



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter No. 15 June 2007.

It's Monday 4th June and I am pleased to report that it is a lovely hot sunny day here in Devon – hopefully you are all experiencing similar conditions. Goa, however, is preparing for the monsoons and the 'pre-monsoon' rains have already started. Today is also the day when the schools return after their six-week break and when eleven children from our schools will be starting at the government schools. No doubt it will be a traumatic day for them but I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success and with hard work a bright new future.

Project reports:

Damedem.

Some of the children and some of the staff became ill with chicken pox but I am happy to tell you that they have all now recovered. Unfortunately with the onset of the monsoon season a number of them are suffering from heavy colds, which can make them very sick. This is more pronounced the older they get and the more their virus develops. To make life more bearable for these children we have just built a sick / isolation bay where they can be nursed in peace and quiet away from the other thirteen boys and girls.

Two weeks ago little Laxmi fell down the steps and broke her leg so she has been slowed down with a plaster cast. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Sisters in Holy Orders are regularly moved around to fulfil the Churches commitment to the poor and needy and Sister Flora has now moved on to a school in South Goa. We wish her well in her new position and look forward to hearing from her regularly.

Starting Point.

Today should see the start of new children to replace those who have graduated to the state schools. Life in the slums will not have taught them to use a chair, desk or anything connected to school. They often take weeks to adjust, especially to using 'western style' toilets – many are frightened to sit on the loo seat for fear that they will fall down the hole and never be seen again!!! They will no doubt welcome the two course meal they will receive each day but often frown at being wormed each week and being subjected to treatment for head lice.

At last a company has been found who can supply playground equipment so hopefully soon the children will have a slide, seesaw, trampoline, push along car and swing. It is India so it may take some time to get them installed but as soon as possible I will send photos to those of you who have donated towards the playground.

We will also need to repaint the school once the monsoon has finished.

Candolim Boys Home.

Nothing much to report except that Graham will continue to keep in contact and suggest help when necessary.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768

New Horizons.

The start of the new school term should see more children at this school – it is hoped to increase the numbers to 15 / 20 this year.

The cook / cleaner left at the end of last term so Betty will have to cope with training a new maid as well as teaching the children – a task she excels in.

I am still waiting to hear that the new gate and pathway has been installed, or will it be one of Jo / Anne's first tasks when they return later this year? No prizes for guessing correctly!

Anganwadi School.

I am delighted to confirm that due to the hard work of Paul & Alex the school now boasts desks, benches, blackboard, new slates and cooking facilities.

There were desks and benches spare and these were donated to 'Cressie' a young disabled lady who makes her living giving extra curriculum lessons and helping others with their homework.

Apika Sawant.

I am please to report that Apika passed her 9th standard examinations and will now progress to the 10th and hopefully 11th & 12th standards and maybe university. Thank you to Kath & Gareth for sponsoring her.

Volunteers.

Jo, Anne, Paul & Alex are all now back in the UK and working hard to save enough money to return to Goa. Hazel returned for two weeks in April just so that she could satisfy the Indian regulations and receive an exit & entry stamp in her passport. Her time in the UK was not wasted – she helped me with talks and sales for which I am very grateful.

Fundraising.

Thank you to all of you who regularly donate by way of standing orders which are the backbone of the charity & those who carry out fundraising events – sampled below:

Roger my barber who donates the cost of my haircuts!

Eunice who makes and sells 'Topsy Turvy' dolls.

Sue & Wendy who organised another Potteries trip for 40 ladies and 1 gent!

Helen & Gary who donated the proceeds from Helen's 40th birthday – Sorry Helen for quoting your age!!

Ken Pemberton for donating the proceeds from the sale of postcards commemorating the re-launch of a refurbished Hovercraft that is due to go into regular service in North Wales this summer. Anyone interested in Hovercraft should contact Ken via the website www.hovermailcc.co.uk

Newton Abbot Spiritualist Church who organised a Curry Night raising a staggering £2698. Best wishes to Sheila & Phil for their forthcoming wedding anniversary when they will be renewing their vows.

Very many thanks to all of you – without your support none of our work would be possible – have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing / speaking to you all in the not to distant future.

Clive.