



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 034 March 2012.

Welcome to yet another edition of the newsletter which means I am another 3 months older! Since the last one we have seen a new year emerge and enjoyed a visit to Goa and are pleased to confirm that the projects are going as well as can be expected with few minor problems. The airfare to India has rocketed from £400 two years ago to the present price of £795 for a return trip making it doubtful if I will be able to afford to go twice a year. Thankfully we have some excellent staff running the projects and communication has improved so apart from me not seeing the children little else should matter.

Asro Damedem Care Home.

A new girl Yogita aged 5 yrs joined in December 2011 and has settled in well with the other children.

Seby and Ajay are attending a local school studying for their 10th Std (school leaving certificate) which if they are successful will mean they have a good chance of obtaining paid work.

Arbind passed his 10th Std and is now training as a mechanic in addition to learning basic accountancy with a local air conditioning company.

Thomas who would not pass the 10th std is being employed at the care home helping the maintenance man and doing other odd jobs that are within his capabilities.

The matching grant that I hoped would be financed through Rotary International to pay for the Water Harvester Cover failed to materialise due to the non cooperation of Mapusa Rotary.

However we decided that it was imperative that this be installed and decided to finance the project ourselves. Since then we have received and expect to receive sufficient donations to cover the full cost of £5000.

Starting Point School.

Although the number of children in regular attendance has been below normal it is pleasing to note that there will be eight children who be graduating to St. Teresa's or Little Flower schools.

Hopefully the number will rise to the usual 30 in June when the new intake takes place.

In January we took the children to Morjim beach, a very safe beach where they can paddle and play to their hearts content. There they had lunch at a local 'shack' and then went out on a boat trip. Thank you to the helpers who came along to help supervise the children.

Over the last ten years the school has proved to be very successful and I think we should recognise that this is due to the fantastic work done by Jane in particular but is also due to the hard work and dedication by all of the staff. Jane not only has the responsibility of running the school but coordinates the sponsored children with their respective schools. She has to control the payment of the school fees as well as ensuring that the children have new uniforms, books and equipment each year and make sure that the children are attending regularly. She also has to manage tuition for those children whose parents are unable to help with homework. In addition Jane distributes clothing to those in the slums that are in need, selects the new intake each year as well as buying

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and posting goods to me for the market stall. We must also remember that Jane is also a wife and mother.

A very big THANK YOU to all of the staff at Starting Point.

Day Care Centre.

We still have thirty two children in regular attendance and thankfully we once again have a full complement of staff. We are unable to increase the number of children due to the size of the premises and the cost of renting new or additional premises. The children were treated to a knitted teddy bear each courtesy of Pat Pemberton & friends who had spent many hours making them.

Educational Sponsorships.

Unfortunately there were seven children who did not return to Goa from their villages in Karnataka following the Diwali and New Year holidays. This has resulted in them forfeiting their places at St. Teresa's and Little Flower Schools. Their sponsors have been informed and have been offered replacements.

Twelve of the children who are sponsored, having graduated from Starting Point, have joined the Scouts / Guides as part of their after school activities.

We will now have fifty-five children attending formal schooling plus Apika who is in her second year at university. In twelve months time some of the children who started at Starting Point at the age of 3 -4 years will be due to leave school so it will be an interesting time to see if any of them are able to go on to further education or what employment they will take up.

Sponsors / Supporters.

I am sure you will all be pleased to know that Jim Brennan is out of hospital and is now learning to walk again. He tells me he has given up the wheelchair and is managing to get along on his frame / crutches. As you can imagine he is getting quite impatient and has set himself the target of being fit enough to go to Goa next November.

As usual there are many of you who engage in some form of fundraising and I will mention as many as space will allow.

Many thanks to Pat & John, Paul & Jean, Roger & Julia who did so much for the children whilst they were in Goa as well as the many items bought by them and for bringing back goods that we sell on our market stall.

To Aileen who gave Pat & John money to take to Goa for the purpose of buying all the children at Starting Point new 'flip flop' sandals.

Mrs Stark, Michelle & Sally for knitting baby clothes and dolls for us to sell on our market stall. Tesco Exmouth for donating Cadbury's Mini Eggs for Jill & Julia to kit Easter Chicks & Rabbits. Sheila & Phil for another cheque following their annual collecting of 5p pieces.

Mrs Charles for her donation following a lunch she provided for friends.

To all who took part in the Bristol Swimathon.

To all who made the Ladies Night held at the RAFA Club in Exmouth such a wonderful success.

To Rita who held a sale at the Budleigh Salterton Ladies Wednesday Group following my presentation in February.

To Michelle & Darren and Lisa & Adrian who we met on the beach at Morjim and who donated money for repairs to the roof and renewal of the coconut protection netting at Starting Point.

To Roger & Julia for spending many hours doing car boot sales, I know that sometimes they can be disheartening but the cash raised by your efforts is serious money.

Thank you John for spending many hours selling hovercraft memorabilia on the Delcampe internet site resulting in sales all over the world and again raising serious money.

Time and space are both running out so a big thank you to everyone who helps with fundraising, sponsoring and supporting – without you we would not exist and the future of so many children would not bear thinking about.

Regards to you all.
Clive.