



the

Myosotis

Charity No. 1056671

PART 1

trust

NEWSLETTER OF THE MYOSOTIS TRUST

SUMMER 2009 EDITION

FREE

The Trust is an humanitarian charity founded to improve the physical, spiritual and mental health of the orphaned, the old, the young, the sick and the poor of Barlad in Eastern Romania.



Two lady clients arriving at the Health Centre with their babies.

What is 'Myosotis'?

Myosotis is the botanical name for the forget-me-not flower. When the Trust's Director first visited Romania, everyone in the hospitals and orphanages asked her not to forget them.

Therefore as our logo we use the Myosotis flower so that *none* of us forgets.

In this issue...

Markyate Baptist Church Young People's Visit 2008 and Men's Mission 2009. Romania joining the EU, The future of the of the Health Centre, The Village School at Ulia, Land's End to John O'Groats on a saddle! And lots more!!

THE RELEVANCE OF THE MYOSOTIS TRUST IN 2009

By Carol Daniel

As the founder of The Myosotis Trust I constantly review the necessity for continuing the projects and maintaining our presence in Romania. I find the effort required to raise funds, monitor the quality of the projects and encourage supporters and staff more difficult as each year passes. In part this is due to the normal aging process; deterioration in health and a growing resistance within society to support charitable giving in Romania. The commitment of the Trustees has been paramount in my being able to continue and I'm sure that from time to time they too feel similar feelings to me. Having recently returned from my fourth visit this year to Barlad, where I have spent a total of 2 months, I really have agonised about the necessity to continue the work of the charity or whether now is the time to disband our projects since Romania is at the end of its first year as a member of the E.U. It would be so nice to leave the responsibility of running the Trust and feel we, its supporters, have done our bit to help Romania's needy; after all it is nearly 20 years since Ceausescu's death. However, as much as I want the release from responsibility I know that the work of Myosotis in Romania is still necessary. WHY?

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Having fun at Casa Esme.



Young volunteers at the camp.



Do you like our new wash bags?

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THE RELEVANCE OF THE MYOSOTIS TRUST IN 2009

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On the surface there are huge changes over the last year. From one B.A. flight a day to Bucharest there are now three and other bargain airlines are flying too. In Barlad there are new banks and shops. The streets have a clean bright appearance. There are supermarkets selling the same produce as most UK shops and gone are the days of limited water supplies.

The primary health service is being developed using the UK model and most people can, generally, access a G.P. In Barlad, thanks in part, to the work of the charity, the recent TV pictures following the visit of Sarah Ferguson and daughters, do not reflect the situation of handicapped children as shown in that documentary. Life has improved greatly from the early days when we began work in 1996.

But look below the surface and there are the remaining problems facing the majority of poor people. No free medicines, limited access to surgical interventions, horrendous housing conditions and food that is too expensive to purchase, with little chance of work with correct paperwork and gas and electricity that is impossible to afford.

The charity currently runs four projects.

- **THE HEALTH CENTRE**
- **CASA ESME CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**
- **THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS**
- **OPPORTUNITY CHANGE**

TALKS If you would like to arrange for someone to come to your organisation to give a talk on the work of the charity please contact Carol on 01650 511942 for Wales. For speakers in England, please contact Maureen Tinsey on 01895 633928 to arrange a suitable date.



Children playing in the village of Bacani.

Having reviewed the projects as unemotionally as possible I have concluded that **Throughout 2009 the charity should** continue funding all 4 activities.

1. In 2010 the future of the Health Centre will be dependent on the start of GP services or funding from Romanian sources to cover the cost of staffing.
2. Casa Esme will also need to obtain part funding from Romanian sources.
3. The Young Volunteers will be funded beyond 2010 while funds allow.
4. The Opportunity Change project will continue while supported by individual sponsors and specific fund-raising.

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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We currently need soap, shampoo, pencils, paper, pens, rubbers, exercise books, dressings, sanitary towels, cotton wool, pleats and bandages.

If you are able to donate any of the above, please contact us.



Lady clients waiting to be seen at the Health Centre.

THE RELEVANCE OF THE MYOSOTIS TRUST IN 2009

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The charity provides much needed support to the poor through its work which is still necessary and I know I need to continue encouraging you, the reader, to support its work. Until the time comes that things improve, I believe it is essential to continue the development of Young Volunteers to take up responsible roles within the community and continue running the Romanian Myosotis charity in the future. I know that at this time of economic gloom in the UK, asking for money for people in another country is difficult but I have seen and know that we can still both change and save lives that otherwise will be destroyed.

The money required to run the projects in 2009 will be:-

- Health Centre	£18,000
- Casa Esme	£23,000
- Young Volunteers	£ 2,000*
- Opportunity Change	£ 1,000**
- Administration	£17,500***

* Any camp or additional activities will need separate funding.

** This figure only includes activities undertaken with the Dobri and Marangoci families.

*** The salaries of both The Managing Director and Accountant are included in this figure.

In 2008 The Myosotis Trust has funded the projects with a grant of £49,000. Shop Cariad has donated a further £5,000 .

