

Leeds Ukrainian Community Association

Annual report & accounts 27/02/2024-26/02/2025

Introduction

From the first day of the Russian invasion into Ukraine, Leeds Ukrainian Community Association has been helping victims of the war. The LUCA is working in two main areas: supporting those, who fled the war, here, in the UK; and sending medical and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. LUCA is also promoting Ukrainian culture via a series of history lectures, master classes based on Ukrainian traditions and supports Ukrainian Saturday School in Leeds.

Chair's statement

LUCA is operating from Leeds Ukrainian Community Centre. The centre is well known amongst members of the public, which means that everybody has extremely easy access to speak to trustees of the charity about our work. The ease of access to these trustees has certainly helped to build a feeling of trust amongst those wishing to donate. The general public have realised that we can deliver aid, as it is required in a timely and efficient manner, with fully transparent activities. Over the years our reputation as a reliable, trustworthy charity has led to our name being ever more well known and has increased our workload significantly.

We have completed many requests for help that have been sent to us. These continue to be ever more varied as time goes on. The needs have changed slightly, but the results are still the same in that every single item purchased or any assistance given has helped to save many lives.

Refugees arriving in Leeds are still being signposted to our Community Centre by Leeds City Council. The need for any personal items they might need on first arrival into the UK is still there but along with that is an even greater need for assistance in setting up their own homes. After 3 years of war, the majority of the refugees are moving into their own accommodation, but without the support of their families and friends they are turning to LUCA for help in moving on with their and their children's lives. The help given by LUCA in these circumstances provides families with stability and improves their mental health. We continue to be a central point for anybody needing help.

Our work has also included providing subsidised meals for refugees on Saturdays. We find that on that day everybody comes to our centre to take part in organised events, meetings, children's Saturday school or just to socialise with others. The fact that we can provide something to eat while they are there encourages people to come without having the additional problem of bringing something to eat for themselves and their children as many of them live on the outskirts of the city and can be travelling for quite a time. The difference this has made in particular to the children has been incredible as they meet up with old friends and make new ones as children should be doing.

2024-2025 financial year has seen increased demand in help sought from Ukraine, which created challenges for us to fulfil those requests. We have managed to provide similar level of support provided for the displaced community as in 2022 and 2023, despite the information and donation fatigue and severe volunteer's fatigue. We have sought new ways of effective management, communication and engagement.

February 2024

In February we have received a 5,600 euro donation from Innovative Technology Solution, business in Lithuania and purchased a pickup truck, which was sent to Ukraine.



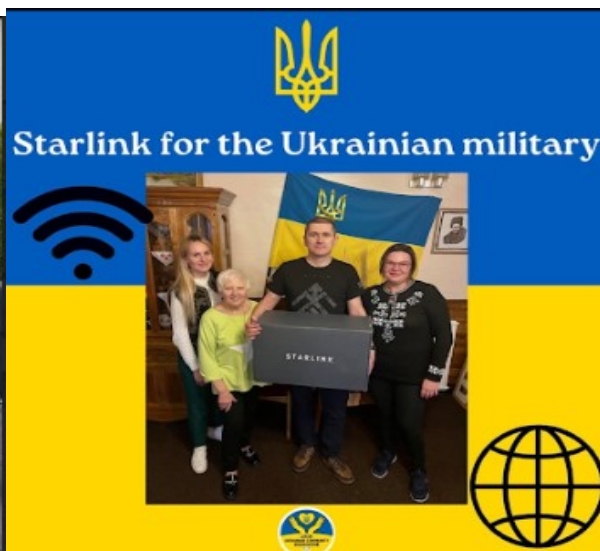
March 2024

We have continued to support our amateur choir with music equipment (speakers, keyboard etc) and ethnic ukrainian costumes

In March following aid to Ukraine has been provided

- batch of spanbond material ,used for safety net weaving by volunteers community in Vinnitsya in Ukraine
- a starlink system for Ukrainian soldiers to provide better communication with loved ones
- 2 pairs of ant concussion safety headphones for Ukrainian soldiers
- Jeep Cherokee-pick up truck for evacuation of wounded soldiers in Ukraine, filled with sleeping bags ,hygiene items, crutches and many more much needed items.





We have celebrated Mother's day and International women's day with our wonderful Ukrainian women and volunteers



April 24

Small Easter celebration for the community was held in April ,bringing people closer together and allowing us to maintain Ukrainian traditions ,away from homeland. This was attended by Father Igor, orthodox ukaninan church priest ,blessing traditional easter baskets .



