4. Support for Ukraine

Thank you to members who have pointed us towards some excellent publishing initiatives to support victims of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. They include a #BookAidForUkraine auction featuring items and promises from authors, publishers and others. It has already raised around £30,000 for British Ukrainian Aid, and bids are open until 20 March, to join in, go here. A KidLit4Ukraine raffle of artwork from dozens of illustrators, which has already raised £20,000, is here.

The ‘Packed with Hope’ fundraiser from independent publishers Little Toller Books and Bluemoose Books that we mentioned last week is now halfway towards its £75,000 target to supply books and other items for Ukrainian children, you can donate here. Liels un Mazs, a reputable publisher in Latvia known to some members, is encouraging donations to Kryta nady (Wings of Hope), a Lviv-based charity providing medical and palliative care to seriously ill children that is now seeking to shelter children whose families have fled war zones in Ukraine. Donations can be made here (you will need to translate the page).

Other projects are seeking to improve understanding of Ukraine via books. Exact Editions has facilitated access to a #PublishersForUkraine digital collection of non-fiction books to help people understand the history and culture of Ukraine. Contributors include Yale, Edinburgh and Central European University Presses, Reaktion, Hurst, Cambridge Scholars Publishing and Open Book Publishers. There is free, open and global streamed access until 15 April, with the option to buy the books, and any publishers with relevant content are invited to join the project. Details are here.

For perspectives on Ukraine, you may like to read this piece in the Bookseller by Ukrainian publisher Kateryna Nosko, and this one by Emma Sherriff about what publishing is doing and can do for Ukraine. Extensive coverage of Ukraine is being collated by The Bookseller and Publishing Perspectives.