

White Cross Mission
Registered Charity No 1021176



52 Gwel-an-nans
Probus
Cornwall TR2 4ND
UK
Tel: ++44 (0)1726 884344
Email
wcm@whitecross.org.uk

July 2007

To all White Cross Supporters and Friends,

Cornwall may believe itself to be the “dreckly” champions of the world but, believe me, the county has a lot to learn from Romania! The Romanian “măine” (meaning tomorrow) is a much more powerful and descriptive word. Tomorrow rarely comes!

Booking our first guests in, 5 months after the builders promised they would be finished, was, from the beginning, a risky business and, true to expectations, as the taxis bringing our guests drew up outside so the electrics were switched on for the first time and the water was hurriedly connected. We had all spent hours sweeping up builder’s dust and trying to hurry the builders out of the way so that everything looked ready when the guests arrived, but of course it wasn’t! There were a thousand and one things still to do and so I ordered a liberal supply of good Romanian wine to keep the guests content.

I needn’t have worried. Our first guests were wonderful. Some of them had worked with the children in Remeti 15 years ago. They had fun then and I believe they had fun on this holiday. At least I hope they did. There was a great deal of laughter!

The young people served them their meals and we took them to visit the farms and back again to see Remeti. They even managed a swim in the hot springs in Oradea. They were the best people to have as first guests - prepared and ready for anything, real stars!

Another winner was the superb mini bus provided by Mary Stiner and our friends from the USA. It’s classy and comfortable and holds 8 passengers and a driver. It’s going to open up all sorts of possibilities.

We have, however, decided to delay our official opening day to give the builder’s time to finish everything properly, for the mayor to finish the driveway and for Anamarie’s uncle to finish making the carved wooden gateway. The local TV will be present so we want everything to look as good as possible.

Two of the early courses **will** be going ahead as planned: the bird watching course from the 8th to the 14th of July, run by Martin Rule and Bishop Bill’s poetry and prayer retreat from 26th Aug to the 1st Sept.

There are still places on both these courses, (please phone if you are interested) but we will not be taking bookings for anything else that is scheduled before the 7th Sept, which will be our new opening day.

When we set the prices last year there were no other Guest Houses in the area for us to compare ourselves with. There are now and, because we want to be competitive, we are going to revise our prices- downwards!

Now instead of the courses costing £430, they will cost £380. (A £50 reduction!!)

This price includes 6 night's bed and breakfast, evening meal, light lunch, tea and coffee breaks and tuition/ course fees.

If you want to visit independently of the courses/retreats a single booking will be £20 for bed and breakfast and for two sharing a room it will be £28.50. The set evening meal will cost £7.50 and extras can be negotiated with the restaurant manager.

If you want to bring a group of your own there is plenty of room and we will help you every step of the way. Just phone. **07867577416.**

Although our Guest House is an important project for our future I'm sure it is our young people in the houses that you really want to hear about. The various moves we made earlier this year have been successful except for moving Gheorghie to House 5. He was a wonderful help while he was there but he missed his friends and has now gone back to House 2. The two girls, Ramona and Erzie, who went to House 4 have been amazing. They have made such a difference to the house. The boys love having them there and the House mothers have been transformed. Everyone is thrilled and full of enthusiasm. It was a great delight to take our guests to see them and I'm sure they will all have fond memories of the House mothers giving an impromptu concert of folk singing and the young people energetically getting everyone to join them dancing in the kitchen!

Graham, Jenny and Liz visited Romania immediately after I left and were delighted with how the House Mothers had responded to their training programme. Graham now has the task of marking all their paper work and, although he has only just started, he is excited by the standard of their work. All the house mothers have made an amazing effort. Its so encouraging.

The young people too have been working their individual programmes and making important steps forward. Gabor and Elemer from House 3 are almost ready to try and live independently and we need to move quickly with our plans to turn Casa Anoushka into 4 little 'flatlets' ready to be homes for our young people as and when they are thought to be ready.

It's a very exciting time for us all. Such a lot is going on!

Could you all put a new date in your diaries? We have booked Bishop Bill for our annual service at Kenwyn Parish Church on 9th December at 3.00pm, followed by tea and chat. Please come and join us. As Bishop Bill is retiring next Easter this may well be his last service with us and it would be good to have our patron with us, especially this year as so much is happening. Do come!

With every good wish to you all,
God bless

Pat.

Stop Press:

Thanks to the generosity of Phil & Patty Love and Les & Gill Brown we now have enough funds to build our chapel. For photos please see the Photo Gallery at www.whitecross.org.uk.