Carol R. Daniel



Denisa and Costica Marangoci
One re-housed family

THE 2% CAMPAIGN: A BEGINNING

Romania is showing its acknowledgment of the work of NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) or in lay terms charities, by running a 2% Campaign. Since 2006 it has introduced a system where employees can nominate a registered charity to receive 2% of the taxes they have paid on their work papers during the tax year.

In some ways this is akin to the Gift Aid system in the UK but no additional gift need be given as the Government directly passes on the taxes as a gift without another charitable donation being made.

Key to the success of this initiative is of course publicity and raising awareness of the system as most people aren't aware that they can help a charity without digging into their pockets. This year The Young Volunteers have made a determined effort in Barlad to do this and local buses are carrying Myosotis posters advertising the scheme. Friends and family members have been given forms to complete and the parents of the children at Casa Esme have also been encouraged to pass the message on. In 2005 Association Myosotis Romania received: £112, in 2006 £368, 2007 £407. In January of 2010 we will know whether this year's campaign has attracted more support but the greatest encouragement is to see that The Government is recognising the work of NGOs.

Mr. & Mrs. Dobri and Family
Re-housed family





Off to school with new rucksacks.

Ulia School is very proud to now have its own school uniform; these sweat shirts were kindly donated by a school in Luton. One of the teachers said she had been teaching at the school for over 30 years and this was their first school uniform!



Proud Ulia School children in their new school uniform.

Romania Joining EU

On the 1st of January 2007, Romania joined the EU with Bulgaria as well. This was a reason to celebrate for Romanians as now we can call ourselves "EU citizens". For Romanians, Europe became smaller as now it is easier to travel and work abroad.

Also, it is expected that foreign investors and tourists will show interest in Romania, making our economy grow. I think that, at the beginning yes, it was interest, but as soon as visitors come to Romania, they were quickly disappointed by the system, by the roads and many other things that Romania doesn't have quite up to EU standards. Also I think that tourists were overwhelmed by the hospitality that Romanians provide.

Romania adopted the EU legislation and standards, but it is very difficult to implement it in a very poor country where beaurocracy and corruption rule. I must say that people are fighting against corruption... and the level of corruption slightly decreased. Adopting and implementing standards is very good on a long term period, but until then people feel disappointed with all the sudden changes. For instance accountancy, legislation and requirements change at every 2-3 months and it is difficult to keep informed with the new issues.

Once we joined the EU, it was expected that more money will be available, however, they were either redirected in the wrong way or because of lack information the money didn't reach where it should. So really, common people don't feel that things are changing except when the taxes go up or they receive a fine for thins that they didn't know they had to do according to the new legislation.

So, Romania is still as poor I would say, in a period of change when people have to change as well and a very important role lies in the hands of the young generation.

NOTE: Some interesting things I have observed recently: The number of privately owned vehicles increased a lot. As the legislation says: Institutions must have special access ways for disabled people in wheel chairs. You should see the way ramps were built... it is totally inaccessible due to the angle... it's like climbing a mountain...

Miky Poppa
Barlad

THE VILLAGE SCHOOL AT ULIA

Teachers employed in village schools are mainly people with few of the skills we would expect from these early years educators. They teach basic language, maths and writing with some Romanian history.

The classrooms are, in the main, rooms with old wooden desks, some ancient wall charts and if lucky a working bare light bulb. The children do, however, receive a meal snack of bread and yogurt supplied by the State; this may be their breakfast and lunch.

Pencils, exercise books, rulers, rubbers and luxury items (felt tips/ colouring books) and text books are few. Expectations are low and many of the children will have walked a long way to school which in the winter is hard going. In Wales a school in Machynlleth and a Youth Club donated Wellington boots which made life better for the children.

ullia School does benefit from the visits of Myosotis when we take the items donated to us of pens, pencils and other stationery items. We want to continue supporting the school and encouraging the teachers to do their best for the future of Romania. Recently from EU funding the school has had new windows and outdoor play equipment. This is the school where Miruna and her brother attend.

Carol R Daniel December '08



Play time at Ulia School.

THE MARKYATE BAPTIST CHURCH MEN'S GROUP

MBC J Men came into being early in 2008 with the purpose of encouraging men, a number of whom have peripheral contact with the local church, to discover who they are as Men, created by God to fulfil His purposes for the world and in particular, the local world of Markyate and the surrounding villages. As the programme of meetings and activities began to be developed, the thought crossed my mind that it would be a great experience for us all if we were able to get involved in carrying out some sort of "serving others" mission as a means to releasing men to understand what it means, in a very practical sense, to serve others and to use the gifts and talents we each have. These thoughts led me to explore the contacts we have as a church with external mission and helping organisations to see if, in any way, a mission would be possible to undertake during 2009.



