

# Short Newsletter

No. 45 Spring/Summer 2014

## A busy summer ahead!



Can you help us?

This summer the CSEF is embarking on an ambitious programme of upgrades at the Transylvanian Autism Association (TAA) building in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. In fact, it is the most rigorous series of classroom refurbishments that we have undertaken for several years. We plan to upgrade to modern standards three classrooms, a therapy room and a corridor at the school recently established by TAA. It is the first school in Romania for children with autism. The upgrades will be strictly tailored to the specific needs of these children and will cover the careful design of the rooms and the furniture, together with all the necessary educational materials and equipment.



A classroom for autistic children upgraded by the CSEF last summer.

We have stated before that the existing rooms, although functional at a basic level, do need upgrading to much higher standards. Fundraising so far for this project has enabled us to commence the building work, but we do urgently require further funds (£2,750) to cover the special furniture that is needed. We hope to complete these important upgrades by the end of August in time for the start of the new school year.

## Romanian family doctors

For some months CSEF Trustee, Dr. Chris Derrett, a retired GP, has been having regular video discussions with a group of Romanian family doctors using a Skype link and webcams. The discussions have covered many topics of joint interest but particularly vocational training for family doctors. Other colleagues of Chris have also kindly participated in the sessions. This initiative has culminated in an invitation from the Romanian doctors for him to participate in the 5th GP Association's Regional Conference held in Cluj-Napoca from 21-24 May this year. Chris presented a short paper entitled 'Rewards and penalties: do they lead to better health care?' and to hold a video workshop on 'Training and assessing GPs' consultation skills using simulated patients'. We hope that this collaboration will identify how best the CSEF can support these Romanian doctors in the future. A fuller report on these proceedings is planned for our Christmas newsletter.

## Educational materials

Producing educational materials for special needs children is an on-going project for the CSEF. Generally, during the first three-months of each year, we are able to concentrate on developing new materials and improving existing completed work. During 2014 we have been able to create a suite of twelve interactive PowerPoint programs especially for children with autism and based on a touchscreen computer system. Educational posters have also been completed for School for the Deaf No. 2.

The CSEF needs at least £1,500 each year for materials, printing costs and equipment to continue this crucial work.

## We have a new website!

The CSEF's old website, our first and only one, was starting to show its age and needed a comprehensive makeover! It was one of those jobs that we kept saying we must do, but there were always more pressing matters to attend to.

Fortunately, Vernon Benjafield came to our rescue. Vernon describes himself as a 'History & Politics graduate, works in telecoms, builds web sites for charities and small businesses, Rotarian, Oxfam Volunteer & Amnesty International supporter'. In no time at all Vernon expertly created a more modern version for us. Please have a look at our new site at [www.csef.co.uk](http://www.csef.co.uk). We thank Vernon for his kind support.

## Please help us continue our work

We need your continued support to help the Romanian children. Please make any cheques payable to CSEF and send to: Dr. David R. White, CSEF, 24 Cherry Walk, HAYES, Bromley, Kent, BR2 7LT.

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