

# ***Mustard Seed [Jersey]***

Registered Charity in Jersey, Britain ~ Humanitarian Aid to Eastern Europe

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Coordinator: Rose Helie-Pallot

## Newsletter December 2015 / January 2016



THANK YOU to all who made the 2725 Christmas shoeboxes possible – to all donors, collectors, checkers, packers, loaders, drivers. Thank you to the Parish Halls & Les Quennevais Sports Centre for being collection places. Thank you to our landlords David Seymour & Vernon Helie. Thank you to Sutton Commercials & Channel Island Tyres for their help with our trailer. Thank you to the Media for publicising the appeal. THANK YOU TO COUNTLESS OTHERS FOR YOUR HELP.

## Some of our “shoebox” memories from the December 15 trip



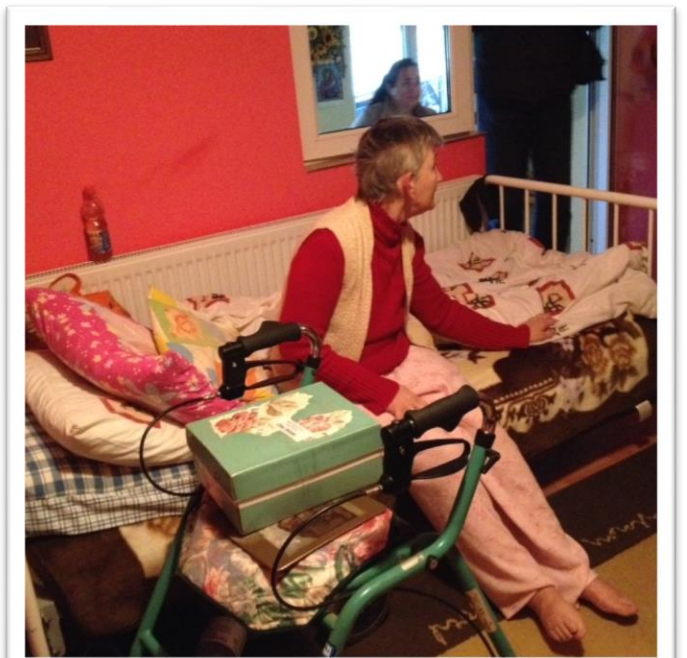
Receiving a Christmas shoebox was so important that in one village, the staff opened the school specially on the Saturday so we could give shoeboxes to the children. The children all turned up over an hour early.



In one very poor village, we distributed Christmas shoeboxes from the back of a lorry, giving a shoebox to every man, woman and child in the village.



Some children opened the boxes in school. *In this photo you may see one of the many beautiful knitted teddies we received.*



We also gave shoeboxes to elderly pensioners in residential homes and in the community.



We were joined by students from Beaulieu Convent School, who helped with the distributions. Prior to coming to Romania they had been hard at work raising funds and were delighted and reassured to see the obvious difference their money and help made.



The people waited in the cold for several hours to receive a couple of loaves of bread. Depending on funds being available we offer this to the poorest of the poor several times a week in the winter in Oradea.



It was very challenging to realise that some people to whom we gave the food parcels usually survived by scavenging on the city rubbish dump for their food.

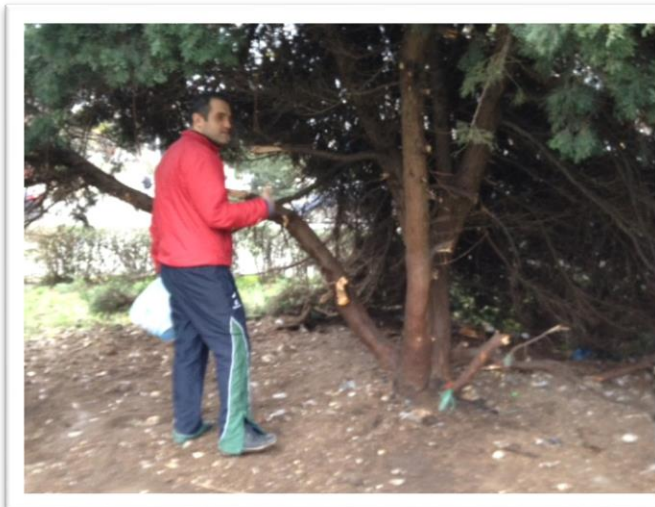


Shopping for food parcels. The food is available, but the most vulnerable cannot afford it.



Some light relief for the Beaulieu students – providing craft activities for the FI youth club. The session ended with pizza – a special treat for the kids .

## Some of our greatest challenges from the December 15 trip



When distributing food parcels to the homeless, one delivery took us to a roundabout in the centre of Oradea. Here a man had erected a form of shelter under a tree.

We visited a number of other hovels where people sheltered.



Most poor families could afford to heat only one room, some had no fuel for heating. Some Beaulieu money was used to purchase firewood.



The poverty in one of the villages was hard to believe and many of the Beaulieu students struggled to see 4+ mud brick shacks sharing one stand pipe. Many homes had no electric light. The students provided funds for candles for a number of the dwellings.