We initially explored undertaking a rebuilding project at a school in Malawi, which is supported by a church family and the church as a whole, but as the discussions developed, I became aware that those leading the mission work, both locally, and in Malawi, were not ready to support a number of men arriving to undertake the hoped for work and the idea was therefore put on the back burner. However, by then, a number of men were beginning to catch the "serving" idea and were expressing their wish to do some sort of mission, which led to me having a number of serious conversations with Peter and Janet Wastall about the work they were doing with The Myosotis Trust in Barlad. As a church, we already had a good awareness of the work of Myosotis through the various talks and presentations Janet and Peter had given and the support that MBC gives, especially following the very successful visit by our younger church members to Romania in the summer (see article on Page 14). Carol had visited MBC during our summer NOISE project and I had the privilege of meeting her and praying with her during that visit and as the year progressed the idea of taking a team of men across to Romania became a distinct possibility, especially when our men saw the very obvious impact that mission had had on the lives of the youngsters who had been to Barlad. It became obvious that a mission to Romania needed to be investigated in more depth so I began to explore how I could gain a greater understanding of the "on the ground" work of Myosotis, if a mission was a practical possibility and if Myosotis really wanted us.

After having a number of further conversations with Carol, Peter and Janet, in October 2008, I was invited to undertake a flying 72 hour visit to Barlad, accompanied on the way out by Carol and Peter, which proved to be a major life changing three days for me, on a personal level. I have been on missions before, both in the UK and overseas, but to be privileged to be invited to come inside the workings of the local Myosotis operation, on the ground in Barlad, served to open my eyes, my mind and my spirit to an understanding of things and circumstances of the world that I had never been exposed to before. I knew by the end of the second day, that the MBC J Men needed to experience the same emotions I had experienced, if they were to be released to really become true servant disciples of Jesus Christ.

My visit, whilst short, enabled me to explore all the practical aspects of taking a team of men to Romania, particularly with the wonderful local help of Miky, who was so willing to share his life with me, so openly and encouragingly and between Carol and Miky I was able to identify a large number of potential, "man's work" jobs that the Trust was eager to get done as soon as possible, both at the Health Centre and at Casa Esme. However, I was also privileged to be taken out of town to visit two families who the Trust are supporting. The second of these visits, to Carmen's house at Ulia proved to be my biggest emotional challenge and also proved to be the biggest spur to taking the group out to Romania.

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Summer Camp 2008
A valued family member.

The Markyate Baptist Church Men's Group
Continued from Page 5.

What I saw and experienced during that brief visit caused me to understand just how little I really understood about how so many folk are forced to live outside of my very comfortable Western lifestyle, yet I really knew that Jesus was speaking to me as I stood there amongst the squalor of Carmen's garden and the chaos of her little dilapidated home, surrounded by her children. He showed me His heart, His love and passion for His creation. He showed me there and then, that the MBC J Men could help serve Myosotis with their challenges to help the disenfranchised folk of Barlad and the surrounding area achieve a better life.

Following my return to the UK, Carol and I have explored the range of possibilities even further and Miky and I have costed out the work to be carried out at the Health Centre; repainting, repairing the leaking roof, refurbishing the front and back gardens and other minor building works as well as identifying a number of drainage repair works at Casa Esme as well as the construction of a covered pram and play area at the back of the centre, should the local sponsorship not happen. We are also now exploring how to undertake a major clear up at Carmen's house and other repair works and Carol and I are now exploring the possibility of taking a further mission team out in 2010 to undertake a major building project at the same location.

Much still remains to be planned and organise including a fund raising Jazz dinner in February and getting the best deals on flights, ordering building materials from Barlad or the UK, planning the minibus journey and drivers to get the tools and equipment over for the mission week which is scheduled for the last week in May, on the ground in Barlad. And of course, it's now time for the men to make a positive commitment to come and pour out a week of their lives serving the Myosotis Trust and the people of Barlad.

But God's hand is upon the mission already.

More to come – after May.....!

Alan Poole



SHOP CARIAD

In 2004 I purchased a shop in Machynlleth Mid Wales in an attempt to raise money for the charity. I had tried to rent a shop in Ruislip but without success. I didn't know the area, people or local church but felt that, with God's blessing, it just might work.

The shop sells items made in Romania; wooden crafts, icons, baskets and hand sewn gifts. To this, I added Christian books and artefacts and then general cards, jewellery, paintings and as much fair trade products as possible including Traid craft, Tear fund, Siwok and Shared Earth.

Last year we made a section of the shop a second hand book emporium and also "classy" second hand items e.g. jewellery, china and unwanted gifts. Now we have our regular customers and the two sections of new and second hand do not appear to have a detrimental affect on one another. For three years our takings had steadily increased moving towards a profit but sadly, like other traders, this year our takings have dropped dramatically. We hope to launch a web site/On-line mail order facility in March and hope we can generate more trade.

My long term objective is to re-coup the initial investment that I made in opening the shop but also to donate any profit to the charity. The shop is run by three part-time staff and three volunteers whose magnificent efforts are much appreciated. If you have any unwanted gifts or appropriate items I would be pleased to receive them for the shop.

The sale of second hand items has allowed us to donated £5,000 to top up the grant Myosotis has paid to Romania in 2008. Our website is now live for internet orders: www.cariadcrafts.co.uk

Carol R. Daniel December 2008



Opening Day!

THE FUTURE OF THE HEALTH CENTRE

When the Health Centre was running in its early years, it was a constant hub of activity as we helped, in whatever way we could, anyone who came to our door.

From registering a child's birth, or the burial of an infant, train tickets to go for medical investigations in Iasi, clothing, medicines, dressings for cuts and burns, we worked to capacity.

