



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 041 December 2013.

Roger & I are in Goa having flown out on 18th November. Firstly the airline messed up the seating, the flight was not good, the food terrible and to top it all they lost our four cases in Mumbai! We did however get them sent on to Goa later. The next day we went into Calangute and parked the car where we have done so for the past few years only to find that it had been clamped by the police. When we pointed out that there were no 'No Parking' signs we were advised that it had been mentioned in the local paper three months ago!

Day Care Centre.

The work we had done in February seems to have solved the problem with the rats and snakes entering the building. We now have to have the roof waterproofed before the monsoons and have the interior repainted – this has not been done since 2007. We also need to replace some equipment and possibly the minibus before we encounter costly repair bills. Thankfully the minibus part exchange cost should not be more than £2200.

Additionally some of the children need special orthopaedic boots which have to be individually made – in some cases the parents contribute towards the cost of £70.

Dr Megha is currently on maternity leave and we are pleased to welcome Dr Shuiti as her replacement.

The children all seem to be benefitting from attending the centre which is very rewarding.

Starting Point.

Divalbi underwent an operation to remove stones from her gall bladder in in Mid-September. Happily all went well and she is back working with the children.

Roger celebrated his birthday with a very messy chocolate cake with the children – they loved it but I'm not so sure about Roger.

The landlord of the premises has decided to sell the property so we are on the lookout for new premises. Unfortunately we do not have a time scale to work to.

There are currently 35 children registered at school with about 27 in regular attendance.

Educational Sponsorship.

Very rarely do I appeal for financial help through the newsletters but I really need your help in finding sponsors for the 10 children we currently have attending formal school who are being financed by the charity which as you will realise is a drain on the finances needed to keep Starting Point and the Day Care Centre running.

Sponsorship details can be obtained on request and can be for as long as you wish be it for just one year or as many years as you decide. You might like to consider it as a special Christmas present. If you know anyone who might be interested in sponsoring a child's education the cost is £17 per month for sole sponsorship or £9 per month for shared sponsorship.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

Please make your friends and relatives know of this request – if we are unable to find more sponsors we will have to restrict the number of children who can graduate from Starting Point next year, something we have never before had to do.

Novi Survat has costs additional to the general school fees to find e.g. Little Flower school required repairs to the school roof and they finance this by dividing the repair costs by the number of children attending the school. The recent demand was for Rs500 (£5) from each child for the roof repairs.

In addition as the children get older they wish to get involved in extra school activities such as the Guide or Scout movement, sporting events and drama clubs which are not financed by the sponsors.

Roger & I met nearly all of the sponsored children and obtained their photographs which you their sponsors should receive before Christmas. Hopefully we will see the other four before we return to the UK on December 2nd.

ASRO Damedem.

Now that Caritas (the Catholic Charity) have taken over responsibility for the HIV/Aids centre we have limited involvement but still visit to see the children who are all growing up with a number of them having taken up employment. The remainder all attend local schools.

Volunteers.

Hazel returned to Goa on October 16th but had to return to the UK because her sister was taken ill and hospitalised. I am pleased to say that Eileen is now back home and Hazel will be returning to Goa on 6th December – the staff and children at Damedem will be very pleased as they have missed her.

Sponsors / supporters.

Thanks to Rita Wale for her donations following the car boot sales.

To Michelle for knitting the ‘Ready for Bed’ Clown (which we raised money with a ‘Guess my name, competition), the Snoods & scarves which we sell.

Stacey Power completed her London to Brighton cycle ride for charity raising over £600. She started the ride at 8.00am and completed it at 4.20pm – no doubt a little saddle sore!

A BIG BIG thank you to Muriel & John for their very generous donation. They were both due to visit Exmouth on holiday in early November from their home in Chislehurst, Kent. Pat & I were looking forward to meeting them but unfortunately Muriel was taken ill and they had to cancel their trip. We hope Muriel you were well enough to enjoy your rearranged trip in late November.

To Alice who has been donating money she has saved which would have been spent on chocolates!

To Bob whose bottle of 20p pieces totaled over £50.00.

To Ray & Dorothy who gave Roger money to bring to Goa to provide fruit for the children.

To Jill who has been knitting ‘Christmas Puddings’ which will be filled with Ferrero Rocher chocolates & sold to raise funds.

Pat tells me it is very cold and frosty in the UK – well here in India we are also experiencing cooler weather (max 33 deg in the day & min 22 deg at night) so we are not looking forward to returning to winter next week.

From all of the staff and children here in Goa may we wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful 2014 with sincere thanks for all your donations and efforts to raise the funds required to keep the projects here operating. Without your kindness and generosity there would be many children whose future would be very bleak.

Best wishes.

Clive