For us with limited resources the biggest challenge is who to help and (inevitably) who not to help.



## THE CHANGED LIVES PROJECT AT CIHEI

In December 2014, we found the Benedek family struggling to survive in a tiny leaking freezing shed in Oradea, so we launched an appeal to purchase a porter-cabin to give them a new home. The public were very generous & we purchased 2 porter-cabins thus helping more people.

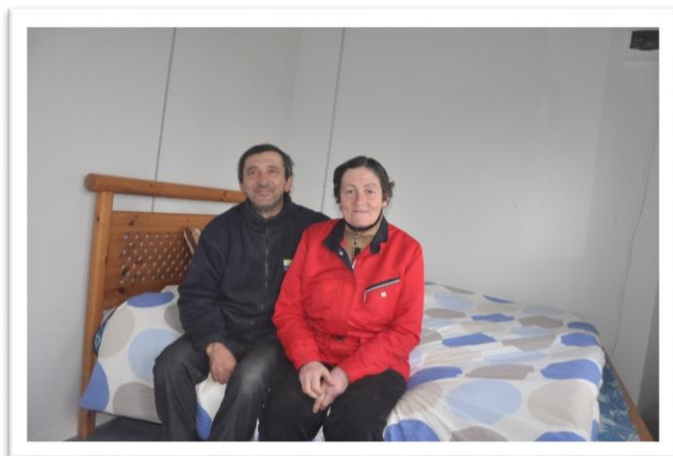
But in 2015 we discovered that for people to qualify for pensions, health benefit, legal employment, etc their address cannot be a porter-cabin. So we launched an appeal to build a permanent structure (2 more units of accommodation and communal showers / washing facilities) on the site; this will then mean that those living in the porter-cabins and our old trailer on the same site could use the address to receive full benefits.

We have had approximately half the money donated or promised.

Any further donations can be made to Mustard Seed Appeal bank account details 40-25-41 71135333.



The Benedeks outside and inside the porter-cabin.



Proud of their vegetables grown on the site. Below: our old trailer



## Looking back over 2015



We sent 3 aid consignments to Romania – approx. 33 tonnes.



Aid collections at Holme Grown.



Fund raising throughout the year



We have been given some wonderful hand knitted blankets which have been sent to Romania along with countless other items of bedding, clothing, footwear, computers, bicycles, educational equipment, hygiene items, etc - all much needed.



We have continued to help fund educational projects ..... Also our sponsorship programme flourishes, medical programme too. *Yes without doubt we are making a difference for good in people's lives in Romania.*



## Looking ahead to 2016.



We plan 3 aid consignments to Romania – spring /early summer, autumn, December.



Again we plan to provide Christmas shoeboxes, food parcels, bread, firewood for the poorest of the poor in Bihor county, Romania in the winter.

**TINATHON** – this year along with Shelter Trust we should be organising and benefitting from the Tinathon in May.



We hope to raise the remaining £20,000 so that the planned building at Cihei can happen. All needed permissions have now been granted and the foundation should be laid as soon as the winter weather ends.

With your help we hope to continue supporting the most vulnerable through “Adopt a Granny”, and other sponsorship programmes, also our medical programme and general distribution programme, our residential home for the elderly.....

& to assist children’s education through our homework clubs, computer clubs and sponsorship. Our motto:

**Your help makes a difference**

## WAYS TO HELP MUSTARD SEED JERSEY

We are always keen to hear from **POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS** often needing help with PACKING, LOADING, FUND-RAISING, COLLECTING, etc

If you want to assist in any way please contact Rose either by phone (482637) or by email to [mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mustardseedjersey@yahoo.co.uk)

**DONATE** your surplus good quality clean clothing, bedding, footwear, toiletries, stationery, computer parts, toiletries, hygiene items, bicycles, , etc.

Check the answer phone on 482637 for details of our collection places – at time of printing they are All Saints Church (opposite the General Hospital), St Peters Church, St Marys Church and St Lukes Church – all during their normal opening hours.

**Support** our aid collections (details in media or our answer-phone)

**Support** our book stalls at Rozel Bay and St Johns Village.

**Suggest** Mustard Seed as the beneficiary at dress down days, etc.

**Sponsor** a needy child or family

**Sponsor** a pensioner through our

**Adopt a Granny** scheme

Pack a **Back to School Box** (details on website under Projects)

Plan ahead to pack **Christmas shoeboxes**

Remember Mustard Seed Jersey in your **prayers**

If you shop at the CoOp use our divvy number **321340**

Put your loose change in a **collecting box** for Mustard Seed  
Save your used **stamps** for us.

Organise a **fund-raising** event (please contact Rose before).

**Keep up to date**

through Facebook

[www.facebook.com/mustardseedjersey](https://www.facebook.com/mustardseedjersey)

through our website

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

**THANKS to all who support in any & every way: practically, prayerfully, financially ....**

*Thanks to Paperclix for their help printing this newsletter.*

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