We then introduced family planning along side health education and supported pregnant women who were in distress due to their circumstances. Through Opportunity Change we worked in the ghetto and eventually re-housed three families. We helped a number of people who were bed bound with home nursing and even cared for the dying.

As the situation in Romania slowly began to improve, and our funds became less, we were no longer able to provide so much help and we reduced our services to health education, family planning and ante/post natal care plus emergency first aid and the provision of medicines to our registered clients. We also provide, as stocks allow, a breast prosthesis service for women who have had mastectomies.

Currently we run two or three clinics a week when Dr Andronache our gynaecologist attends. During a normal month he will offer consultations to approximately 100 women; his attendance is dependent on his rota at the hospital.



The Health Centre.

The Insurance House now pays us for seeing women for various gynaecological problems and also now there are woman who attend the Centre who are able to pay for their care and by accepting their fees we are able to cover some of our costs. The service we offer is of a high quality, reliable and of a friendly nature and the number of women who choose to come to us and pay is increasing. However, this must not be to the detriment of the poor.

I am aware that the Health Centre is working far below its capacity and we are unable to offer other services through lack of money. If we could have a G.P at the Centre who was prepared to be salaried, the money paid by the Insurance House could cover their payment and that of the two nurses we currently employ as well as contribute to running costs. Following a number of meetings at the Insurance House it would be possible to adopt such an approach although probably unique.

But in Romania, as elsewhere, G.P.s enter medicine to run a profitable business and to find a doctor who will work for a salary (although it would be the equivalent to the profit a normal G.P would make) is going to need a miracle. Any service we offer would have to be of a standard far above what is currently provided in most surgeries in Romania. The poor would receive the same high quality of care as the wealthy. We would endeavour to provide as many health improving interventions as possible. Without a G.P. service, I consider the future of the Health Centre is in danger as it will never be able to support its running costs.



Inside the Health Centre.

The Future of the Health Centre Continued from Page 7.

I hope to be able to go to Iasi University Medical School to speak with the staff and undergraduates there to gauge their views of such an idea and also speak to the medical council for the region. However, as has been pointed out to me, local doctors will not like such a development as they would be threatened by such a service as patients, as in the UK, can register with any G.P. who will accept them.

The future rests in God's hands as, whilst willing to take up the challenge, I know finding a suitable doctor is like finding the proverbial needle in a hay stack.

Carol Daniel

January 2009



Carol Daniel



A morning chat at the local market.

Give As You Earn

We are registered with 'Give as you Earn'. This is a method where you can give to charities directly from your wages. Your salary department should have details. Donations can be made on a 'Charity Choice Form' or coupon using our charity's name, 'The Myosotis Trust'. Our registration number is 241276. Please pass the word on to your family, friends and colleagues!

A Word from the Treasurer

We are very fortunate in Myosotis that we have a number of very loyal people who have supported us financially for many years, and our heartfelt thanks go to each and every one of them.

In addition, we have some very hard-working Fund-Raisers who tirelessly continue to raise money for our funds and others who fill their collecting boxes regularly. Again, our grateful thanks to you all. However, we have, like many other charities, lost a number of our donors—all for very good reasons, but we are still committed to sending regular payments for our friends in Romania.

As a result, our end of year figures are disappointing and not a little worrying. We really need to increase our income. Please help if you can.

Thank you. Angela Evans

Land's End to John O'Groats on a Saddle



As part of an ongoing search for funds in support of a charity supporting disabled kids in Romania, I recently agreed ('under the influence of copious quantities of healthy red wine' !!) to have a go at cycling from Land's End to John'O'Groats with a friend. We were planning to do it the easy way, with family and friends providing a back-up vehicle to carry our spares/clean clothes/medicinal plonk (red) and sorting out accommodation en route.

My cycling colleague Janet Wastall (a Trustee of our charity) and I were driven down to Land's End and duly arrived at the start line for the obligatory photo on the 2nd June, and set off full of confidence at 09.00 under a sunny sky. By 09.20 we were lost ! I hate to admit to a minor miscalculation, but we took the wrong turning at the first cross-roads. Oh well, even NASA got it wrong now and again, however with 878 miles to go, it didn't bode well.

The first three days were pretty much as we had been told, Cornwall through Devon to Somerset, the route was more akin to mountain climbing than cycling, hence we often 'opted' to push our trusty steeds rather than actually ride them. The energy we were having to put into the combined hiking/cycling was having a marked effect on my partner, she is quite slightly built, and was continually hungry, hence whenever we stopped, small children, sheep and most things edible scattered in alarm until her dietary needs were satisfied. On the plus side, from the top of Dartmoor there was a rather exciting downward swoop for about two miles, freewheeling at 47 mph tends to have a marked effect on buttock clenching.

Onwards (and upwards, or so it seemed) into Gloucestershire and then into Lakes, the scenery was brilliant, however the price to pay in Cumbria and later in the Cairngorms were some fairly 'character forming' climbs, but the weather was great, and whenever the lungs started to collapse, a short break usually put the world to rights. We had to this point been following a route kindly given to us by a chap that had done the ride in 2003, it was extremely detailed and travelled on only B roads (in some cases C roads). The only problem was that the detail was so finite, ("turn left 324 yards past blue house with small child in pram") it was taking us far too long to decipher the instructions (the small child was now at secondary school) hence we went back to using A roads, ie the shortest distance between two points. On the positive side, this speeded up the time between towns on route, the downside was that some lorries and the occasional coach have imprints in the dust on their nearside, approximately the same height as a terrified cyclist or two.



