



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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It's that time again and I have delayed writing this issue whilst awaiting news from Starting Point and the Day Care Centre – which has not yet arrived! Never mind I will be going to see them all in just four weeks time so will have 'first hand' news for the December issue.

Care Home

Hazel returned to Goa in July and as expected was made very welcome by both the children and staff who miss 'aunty' very much whilst she is away.

The children and staff are slowly settling in to their new home. With so much extra space it is taking time to adjust.

There are now 28 children – a new orphan girl aged 7 yrs called Nikhita has arrived and a boy of 9 yrs called Vasant. Three more babies are expected in the near future.

Three of the present babies Akash, Maria & Nikunge have tested negative and will need to be moved from the home to a centre where adoption can be arranged.

15th August was Independence Day which is avidly celebrated with lots of pomp, dancing, parades and of course parties.

Three of the older boys are attending an open school.

Asha is continuing with her training at a local beauty salon where she is learning hairdressing and nail care.

Starting Point.

When I telephoned on 18th August only 13 children were attending school due to the flooding in and around Candolim & Calangute following very heavy monsoon rains but on 20th there were 22 children that had made it to school. Hopefully the monsoon rains will abate and all of the children will be able to attend.

Day Care Centre.

Unfortunately we have had a problem with the monsoon rains penetrating the joint between the original building and the new extension which has meant moving the equipment back into the main building until repairs can be completed but this is unlikely to be before the end of the monsoon season – sometime near the end of September. In the meantime the doctors are having to work in very cramped conditions.

Educational Sponsorship.

Apika has commenced her 5 ½ year M.B.B.S. degree course at the GMC hospital. I am sure her sponsors Kath & Gareth are very proud of her.

I will be visiting all of the sponsored children whilst I am in Goa and obtaining up to date photos for the sponsors.

Fundraising.

A well known local artist Malcolm Horton has kindly donated a signed print of his now famous 'The Rainbow & The Rubicon' painting to be raffled with all proceeds going to our charity. Malcolm has received a number of commissions from stars including John Bonham of Led Zeppelin, Ian Paice (Deep Purple & later Whitesnake, Ozzy Osbourne (Black Sabbath) & George Harrison of the Beatles to name but a few and has painted portraits of Bob Marley and John Lennon.

He was inspired to do the painting of 'The Rainbow & The Rubicon' in 1988 and it went on to be sold as a print by Greenpeace and over a period of about two years raised in the region of £20,000. Examples of Malcolm's work can be seen on his web-site www.malcolmhorton.co.uk including 'The Rainbow & The Rubicon'. Tickets are available now and if this is successful Malcolm has promised to produce an original work for us in the future. Please help us to raise as much money for this as possible – don't delay send for your tickets (at £1 each) today.

Sponsors.

Thank you all for your continued support but in particular I would like to thank Wombwell Inner Wheel for their donation of £200 following a talk on the charity by Ann Varah (thank you Ann), to Sheila Lee and the ladies of the Sidmouth Inner Wheel for all the books & quality bric-a-brac and Annie Reeves for the beautiful porcelain collectors dolls and plates they have donated for sale on our Indoor Market stall.

How different life in India is. This could be titled 'a funny thing happened to me...'

This is taken from a newspaper report dated 11th September 2010 and relates to people living outside Goa who wished to travel by train from Mumbai to Margao, Goa (normally a 13 hour journey) for the Ganesh celebrations.

Realising that the train would be packed passengers started queuing on Diva station 10 hours before the scheduled boarding time. When the train arrived (45 mins late pulling seven carriages with a capacity to hold 2000 people) almost 10,000 people with baggage and children were waiting and some jumped on before it had stopped in the hope of finding seats. However nearly all seats had already been taken by passengers who had boarded earlier at Panvel station. Some passengers found seats but others sat on the luggage racks, on the floors, in the toilets, in the corridors, many on one leg! The train then made a scheduled stop at a halt to take on water and recharge the power generator - for four hours. During this time the lights and fans were turned off to facilitate the recharging and it being a hot monsoon night the train was soon infested with mosquitoes but getting off was not an option. More people boarded the train at this point and scuffles broke out until the train finally set off back to Diva at 4.45 am. But there was more to come for at Diva station there was an estimated further 10,000 people wanting to board. Less than half managed to squeeze in with children being pushed in via the emergency windows & others clambering onto the roof of the carriages. The police had to be called & the train finally got under way taking not 13 hours for the journey but 30 hours! Try to imagine some 17,000 people crammed into mosquito infested carriages designed for 2000 in the heat of the monsoons – one passenger told the reporter "a 13 hour journey was extended to a 30 hour adventure but at least we got seats!"

I don't think I would have described it quite that way!!

I will be in Goa from 14th – 31st October but as usual Pat will be holding the fort for me (as well as looking after the grandchildren two days a week, helping her 87 year old mother, keeping any eye on the market stall etc) – it is a good job she finally decided to retire at the end of July!!

Best wishes,
Clive.