



Romanian Appeal Killearn England

December 2022



In September Linda was at last able to visit Casa Trandafirilor (House of Roses). There are no longer any Covid restrictions and all the youngsters recovered fully from Covid infections earlier in the year. Linda received an excited welcome and it was wonderful to see everyone again.

There have been some problems between her and other staff and also with the residents. She seemed nice so hopefully these problems will be sorted out. In November Corina was employed and everyone speaks highly of her—the youngsters and other staff. So she is a welcome addition.



The “family” all looked well and happy. Linda stayed in the hotel but enjoyed 3 full days with the family, arriving in the morning and leaving late evening. It was a chance to catch up on everything and just enjoy time together. It was also a chance to get to know the staff as there have been some changes.

Despina left in February without giving much notice and Asociatia Myosotis (AMR) have found it difficult to recruit new staff. Gheorgita, who had worked as AMR’s handyman for many years, is now working shifts as a carer. He is a lovely man but doesn’t really want to be in the role of carer long term. AMR employed Victoria in the summer. On paper she appeared perfect but there

After her visit Linda was asked for some feedback on what she thought was needed for each resident to fulfil their potential. She felt Casa Trandafirilor provided a wonderful home for the residents but that little was really being done to develop their potential on an individual basis (understandable when short staffed). AMR are frustrated because George is destructive and always breaking things. But Linda feels part of this is probably due to boredom. They need a programme where they are out of the house during the day mixing with other people, maybe attending a daycentre (this would need to be set up) or where possible doing a simple job. Myosotis had previously planned a workshop but this idea was never followed through.

As a result Corina has been asked to take the girls to her flat (in exchange for free rent) and do craft activities with them and teach them to use a sewing machine. This is not a long term solution as ideally they need to be socialising and mixing with others but it is a start.

With the lifting of Covid restrictions AMR have been able to restart the student volunteer programme. Students are going to Casa Trandafirilor regularly to organise games and activities with them which they love. The students are also heavily involved in the Myosotis annual summer camp which was up and running again this year. The Casa Trandafirilor family were invited and had a great time participating in a huge variety of different activities.





Summer camp

Linda had hoped to visit the Camin in Husi where the other young people from Casa Linda are housed. She was unable to go as the staff were busy with inspections and organising the transfer of 24 of the more able residents to “family style homes” with a maximum of 8 residents. These homes are financed by the EU and are long overdue as conditions in the Camin remain appalling. Sadly none of our Casa Linda children will be moved but at least things are moving in the right direction and hopefully the Camin will be closed eventually.

It can be difficult to get the balance right between supporting the project financially and encouraging Romania to accept and take on this responsibility. It is 31 years since Linda first went out to Romania and she feels that the ultimate responsibility for where the future lies for these special people should not still be on her shoulders.

Another year on Myosotis have made no progress in moving forward with the “new build” despite receiving a large legacy which could enable this. Linda & Mike feel

very strongly that the only way to ensure the long term stability of the project is for AMR to have ownership of the building (owned personally by Linda & Mike, not RAKE) and therefore a greater sense of commitment to the future. Following unsuccessful discussions with Myosotis Linda & Mike felt it necessary, after 12 years, to state firmly that they would not renew the lease again when it expires in June 2023. After a stressful and emotionally exhausting few months Myosotis have finally agreed to buy the house (at a lower price than was paid for it). Linda & Mike hope to go out to Romania in January and complete the sale. This purchase will use less than a quarter of the legacy so there are still funds available for Myosotis to pursue the idea of a new build, extend the current house or pursue other plans.

RAKE firmly believes that this move is in the best interests of all involved and is essential to ensure the long term viability of the project. We remain fully committed to Casa Trandafirilor and we intend to continue supporting AMR and remaining involved.

On a very positive note AMR have done really well in obtaining increased funding from the local authorities again this year. A great achievement but this funding is not guaranteed and must be applied for every year. It could be refused. If AMR build another bathroom and staff toilet onto the house we believe it should hopefully meet the criteria to enable them to claim full state funding and move away from any reliance on UK funding. This is certainly an area to be explored.

THANK YOU to The Romanian Crestin Trust for supporting this wonderful family. Although we have highlighted issues and problems Casa Trandafirilor is a very special place and provides a joyful home a world away from their previous lives in the Camin.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

**Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and
New Year**



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