

**2022/  
2023**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

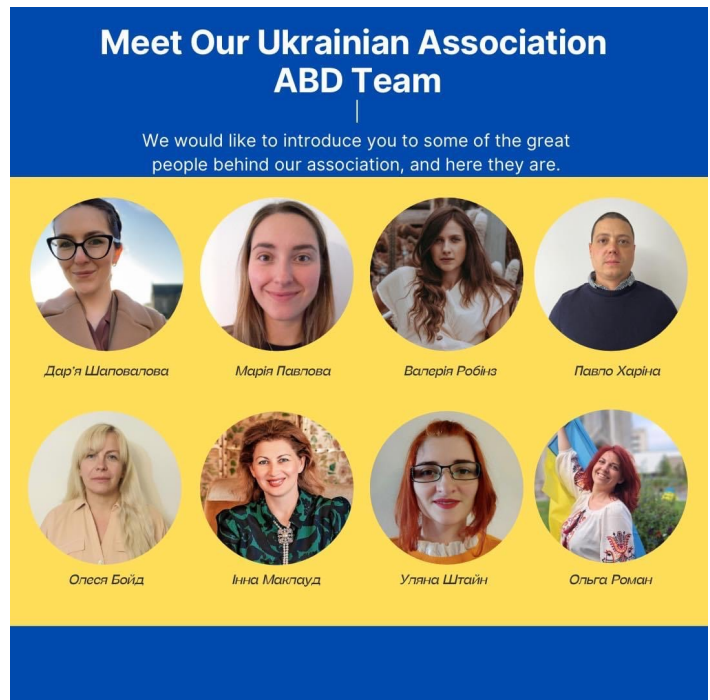
Association of Ukrainians in Aberdeen



[ukraineaberddeen@gmail.com](mailto:ukraineaberddeen@gmail.com)

The Association's **objectives** are:

- 1) To promote of friendship and understanding between the peoples of Scotland and Ukraine through personal contact and cultural exchange.
- 2) To promote and develop public knowledge and information in and of these countries.
- 3) To foster and develop an awareness of Ukrainian culture, language, and identity to Ukrainian refugee children and younger generation of Scots with Ukrainian descent.
- 4) To provide the Ukrainian people arriving to Scotland with information about culture, customs and life in Scotland to enable them to integrate in the community



## What we did for our community this year

### Ukrainian Hub – serving the community

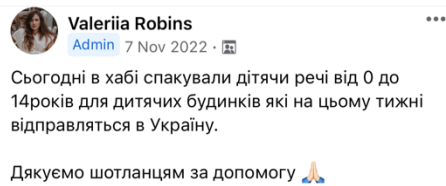
After the full-scale russian invasion into Ukraine and the launch of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we have collaborated with the Aberdeen City Council to make sure there is a community space for any Ukrainians that might be coming to Aberdeen.

The Ukrainian Hub in Rosemount became operational in April 2022, and served as a space for donations collection and provision of welcome information for the arriving Ukrainians. At the time, there was little understanding about the scheme, rights of Ukrainians in Scotland, practical issues and guides. There was also no centralised provision of English lessons or any centralised practical help.

We have started running weekly English classes at various levels, as well as arts and crafts classes for kids. We ran practical sessions on how to adjust to living in Scotland starting from discussions about the NHS to grocery shopping, banking, bills, credit score, education, etc.



We invited professional services to visit the Hub and facilitated translation during such visits. This included visits from the Council's housing team, financial inclusion team, Business Gateway, police, NHS and others.



