

# The Beckmead Trust Newsletter



*The kids and staff at Bramley Bank and The Beck donated food, art work, letters and positive messages to take to the border.*



The second trip of The Beckmead Express took place from 8.15am Monday 30th May to 7.45am Wednesday 1st June. We took two vans full of food and medicine which are in huge demand in some areas across Ukraine.

Three drivers in each van rotated between driving, talking to the driver and resting. This enabled us to travel 3,600 km (2,250 miles) in just under 48 hours.

*On Saturday 28th we were loaded by our partners at 3food4u with industrially packaged branded food at a fraction of the retail cost*



*Bramley Bank kids helping load a Jeep on Friday 27th May to take to our vehicles that made the international trip*

The breaks we took this time were shorter with only one much needed and significant McDonalds visit one hour into the return journey.

This trip was facilitated by being able to source food from the wonderful 3food4u charity led by the amazing Pesh; this added value and efficiency and an ongoing partnership for future trips.

As well as our volunteer drivers we were fortunate to work with other volunteers, Terry, Kitty, Judith, Dee, Dean and Rachel who generously gave time to un-glamorous jobs such as loading, bookings and customs documentation.

The trip was also supported in several ways by ETC asbestos removal from Southend who contributed supplies, manpower and stamina boosting entertainment.

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*Sunday 29th May both buses unloaded and re-packed with a detailed manifest*



Similar to the first trip, it was sobering to see the variety of military hardware on the move in Poland. It is an incredible experience to get out of bed on a Monday morning and in 24 hours be able to drive to the edge of a war in Europe. Even though the camaraderie of the trip is wonderful it was important to always consider that its purpose was to try and alleviate suffering in a European country.

The pace of the trip adds a certain surreality to the experience. I drove the night leg through Poland from about 1 am to 4.30 am. The light in the Eastern sky became apparent from about 2am with a beautiful, misty, sunny dawn from 3.15 providing a breath-taking backdrop to the last few hours of the journey.

The same helpers greeted us at the warehouse where we dropped our supplies. The building was much fuller than before with items such as bicycles and prams we hadn't seen previously.

Whilst unloading, a lorry arrived to take supplies to Lyviv and Kyiv; it was the first time it was undertaking this trip in the hours of daylight.



*In the warehouse outside Lublin where we proudly displayed messages and letters from our kids*

*Heading home into the sunset*