Land's End to John O'Groats on a Saddle

Scotland was reached on day eight, and now we had the bit between our teeth as we had planned a 'rest day' at a friend's house in Edinburgh. This was duly reached, and tired limbs were anointed externally whilst equally important organs were anointed internally, quite liberally, as is the custom north of the border. We remounted our trusty steeds a day later, and left to do battle with the Scottish highlands; result : Highlands 1 Cyclists 0. Unfortunately we had a turn in the weather, and for one day we battled against rain and a minor hurricane, our theory on seasonal wind direction was about 180 degrees out to our route, and at times we genuinely seemed to be pedalling in low gears DOWN-HILL ! This was the only time we had to call in our trusty back-up team, as the accommodation that had been booked was twenty miles beyond our point of exhaustion. Never had a glass (pint) of red tasted so good whilst lying in a hot bath. The following day we were transported back the twenty miles to where we had stopped the night before, to resume the ride. From that one disastrous day until the end of the ride, the weather was perfect, and the wind went back to a textbook south to north direction.



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From Page 9.

The last two days were great as we were tracked the coastline from the A9 with superb views all the way, and the cycling was really enjoyable. We stopped at a small roadside cafe on the last day for a bite to eat, and found that the establishment was owned and run by two elderly ?? Sisters. It also seemed to be the lunchtime meeting place for the local branch of Age Concern. Two strange people on bikes, dressed in equally strange clothes became an instant subject for discussion, and more to the point, my amply padded (back and front) shorts were scrutinised from all angles, the comments shrouded in a local dialect were accompanied with lots of nodding and sucking/licking of teeth, very worrying for a mere lad of 64. John O'Groats finally hove into sight on day 15 (14 in the saddle, with 1 rest day) and it was with a mixture of emotions that we crossed the line to be met by our 'other halves' bearing welcome glasses of Bubbly. We had done it, had a great time, and felt that we could have gone on further, in fact were quite sad that it was over. We covered 880 miles in 14 days and only had 3 punctures. Would I do it again, definitely, and maybe next time from top to bottom with panniers!! Many thanks to our wonderful back-up team, we couldn't have done it without you and we raised a wonderful £6,000! *Neville Ward*



Carol Daniel

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Miky, our Director of Myosotis in Romania with some of our young volunteers at the summer camp.



Learning through play at Casa Esme.



Enjoying Summer Camp in the beautiful Carpathian Mountains.

A Note from the Editor

Hello to all our wonderful supporters and thank you all for your continued support and interest in the work of The Myosotis Trust. Firstly, may I introduce myself to you as your new Editor. My name is Janet Wastall and I have been a Trustee of Myosotis for a number of years. Although Romania is now a member of the European Community, I have seen at first hand how this has increased the wealth of the rich, but still leaves the poor very much on the sidelines, defending themselves, so there is still much work to be done and we therefore must increase our fund-raising efforts and not rest on our laurels.

As this has been a delayed edition, there are articles that you will see that have been written at the beginning of the year. We intend to follow this edition with a Winter Edition, which will be an up to the minute news edition.

If you have any suggestions how I can improve this newsletter, or have any articles you would like included in the next edition, please do contact me on 01582 873131 or e-mail me on JanetWastall@aol.com.

Janet Wastall

St. Martin's Church, Ruislip

St. Martin's Church, Ruislip has always played an important part in the affairs of the Myosotis Trust. When Carol Daniel founded the Trust, she lived in Ruislip and was a member of the congregation of the parish church of St. Martin's. It was natural therefore that she should turn to her church for help in funding the new charity. That help was, and is, given in abundance. The Parochial Church Council sets aside a considerable sum each month for the Trust. Many members of the congregation continue to give through the Gift Aid Scheme. The Vicar of St. Martin's, Father Simon, is the Patron of the Trust and visits Barlad regularly, and three of the Trustees are members of the congregation. In the early years, it was almost impossible to buy anything in Barlad so the congregation turned to and must have sent thousands of pounds worth of goods to Romania, not to mention the numerous fund raising events.



Some of the young people from Markyate Baptist Church at Summer Camp.

Now, since Carol has moved to Wales, other Trustees have involved their own church, and Markyate Baptist Church is now playing a vital part in the life of the Trust. Last Summer a group of young people went for 2 weeks helping with the Summer Camp (See article on Page 14) and then helped with building and decorating in their second week. Also the Men's Group have planned a visit, (See article on page 5.) There are other centres of support which is, of course, all to the good. However, St. Martin's remains one of the most stalwart supporters of The Myosotis Trust, for which we are profoundly thankful for all their years of loyal support.

St. Mary's Denham, The Church of the Ascension, Wembley, St. Edmund the King, Northwood and St. Peter's (ad) Vicula, Pennal are some of the other churches who support the charity regularly.





