

**Trustees**  
Ian Sherwood  
Ruth Sibley  
Mike Stearns  
David Hiscox

# *Romanian Children's Homes*

Care, support and education for abandoned children in Romania

UK Administration and Information Office  
Ian & Joan Sherwood  
Farthings, Ilton, Ilminster  
Somerset TA20 9HL  
Tel: (01460) 54952

## Newsletter 2013

Dear Friends and Supporters

We can't start a newsletter without a weather report (we are British after all). When we first arrived in July the weather was wet and then it turned very hot; our well dried up and we had no water for washing or for flushing the toilet. We always drink bottled water when in Romania so that was not a problem. For those whose well had dried up there was a ½ mile walk for water. Mains water is coming soon to those who can afford to buy the meter, but it will only come on 2 days a week. We have purchased a meter for the home. Later it rained so we were able to catch rainwater to use. The water in the wells after rain turns brown and cannot be used. This is a seasonal dry period is a big problem for those who depend on their wells for drinking water.

We were very popular with the children in the village this year as word got around that we had taken some children to the Neptune baths in Sibiu. We were often asked by children if they could go too, so we became regular visitors to the baths, at least twice a week, each trip taking an hour each way. We bought arm bands and rings as they could not swim; we also took them for ice creams. We feel like grandparents to many of the children in the village. We would announce we were going for a walk and before we knew there would often be 15 children wanting to come with us.

As Ian drives a 4 x 4 we were in demand for all sorts of journeys, collecting washing machines, taking people to hospital, visits to banks and collecting potatoes to name but a few.

You may remember the lady who lost her husband in an accident; over the last couple of years we have helped to build a home for her and her children. Her name is Vorica and she had tried to set up a clothes shop, this enterprise did not succeed and she had to close her shop, however she had some left over stock so she went with Ian to distribute clothes among poor people in the area. We had to be careful as it is possible to get mobbed. On one occasion there were over 20 people grabbing what they could and everything was gone in 30 seconds. On a good note, Vorica has married again and is now expecting a baby.

As the home has been open for over 10 years now a few things have started to wear out, we had to buy a new freezer during our visit and in the coming year we will need to replace the bunk beds.

Nelu has requested some candlewick bedspreads and new towels. Joan made some dolls clothes for a doll which was very popular so there were requests for dolls, donations of dolls with or without clothing would be welcome.

Costel is currently the eldest child in the home, he has been with us for nearly 10 years and has grown into a tall, caring, hard working and clever young man.



His grades are excellent and he wants to be a teacher. During the holidays he works in a bakery; from what he earns he has to pay for a train and bus fare and over the past 2 years managed to save £200 towards a computer, he was hoping to have enough saved to buy one by the time he goes to university. The charity put the rest of the money towards a laptop as he really needed one for his current studies. As he wrote in his thank you letter, "many courses have to be accessed online, and much of the research for lessons and homework needs to be done on the computer." Within a few hours of having the laptop he had already prepared lessons for children in the village as he teaches them English.



Calin and Alain continue to thrive and Cati has grown amazingly over the last year, she is learning to sew and made her own dress over the summer.

### **Gift Aid**

New rules for gift aid mean we need to have your current address and full post codes. If you have signed a gift aid declaration in the past and your address is different to the one of the envelope please can you contact us to let us know your new details. Thank you

### **Christmas Concert**

We have our Christmas concert on 21<sup>st</sup> December with the Stanchester Quire at the Minster in Ilminster. Tickets are available from Ian on 01460 54952, from Ilminster Pharmacy or on the door.

Wishing you the very best for Christmas and the coming year

*Ian and Joan Sherwood*