

Newsletter – July 2005

Dear Friends

We have just returned from a trip to Romania with our friend Anne who was visiting for the first time. We were able to show her some very Romanian rural scenes including the spectacular return of the buffalo from the hills for milking.

Our most recent trip was not the easiest and we were glad to have our faith to sustain us. Many of the staff have changed due to a variety of reasons. We have said goodbye to Tom as farm worker, in his place we have a slightly older man called George. Alina has left to nurse her sick mother who is in the last stages of cancer. Jonica one of the lads from the orphanage has decided to move on. During his stay we were able to pay for an operation to remove a bad eye damaged as a child and replace it with a glass one.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, where possible the Children's Office is endeavouring to reunite abandoned children with their parents. This is partly under EU direction. We have already experienced this with Catalin and Xanda. During our visit Peter was taken to live with his mother. This was totally unexpected and the procedures left a lot to be desired. We are pursuing this matter as we believe things could have been done in a manner less disturbing to all involved. We have since taken in twins of 7 months. This is a short term foster but we as yet do not know how short term this will be.

During the winter the horse died suddenly due to a blood clot in the brain. As it is necessary to have a horse and cart, especially in the winter snow, we have replaced it with a slightly older horse. We, however, got 2 for the price of 1 as the horse was pregnant and has since given birth to foal. Nelu's stepfather, Costica is taking care of the horse and foal in barter for milk and cheese.

Another young man, also called Jonica, from the nearby town of Medias is now working on the farm. He speaks very good English. The farm continues to supply the home with milk, cheese and meat. While we were there we bought 10 hens for egg laying and planted some fruit trees.

Last summer we replaced several of old windows in Casa Joany. Nelu & Carmen reported it made a great difference during the winter and so we intend to do the remaining windows this summer. The house was also painted during the spring.

It rained quite heavily during our stay 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. We will have to build a drain and dwarf wall.

We were able to catch up with friends Tudor and Vali who work in the nearby village of Mihaileni. They run English classes for children. They are in need of pens and notebooks, if any one can help.

The children remain healthy and look forward to the summer holidays when they can spend more time at the farm. Marius leaves school this month and will be leaving Casa Joany to work with his father. If for any reason this does not work out he will be welcome to return home.

We will be going out again for the month of August and will be joined by David and Jacqui Hiscox and their son Martyn who will be working as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. While there we hope to work on the waste pit for Casa Joany and if we have time, to build a play frame for the children

Yours faithfully

Ian Sherwood

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Chairman of Trustees