Sponge painting's such fun!



The Markyate Men working on the drainage system.



A NEW FRIEND IN OUR DAY CENTRE...

It's been two weeks already since we have a new resident at Casa Esme. It is a small but very funny one: a little cat. We found it on a Saturday morning, in the backyard of Casa Esme. It was scared, hungry and thirsty. Fortunately, he had the chance to be adopted by Carol, the Founder of Myosotis Trust. It was love at first sight on both sides. The story started with a syringe of milk and then, little by little, the little cat, whose name is now Esme, became the star of Casa Esme.

Though nobody knew for how long it will stick around, now one thing is for sure: she really enjoys the life with everybody who comes to Casa Esme. Whether is the staff, the volunteers or simple visitors. Not mentioning the children, the beneficiaries of the Casa Esme. Every day, when they come to the program, first thing they say, even before saying "Hello!" is "Where is Esme?" They really love her and learnt to accept her as one of their friend.

The cat is very playful and does a lot of funny things and jumps, plays with everything that moves, runs all over the place, things really make the children laugh. Some of them are very quiet and calm when they see it. For some of them, Esme is, probably, the first pet they could touch without being scared. We can easily say that Esme is one of the therapists here, a member of staff, a special one.

We hope she'll stay with us as long as possible. It is a little friend but with a lot of things to show, and a lot of love to give.

Petrica Popa,
Teacher for Special Needs Children at Casa Esme Day





Young People's Mission to Romania Summer 2008

In the first week we were up in the Carpathian Mountains helping at the Summer Camp. For this week our group had organised some activities for the children. For example: making crowns and sponge paint printing. Also we prepared a couple of dramas to show the love of God, one for the children and one for the young volunteers. These dramas really opened up the eyes of the children and you could see that they all really enjoyed them.

During the second week, we went into Barlad to help at Casa Esme. When we got there, somebody had put graffiti all over one wall, so we agreed to clean it up and paint over it. In this week we completely painted the fence around the back garden in bright rainbow colours which really made the garden feel brighter. We also painted the outside of the fence blue as with the gate but on the gate we painted a big yellow smiley face. Also we painted over all the graffiti which really made a difference. The final job we did at Casa Esme was to wood preserve the whole of the climbing frame, which included taking off all of the extra pieces in order to paint everything. Our main job on the second week was up at Mr. & Mrs. Dobri's. The council wanted them to have a fence in front of their house, so we agreed to make one with a gate. We spent 3 or 4 days making up the panels, cutting each piece separately and then we had to wood preserve it. It was really difficult work as it got up to about 40 degrees C but we made it through and God gave us strength.

Ben Brown



Thank You

We have many people and organisations who help us throughout the year and we would like to take this opportunity of saying a BIG THANK YOU to them all, we are so grateful to you all for your help and support in these vital ways.

- To Dave Green and Gowers Chartered Accountants, The Old School House, Bridge Road, Langley for kindly donating their accounting services.
- To British Airways who kindly donate six tickets annually to Romania, include us in their wonderful Charity Event at the end of the year and supply raffle prizes.
- To Herr Gunter Seitz, proprietor of the Landhotel, Geiselwind, Germany who regularly gives us free accommodation on our journey to and from Barlad.
- To BWI School in Ruislip for their continued support.



LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS FROM THE 2008 RAFFLE

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 1. | 2 round trip tickets to New York, courtesy of British Airways | Pat Masters |
| 2. | Round of Golf for 4 people | Pat Taverner |
| 3. | Marks & Spencer Hamper | Ticket 1988 |
| 4. | Foot Spa | Sam Hook |
| 5. | 2 Golf Lessons | Alice Ramsden |
| 6. | Oil Burner | Mrs. Montague |
| 7. | Mini wooden cabinet with toiletries | Ticket 1913 |
| 8. | Toiletries and Bag | Simon Bowyer |
| 9. | Champagne | Nicki Taverner |
| 10. | Game | Sylvia |
| 11. | Cuddly Bear | Linda Pouppard |

Barlad



Casa Esme



Constructing the play equipment at Casa Esme



Club 72 supporting the Myosotis Trust

The Myosotis Trust has worked in Romania since the downfall of the Communist Regime, providing much needed healthcare for women and facilities for children with special needs in the district of Barlad. All the money raised is used in Romania.

In common with most charities we have experienced a fall in income and an increase in costs recently. We urgently need to raise £18,000 to guarantee our services until January 2010 when the Romanian Government will increase its funding.

£18,000 is a lot to raise in a short time – if 72 individuals, families or organisations were each able to donate £250 or more it would be job done. However, most of us are unable to give as much as this so please give what you can – every donation is appreciated.

Donations may be given to Maureen Tinsey or sent to her at, 17 Pinn Way, Ruislip HA4 7QN. Please make cheques payable to 'The Myosotis Trust'. If you are able to Gift Aid your donation please complete the declaration below.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

I want this donation of £..... to be treated as a Gift Aid Donation and for tax to be reclaimed accordingly.

I am a UK taxpayer and I note that I must have paid an amount of income tax or capital gains tax which at least equals the tax deducted from this donation.

Signature..... Date

Full Name

Address.....

