newforestforukraine.org](http://www.newforestforukraine.org)**

**NEW FOREST FOR UKRAINE | Charity Registration 1208709**





# Utility Warehouse Advertisement



Save money on your household bills when you sign-up with Utility Warehouse - at the same time you can support NFFU.

Utility Warehouse is a company that offers a range of essential services, energy, broadband, mobile and insurance packages.

**Cost Savings:** UW offers competitive pricing that could lower your monthly bills.

**Simplicity:** Manage all your services with one provider and one monthly bill.

Support a Cause: By choosing Utility Warehouse for any of our services, you're also supporting New Forest for Ukraine, as they will receive a share of any commission.

If you would like to know more, please use the link below and then fill out your information so that Robert Lowe from Utility Warehouse can contact you.

<http://connectors.uw.co.uk/CN-ZKEK>

**Please Scan the QR Code to Donate**

**For more information please visit:**

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**NEWFORESTFORUKRAINE | Charity Registration 1208709**



New Forest for Ukraine is a volunteer-led, registered charity delivering life-saving aid to Ukraine. We keep things simple: no salaries, no diversions every donation funds the purchase and shipment of the items requested by people on the ground in Ukraine.

## Here is how you can make a difference

### **Become a Friend of NFFU**

Set up a monthly standing order any amount helps. If you're a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid increases your donation by 25% at no extra cost (so £3.99 becomes £4.99).

### **Donate by text**

Text NFFU5 to 70255 to give £5, or NFFU10 to 70255 to give £10.

### **Direct bank transfer**

Account name: New Forest for Ukraine Bank: Unity Trust Bank

Sort code: 60-83-01 Account number: 20513742

### **Send a cheque**

Payable to New Forest for Ukraine and post to NFFU Administration,  
4 Browning Close, West Totton, SO40 8SN

### **Scan & donate via Paya**

Use our QR code to give securely through our Paya platform.

Please remember to apply for Gift Aid if you pay UK tax as your support goes 25% further.





## Become a Friend of New Forest for Ukraine

Join our community of monthly givers. A small regular donation is a most effective way to support our work.

A regular payment of £3.99 will help us deliver essentials to people living in desperate circumstances. Your generosity will go a long way.

You can come become a friend by using our Just Giving platform which is part of our site by clicking on our donate button

**DONATE NOW**

Use your payment card to make a regular payment - all you need to do is switch the frequency to MONTHLY and the amount to £3.99.

Alternatively, you can complete the standing order or use your on line banking.

When you become a friend, you will receive a unique badge marking your regular contribution, make sure to send your address to [admin@newforestforukraine.org](mailto:admin@newforestforukraine.org)





# Volunteer Press Co-ordinator

New Forest for Ukraine is seeking a Volunteer Press Co-ordinator to help share our positive stories and raise awareness of our work supporting displaced Ukrainians.

**This role involves:**

- Acting as a point of contact for local and regional media
- Writing and distributing press releases and news updates
- Helping to promote events, successes, and human-interest stories
- Working with the team to ensure our message reaches the widest possible audience

**This volunteer position would suit:**

- A retired professional with experience in communications, journalism, or PR
- A student looking to build their CV and gain real-world media experience
- Anyone with a passion for telling uplifting stories and supporting a good cause

You don't need to be an expert; just organised, reliable, and enthusiastic about sharing good news.

By joining us, you'll play a key role in helping the wider community understand and support the work of New Forest for Ukraine.

Please email - [info@newforestforukraine.org](mailto:info@newforestforukraine.org)



# EASTER CHOCOLATE BUNNIES

## Hopping from the New Forest to Ukraine!

This Easter, we are hoping to send **1,500** chocolate bunnies to communities in Ukraine - small treats bring big comfort, can you help us to make Easter a little brighter.

### **How You Can Help**

Contribute chocolate bunnies or make a donation

Spread the word about our Easter initiative



**Please Scan the QR Code to Donate**

For more information please visit:

[www.newforestforukraine.org](http://www.newforestforukraine.org)

NEWFORESTFORUKRAINE | Charity Registration 1208709





Thank you for your Continued Support