



# Top to bottom of the Northern line on foot

By David Melsome

To raise money to help the thousands of animals affected by the war in Ukraine a couple decided to walk the 24-mile length of the Northern line from High Barnet to Morden, all above ground.

Katie Leuw and Liron Mannie, who live in East Finchley, walked for seven and a half hours, racking up 50,000 steps in total, to cover the distance above ground, stopping at each of the 32 stations to take a photo.

spirits high and helped me find the determination to complete the walk.”

### Bike ride too

So far the couple have raised £1,125 for IFAW and Liron was hoping to add to the total by



North to south: Liron and Katie take a quick detour via Hyde Park on their way through London.

The couple wanted to do something to support the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and specifically its work saving pets and animals in distress in the war-torn regions of Ukraine.

### A challenging walk

Katie said she can't swim, run or cycle too well so, along with avid footballer Liron, decided on the walking challenge as the best way to raise funds.

“Seven hours is a long time to spend walking with anyone, even your boyfriend,” said Katie. They varied the walk by chatting, listening to music, stopping for coffee and window shopping as they went through the streets of London.

“By mile 20 I was really struggling,” said Katie. “My legs were cramping, my foot had gone numb and my knee was giving way. Liron kept my

doing a 500-mile bike ride over the course of two weeks last month. Every penny counts and they would love to receive more donations at [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) (search ‘Liron Mannie and Katie Leuw’)

James Sawyer, UK Director of IFAW, said: “I want to thank Katie and Liron for their incredible support. Their dedication to fundraising for our Ukraine Emergency Appeal has been exceptional. Well done to them both. Our UK supporters have taken this appeal to their hearts: the response has been phenomenal.”

In the first 100 days of the war, IFAW directly helped over 42,000 pets, most of whom were cats and dogs, and wild animals like bears and bats. In addition to helping animals in crisis, they also support the families and caretakers of these animals.

# History of the wood

By Roger Chapman, Friends of Cherry Tree Wood  
Where is Rail Fall Wood? What runs under Cherry Tree Wood and starts its life 17 miles away at Staines on Thames? Where did the name Dirt House Wood come from?

If you are interested, all the answers to these questions and more are available in a beautifully designed booklet called *The History of Cherry Tree Wood*, written and designed by the Friends group to raise money for the work we do.

The booklet costs £5 and is available from the Cherry Tree Café in the Wood. Thanks to the generosity of the two Sharons at the café, all monies will go to the Friends. Do buy a copy and have a coffee and a cake while you are there.

Those who can't get to the café can send an email to [friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcherrytreewood@gmail.com) and we will let you



know the post and packing costs on top of the £5 price and send you a copy.



For those in need: Michael Byrne, second from right, and fellow volunteers load a van for his Ukraine aid mission.

# “Ukraine is fighting for all of us”

By Lynn Winton

Michael Byrne is a man on a mission. He is determined to deliver desperately needed aid personally to the Ukrainian people: as much, and as often, as he can. And he hopes his neighbours in N2 will help him rise to the challenge by becoming volunteer drivers and helping with fundraising.

Michael, who has lived in Lynmouth Road since 2014 with his wife Rachel and two sons, found the heartrending news reports from the war over the last five months compelled him to take direct action. Throwing himself into the task, he started making gruelling journeys driving lorries packed with aid to the border of Ukraine in March.

### Collect, load, drive

As a former director of services in the NHS, he first used his contacts to procure four and a half tons of donations in the form of essential medical and first aid items, sanitary and baby essentials, tinned food and other specifically requested goods.

He also picks up other donated items from collection depots in Telford and Fulham. Since then he has been fundraising tirelessly so that he can continue his monthly runs and hopefully increase them to fortnightly. All Michael's time is given for free.

Travelling alone in his hired seven-and-a-half ton truck, and sleeping on the roadside or in the cheapest hotels, he travels 1,200 miles through France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and then finally to Poland's border with Ukraine, where he is met by highly efficient volunteers who transfer his aid into Ukrainian vehicles to complete the journeys to the cities, towns and villages where it is most needed.

He has now built up trust and relationships with these brave border volunteers and says many are visibly moved and deeply grateful for contributions coming from Britain for people who have lost everything.

### The grim reality

“I have the easy part,” he says, modestly. “They deliver to the final destination at great risk, zig zagging through conflict zones to get to previously thriving towns which are now bombed-out rubble. And even



Crucial supplies: Desperate Ukrainian families are given the UK aid items once they have arrived in the border regions.

when the fighting stops, the rebuilding will take decades.

“Ukraine is now dropping off the front pages in the UK but it's getting worse there. It is a democratic country, just like ours. They are fighting for all of us, and the aid volunteers tell me it makes a huge difference to know they are not alone.”

The name of Michael's non-profit organisation is Driving Aid to Ukraine and you will find

it on [crowdfunder.co.uk](http://crowdfunder.co.uk) where he goes into more detail about funds needed for fuel and lorry. You can go straight to the page by using the QR code at the end of this article.

Michael would be pleased to hear directly from anyone who'd like to get involved or help him with fuel and lorry hire costs. Contact him directly at [michael@drivingaidtoukraine.co.uk](mailto:michael@drivingaidtoukraine.co.uk) or 07791 912389.

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