

Romanian Appeal Killearn England 2018



2018 has been RAKE's "annus horribilis." Before the year even started we had a call on Boxing Day morning with the news that Razvan had been taken ill and had died in hospital during the night. He had serious health problems but his sudden death was unexpected. He had



felt well and enjoyed Christmas day celebrations with everyone. We were pleased that Elena, one of the staff, had been with him in hospital although naturally this was difficult for her. Linda was able to make last minute arrangements to attend his funeral where

he was given the respect of a full traditional Romanian funeral, and mourned by his Casa Trandafirilor family, staff and volunteers.

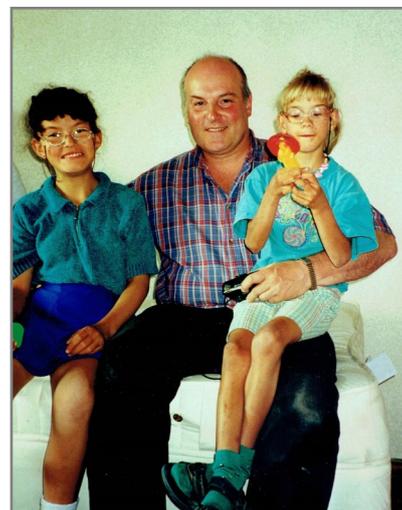
The rest of "the family" have coped well although the staff struggled with Ionut's behaviour for a while. They go regularly to Razvan's grave where they light candles and remember him. Ionut started to tell Razvan what they had been doing and now they all do this which is rather nice.

Soon after this we heard that Simona had died in the Camin. She had lived in Casa Linda and went into state care when it closed. We know for certain that the last years of her life were not good and that her death would have gone unmarked, with no proper funeral. Simona was very vulnerable and the suffering she experienced during her life is unbelievable. Simona was very special to Linda, she was loved and will always be remembered.



This was followed by the terrible news in April that John Herbin, founder of RAKE, had been killed in a tragic motorbike accident. John started taking van loads of aid out to Romania from

Scotland in 1990 and was then joined by Mike for several trips. After meeting up with Linda in 1993 it was John who had the confidence to believe that we could raise the money to build and run Casa Linda. And so RAKE was set up. Although he had been less actively involved in RAKE since Casa Linda closed he and Mike spoke frequently and he is hugely missed by his family, his partner and us.



John with Irma & Geta in Casa Linda

We were delighted that Eliz Hurt agreed to take on the role of Trustee for RAKE. Eliz was working in an orphanage in the village of Falciu (where Geta was living) while Linda was in Romania. They met up regularly and Eliz was a huge support to Linda while Casa Linda was being built and set up. She joined Linda on her hands and knees scrubbing all the concrete off the floors before the home opened! The young people have known her for many years and she has visited Casa Trandafirilor.



Razvan & Eliz

There have been more staff changes again this year. Lidia left early on in the year and Elena left in November. We are particularly worried about Elena's departure as she worked well with the young people and was a good manager. She was proactive and ensured the smooth running of the home. A new lady, Tita, started in the summer and seems to have settled in well. She is a bit more "old school" than the others but everyone seemed to like her. The three permanent members of staff are all older and it is hoped their mature attitude will have a stabilising effect on the family. They concentrate on domestic activities while the regular student volunteers organise the daily activities (educational, craft, games etc). Another carer is required to ensure the staff work reasonable hours with adequate time off and we hope a suitable person can be found.

In July the young people joined the annual Myosotis summer camp for a few days. As well as having fun it gives them the opportunity to meet new people



(volunteers, children with disabilities and from disadvantaged families) and deal with new situations. They all coped very well and they stood out for their politeness, good table manners and general attitude. They all helped with setting up the camp, putting tents up etc. Irma and Ionica kept busy helping with the preparation of meals and the others were involved in collecting water, wood for the fire and keeping camp tidy.

Ionica had been preparing meals independently for the family and it was hoped this would become his job. But unfortunately he began to resent any guidance or instruction, which was vital for hygiene reasons, and so he is no longer doing this. Despite being in the home over two years now Ionica still does not integrate with the others. He isolates himself and has been generally discontented, rude and sometimes verbally aggressive

to staff. He wants to live alone and have his own family but can't understand that he is unable to do this at present. It is a great shame as with some effort on his part he could potentially develop the skills to lead the life he wants.

The others all get on well and enjoy helping with household tasks. They have a rota to prepare breakfast independently for everyone, help in the kitchen, wash up, shop, clean, care for the animals etc. In summer they buy lots of fruit and make jam and compot, an activity they all enjoy.



Mike and Linda visited in September. Mike was kept busy mending the rabbit hutch and carrying out some household and garden repairs. He had several willing helpers. George's bed was beyond repair and a second hand one in excellent condition was found. We realised all the beds were now in a poor state and we have received a generous donation of £2,000 to buy new beds and other furniture as needed. We also received a donation of £1,000 towards a new garden fence and general maintenance.



Due to RAKE's generous supporters we have been able to keep up with the running costs and we are extremely grateful to everyone. But it is vital that funding is found from within Romania to ensure the long term success of the project. This is a huge challenge.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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