



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 033 December 2011.

Goodness me – it's December already! That means it is time for me to compile yet another newsletter and before you know it, it will be Christmas!

Roger Worth, one of our trustees accompanied me on my visit to Goa in October. The weather was mixed with torrential rain and amazing thunder storms which caused the electrical supply to fail very often. In addition it was very humid and with no electricity for the fans it became quite uncomfortable. The only compensation being the regular supply of ice cold Kingfisher beers and the delicious Indian food from local (not tourist) eateries – a new experience for Roger!

Asro, Damedem HIV home.

We have one new boy named Bicky who aged 11 yrs. Two of the children, Prima and Inoj have left to take up training courses which we hope will result in them finding suitable employment. We had a lovely day out for all of the children from the home plus a further sixteen children and staff from a nearby orphanage. The only person not to go was Sister Jessie who is recuperating after a recent operation. We hope she will soon be back to full health.

One of the main reasons for Roger's visit to Goa was to commence proceedings for a Rotary International matching grant to provide a cover for the water harvester. This is a construction similar to a swimming pool and measures 30 meters x 22 meters x 14 meters in depth. The object is to divert rainwater into this from the building during the monsoons to provide water during the dry season. The problem is that at present it is full to the brim and does not have a cover to prevent one of our (or one of the local) children from falling in and drowning which is a major concern to us. I will let you know how this progresses in a later newsletter.

Whilst we were there we were able to celebrate Diwali with the children. Dozens of candles were lit around the outside of the house and the children enjoyed fireworks. The least said about the attention to health and safety the better!! Instead of a 'Guy Fawkes' they burn an effigy of the devil at about 5 am which in the villages follows a night of dancing and singing with no doubt an occasional beer!

Starting Point.

The school was closed during the two weeks of our visit for Diwali (the festival of light) when many of the children and their families return to their original villages for the celebrations. Monica one of our teachers has left, her mother is ill and she has to look after her. Fortunately we have a replacement - Valie a 24 yr old local girl who seems to be getting along very well with the children and the other staff.

Caroline & Steve are in Tokyo where they have lived for the past 20+ years. The recent problems in Japan have caused a steep decline in their business and are preparing to leave the country with the intention of returning to live in the UK.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

Day Care Centre.

We currently employ five doctors plus a part-time counsellor who administer treatment to the 30 children who are in regular attendance. However two of the doctors will be leaving us shortly to take up posts with the local hospital. Fortunately Dr Smisha will be returning following the birth of her baby and we hope to recruit another in the very near future.

Dr Mina will be working in Malaysia for the next two years so Hazel will be monitoring the Centre in her absence.

Educational Sponsorships

Whilst we were in Goa a Party was organised for all ex Starting Point pupils. The main reason for this was to obtain up to date photos of the children for their sponsors. Forty seven of the fifty four children attended and I hope that Jane will be able to obtain the rest of the photos in time for the sponsors to receive them before Christmas.

Congratulations must go to Apika who passed her first year university examinations and has now commenced her second year of studies. As well as academic lessons Apika spends approximately 30% of her time attending the hospital operating theatre to observe all manner of operations.

Volunteers

Hazel returned to Goa on 17th September and was very pleased and relieved to be back. Although she has no babies to look after at present, due to staff shortages and her regular visits to the Day Care Centre, she is being kept very busy. Thank you Hazel for the long hours you put in seven days a week looking after these children. Your efforts are much appreciated by all of us in the UK and Sister Jessie and her team.

Fundraising / Sponsors & Supporters.

A very big thank you to all of you who continue to support the charity and, at the expense of repeating myself, we could not manage without you. The present financial crisis is having an impact on all of us and I am so grateful that you are all managing to continue your financial support.

To Carol Buckler – for making Christmas parcels for us to sell using sea shells / lavender and all manner of things. Happy Birthday for next Tuesday.

To Ann Brogan and Steph Denver who have organised a ‘Ladies Night Out’ to take place on December 6th and the many businesses/ individuals who have donated items for the raffle and the auction. More about this in the next newsletter.

To Exmouth Raleigh Rotary Club for sponsoring the mosquito widow guards for the children’s dormitories at the Damedem HIV Home.

To Bristol Aztec Rotary (where Roger is international chair) who are in the process of organising the Rotary International Matching Grant to facilitate the safety cover for the water harvester.

To Exmouth Community College students / Exmouth Raleigh Rotary for the fantastic Charity Concert held on 22nd November – we are one of the charities who will be benefiting from the proceeds of the event.

To Michelle and Tracy who looked after our stall in the Exmouth Indoor Market whilst I was in Goa and when I am unable to be there.

To Pat & John Pemberton who again have excelled in raising sufficient money to pay for the repainting of the school, the roof repairs and next years supply of vitamins and calcium for the children.

On behalf of the Children and Trustees I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas with best wishes for 2012.