

Romanian Appeal Killearn England

December 2021



2021 has been another year dominated by Covid 19 and we have been unable to visit the project. This winter Romania experienced extremely high numbers of Covid cases and the healthcare system was over whelmed—some patients being transferred abroad for ITU treatment. They have the second lowest vaccination rate in the EU due to mistrust of the authorities and fake news. Several of the Myosotis team and their families have been infected but fortunately the Casa Trandafirilor family have been unaffected despite one carer requiring hospitalisation for Covid during her shift! All have made full recoveries.

Romania was one of the first countries to relax restrictions earlier in the year and “the family” have enjoyed some days out. In May they went to the town of

Galati with the volunteers where they enjoyed visits to an aquarium, museum and fair-ground. In June they



visited the botanical gardens in Iasi and were all given pocket money to spend in the shopping mall.

Back home they kept busy with the garden, growing flowers and vegetables. Everyone helps out. And with the addition of a few more chickens laying up to 8 eggs a day they decided to start a micro business selling the eggs to staff, volunteers and friends. Everyone has a role to play: Irma & Geta look



after the chickens, Irma is treasurer, George collects the eggs and records the daily amount, Ionut packs them up and Ionica delivers them. A great little initiative.

Ionica is also earning a little bit of money from mowing peoples lawns. Hopefully in time he can find some kind of regular employment.

Linda is still in contact with someone who works in the Camin, the institution where our young people were housed. They have confirmed that all the former Casa Linda residents remain “well.” Bizarrely Diamanta has now been given the name Liliana following the discovery of someone else with the same identity. A huge legal problem but not surprising given the circumstances at that time. Also very sad.

Razvan, who died on Boxing Day 2018 is not forgotten, especially at this time of year. Regular trips are made to the cemetery to maintain his grave and blessings are said at the graveside by the priest.



Following on from last year RAKE has put a bit of financial pressure on Asociatia Myosotis Romania (AMR) by cutting the monthly contribution by £100. This decision was not well received but it is essential that AMR focuses on the future and moves away from any reliance on UK funding. We had offered to pay the salary for a manager and AMR advertised again this year but no suitable candidates applied so we have withdrawn the offer of funding at the moment.

Following a generous donation to The Romanian Crestin Trust we offered to pay for a holiday. Mihai, director of AMR asked the resort for a discount and we were all astonished and delighted when the family who own the resort invited them to spend six nights, com-



pletely free of charge with all services included. It was a popular seaside resort with excellent accommodation and a full program of activities during the day

and evenings. They all had a truly wonderful time and seem to have made new friends as the owner of the hotel has since sent them some clothes and will be sending Christmas gifts.

We agreed to put the money saved towards repairs and maintenance on the house which AMR were asking for. Mihai also requested funds for a new washing machine and fridge freezer as both had been repaired many times and were failing. We were reluctant to jump in with more funds and suggested they try and source funds locally. A good friend of Crestin from Bucharest raised some money and funded these items.

Mihai also negotiated a large increase in funding from the town hall. This is never guaranteed and must be applied for annually but it is a huge step forward. These successes confirm that reducing funding appears to have paid off. We will cut our funding again next year to keep the pressure on and hopefully Mihai will be encouraged by his success and have the confidence that income can be found within Romania if pursued.

There have been no further developments with the "new home." The 10 year lease we signed for AMR to use the house expired in October (although it has only been occupied for 9 years) and we signed a short extension. Once we are able to travel to Romania we can have talks about how to move forward. We don't want to take any action that will endanger the future of the project and our ultimate aim is to support the project but end any reliance on us. In general we feel things have moved forward in a positive way this year.



Geta, who was the youngest in Casa Linda, celebrated her 30th birthday in March. She is still very much a little girl! But this milestone confirms that time has moved on and Romania must now take responsibility for this generation of institutionalised people.

Next year will present many challenges for AMR as there are expected to be significant wage increases. Prices for food, electricity, gas etc are also rising. But 2021 is ending well for the staff in Casa Trandafirilor as the government paid a special bonus of £500 (taxed) for those who isolated in the home for two weeks during last years lockdown. In addition RAKE has used the money claimed from Gift Aid to pay a well deserved Christmas bonus to the staff.

THANK YOU to The Romanian Crestin Trust and all its supporters for its invaluable and generous support.

Stay safe and enjoy the festive period!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS
Craciun Fericit

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