



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 009 – December 2005.

What a difference three months can make – in the last newsletter I reported the England cricketers were completing a test series win over Australia – last week they lost the test series in Pakistan. Then the weather was still warm and sunny here in Devon whereas today we have severe gales, major flooding and the sea is breaching the sea defence walls!

It is nearly Christmas and no doubt you are all, like Pat & I, trying to get to grips with the shopping and the arrangements that need to be made. For us this is a family time and we are fortunate that the girls live locally and are happy to spend Christmas with us: we enjoy having them and they like being waited on!

It is also a time when we should remember those less fortunate than ourselves and the children of Novi Survat and their families will be in our thoughts. Although most of them are Hindu, Muslim or Buddhist they enjoy the festivities and have Christmas parties, sing carols, receive presents and understand what Christmas means to us.

Project news:

Christobelle. Now that Mel is back in Goa Christobelle and her family receive regular (almost daily) visits and supplies of essential food items. Regrettably Christobelle continues to get weaker but still remains cheerful and enjoys Mel's company.

Starting Point. Good progress continues to be made and I am told that eight children have succeeded in passing the examinations to enter the state schools. As I receive these childrens details I will circulate them to those of you who have expressed a desire to participate in our Educational Sponsorship Scheme. We are hoping to turn the outside wasteland into a playground in the near future and quotations for the work are being obtained. The three children who graduated from Starting Point and who now attend St. Teresa's have made great progress. They are in a class of 60 pupils and at the end of term examinations claimed 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> places. It just goes to prove that these children appreciate the opportunity they are given and are prepared to work hard and take full advantage of their education. Jean, Bob & Eileen who sponsor these children can be very proud and will receive copies of their reports shortly together with photos of them in their school uniform.

New Horizons. The decorating of the first classroom and the building of the furniture has been completed. Hopefully we will be able to bring this school up to the standard of Starting Point. I understand three of the seventeen children have passed the state school entrance examination. I am awaiting details and photographs of these children.

Candolim Boys Home. Unfortunately Charlotte was taken ill two days before she was due to fly to Goa and was unable to take the football kits as planned. We hope Charlotte that you are now fully recovered and maybe planning to visit in the near future. If not I will be delighted to take the kits in February. In the meantime Graham visits regularly and reports that all is well.

**Registered Charity Number: 1100768**

Care Home / Hospice. Hazel informs me that the children are really enjoying life in their new premises but as to be expected they have good and bad days. Their lives have been enriched by the visits of those of you who have already been to Goa this year and I hear they particularly enjoyed the visits by Paul Scott and friends and Paul & Alex. The older boys in particular really enjoy the chance to talk and play with adult males as they only have adult females looking after them and sometimes need a 'father figure'. Paul & Alex are returning in January for three months.

In the last issue I mentioned that Avishkar's last medical confirmed that he was clear of the HIV virus and would be placed for adoption. We now learn that Selwyn (now 18 months) old has also tested negative and will be placed for adoption.

Community Projects. Sally has spent a lot of time with a little girl called Rocheen whose family are very poor and who was thought to be profoundly deaf and possibly mentally retarded. Following many hours attending the GMC hospital for tests and a CT scan it transpires that Rocheen has limited hearing in one ear but has no mental impediment. It is hoped that she will be fitted with a hearing aid very shortly which should make a great difference and then maybe we can arrange for her to attend a special needs school.

Sally is also involved with a number of other community projects, which she tells me are not leaving her much time for socialising! I suspect that's a load of Honeybee & Kashmiri!!!

Volunteers. In addition to Graham, Trish, Hazel, Sally, Mel and Ann we are fortunate this year in having a number of volunteers for whom this will be their first time with Novi Survat and who will be staying long term. Best wishes to Paul, Alex, Annie, and Jo who are all intending to spend between three and six months in Goa in the New Year. I am sure you will thoroughly enjoy the experience and I look forward to seeing you all in February.

Fundraising. We are fortunate to have so many of you raising funds for us in so many varied ways that as usual I only have space to mention a few. Thank you Bill & Janet for organising the Supper Concert raising £1000, Paul & Jean for the auction, Sue & Wendy for the annual Potteries trip, Sheila & Phil Scott with their 'Buy a Smile' cards, the Exmouth Brownies with their Carol Singing, Carol & Eileen who organised another Treasure Hunt and those who have braved all weathers to help with street collections.

Thanks to everyone for your support without which we could not function.

Getting around in Goa. Because of the high cost of using taxis and the need for transporting goods and people to and fro we have this year hired a 'taxi' and driver for the season. We are sure that this will work out cheaper in the long run but to help offset our costs we are asking those of you going to Goa to consider 'hiring' our transport whenever possible. This may be to take you to and from the airport, to the markets or anywhere else you wish to go. The driver (Sandeep) speaks very good English and can be contacted via Sally on her mobile number (0091) 989 054 6319.

Sri Lanka – Tsunami. Thank you to all of you who donated money making it possible for Pat & I to do our bit to help those affected by the tsunami whilst we were 'on holiday' in Sri Lanka. There was so much to be done that Pat did not get anytime for sunbathing! Anyone who did not receive our newsletter and would like a copy please let me know.

Although I have tried to be brief I am fast running out of space so take this opportunity of thanking you for your many Christmas Cards and to wish you all a VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and a prosperous NEW YEAR.

Pat & Clive.