.....
.....



The village of Bacani.



Roy Porteous teaching silat at the summer camp



Children off to the
Summer Camp

Association Girl Guides,
Romania



Ruislip Gardens Primary School

Ruislip Gardens Primary School has been happy to support the Myosotis Trust over a number of years. For our Harvest Assemblies we have encouraged children to fill empty shoe boxes with small gifts and to then wrap and decorate them. The boxes are displayed during the Assembly and are later donated to the Myosotis Trust. We have also provided surplus exercise books for the children that the Myosotis Trust supports. We greatly value the partnership that we have developed with the Trust over the last few years, and all of the children in the school are enthralled when members of the Myosotis Trust visit and update them with tales from Romania. We look forward to continuing to support your organisation and appreciate the way that you have shared aspects of the work that you do. The use of pictures, powerpoint presentations and oral recounts has been very effective in getting your message across.

Best wishes,
Marc Titeux

Deputy Headteacher
Ruislip Gardens Primary School
Stafford Road,
Ruislip,
Middx.
HA4 6PD



Markyate Baptist Church Men's Group

Mission to Barlad - May 2009

The idea for our men's group to undertake a mission to Barlad first appeared during a programme planning time, back in June 2008, with two possibilities being considered for the 2009 programme. The first to visit Malawi to offer to help with some building renovation works at a school in Nansambo which is supported by MBC or, secondly, a working mission trip to Barlad to serve Myosotis.

After some considerable prayer, thought and logistics planning around a number of the men's diaries and work schedules it became very clear that the Malawi trip wasn't practical but Romania seemed a very real possibility. With that in mind a number of lengthy e mails and telephone conversations were had with Carol and Miky to identify both what could be achieved in a week's mission and if a visit by the men's group would serve to really and practically add value to the Trust's objectives and its activities in Barlad.

The leadership of MBC and the church fully supported the idea, as were Carol and Miky. So with that in mind a fact finding/planning trip was arranged to Barlad, accompanied by Carol and Peter Wastall in October 2008 during which a long schedule of repairs and new jobs were identified at the Health Centre and at Casa Esme with the possibility of also undertaking some work at Carmen's Home at Ulia.

Over the winter months of 2008/09 a detailed schedule of work of some 20 or so items was planned and costed, discounted flights via Neville Ward's contacts in Wizz arranged and paid for and many hours of running around by Miky arranging accommodation, food, purchase of materials etc. were undertaken. In the UK fund raising through a jazz night and food was undertaken to achieve the objective of making sure that the mission was totally cost neutral to Myosotis and if at all possible would enable surplus funds to be donated to the work of the trust at the end of the mission and the 7 mission team members were challenged to raise funds to pay for all their own costs and spending money.

And most of all, whilst all this was going on, many hours of prayer were being devoted to the mission, by the team, their families, the congregation of MBC and the supporters of Myosotis Trust so that when we finally flew out of Luton Airport on the morning of 24th May we all knew that the Lord had blessed the mission, blessed its objectives, blessed those going and those at home praying for it, those on the ground in Barlad and that the name of Jesus would be glorified through what was going to be achieved.

So what of the mission itself?

We hit the ground running, as it were, on the way from the airport to Barlad- buying a minibus load of baskets and benches for the Health Centre and Casa Esme and it was a major blessing to all the team that Peter, Janet and Neville had travelled over, leaving the UK three days earlier with the other minibus to ensure that all our tools, work clothes and UK purchased materials were all safely delivered to the health centre the day before we all arrived.

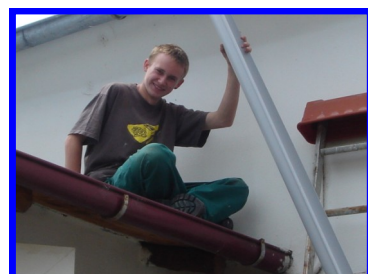
Mission to Barlad - May 2009

Continued from Page 18.

The older guys on the team had the luxury of staying at the Hotel Moldova whilst the younger team members slept on the floor at Casa Esme (much to the amusement of the young volunteers) so after a good night's sleep and breakfast and time of prayer and worship at the Health Centre, it was all action. And each day followed the same pattern and so much was achieved and so much prayer answered.

Our list of tasks were:

- Demolish, refurbish, repaint and re-erect the fencing around the front of the health centre.
- Build new fencing and gates at the front of the health centre.
- Repair the front access ramp brickwork and paving.
- Clean down and repaint the external front door and window frames.
- Repair the leaking reception roof.
- Clear out both front gardens and landscape them both with new paving, new flower beds, a water feature and bench and planting out the beds.
- Fixing a new curtain and rail in the examination room.
- Repainting and repairing the rear garden fences
- Build a new gate to the rear garden
- Fixing a decorative feature in the rear garden and clearing up both gardens
- Fixing ventilator louvers to the reception and office
- Fixing five new rainwater pipes and gutters at Casa Esme
- Fixing ventilator louvers at Casa Esme
- Spreading out the Bark Chippings at Casa Esme



We were also blessed by being able to visit the Dobri family and Denisa and Costica at Bacani and also Carmen at ulia, being able to take them gifts of potatoes and onions from MBC and the mission team, to talk with them, to hug them, and to love them, as well as visiting the hospital in Barlad to better understand the needs of those families so much worse off in the basic needs than we are in Markyate. There is so much more that needs to be done, so many needs, so much poverty and pain, yet those wonderful people all responded to our hugs and smiles with such warmth, such grace and such courtesy.

