



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 042 March 2014

Well what terrible weather we had over the Christmas and New Year period. In Devon we were battered by severe gales and torrential rain causing much flooding and disruption to travel almost continuously for six weeks. We were however much better off than those living in the Somerset Levels who had to vacate their homes due to the floods and may not be able to move back for some months. I am fortunate to be back in Goa (where the temperature is averaging 33 degrees), and this is why this newsletter is late off the press.

Starting Point.

The children were treated to a day at the fun park, Panjim courtesy of the staff and students of Braintree College. As usual they had a wonderful day.

The Braintree students also carried out a lot of painting both inside and outside of the school.

Thank you to Farnborough Road School of Stockport who donated a large quantity of T shirts that were taken out to Goa by Pat & John.

The school staff were treated to lunch at Chocolatti (a rather nice but expensive eatery) by Roger & Julia and they are still talking about it!

This year there are seven children who will be graduating from Starting Point so anyone wishing to sponsor a child's education can send for details now.

A point of interest - Prior to the children attending Starting Point School they will be used to having maybe a chapatti for breakfast and rice and dall for dinner. This will be the only food they will have – day in and day out (if they are lucky). When they start school many are reluctant to eat the chicken, fish or fruit saying they have never had this at home and fear to try it. It is difficult to imagine that for three or four years they have never eaten anything but chapatti, rice and dall but it does not take them long to get used to the other foods and today (Wednesday 12th March) when chicken xacuti is on the menu the children are hurrying through their school work and asking if lunch can be given early!

Educational sponsorship scheme.

The students who have left Starting point and attend senior schools were taken to the INOX cinema by Pat & John Pemberton. The film was in Hindi so Pat, John together with Roger & Julia did not go with the children – I do not understand why!- but I am told that they were entertained by the students who danced and sang all the way back on the coach!

So far it looks as if all the students that reach Std 10 in June are capable of and wish to go on to Std 12 (equivalent to A level) and possibly university – wonderful achievements for them all.

I have managed to obtain 43 school reports which will be sent out shortly after my arrival back in the U.K.

Day Care Centre.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

Of the 35 children currently attending there are a few who, it has been determined, we will not be able to help and improve their lives. Although this is very sad it was inevitable that we would not be able to enhance each child's quality of life. These children will leave the centre to make way for others who we hope will respond to treatment. Some of the children are showing remarkable progress and the quality of their lives and those of their families are being improved beyond expectations.

Last Friday 8th March there was much excitement. The outer stable doors had not been closed and in slithered a metre long cobra! A quick phone call to the forestry office brought a snake catcher who collected it and took it off to release it in the forest and away from dwellings.

ASRO Damedem.

The Braintree college students took the children out to the play park in Panjim and again a great day was had by all.

One little boy who is not responding to his medicine has to go to Mumbai to see a specialist. This means a 400 mile 10 hour journey each way by bus, not something to look forward to.

The children all seem to be doing well but it is like bedlam with so many children of differing ages all together.

Each child has been given a rose bush which they are growing in three borders. They have been carefully watering and tending them and at last they all had flowers or buds, that was until the pesky monkeys paid a visit and ate the flowers. Rakesh the handyman is now busy enclosing the plant beds in wire mesh to protect them from further raids!

Sponsors / supporters.

Thank you to Michelle and all from Braintree College for all they once again did for the children and for all their hard work at Starting Point. I understand that they also found time to go out to see the dolphins, visit the spice gardens and have elephant rides.

Thank you to Pat & John for bringing back to the UK approximately 80 kgs of goodies that will be sold in the UK with the money raised all going to the charity & to Roger & Julia for bringing it all down to Devon.

It was good to meet Tim & Janet Cahill when they paid their annual visit to the school to meet their sponsored child Famida.

Volunteers.

In the last newsletter we reported that Hazel had arrived in Goa on October 16th only to return the next day as her sister had been taken ill. Subsequently her sister was well enough to return home so Hazel again arrived at Heathrow on December 6th only to be recalled by her family as her sister had again been hospitalized. Sadly Eileen, who has been an educational sponsor since 2004 died on December 18th 2013 and Hazel returned to Goa in January following Eileen's funeral.

Thank you to Muskaan, an English lady who now resides in Goa who spends many hours helping at Starting Point. She has the advantage of being able to speak Hindi which enables her to converse with and teach the youngest ones English.

I left Goa on Thursday 13th via the new Dabolim Airport Terminal and then via New Mumbai International Terminal. Both are very impressive (at least they will be when they are finished!!) but sadly the organisation has not changed. As those of you who have travelled to Goa will know it is usually chaotic and frustrating and the new terminals have not changed this!

Best wishes to you all and thank you for your continued support.

Clive.