

# hospices of hope

making every day count



Spring 2009 Newsletter

Registered Charity No: 1088475/SC040017

## Hospice Wins National Award

We are delighted to tell you that Hospice Casa Sperantei, Brasov has won the prestigious Carol Davila 2009 prize for the best "private" medical unit in Romania. Carol Davila (1828-1884) was a distinguished Romanian physician and the annual awards in his memory promote excellence in the field of medicine. The award was presented on 26th February at a reception at the Athenee Palace Hilton in Bucharest and was received by Malina Dumitrescu on behalf of the entire Hospice Casa Sperantei team. Our congratulations to all the staff for achieving this well deserved recognition.



**theBigGive**

helping your donations go further

**Donate £50 in May - We get £100**

Hospices of Hope has been selected as a charity under The Big Give's 'matched funding' scheme. The idea is that for every donation made to

Hospices of Hope through the website [www.thebiggive.org.uk](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk) it will be matched 100%.

*So if you donate £50... We will receive £100!!*

Double your donation to Hospices of Hope when you donate through The Big Give in May. The Reed Foundation and a number of our patrons and trustees have joined together to create a £10,000 matched fund through The Big Give. However, we can only benefit from this funding if it is matched by donations from our supporters. All donations made through The Big Give in the month of May will be doubled, until the £10,000 has been donated. We need your help to unlock this vital funding!

To donate to the fund, go to [www.thebiggive.org.uk/matching/hoh](http://www.thebiggive.org.uk/matching/hoh)

The Big Give was set up in 2007 to offer charities a platform to promote their charitable projects to major donors. In November 2008, The Big Give enabled online donations from £5 upwards, and in December, launched a £1m matched fund in association with the Reed Foundation, which was exhausted in just 45 minutes. The Big Give has facilitated £2,285,553 in online donations since November 2008.

**Romania** Some very positive developments are taking place in Bucharest. A presentation was made by the home-care team in February to 80 doctors at the Association of Family Doctors who showed a great deal of interest. Dr Simon Pennell, a volunteer doctor from the UK, has been undertaking a 3 month placement in Bucharest, helping the team to develop their confidence teaching on the new course for doctors at the Nicholas Edeleanu Centre. Dr Liliana Visu, a radiotherapist from the Coltea hospital, joined the home-care team in March. The Nicholas Edeleanu Centre in Bucharest has recently been awarded two grants: one will help to strengthen the National Resource Centre in its role of providing support to the wider hospice movement in Romania; the other will help develop the National Plan for palliative

care. A recent concert with the popular band Juke Box attracted a crowd of over 400 and raised 2,200 Euros.

**Serbia** Nurse Educator Terry Magee and Dr Natasa Milicevic were warmly received at Annual Nursing conference in February. BELhospice is receiving more referrals each month, and a grant has enabled them to purchase a second car for the home-care team.

**Moldova** Hospice Angelus has recruited their first fundraiser. Victoria Condrat started work on 1st April and will be receiving an initial two weeks training with the fundraising teams in Brasov and Bucharest. Victoria will be writing grant applications, seeking funds from local businesses and planning fundraising events in Chisinau.

# Tribute to Oliver Postgate

When Oliver Postgate died in December, aged 83, the hospice lost a much loved friend and supporter. However, his legacy will live on. Graham Perolls attended his memorial celebration on 15th April and writes.....

“On a beautiful April day, when the beach at Broadstairs was basked in wonderful spring sunshine, around 200 people gathered at the Pavilion to pay tribute to a very special man, Oliver Postgate. Oliver's inspirational work was popular with generations of children who loved the strangeness of the characters and the warmth of his story-telling. Some friends from his childhood recounted stories about Oliver's inventiveness as a small boy, and others recalled the days when he and his partner, Peter Firmin, worked in a makeshift studio in a disused cowshed in Kent on a tiny budget, often using home-made equipment. Oliver's and Peter's creations included Noogin the Nog, the Clangers, Ivor the Engine and the Dolls' House, but most well known of all was the much loved Bagpuss.



I was delighted to be asked by Naomi Linnell, Oliver's partner, to say a few words about Oliver's amazing gift to the hospice and to play the children's section of our DVD, showing just a few of the children in Romania who have benefitted from his generosity.

I well remember the letter I received from Oliver in 2000. “Bagpuss has embarrassingly found himself with an excess of funds and would like to help the terminally ill children in Romania”. It was thanks to Bagpuss's (or should I say Oliver's) gift that

enabled us to complete the building of the children's wing and as many of you will know, it is called the Bagpuss Children's Hospice. Bagpuss is everywhere, on the flooring, on the walls and, most poignantly, in the hearts of many of the children who come to the hospice, because they too can relate their problems to the “saggy old cat” that “Emily loved”. In fact it was the real life Emily (Emily Firmin) who opened the Bagpuss Wing along with the British Ambassador back in 2002. Since then, hundreds of children have received care and hundreds of doctors and nurses have received training at the unit, which has now become a Centre of Excellence in children's palliative care for the whole region.

Oliver was a delightful and very unassuming man and I am so grateful to Dr Ian Hodgins, who introduced me to him. On my last visit to Oliver and Naomi in Broadstairs, Oliver insisted on cooking me a delicious salmon lunch. From the dining room window of his cosy flat he could see the sea, the same view that we could see from the Pavilion. I had brought with me some Christmas cards that the children in the Bagpuss unit had designed, and Oliver had great pleasure in going through them and choosing one for our annual card. It will be a memory that I treasure.”



