



Hands of Hope April 2024 Newsletter

Thank you

for supporting us
for reading this newsletter
for encouraging us with messages
for all the things you do that make this work possible

Romania

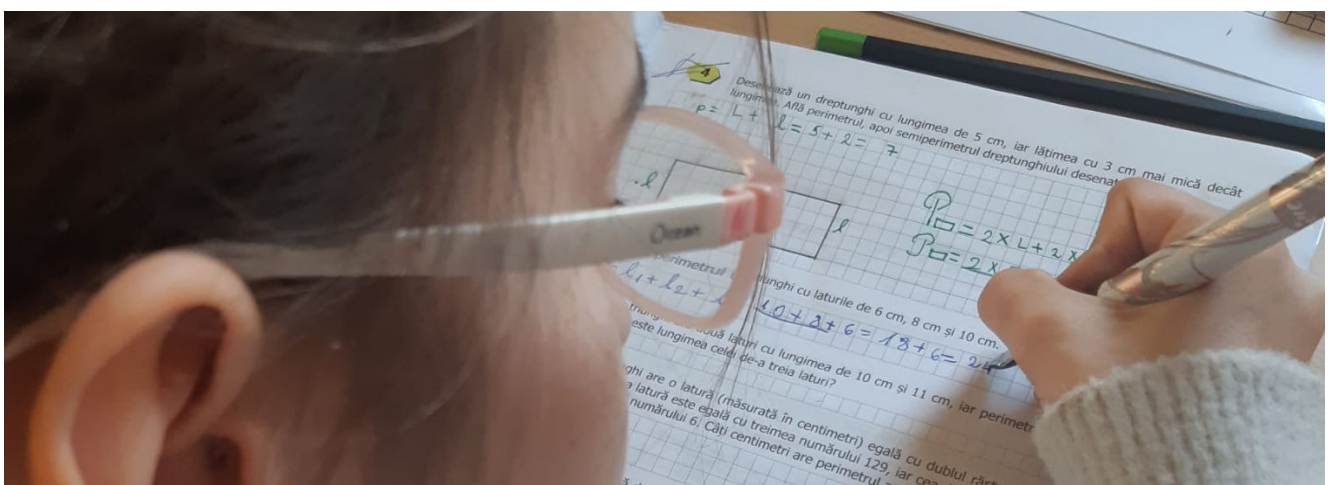
As 2024 unfolds, we have been busy at the charity site preparing land and orchards, sowing vegetable seeds, and maintaining the houses we care for. Orchards are pruned and sprayed and we are already seeing vast swathes of blossom with much promise of fruit, but there is always the danger of frost in the next month or so. We recently pollarded two of our towering willow trees. Standing at an impressive 30m, these trees were mere saplings when we planted them in bare soil 15 years ago. They soon grow back and one of the families made small gift baskets from the trimmed willow stems.



The work repairing and upgrading the sobas in each house continues. These are ceramic brick stoves that provide heating and cooking facilities. Some are nearly 20 years old and were built with the materials to hand. The rebuilt sobas, repaired with higher quality materials, will serve at least another generation.



Children's education and support continues, and seeing them grapple with a wide range of topics including reading, literature, maths, and trigonometry is so encouraging.



Ukraine

As the war grinds on in our close neighbour, 780 days as I write, our heart goes out to a nation torn apart and also to many individuals as we try to support and meet their desperate needs. Newsletters and social media flood us with the enormity of the pain but we try to focus on the close personal support we can give individuals and families nationwide. To get this aid to the right people, we must enter the country and we are close to 30 visits to Ukraine.

On one of our visits we joined some families for a visit to the local museum, where they also displayed works of art illustrating the horror and devastation caused by the war.



Above top left: Doves linked to Ukraine with red cords Above top right: Posing in a Steam Punk picture frame



Above: Writing out prayers in the sand.

It was a wonderful time spent with them and we enjoyed each other's company and laughed together. For us, it is so difficult turning around at the end of the day and driving over the border to another world. On our return trip to the Isle of Man, we visited the London Transport Museum to view an exhibition comparing the WW2 blitz, when people sheltered in the underground stations to today's population taking shelter in the Ukraine Metros.

[Echoes of the Blitz](#)

Donations

Donations towards the work are essential and regular monthly donations are particularly welcome as it helps us budget for the year ahead. Bank details if you wish to set up a standing order or make a BACS payment are:

Hands of Hope

Account no: 12629251

Sort Code: 55 91 00

Cheques can be sent to "Hands of Hope",

c/o C & R Baker, 14 Hawarden Avenue, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS

Donations can be made via the Pay Pal link on our web site



Copyright © 2024 Hands of Hope Isle of Man, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Hands of Hope Isle of Man
14 Hawarden Avenue
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 4BS
United Kingdom



**Find us on
facebook**

www.handsofhope.org.im