



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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The delay in producing this newsletter is because I only returned from Goa on March 4th where I had the pleasure of being accompanied by not only our volunteers but also Alan (one of the Trustees) and Roz, his wife who does so much behind the scenes for us and who spent a lot of time accompanying me on shopping trips – a task I am not too fond of! Thank you Roz. I managed to take a day off and together with some local friends went to the One Day Cricket International between India & Sri Lanka – suffice to say it was an experience!!

Volunteers

Hazel – as usual working from about 5.30 am until 9.30 pm in Damadem. She is also attending two, fortnightly courses in Bangalore where she is learning more about the treatment of HIV and also learning counselling skills. As the children get older they will have to be counselled so that they understand their illness and be able to cope with the consequences.

Jo – Has been the backbone of Novi Survat in Goa and has done a fantastic job. Furthermore she appears to be enjoying it, which is borne out by the humorous dialogue of her emails. Thank you Jo from not only Novi Survat but also from the visitors who have spoken highly of you.

Paul & Alex – Were out in Goa for a few weeks before Christmas and have now returned for a few weeks. They will be spending time round all of the projects but are also looking forward to celebrating Paul's 50th Birthday with a (wild?) Party based in the beach shacks of Ashvem. Have a fantastic time – go easy on the Honey Bee!

Thankfully Ann (who no doubt will spend most of her month at New Horizons) is also there and will no doubt be able to keep a 'motherly' eye on them!!

Sponsors.

It was a pleasure to meet so many of you (some for the first time), thank you to all who took the trouble to visit our projects and to those who took clothes out for the children and brought back craft items for us to sell in the UK. This unfortunately still leaves a number of you who do not have the pleasure of seeing the children and how they benefit from your generosity but for those who have broadband facilities there are photographs available – just ask and I will send you a selection.

Like any 'household' we depend on a regular income and I would like to thank all of you who make regular monthly donations by standing order for continuing to support us. Some of you make donations for specific reasons such as educational sponsorships whereas others leave us to decide how and when we spend your donations.

I would like to reassure all of you that every penny donated does go to help the children and none is used for administration.

Our largest administrative expense has, in the past, been the inspection of our accounts for submission to the Charities Commission which last year cost £411.25. However a member of the Exmouth Raleigh Rotary Club has this year carried out the task without charge for which we are very grateful.

In addition we are fortunate to receive 'one-off' donations of monies raised by many people – here are just a few acknowledgements with some of the methods used with apologies to all of you who are not mentioned but I hope you realise all donations are very gratefully received and space prevents listing everyone.

Paul & Jean Corbett who hold an annual BBQ at their home on the Isle of Wight.

Ann Varah who received £400 in lieu of presents and cards for her 70th Birthday.

Our Christmas Draw which raised £385.

Tinah & John Reeve & Friends (Donation made whilst on visit to Goa).

Sue & Dave Williams & Family.

Sylvia Hillier

Richard & Wendy Robinson

Helen & Gary Lynch.

John & Pat Pemberton.

Pat & Tony Melton.

Bob & Jean Morris.

Sue Loose – Potteries trip £425

Carol Prior for donating a wheelchair, which was presented to Dr Mina at the GMC hospital.

Carol Draper (a holiday maker) who kindly bought ice creams for all the children who went to Coco Beach.

Remember if you would like laminated photographs and brochures to help you raise awareness and hopefully donations to further our work just let me know.

Projects.

New Horizons

Now fully up and running and equipped thanks to Paul & Jean Corbett of the Isle of Wight who supplied all items required (including a cover for the well which measured five metres across which had to be specially made) during their visit in January from the proceeds of their 2006 summer Bar-B-Que. Everyone who has visited has been pleased with the new premises which we have on an eleven month renewable three year lease. During the next few weeks we hope to increase the number of children attending to 20/25.

Starting Point.

Eight children will be going up to St. Teresa's school in June with the possibility of a further four if their parents can produce birth certificates in time for the last date for registration. This means that we have three (maybe seven) children awaiting educational sponsors at a cost of £8 per month (£96 per year) so please spread the word amongst your friends and family and help us to find sponsors in time for the start of the June term.

We had a fantastic day out on Coco Beach, which included a boat trip to see the dolphins, a lovely meal at a beach shack, fun and games in the sea and ice creams to end the day. Thanks to all who came with us to supervise and entertain the children especially Pat & John Pemberton and Pat & Tony Melton who every year give up valuable 'holiday' time and money to ensure the children have a day to remember.

Damadem.

The children who are on the 'anti-viral drugs' are still responding well. There are currently 10 boys and three girls living here who together with the sisters and staff enjoyed a lovely day out at a park in Panjim where they played in the sea and had a lovely picnic. Thank you to Bill &

Janet for organising the funding for this event. Unfortunately, due to government regulations that forbid the taking of photographs of HIV victims, no photos are available.

Due to additional donations we are able to ensure that the children are receiving more nutritious food such as fish and fruit on a regular basis. A visit to a cinema in Panjim is also being planned for the children – a rare treat!

Candolim Boys Home.

Graham continues to keep in contact with the boys home but we will only get involved if there is a particular problem except to provide the boys with recreational equipment such as cricket bats & balls, footballs etc.

Community Projects.

An ex pupil and teacher from Little Flower school alerted us to the plight of a fourteen year old girl who is attending the High School but whose father died seven months ago from diabetes. Her mother has two 'maids' jobs netting her Rs 1100 per month and the rent on their 'house' is Rs 1000. The girl is a very capable student who would have to leave school due to lack of funding (education is not free in India). We have agreed to fund her education and would be delighted if she gets to university and ultimately achieves her ambition to become a doctor.

Paul and Alex are helping with two mentally handicapped men – Peter aged 31 (with a mental age of perhaps 10) and Agnelo 27 (with a mental age of approx 3). They visit the family, entertain Peter & Agnelo and offer respite care thus allowing the parents to go shopping or visit friends and neighbours.

We visited a small school in the far north of Goa, which was a revelation to us all. We had to leave the car and walk through the 'forest' paths until we came to this rough stone building measuring approximately 12 ft x 24 ft with a door a roof but no windows and no electricity. Inside were thirty children being taught by a local lady. She had no blackboard, the slates the children had were so worn out the chalk did not show, there are no desks and the only chairs were those the children brought daily from home. We assessed their needs and are currently awaiting estimates from a local carpenter to make tables, benches and a blackboard. In addition we will provide cooking facilities so that the children can have a meal each day and books and pencils to replace the worn out slate boards.

Graham & Tricia are responsible for the running of a girl's home in Cansa where, due to poor drainage, the rear garden is covered in stagnant water that is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and attracts cobra snakes. Both of these pose a serious threat to the children and Sue & Pete Loose who raised £425.00 running a coach party to the potteries have kindly agreed that we can spend this money on improvements to the drainage which will not only make it safe for the children but will give them an area where they can play.

There has been so much activity that this newsletter has run into three pages, fortunately not everyone can receive photos via email or it would be many more! However if anyone receiving this by post now has email please let me know your email address as this reduces our workload and eliminates costs.

Best wishes to you all.

Clive.