



## **PRESS RELEASE**

May 2022

### **Fairford opens its doors and hearts to Ukrainian families**

**Residents and businesses in Fairford are coming together in a race against time to get a large farmhouse ready for two Ukrainian families, who are fleeing the war.**

The eight bedroom house has been made available rent-free by its owner – The Ernest Cook Trust – and is spacious enough for the two families of six, who will fly to the UK as soon as their visas have been approved.

The property is completely empty, so the families' sponsors - Fairford residents Milo and Katy Campbell - and the Trust, an educational charity, based in the town, are appealing to townsfolk and local businesses to help get it furnished.

Dr Victoria Edwards OBE is Chief Executive of The Ernest Cook Trust, a UK-wide charity based in Fairford, which uses its extensive estates to provide outdoor learning opportunities for children, young people, their families and communities.

“We’re proud to be part of a group of local individuals, families, and like-minded organisations who have joined forces to create a uniquely welcoming environment in Fairford for families seeking refuge from war-torn Ukraine,” she said.

“A wonderful joint local community effort is underway to welcome with warm hearts two Ukrainian families who want to be together, joining a growing community of refugees in the area who are already being supported by local families.”

Milo, who with Katy runs property search agency Katy Campbell House Hunter, said he was impressed by how local people are stepping up to help.

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“We are a town with a village, community feel, and so many people are coming together with offers of help,” he said. “We also have a lot of offers from locals who will support the families after they arrive, and there is fundraising going on among residents at The Lakes by Yoo to help cover the families’ household bills and expenses.”

Time is of the essence as visa clearance is now progressing for the families, who are also being helped by local, not-for-profit organisation UKUA Together.

Many businesses have got involved giving their time, much needed items or services for free, including The Lakes by Yoo, CP Jefferies Plumbing and Heating, Travis Perkins and Sean Holden decorating, Chubb Fire & Security. Many others have also volunteered their time to prepare the property and provide ongoing support to the families.

Everything from beds to kitchen equipment to garden tools is needed to kit out the house, and offers have been pouring in from generous Fairford residents.

Victoria added: “Trustees of The Ernest Cook Trust were keen for us to find a way to help and we’re pleased to work with the local Fairford community to support this wonderful effort.”

**Anyone who can make a donation can do so by emailing:**  
[fairfordrefugees@gmail.com](mailto:fairfordrefugees@gmail.com).