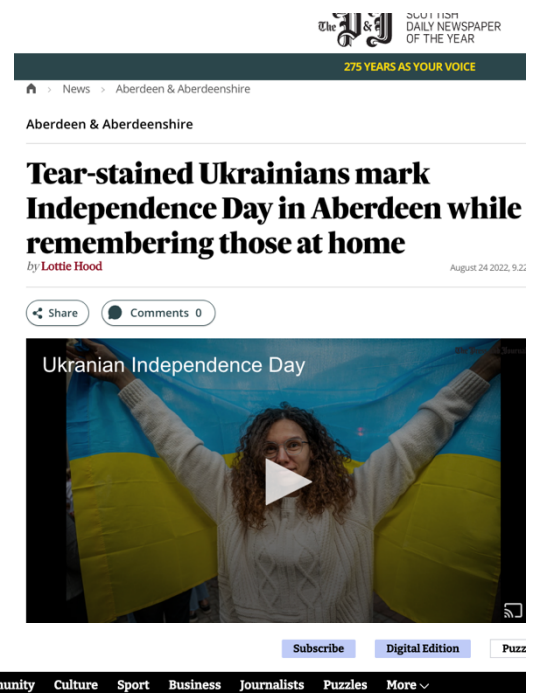
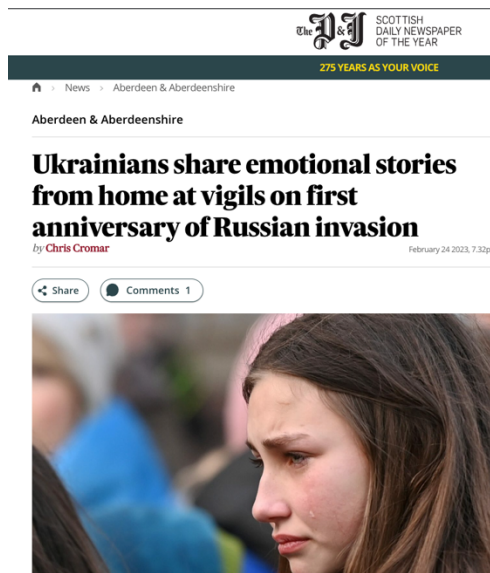
We collected, stored, and distributed clothes, bedding, towels, essential electricals and hygiene products.

In October 2022, we have stopped accepting donations as the demand has gone down and after a final fair where clothes and other items were given away for free, we facilitated sending the remaining items to those in need in Ukraine.

Today, the Ukrainian Hub in Rosemount is open Fridays and Sundays, and hosts Ukrainians seeking help or just social interaction with each other; as well as hosting the Ukrainian School for children on Sundays.

## Peaceful Demonstrations in Aberdeen

We have facilitated the organisation of peaceful demonstration on a number of occasions, including Ukrainian Independence Day (August 2022) and One Year of War Demonstration (February 2023). This included liaising with the Aberdeen City Council, police, Lord Provost's office to get the necessary permissions, bringing the community together on the day, and providing stewards; as well as liaising with the media to ensure that the struggle of our people remains in the discourse.



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## Ukrainian Independence Day marked with demonstrations in Edinburgh and Aberdeen

24th August 2022



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## Support for the community

We are supporting Hanna Zhyvtsova in delivering her mental health support programme **'To Be Ok in Any Way'** funded by ACVO and delivered at the Ukrainian Hub in Rosemount. Hanna works with individuals and groups to help people with trauma they experienced.

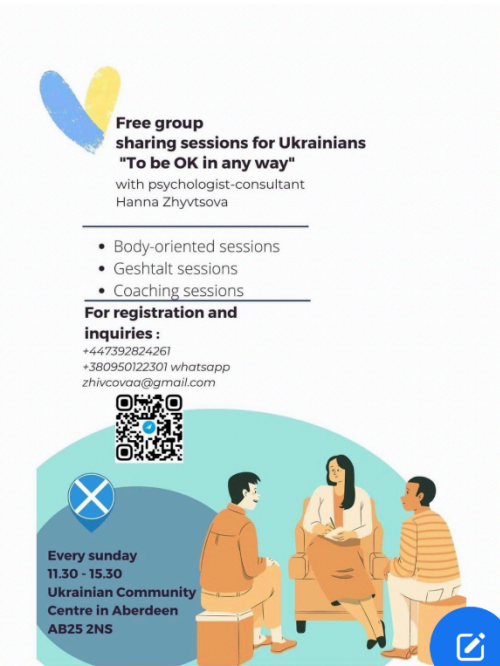
We have facilitated the distribution of help from charities and individuals in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

In spring 2022, we facilitated the distribution of First Bus tickets and ASDA vouchers among the community. The tickets and vouchers were generously donated by Grampian Ride for Ukraine.

In July, we have distributed tickets to football games at Pittodrie Stadium, generously donated by the Aberdeen Football Club.

In August 2022, sponsored by the Polish Community, we have organised a day trip to Edinburgh for almost a 100 Ukrainians.