In April following aid to Ukraine has been provided

- 21 medical stretches “Leleka” -new generation of lightweight stretches, useful in field conditions , on request of one of Ukraine army units , being sent to frontline.
- A Trailer for a vehicle-on request of a group of soldiers, moving from one position to another on frontline and unable to move their belongings and equipment without a trailer

- 2nd batch of spanbond material to weave safety nets



May 24

- We have received a £2,000 grant from Hill Dickinson Foundation to help Ukrainian displaced community and started our successful ongoing project with the help of the funds - every Saturday our wonderful volunteers provide nutritious and tasty traditional Ukrainian lunches for displaced community .



- We have organised a visit for Ukrainian soldiers, training in Yorkshire military base ,bringing sweets,chocolates and performing concert of Ukrainian and contemporary music, expressing the words of gratitude for their service and boosting morale .
- We have had a visit to United Kingdom parliament, meeting with Foreign Minister and members of opposition in parliament , discussing aid to Ukraine and challenges we,as a Ukraine charity, face ;expressing gratitude for Uk government continuous support to Ukraine and relaying the needs of Ukrainian people .





- We have celebrated Vyshyvanka Day-day of national unity and pride for Ukrainian heritage , wearing vyshyvankas and singing Ukrainian songs .



In May 24 following aid to Ukraine been provided:

- Welding repair of frame of one of the pick up truck used for evacuation of soldiers ,otherwise in working condition



- Pick up trucks for evacuation of soldiers, bought and sent to Ukraine with medical and humanitarian aid



- 2 starlink systems for soldiers, to help to have stable connection with loved ones



June 24

- Pick up trucks for evacuation of soldiers, bought and sent to Ukraine with medical and humanitarian aid



We have facilitated Ukrainian business club meet up, when active Ukrainian businessmen got together and shared their experience, success stories and collaborated for startups in Yorkshire.





We have applied for and received £20,000 grant from National Lottery . This grant is for the period of 2 years up to October 2026. Funds are for providing vital work in cooking and serving subsidised lunches and funds to help us to organise celebrations of national significance, until October 26 such as Christmas /St Nicholas party for the children, Malanka, Easter Mother's day, Eurovision party and Ukraine Independence Day .



July 24

We have organised a trip to Tarasivka , annual Ukrainian festival in Derbyshire ,where lots of Ukrainian music, dancing and performances has been held on stage ,from different community groups of Ukrainians from UK and our guests have experienced lovely day out and seeing how Ukrainian traditions are celebrated in UK , by generations of Ukrainian people, starting from 1950s



We have also provided our Ukrainian choir with some speaker and sound equipment , enabling them to rehearse and perform in front with better sound.



Ukraine in summer 24 started suffering with targeted energy infrastructure distruction by the drone and rocket atactjks, and the need for generators and electro stations equipment was very acute .Next few months would see surge in requests for generators and Ecoflow systems and we started to purchase those in UK and send to Ukraine .

We have purchased and sent to Ukraine starlink system, 2 ecoflow systems and some summer closing for Ukraine soldiers .





August 24

We have held our 2nd Annual general meeting, discussed important issues and the need for our charity work to continue, perhaps for generation to come ,as impact of war goes towards the need to help veterans, orphans and need for rebuilding Ukraine for decades to come.



In August our displaced families enjoyed trip to Whitby when a wonderful sunny day in combination with ice-cream has provided much needed joyful moments



We have also purchased and sent to Ukraine 2 pickup trucks to aid with evacuation of wounded and deceased soldiers .Vehicles been filled with much needed equipment and medical aid. We have provided masking net weaving team with spandbond material to enable them to make so needed lifesaving nets.





We have organised Ukraine Independence Day celebration -truly vibrant festival of Ukraine culture, music ,food and united Leeds Ukrainian community and friends of Ukraine around need for aid and support .The event was attended by c 250 people







September 24

In September we have provided antidrone device, truly lifesaving device helping medical evacuation team stay alive during drone attacks and evacuate wounded soldiers from frontline to safety.



We also provided 2 ecoflow system and 2 small electro stations.



October 24

In October we have purchased and sent to Ukraine 2 starlink systems ,a pickup and Nightvision device helping awareness of danger during night time evacuation and saving lives



We also organised charity sports run for Ukraine' Defenders day





And at the end of October held Halloween party for our community



November 24

In November we helped with 2 starlinks and 4 antennas to unit defending Chornobyl area



We also started preparing for Christmas season and attended many fundraising events, able to generate vital income to enable us to do more lifesaving aid

We have also started to feel challenges in volunteer's engagement ,in particular in organising fundraising events and have been actively discussing the ways to move forward. The need for passionate active volunteers is a number one issue and we actively trying to adress this .

December 24

December is a season of hope and joy and we have worked hard to provide festive atmosphere for our community much needed happy moments

Our December Christmas fare has helped to create magical atmosphere for the community . We have helped our struggling families with contribution towards high gas bills and food vouchers ,ahead of Christmas





St Nicholas party seen children getting special Christmas presents delivered from Ukraine, reminding them of home and giving hope of happiness ahead.





