



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## Newsletter 007 – June 2005.

Greetings to you all – another three months has passed – and we should be looking forward to a long hot lazy summer. The reality is that it is overcast and cool and the weeds and lawns grow at an alarming rate.

The story is quite different in Goa where a couple of days ago Trish was reporting - Very hot, bordering on the unmanageable not cooling down at night and the newspapers reporting that the rains were not expected for three weeks.

Project updates:

1. Christobelle. Trish & Graham continue to visit taking with them limited supplies to assist the family. Peter has a painting job for three months so they should have money to keep them going. Although Christobelle remains cheerful there are signs that she continues to lose weight and that her health is deteriorating.
2. Starting Point School. The children will be returning to school this week following their months holiday and the three children (Biyama, Karishma & Malik) should be starting at the local government school. I am sure you will wish them well and we will keep you posted on their progress.
3. New Horizons. Again the children will be returning from their month's holiday but to a 'new look' school. During the break work has been going on to decorate the school and to install new furniture so that the children will not have to sit on the floor during lessons. Repairs to the roof have also been necessary.
4. Candolim Boys Home. Here again work has been going on during the last few weeks to improve the kitchen. The tiles have been fixed and the whole kitchen painted which should make a vast improvement on the health and hygiene state.
5. Care Home / Hospice. Hazel returned to the UK on 18<sup>th</sup> May and tells me the children are as well as can be expected. A few weeks ago the seven older children were treated to a train journey (on the Konkan railway) to Margao where they were given lunch before returning by train to Tivim. All but one of them had never been on a train before and Hazel says they had a great time with some of them being a little apprehensive when going through the two long tunnels en-route. The big event has been the move of the children and staff to new premises where they have more room, a brighter cleaner environment and above all a big 'garden' where they can play in safety. It is hoped that they will remain here until we are able to fulfil the dream to build a purpose built hospital and clinic in three years time.

I am often being asked for details of the children's backgrounds and have decided to include a child's profile in each of the next few newsletters. We will start with 'Keith' one

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of the babies who was found by police last June in a ditch. He must have only just been born, as the afterbirth was present. He was taken to a children's home where he stayed for a few months before he was diagnosed with HIV. It was not possible for him to remain at the home for fear of the other children becoming infected so he was transferred to Tivim. Unfortunately he appears to have received a head injury, possibly when thrown into the ditch, and may be brain damaged. He is now receiving the best that can be afforded for both his medical and nutritional needs and as much tender loving care as time allows bearing in mind there are thirteen children to be looked after.

6. We continue to assist in other smaller projects such as providing finance to assist a little boy who is undergoing treatment for cancer and to monitor other cases of children with severe disabilities who we may be able to help in the near future.

Volunteers/ Supporters Graham & Trish have taken on a project with another charity, which means that they will be staying in Goa full time. We are grateful to them for continuing to work with us and wish them well at Shallom House.

Welcome to Alan Hickman who has joined us and helps regularly with presentations, sales, street collections etc.

I would also like to thank Ann Varah for taking a wheelchair to Goa for us, to Pat & John Pemberton for their continued enthusiasm and support and to all of you – too many to mention individually – for your fundraising and support.

Web-site. I hope that by the time you receive this the new web site will be up and running thanks to Mark & Maria.

Tsunami. We are still to raising funds prior to our visit to Sri Lanka later this year to help those affected by the events of December 26<sup>th</sup> last year. I am sad to say that despite all the money raised in this country let alone the rest of the world very little appears to have found its way to those who need it. Whole communities are still desperate, without homes and sleeping in the open air. Furthermore they are not receiving adequate food or clothing and the monsoon rains are due. I receive regular updates from Sri Lanka and get the impression that the people there feel the world has forgotten them. We will be taking whatever money we can raise with us and promise to spend it on the people who need it most. Needless to say we will be pleased to receive donations for this one off visit that we are planning for October.

Fundraising. There is so much good we can do but we are governed by the income we receive. Regrettably the money received from the sale of 'Anjuna' goods, our Bouncy Castle and Candy Floss machine, boot sales and presentations is no where near enough so I once again appeal to you all to help us in whatever way you can. I know a number of you have plant sales, jumble sales, garden parties etc planed for the coming months and if you need brochures or photographs to display please let me know.

Many of you will be booking your next trip to Goa, please let me know in good time of your flight arrangements if you are willing and able to take a suitcase of clothing out and return with 'Anjuna' goods for us to sell.

Wishing you all a very enjoyable summer.

Clive Baker.