In September 2022, we facilitated the distribution of theatre tickets, generously donated by the His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen, amongst the Ukrainian community.



The poster features a blue and yellow heart logo at the top left. The text reads: 'Free group sharing sessions for Ukrainians "To be OK in any way" with psychologist-consultant Hanna Zhyvtsova'. Below this, a list of session types includes 'Body-oriented sessions', 'Geshtalt sessions', and 'Coaching sessions'. Registration and inquiry details are provided: '+447392824261', '+380950122301 whatsapp', and 'zhivcovaa@gmail.com'. A QR code is located next to the contact information. At the bottom, a blue circle with a white 'X' contains the text: 'Every sunday 11.30 - 15.30 Ukrainian Community Centre in Aberdeen AB25 2NS'. To the right of the text is an illustration of three people sitting on a bench, and a blue circle with a white 'X' is in the bottom right corner.

## What we did for our children this year

In September 2022, we have opened the doors of the **Ukrainian School in the Hub**. The school is open on Sundays and is run by volunteers. We have 16 teachers dedicating their weekends to teaching over 70 children between ages of 4 and 16 – maths, reading, history, art, chess, and more. The school is administered by a volunteer Natalya Hrynychak. We have supported teachers in applying for PVG certificates and getting training in First Aid (with support from Bon Accord Care and Aberdeen City Council).

The school has allowed children to keep learning in Ukrainian and supported them with integration in Aberdeen. It has allowed mothers to take English or craft classes while children are busy with lessons. We are grateful to our team for their hard work!



[pressandjournal.co.uk](http://pressandjournal.co.uk)

**Snapshots of happiness: Inside the Aberdeen Ukrainian school bringing joy to war displaced ch...**

## Disney on Ice

In November 2022, we took four groups of Ukrainian children to see Disney on Ice performance in P&J Live. The tickets in a box were kindly provided by Subsea7, who organised for each child to come home with a special toy and organised catering for every group as well.

## St Nicholas fest

In December 2022, we organised a St Nicholas day celebrations in the Ukrainian Hub for over 100 kids. There were snacks, presents, games, dancing, and a visit from Santa and St Nicholas!

## Pitmedden Gardens Easter trip

We are currently organising an Easter Day trip to the Pitmedden Gardens in Aberdeenshire for the children in the Ukrainian School. The children will enjoy a day out and a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

## What we did for outreach this year

In March we organised a **Whatsapp group** “Ukrainians in Aberdeen” which became the first social network forum for Ukrainians arriving to the city to ask questions and connect. The groups is still active and has 475 participants.

We have created a **Facebook** group for the Ukrainian Association and Hub where we post updates about our activities. It is as closed group that already has over a 1000 members.

We have worked closely with various departments in the **Aberdeen City Council**. We are very grateful to the staff in the Rosemount Learning Centre, including Hamish Cattanach, Dorothy Burke, Ingrid Taylor, and Jenna Bissette. Through hard work, volunteering, and kindness of this team we were able to set up the Hub and the Association.

In October 2022, we organised a **meeting of the community with the Consul of Ukraine Yevhen Mankovskiy** at the University of Aberdeen. At the meeting, the Consul has answered questions from community members and helped with extending the validity of passports.



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### **‘A chance to be a kid again’: Ukrainian children celebrate Christmas in Aberdeen with traditional party**

by Lottie Hood

December 18 2022, 5:29p

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Over one hundred Ukrainian children attended the party at Rosemount Community Centre. Image:

We worked with the **Polish Community** through the whole year. They have been incredibly supportive to the Ukrainian community in Aberdeen as well as in Ukraine. They have sent trucks with food and clothes to Ukraine and helped us with donations here in the city. We are forever grateful to the Polish Community in Aberdeen, and personally to Kacha Cwiklinska and Adrianna Sosnowska who spent countless days and nights collecting, packing, loading and so much more. Dziękuję bardzo!

We have been reaching out to the local councillors, MPs, and MSPs to build awareness of the struggles of the Ukrainian community in the city.

## **What we did for fundraising this year**

We have organised participation in the Aberdeen Christmas Fair, where volunteers sold crafts and food they have prepared. We raised £2469, after paying £192 for the stall to the organisers, and sending £500 to charities in Ukraine, we deposited the remaining funds to the account of the Association. The detailed financial report on the Association's accounts is available below.