We have also tried very hard to fulfill as many outstanding requests from Ukraine, ahead of Christmas , providing much needed equipment and show support to those risking their lives and fighting for our freedom.We have bought and delivered 2 minibuses to Ukraine frontline, aiding with logistics ;food and medicine distribution.



We have also provided 4 ecoflow systems and 3 starlinks .Truly December 24 was about helping the community in every way we can



January 25

January seen more care for the community's mothers, children and elderly with help towards high heating bills and living expenses .Overall we helped over 50 families and elderly with cost of winter bills, electric blankets and food vouchers



We have also purchase tires for medevac vehicle , enabling medevac team on frontline to get to remote areas on frontline and provide emergency aid to wounded soudiers.



Malanka-traditional Ukrainian new year celebration was held for the community, giving positive vibes and laughter.





February 25

The month of February brought many worries and anxiety to Ukrainians and friends of Ukraine around the world

We ,as representatives of Ukrainians in UK and Yorkshire ,have been in a spotlight again.

Changing political landscapes meant a lot of uncertainty for future of Ukraine's fight for freedom and survival as independent state, question of support by its allies remained uncertain. With 3d anniversary of brutal Russian invasion approaching, we have united community once again, and reassured them , reiterating that only together we remain strong and unbreakable and only together can help save lives and influence world leaders to continue support for Ukraine.

We have been uproached by news channels and media for commentary and given many interviews ,maintaining strong position of need for end of war and starting the process of rebuilding Ukraine and take care of our veterans and orphans.

STAND WITH UKRAINE
LEEDS

THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE



MEETING & COMMEMORATIVE WALK & LAYING THE WREATH

24 FEB 2025 Dortmund Square
(Broad Gate, The Headrow,
Leeds LS1 8EQ)

6:30 PM

#STOPTHEWAR





We also have continued to support Ukraine with vital equipment

We have provided a truck, generator, electrostation and 2 ecoflow systems



During the year we have tirelessly fundriased via musical events, organised raffles, lotteries and introduced Friends of Luca scheme in support of our organization.

Our ukrainian dumpling ,lovingly made by our volunteers and then eaten by the community at events and celbrations are truly legendary !







**YORKSHIRE'S ONLY
UKRAINE CHARITY**

**INVITES YOU TO BECOME
A FRIEND OF LUCA**

Friend receive:

- Monthly draw to win £50
- 15% off any vyshyvankas from our stall
- Priority invitations to charity events
- Tickets to Leeds Comedy Super Club

**FILL IN THE FORM ON OUR WEBSITE
AND SET UP A MONTHLY STANDING ORDER**

Minimum £5 per month.

<https://leeds-uca.co.uk/>

**YOUR
CONTRIBUTION
WILL ENABLE US
TO CONTINUE TO
HELP UKRAINE**

**LEEDS
UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

+44 7748 137926

contact@leeds-uca.co.uk 5 Newton Grove, Leeds, LS7 4HW



Structure, Governance and Management

Leeds Ukrainian Community Association is a charitable incorporated organisation governed by a constitution.

Board of Trustees

Larysa Dumenka -Chair of Trustees

Viacheslav Semeniuk-Trustee

Dariia Kovnatska -Trustee. Resigned 15/09/2025

Terrance Grayshon-Trustee .

John Morrison Trustee

Roles of Trustees

Responsible for shaping policies and making sure charity activities are in line with public benefit guidelines . Ensure that right policies and procedures, including policies and management processes for safeguarding , serious incidents are in place ,adhered to and reviewed regularly .

Committee board for the year 27/02/24-26/02/25 consisted of :

Larysa Dumenka -Chair of Trustees

Viacheslav Semeniuk-Trustee

Dariia Kovnatska -Trustee and Treasurer

Terrance Grayshon- Trustee

John Morrisson Trustee

Olga Callaghan-Committee member

Julia Nelson-Legal Representative

Objectives and Activities

1.to provide assistance in the collection, organisation and onward transfer of humanitarian aid from Leeds to Ukraine and neighbouring countries assisting victims of the war in Ukraine

2 .to provide a community hub in Leeds to FAC: facilitate the broadening of knowledge about Ukraine and Ukrainians ; to promote the Ukrainian language, culture and heritage ; to provide support for Ukrainians by means of cultural and social events ; to provide practical support in the form of a free charity shop providing essentials for refugees ; to provide a meeting place for the Leeds community and existing Ukrainian community to welcome and assist Ukrainian refugees

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Company

LUCA has managed to be a local community charity providing aid, support and advice to people in Yorkshire and an organisation, where displaced community can come to request aid for nearest in

Ukraine or people they know require aid ,uniting people around volunteering and celebrations.

b.LUCA has provided substantial humanitarian aid to Ukraine, helping to save many lives .

