



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 016 September 2007.

I am sorry that this newsletter is late but call it a ‘senior moment’ – I mistakenly thought it was due at the end of the month!

Following the appalling weather most of us have had over the last few months we are now experiencing some very fine sunny days, in fact it has not rained for 24 days here in Devon!

India is experiencing heavy monsoons with reports of many trees uprooted, landslides blocking roads, the railway line between Goa and Mumbai closed due to the track being washed away and much flooding in the towns and villages. Coco Beach a popular place for holidaymakers has been devastated but no doubt will be ‘up and running’ in time for the return of the tourists. Life for those living in the slums must be very difficult in these conditions but at least we know that the children attending Starting Point & New Horizons will be getting a hot meal each day.

We do not have any volunteers at present in Goa so information being received is very limited.

Project Reports.

Damedem.

The children have recovered from the round of Chicken Pox but many are now suffering fevers due to the monsoon conditions. There are now 14 children 10 boys and 4 girls. I am pleased to say that Laxmi’s leg has mended and she no longer has a plaster cast.

Hazel phoned the children today (11th September) and they were in the middle of a birthday party for Nikhil & Nidhi. They were enjoying ice creams and a chocolate birthday cake but took time off to talk to her.

Starting Point School.

There are currently 20 children in regular attendance being taught and looked after by the same staff, three teachers a cook and a cleaner.

We have at last found a supplier of playground equipment and hope to be able to take delivery once the monsoons have finished and maybe it will be in-situ before the end of the year!!!!

New Horizons.

At present there are 11 children attending on a regular basis with more expected in the near future. Another of the boys Mubarak has graduated to Little Flower School taking the number of children attending state schools to 22.

Unfortunately the school had to be closed for a number of days because some coconuts fell from a tree and shattered the tiles letting the monsoon rains in. Repairs took over a week as the men needed to carry out the work could not do so in the torrential rain and high winds.

Sponsored Education Scheme.

I am pleased to say that we now have 22 children attending either St. Teresa’s or Little Flower School and all are progressing well. Those of you who sponsor these children can be proud of their achievements. I hope that it will be possible to obtain up to date photographs of all of the children for you once we have volunteers back out in Goa so that you will receive them by Christmas.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768

Day Care Centre.

Progress is being made but in true Indian fashion very slowly. The hold-up is on finding suitable premises in the right area. We have also to set up a Trust to be responsible for the running of the Centre and obtaining the correct legal documentation, registering, setting up bank accounts and organising staff is not something that can be done easily. It is very frustrating to have the finance required, qualified staff waiting to start and knowing that there are many children suffering mental and physical disabilities only to be held up by 'red tape'.

Fundraising.

Grateful thanks to everyone who has been holding functions to raise money for us. There are far too many to list but to mention a few –

Newton Abbot Spiritualist Church who organised an evening of Clairvoyance.

Sheila & Phil Scott who used their 30th Wedding Anniversary as an excuse to raise money – thanks and congratulations.

Paul & Jean Corbett who again organised a BBQ at their home on the Isle of Wight.

Bodmin Spiritualist Church who held a Clairvoyant evening.

The management of the Exmouth Indoor Market who are again letting us have a stall free of charge.

Bob & Jean Morris who have sold 200 raffle tickets on our behalf in the East Devon Community Rotary Draw.

Our own BBQ got off to a 'flying start' – the marquee measuring 27 ft x 9 ft took off like a kite at 6am on the morning of the day it was due to be held but we managed by using the garage and house!

A very special mention of Sheila & Phil Scott who have been responsible for raising in excess of £10,000 for us over the last two years – a wonderful achievement.

Volunteers.

Hazel returned to the UK in August to renew her visa. She was missing the children 48 hrs after arriving but has been kept busy looking after our market stall and helping in the CLIC shop.

Jo, Anne, Paul & Alex have booked their flights out and we will be planning our next years work at our annual volunteers meeting this coming weekend.

Two of the items we will be discussing are the updating of the web site and the format of the Newsletter. Please let us know what you would like to see in the newsletters but note that we are unable to include photographs, as those of you who do not have broadband would have difficulty downloading the emails.

Visa Applications.

The Indian Embassy are no longer accepting visa applications by post. To apply for a visa you should either apply in person to the Embassy or by post via one of the accredited travel agents. A list of these can be found on the Indian Embassy Web site – if you have any problem I can advise you. The travel agents are making a charge of £20 for the service in addition to the cost of the visa, which remains at £30.

Thank you all for your continued support. If you have any questions on any subject concerning the Charity please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards to you all,

Clive.