We have all returned home, much wiser men, much humbled men and so much more aware of our own blessings and God's mighty provisions for us and our families and church. We have been loved, cared for and provided for by Miky, Petrica, the young volunteers and all the staff at the Health Centre and particularly Carol whilst on the mission and have received so much help and support from our support team of Peter, Janet, Neville and Chris who gave up so much extra time to transport everything we needed at both ends of the mission.

Mission to Barlad - May 2009

Continued from Page 19.



But most of all we must give thanks to God for the honour and privilege we have all had of being able to go out to Barlad to serve Myosotis and those women and children who use the Health Centre and Casa Esme each day and to visit their homes. Our God is an awesome God - He has answered many prayers before, during and after the mission and by His good grace we will return, hopefully next year.

Alan Poole



THE TRUST WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR KIND HELP

DONATION FORM

If you should wish to support the continuing work of the Trust, but do not currently do so, please complete the details below, detach and forward this form to us.

I would like to donate £..... (single donation)

I would like to give a regular amount each month (please complete entire form)

BANKER'S ORDER FORM

TO: The Manager (your bank's name)

OF: (bank address).....

.....Postcode.....

Please pay:

HSBC (40-39-13), **65 High Street, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8JE**,

for the credit of **The Myosotis Trust**, (Account No. 11177419),

The sum of (figures) £.....(words).....

ANNUALLY

HALF-YEARLY

QUARTERLY

MONTHLY

(PLEASE DELETE AS APPROPRIATE)

Starting on (date).....until further notice

Name:..... Title:.....

Address:.....

.....Post Code:.....

Tel. No.:.....

Account No.: _____ Sort Code.: _____

Signature:.....

Date:.....

GIFT AID CERTIFICATE

for The Myosotis Trust

My Full Name.....

My Address.....

.....Post Code.....

I wish **the Myosotis Trust** to treat the following as Gift Aid donations

(please delete as appropriate):

☐ The enclosed donation of £.....

☐ The donation of £..... I made on: dd/mm/yyyy

☐ All donations I make from the date of this declaration until further notice.

I know that I must pay an amount of income/capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year.

Signature.....

Date.....

Thank you for your kind support

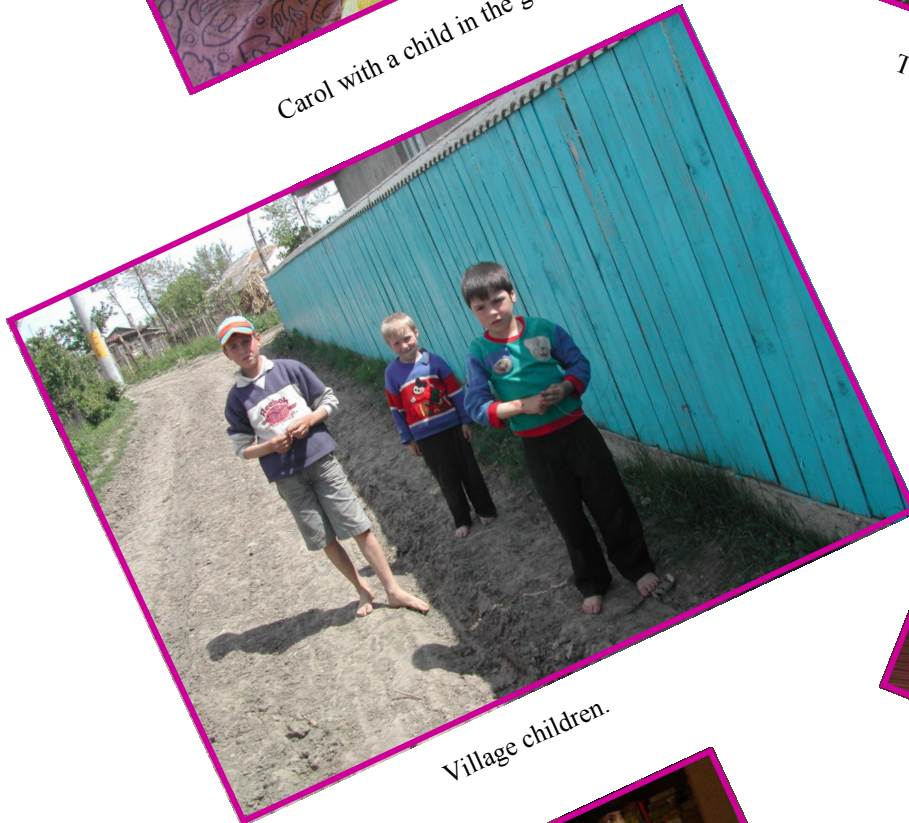




Carol with a child in the ghetto.



The Barlad Market



Village children.



The joy of Christmas shoe boxes.



Petrica with children at Casa Esme.



Springtime in Barlad