Financial review

A. Accounts are prepared on receipts and payments basis.

B.

Leeds Ukrainian Community Association		1199884		CC16a	
Receipts and payments accounts					
For the period from	27/02/2024	To	26/02/2025		
Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	20,719		-	20,719	18,846
Fundraising activities	46,760	-	-	46,760	55,104
Grants	-	25,000	-	25,000	40,620
Gift Aid	5,160	-	-	5,160	4,515
Sub total(Gross income for AR)	72,639	25,000	-	97,639	119,085
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	72,639	25,000	-	97,639	119,085
A3 Payments					
Communication equipment	3,602			3,602	444
Safety Equipment and clothing(boots,sleeping bags ,clothing kits)	9,085			9,085	6,306
Vehicles	44,856			44,856	49,164
Generators	9,323			9,323	5,405
Humanitarian aid (smaller items) and transport cost	-			-	5,059
Aid in UK-events organised		4,066		4,066	5,917
Saturday Ukrainian school		-		-	9,800
Events for ukrainian military in UK	367			367	1,939
Help with household items to displaced people in Leeds		439		439	2,127
Children and family trips organised		1,929		1,929	6,956
English Speaking club		699		699	469
Amateur community choir		2,229		2,229	892
Help to displaced people -winter support etc		5,000		5,000	8,526
Subsided lunches for displaced community		3,799		3,799	
Cost of fundrasing activities					
Food and food prep for fundraising events	780			780	1,073
Fundraising materials cost	3,574			3,574	6,162
Equipment for fundraising events	227			227	632
Fundraising cost-delivery, postage	582			582	817
Fundraising cost-travel expenditure	99			99	462
Other	876			876	615
Sub total	73,371	18,161	-	91,532	112,765

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Larysa Dumenka	04.10.2025	
		Viacheslav Semeniuk	04.10.2025	

B. Going concern

After making appropriate discussions, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that LUCA has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

C. Reserves policy

- C. At the year end, the Charity held unrestricted General Funds of £1,879. These funds will be used to further the Charity's objectives.

The Trustees have agreed they should maintain the Charity's free reserves to a level of approximately three months expenditure and minimum of £500. This policy is reviewed annually.

- D. Accounts have been independently examined



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name
Leeds Ukrainian Community Association (CIO)

On accounts for the year ended

26/02/2025

Charity no
(if any) 1199884

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 26/02/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date: 18/07/2025

Name:

RUTA KISIO - FMAAT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

Right Accounts Ltd, Suite 2 Premier House, Newhold
Leeds, LS25 2LD

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Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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Statement on public benefit

Leeds Ukrainian Community Association was started initially due to numerous requests for assistance from Ukrainians in need due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and also the need expressed by other members of the public to have a trusted place to be able to donate in order to help these Ukrainians.

The assistance provided to Ukraine is given as a result of requests received. Every one of our projects has been because of a particular need by the public in Ukraine. We are a local charity and have become increasingly well known so that people find it easy to find us to donate to us. We work closely with anybody who contacts us for help and provide a personal service this means that all help given can be given much quicker and more cost effective with less waste than some larger charities.

LUCA has proved to be of great public benefit on all fronts. Both from the perspective of the donor who trusts us and is reassured that any donations will be used correctly. We are always easy to contact and there is always somebody available to talk through any queries and future projects. Because of this we have been able to build up an atmosphere of trust. Our personal knowledge of Ukraine is important to those asking for assistance who have been reassured that any requests for assistance will be considered and dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Our work has also meant that we have been able to provide material assistance but also been a source of information and advice. This has meant that the refugees coming to us have been able to get the things they needed in one place without the need to search in many different places. We have also had many meetings with Government Ministers and Members of Parliament where we have been able to explain the importance of our work, and stress how imperative it is that we continue to provide this help.

The main benefits to the public are therefore that we are a local charity, easily accessible, have personal knowledge of and contacts in Ukraine and have been able to provide help quickly and in the correct place, have an understanding of the needs of the Ukrainian refugees arriving since the start of the war and can provide a place of safety for them and their children where they can start to rebuild their lives in the UK yet not forget that they are Ukrainian. The wealth of our knowledge continues to expand and the many new contacts we have made both in the UK and in Ukraine all means that we will continue to play an important part in many people's lives for many more years to come offering support to people in need.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

Leeds Ukrainian Community Association (CIO)

On accounts for the year
ended

26/02/2025

Charity no
(if any)

1199884

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 26/02/2025.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

18/07/2025

Name:

RUTA KISIO - FMAAT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association of Accounting Technicians

Address:

Right Accounts Ltd, Suite 2 Premier House, Newhold

Leeds, LS25 2LD

Section B

Disclosure

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