We have opened a dedicated bank account for the Association, which was possible due to the signature of our Constitution. We are preparing to apply for Charity Status.

## **Our main priorities and needs for the next year**

We would really like to be able to provide some **reimbursement to the administrator and teachers in the Ukrainian School**. They have been volunteering their time for months and we are looking for funding sources to be able to pay for their skills and time.

We are looking for extended **funding for the Ukrainian School**. The school serves over 70 children and runs almost every Sunday. It constantly needs supplies and while we have been able so far to get by with ad hoc donations, we will require more steady income stream to be able to keep the school free for parents.

We would like the Hub to be more actively used for **social and cultural events by the community**. For that we hope, the Association members will engage to organise cultural events such as book clubs, movie showings, concerts, coffee and cake meet ups etc.

This report contains a non-exhaustive list of the activities and support we received. We are very grateful to everyone who helped the Association and the Ukrainian Community in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Chair of the Association  
Daria Shapovalova  
ukrainaberdeen@gmail.com

## Financial Report

### Incoming money:

Account was open in December 2022, table true as of 30 March 2023

Source	Amount	Date	Purpose	Notes
Christmas Fair and donations	£1722.01	23/12/2022	Donations to Ukraine and for general needs of Association	
ACVO	£9940.00	22/12/2022	For Hannah Zhyvtsova project "To Be OK in Any Way"	Contract made with Hannah, we are only administrators
Donation individual	£25.00	30/01/2023	General spend	
Donation Sheddocksley Baptist Church	£2347.00	14/01/2023	General spend and Easter event for children	Gave church representatives tour around the Hub
Aberdeen City Council Christmas funding	£182.32	10/02/2023	Reimbursement for christmas event	
Donation Priory Scotland	£600.00	10/03/2023	General spend	
Aberdeen City Council (Easter in the City)	£1990.00	23/03/2022	Hanna's application for Easter Camp	
Aberdeen City Council (Easter in the City)	£296.00	27/03/2023	Daria's application for tote painting event	
Total money in:	£17102.33			

### Money out:

table true as of 30 March 2023

Item	Amount	Date	Purpose	Notes
Printer toner	£68.30	29/01/2023	For the Ukr School printer	Bought from Daria's account and reimbursed, invoice attached
Boxes for Ukr School teachers	£64.50	29/01/2023	For the Ukr School teachers to keep materials	Bought from Daria's account and reimbursed, invoice attached
Printer	£233.98	22/01/2023	For the Ukr School	Bought from Daria's account and reimbursed, invoice attached
To Be Ok in Any Way	£683.65	22/02/2023	For Hannah's project	Invoice attached
To Be Ok in Any Way	£1350.00	13/01/2023	For Hannah's project	Invoice attached
Disclosure Scotland	£413	23/02/2023	Getting PVG for Ukr School Teachers (£59x7)	Extra one for Y. Shevtsov due to erroneys application, invoices attached
To Be Ok in Any Way	£1425.00	15/02/2023	For Hannah's project	Invoice attached
Train tickets Aberdeen-Edinburgh return	£115.20	14/02/2023	for Stets and son Ukr charity concert	Invoice attached
Bus tickets Aberdeen-Edinburgh return	£129.44	13/02/2023	for Tatyana and family for Ukr charity concert	Invoice attached
To Be Ok in Any Way	£1125.00	06/03/2023	For Hannah's project	Invoice attached
Simpson Coaches	£700.00	16/03/2023	For Easter trip for Ukr school kids	Invoice attached
Easter Camp (Hannah)	£1271.34	24/03/2023	For Hannah's Easter Camp	Invoice attached
Easter Camp (Hannah)	£715.00	29/02/2023	For Hannah's Easter Camp	Invoice attached
Amazon	£356.77	30/03/2023	Materials for Easter workshop:	Invoices attached



			paints, tote bags, snacks for children, brushes. Picnic blankets for Pitmedden Garden easter trip with Ukr school children	
Amazon	£32.39	30/03/2023	Donation box	Bought through Daria's account and reimbursed
Total money out:	£8683.57			

**Money remaining in the account: £8418.76 (£5356.35 earmarked for Hannah's project)**

#### **Appendix 1:**

**Receipts & invoices for the above transactions**