



# Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Please accept my apologies for the delay in producing this newsletter. I did not return from Goa until 11<sup>th</sup> March and have been playing 'catch up' ever since. It was wonderful to see so many of you enjoying yourselves there and very many thanks to all who took the trouble to meet us and visit the projects.

## Christobelle.

Sadly Christobelle died on March 4<sup>th</sup>. She was buried at St. Alex's Church Calangute. We consider that this was a happy release but it is tragic to remember that she lived in such terrible conditions for so many years.

## Starting Point.

Following their success at securing places for another six children at St. Teresa's the third classroom will now be opened in June 2006. The new teacher is Monica and there will now be 30 children attending this school.

The younger children had a day out on Coco Beach where they had lunch and went on a boat trip to see the dolphins. The older children were treated to a day out at Bondla Wildlife Park, which included a two-hour coach trip, lunch, visiting the zoo and the play park.

As a result of the many donations received we are now able to install a children's playground with swings, slide, climbing frame, sandpit etc – more on this when it is completed.

## New Horizons.

The second classroom will be opened in June 2006 and a qualified teacher has been engaged to assist Betty as there are now twenty children attending daily. The younger children were treated to a day on Coco Beach the same as Starting Point and the older children joined the trip to Bondla. The school and boundary wall have been painted vastly improving its appearance.

## Damedem.

I am pleased to tell you that five of the babies have been tested negative clearing them of the HIV virus. They will now be placed with an adoption agency at the earliest possible. This means that there will now be five new children arriving and I hope to be able to bring you news of these in the next newsletter. Sister Jessie (who has never been out of India) has been chosen to go to Switzerland (where the Holy Cross Sisters were founded) and then to Rome as part of the orders 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. This is an honour for her and one, which she richly deserves.

## Buy a Cow scheme.

Following my brief outline of this scheme (in conjunction with our Gift Certificates) within two months we had received £600 sufficient to buy & transport two cows to remote villages in Andhra Pradesh. Bill & Janet Heap from Dovetales Charity had money to purchase three and they kindly agreed to take on board the task of overseeing the purchase of another two on our behalf. Photographs of 'our' cows will be sent to donors shortly.

## Educational Sponsors.

Thank you for those who responded to our appeal for sponsors to ensure the continued education of the children who graduate from New Horizons and Starting Point. We will have a total of 12 children receiving a very good standard of education at St. Teresa's school, Candolim in June

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2006. I visited the school and have photographs of the children currently attending in their classrooms, which I will forward asap. The education these children will receive will enable them to find good jobs, which will mean 12 families escaping the poverty they currently live in. This has to be a major success and one to be proud of. If we can continue to educate children at this rate then we are definitely making a difference for future generations.

#### Volunteers.

Sally and Mel have decided to work with another organisation Positive People with whom they have had dealings over the past few months. We are sad to see them go but take this opportunity to thank them both for all they have done and we wish them well for the future.

Hazel is as usual working all hours (starting her day at 5.30 am and finishing at 9.00 pm at the earliest) whilst Annie, Paul, Jo, Alex & Anne have been filling their days at the schools and with the children at Damedem. Thank you all for the hard work you have done and for the difference you have made to those children's lives.

#### Sponsors / well-wishers.

Grateful thanks to all of you who took clothing, books, toys etc out to Goa and who generously donated money so that we could take the children on the Coco Beach & Dolphin trips and to Bondla Wildlife Park. Those who were able to accompany us on these trips will confirm what magic days they were seeing the children so excited and happy.

#### Fundraising.

Christmas saw the launch of the Gift Certificate scheme with certificates sent out in place of presents. This of course can apply to Birthdays, Anniversaries etc and are obtainable for values from £5 and can be used for / towards any of our work in Goa. As our work in Goa expands so must our income. We are very grateful to all of you that hold events throughout the year to raise these funds – please continue to do so as without you our charity and the successes we achieve would not exist. Some of you holiday in Goa and see first hand the results of your fundraising but to those of you who are not able to I hope to have available soon a disc of photographs taken during the last few weeks.

#### Trustees.

Mr Alan Hickman who has for the past 17 months been helping with fundraising will be joining us as a trustee. Both Alan and his wife Ros spent two weeks in Goa recently fact finding prior to making a decision on accepting the task and we wish them a long and happy association with Novi Survat.

#### Future Plans.

Now there are a total of fifty children attending the two schools it is becoming increasingly costly to 'taxi' them to and from school. The monthly transport costs will be in excess of £117, which to this has to be added our volunteers travel costs to and from Damedem that exceeds £78 per month for the season. We are considering employing a 'man & taxi' full time at a cost of approx. £130 per month which will be more practical than purchasing a vehicle and maintaining it ourselves. It will also mean that we will be able to reduce our financial commitments to compensate.

It has been decided to press ahead with our plans to buy / build premises to cater for our projects. One building that we have shown an interest in consists of three floors each of 400 sq mtrs with an option of a fourth floor. This is a building under construction and would be sufficient to school 100 children, accommodate a large clinic and provide offices, storage, kitchen and utility space. The asking price is £95,000 and a further £15,000 (approx) would be needed to complete it to our specification. Other options are also being considered.

Regards to you all - from all at Novi Survat.