Graham Perolls

# Razvan

is a 7 year old boy who in April 2007, at the age of 5, was diagnosed with testicular cancer. He underwent a series of chemotherapy sessions before having the tumour surgically removed. In October 2007 he became a patient of Hospice Casa Sperantei in Brasov, Romania.

At the beginning, Razvan and his family mainly benefited from the Hospice team's social support and counselling. He comes from a poor family and along with his parents, three siblings and grandparents, lives in a single room with no sanitary facilities. Both Razvan's parents have tuberculosis.



Often, Razvan has to travel the 160 km to Bucharest for hospital assessments. The Hospice worked with his mother to obtain state benefits to cover the travel expenses.



Razvan is admitted to the children's in-patient unit at the Hospice regularly for 1 week at a time so staff can work to control his symptoms and ensure he is getting the best medication. Razvan has both play and occupational therapy and is a very familiar face in the children's day centre!

## News from the Romanian Rural Project

Last summer, we launched a new project to bring hospice care for the first time to two very needy rural areas in the County of Brasov, Romania. Here, Margareta Ardeleanu, who is responsible for the project, reports on progress to date....

"It is hard to know where to start, so much has happened since last July, but it is wonderful to see how the project is moving forward so quickly. We now have two mobile teams, one based in the town of Fagaras, and the other in Zarnesti. Until now we have looked after 43 patients in Fagaras and 29 in Zarnesti. This has involved 531 medical visits and 104 social visits.

Each team has a doctor, two nurses, a social worker and chaplaincy support. They are visiting patients, mainly children at present, in their own homes. Children from these areas have also been able to be admitted to the Bagpuss in-patient unit in Brasov or attend the day centre or therapy unit when needed. One of the children from Fagaras, Adrian, said to his mother when he came home "Mum I feel so good there, it's like going on holiday to a hotel!"



Laurentiu, a child in the care of the Zarnesti team who has Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, is enjoying his new computer. His family is poor and his mother struggles to cope. I was telling his story to some of my friends in Brasov - they were touched by his plight and decided amongst themselves to raise some money and buy him a computer for Christmas. It has opened a new world to him. As well as looking after patients, the team is also involved in educating medical staff in the rural areas. 20 nurses attended a palliative care course for a week in January. Staff from the hospice in Brasov also participated in the course and are a constant source of support to the new mobile teams. The hospital in Fagaras is shortly to open a palliative care ward for adult patients and has asked for support from Hospice Casa Sperantei to train the staff that will be needed. The patients and mobile teams in Fagaras and Zarnesti want me to pass on their thanks to all those in the UK who have supported this new project and want to say how grateful they are to receive this type of care."



A group of supporters from the UK are due to visit the Fagaras team on May 1st as part of the next insight visit. We will ask for their feedback.

## Adam's Challenge



Father of two and keen walker Adam (37) is the founder of Adam Ireland Associates Limited, an employment relations consultancy based in the South-East of the UK and specialising in employment law advice, employee relations and management for employers. "I am very happy to be offering myself up for a punishing 84 mile walk from the 20th May 2009 coast -

to - coast along the route of Hadrian's Wall, all in the name of Hospices of Hope. To support Adam in this endeavour please visit his webpage at [www.justgiving.com/hadrianshikeofhope](http://www.justgiving.com/hadrianshikeofhope)

Whilst visiting Justgiving you may like to check out the pages of our Edinburgh Marathon runners Edd Ralph, and Paris Marathon runner James Regan.

## City Dinner

Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt. Spoke entertainingly on 'Life During and After the Recession' at this fundraising event attended by the City's business and financial workers.



Hospices of Hope Fundraising Committee Chairman, Brian Davies (right) and Lord Jones

## A shop is on the move...

**hospicesofhope** has decided to move the shop in Tunbridge Wells from 4 Camden Road where it has been for the past seven years to 23 Camden Road which is only a few hundred yards away. This is due to a sharp increase in rent at the current location.

In a troubled financial period we have faced uncertain times like many other charities but are constantly reassured by the generosity of people both through donations of money and also their time. We have found that our shops are one of the areas which provide us with a consistent income.

# Events

### UK

**19th-28th May 2009 - challenge!**

'Hike of Hope' Hadrian's Wall  
[barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**26th May 2009**

Annual Scottish Golf Tournament  
Bruntsfield Golfing Society, Barnton, Edinburgh  
[malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**31st May 2009 - challenge!**

Edinburgh Marathon - PLACES AVAILABLE!  
[malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**5th June 2009 - Change of Date**

Jazz Evening  
The Grey Lady, Tunbridge Wells  
[vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:vanessa@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**12th June 2009**

A Night at the Opera - Rossini's "The Count Ory"  
King Charles The Martyr Church Hall,  
Tunbridge Wells  
[barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:barry@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**1st September 2009**

Annual Golf Day  
Sundridge Park Golf Club, Bromley, Kent  
[carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**October 2009**

Murder Mystery  
Kent Venue TBC  
[carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**28th November 2009**

St Andrew's Night Ceilidh  
[malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

### Romania

**September 2009**

Insight Visit, Tour of Romania  
[carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:carole@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

**14th November 2009**

Bucharest Ball, Bucharest  
[emily@hospicesofhope.co.uk](mailto:emily@hospicesofhope.co.uk)

[www.hospicesofhope.co.uk](http://www.hospicesofhope.co.uk)

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