

# ROAD news

January 2011

Issue 11



## WAREHOUSE MOVE :

SEE PAGE 2 FOR FULL DETAILS

Happy  
New Year!





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



After a long stay at the Tentercroft Street warehouse, we have relocated to the old Auto Windscreens centre on the corner of St. Rumbolds Street and Friars Lane in Lincoln.

The new address is:  
**1-3 Friars Lane,  
Lincoln, LN2 5AL**



## Diary Dates

### Members Meeting 7.30pm

23rd Feb 2011

9th May 2011

13th July 2011 (AGM)

### Trustees Meeting

2nd Feb 2011

18th April 2011

14th June 2011

### Warehouse Open

10am - noon

5th Feb 2011

5th March 2011

2nd April 2011

7th May 2011

4th June 2011

2nd July 2011

*PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO MEETING DATES*

*& NO MEETING IN JANUARY 2011*





**Trustees and members of ROAD are absolutely delighted that Lincoln based Optometrist Harold (Mike) Barnaby, (78) has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to visually impaired people in Lincolnshire and overseas in Romania and India.**

On hearing that he was to be awarded the MBE Mike Barnaby, who has been an optometrist for 55 years, said: "When the letter came I struggled to accept it was actually for me. I was quite shocked. People here take glasses and things like that for granted. Going to Romania is like stepping back in time. I spend a lot of my time in the very poorest villages. Helping people to be able to see what is in front of them again is really very rewarding."

It has been our privilege to work in partnership alongside Mike for a number of years and witness first hand the joy of very poor Romanian children, adults and pensioners undergoing eye tests and being provided free of charge with glasses by Mike enabling them to see or read properly for the first time in many years.

Opening a persons eyes not only enables them to see clearly, it opens opportunities for employment and enables some people to provide for their families when before they could not do so. Eye tests and glasses are available in Romania, but are beyond the means of the poorest people .

Over the years literally thousands of pairs of glasses have been donated to ROAD by people from Lincolnshire . Before being transported to Romania (or India where Mike also does similar voluntary work), Mike Barnaby painstakingly and meticulously categorises them according to their lens strength and type, so they can be accurately prescribed and matched to people according to their need. Mike used to be assisted in this very time consuming task by his lovely wife Josie, who sadly passed away a couple of years ago, the MBE in a way belongs to both of them.



Mike doing an eye test in Crasna

Warmest congratulations Mike. Your MBE is very well deserved and is a fitting tribute to the commitment and kindness of a very special, caring and generous gentleman who we are privileged to call our friend.



# CHRISTMAS TRIP



How the year flies by so quickly and so on Friday December 3rd a group of 9 headed to Romania for this year's Christmas Trip with 4 of the group never having been to Romania before.

The weather in the UK had been the worst for many years and we were praying that the airport at Luton remained open! The decision was made to leave in the early

hours of Friday 3rd and take a steady drive in the snow and ice. Fortunately all went well and they arrived in Cluj to a 'balmy' 8 degrees!

Due to Romania being 2 hours ahead of the UK Friday allowed enough time to deliver everyone to their accommodation and get a good night's sleep as it would be early morning's for the rest of the week. Saturday saw us leave Zalau at 8am to visit our friends Sarah and Ramiz of Romanian Relief at Tinca in the neighbouring county of Bihor. A good 2 hour drive on the usual pot holed roads saw Kevin dropped off in Oradea for a business meeting with Sarah and Ramiz with the rest of the group going to Tinca. A day was spent with the children in the Safe Houses, visiting the clinic and spending time in the large Roma village, which gave a good insight into the great work they do in the Tinca area.

Sunday began as a 'day of rest' with everyone attending the morning meeting at Grace church then enjoying lunch with Pastor Joldes. The rest of the day and early evening was spent at the warehouse with Nely and Ioan sorting out all of the Christmas presents into age groups and then organising them for school visits.

Monday to Thursday mornings were the four days spent in schools. This involved being ready to leave by 8am, loading at the warehouse and then heading off to the schools. Over the course of the four days we were able to go to schools in Ortelec, Moigrad, Brebi, Brusturi, Lupoiaia, Borza,

Chichisa,  
Stirciu, Cam-

pia Salaj, Salajeni and Cosei. It was still great to see the excited faces of the children as they received their gifts. Joshua took on the mantle of dressing in the Father Christmas outfit and did this so well it became his job for the week!



Although the schools finish at lunch time our days were still full. On Monday afternoon we visited the Pasi Spre Viitor centre where the young adults had prepared a Concert for us. We were able to give each resident their



Christmas gift and hear how well the young people are doing in training and employment.



Tuesday afternoon was spent at the C.I.T.O - day centre, visiting our friend Rodica and giving the group chance to purchase candles etc. made by the disabled people who work at the centre. We went on to meet Dorica and Tibi Dan at the APWR centre before Tibi showed us around the construction site of new national centre that has been funded by a grant from Norway. In the evening we had the pleasure of sharing a meal and spending time with our good friends Pastor Ioan and Otilia Cuipe.



Wednesday was a packed day with us visiting the old and disabled people at Crasna on the way to Stirciu school before spending the rest of

the day around Stirciu taking parcels and clothing to many poor families.



After spending a final morning in schools on Thursday we were once again able to take out family parcels and see first-hand some of the difficult conditions in which some people have to live. Romania is a country of such great contrast in terms of those who have much and those who have very little.



This just left enough time on Thursday evening to get packed ready to leave early on Friday Dec 10th for our return to the UK. A busy but productive trip, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Kevin Smith



## FACT FINDING TRIP - October 2010

In October 2010, 4 ROAD Trustees travelled to Romania for a fact finding trip looking at 4 possible projects for ROAD to get involved with.

The group visited the projects as planned and had meetings with the appropriate contacts.



On returning to the UK, the trustees met and decided that more information and investigation was needed. The trustees are aware of the varying issues and needs; therefore want to be sure that resources are used wisely before committing to anything long term.





## Future Fundraising Event

We are hoping to host a sponsored cycle ride at Rutland Water in May 2011.

If you are interested in participating, contact Paul on 07786 551920



During the run up to Christmas, a number of Chocolate Parties were held in Lincoln and Newark.

£ 65 was raised for ROAD.

Thanks to all the hosts and the people who purchased Chocolates.

Easter Eggs and gifts will be available soon!

Contact Paul for more details: 07786 551920



## Carol Evening At Gelston Grange

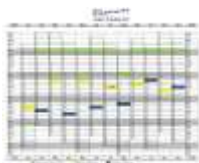


On Saturday 4th December 2010, a Carol Evening was hosted by Janet Sharman at Gelston Grange near Grantham.



Guests enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine. Janet had produced many items that were available to buy. This included some beautiful Christmas arrangements. The event raised £150 for ROAD.

## 2011 Planner Now Available



Download from website or request one from the address below.

*If you would like to support ROAD by becoming a member, please send £5 with your name & address to:*

*Kevin Smith, at the address below*

*This money helps towards day to day administration costs, newsletters and postage etc.*

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