

Newsletter – January 2006

Dear Friends

We made another trip to Romania last August. It rained heavily during our stay in June and we realised the problems this causes as there is no where for the water to run and the hall of Casa Joany is in danger of flooding at such times; But this was nothing compared to the rain and floods that greeted us in August. Reports of the floods took a long time to reach the “News” in England, much of Romania was under water with roads and railways cut off. We saw raging rivers, houses were destroyed and many lives were lost. The crops in the fields were ruined and this quickly led to high prices for fruit and vegetables. It is expected that the prices will be even higher during the winter.

Despite the increased prices we had to buy supplies to pickle and freeze. We bought peppers, potatoes, onions, aubergines and gherkins by the sack full and vinegar by the gallon. The fruit trees on the land provided pound upon pound of plums. Jacqui and Joan made over 100lb of jam.

The children remain healthy. The older twins continue to grow and are lively, they both enjoy kindergarten. Nelu is keeping in touch with Peter’s mother and she has brought Peter to visit his friends at Casa Joany. We have since taken in another set of twins, Stefan and Stephania. When they arrived it is no exaggeration to say they stank! They had to be bathed five times before they were really clean. They are now beautiful, bright happy babies. We bought some baby walkers for them so they do not have to spend too much time in their cots.

The previous summer (04) we replaced several old windows in Casa Joany. Nelu & Carmen reported it made a great difference during the winter and so we changed the remaining windows last July.

The final render of the farm house began as we were leaving. We have installed some very basic lighting, run from car batteries which are recharged back at Casa Joany, as required.

We were able to build a swing for the children although finding nuts and bolts big enough for the job was extremely difficult, in the end we had to make our own from threaded rod. The younger children were initially a bit apprehensive of the swing but soon they loved it and were shouting for us to push them.

Our next trip will be in June. Due to a very kind donation we will now be able to purchase a generator for the farm. We now have a family with three young children at the farm. It has been difficult to retain workers at the farm due to the lack of facilities and we hope the installation of electricity will make life more comfortable for the family. Marius and Mihai have been working at the farm at weekends while still living with their families.



Registered Charity No 1060549

We hope to fence off more of the land and increase the amount of vegetables grown. We hope to add another building at the farm to house pigs which we will fatten and sell the surplus to create more income. There is still a lot of work to do.

UK Registered Charity No. 1060549 working in joint operation with FUNDATIA A.N.G.L.I.A. EL-SADAI

Finally, Thank you once again for your support through the year.

Yours faithfully

Ian Sherwood

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Chairman of Trustees