

Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 043 June 2014.

I am happy to say that the weather is much improved since my last newsletter although we are still hoping that we will experience a ‘flaming’ June. It is rumoured that the economic climate is improving after the recession but I regret to say that few retail outlets in this part of the country are feeling the benefits. We hope that we will see a fantastic summer that will bring the crowds to Devon and that many of them will visit our stall in the Exmouth Indoor Market!

Day Care Centre.

The centre ticks along nicely with the doctors managing the day to day running.

The pre monsoon storms have caused problems with the electricity supply which meant the centre had to be closed for three consecutive weekends. (The high temperatures and humidity make it unbearable for the therapists to work with the children without the fans working). However we have arranged for the purchase of an inverter which maintains a supply during power failures and hope this will sort out the problem.

We have taken on one new child Diptesh and hope that with regular therapy the situation can be much improved.

Dr Mina has been back in Goa during this last week but has now returned to Malaysia for her final four months. We look forward to her return full time to Novi Survat.

Starting Point.

There are seven children who will be graduating from Starting Point and commencing formal education at either Little Flower or St. Teresa’s schools in June and we wish them every success. This means Jane will be enrolling at least seven new children in early June to bring the number up to 30. The school reopened after the six week summer break last Tuesday (3rd June) and Roger and I look forward to meeting them all during our next

visit in November.

Thank you Jane for shopping, parcelling and posting goods to me for us to sell on our stall in the Exmouth Market.

We still have a number of children who are awaiting educational sponsors – costing £9 per month for dual sponsorship or £17 per month for sole sponsorship.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

The education system in India differs from ours insomuch that instead of ‘years’ classes are called ‘standard’ because at the end of each school year the pupils have to sit an exam. If they pass and their overall report is satisfactory they advance to the next ‘standard’ if not they remain in their present ‘standard’ until they do pass. Two failures and the child is removed from school. I am happy to say that all of our children have been promoted to the next ‘standard’ this year. This system does mean that classes can involve children of very differing ages and we have one boy who started formal school later than most who is now 20 years old and attending school with 12 year olds!

Apika, the young lady who is in her third year at university has been struck down with a very nasty and serious life threatening complaint called Stevens Johnson Syndrome. She was hospitalised for one month and now has a long period of recuperation before she can continue with her studies. We wish her a speedy recovery.

ASRO/Damedem HIV home.

Hazel returned to the UK on 27th March to deal with the sale of her flat in Exmouth and returned to return to Goa for the last time in May. The children at the home are all growing up and in accordance with the new policies adopted in India we no longer receive HIV infected babies so Hazel has decided that, after twelve years, the time has come to ‘hang up her uniform’ and will leave the Care Home for good in August 2014. More about this in the September newsletter, but Hazel has decided to retire and emigrate to France (near Toulouse) where she will spend her time with a lifelong friend.

For those who know Str Jessie, Hazel was able to go to Karnatika to see her and reports that she is happy in her new post but understandably misses the children of ASRO very much.

This month saw the arrival of another girl, 4yr old Anita whose parents both died recently.

During the past week the pre-monsoon storms have caused havoc and last weekend amid a two day power failure large trees were uprooted and some of the corrugated roofing was blown away. This was a very frightening time for both staff and children.

We have, over the past few years, been reducing our involvement with the home as Caritas has been taking over its running and financing, and although we will still take an interest in the children and affording them treats it will no longer be counted as one of our projects.

Sponsors / supporters.

Thank you Anne for the box of soft toys and for paying the carriage charges. They have all sold!

Thank you to all you lovely people who call in to the Exmouth Indoor Market and bring me your collections of 'pennies' etc – they all add up!.

Thank you to Tesco Stores, Exmouth: Tesco Extra, Bradley Stoke & Costco Wholesale, Avonmouth for their donations of Cadbury Cream Eggs which have been adorned with knitted Easter Chick / Rabbit outfits and sold to raise money. Thank you to Julia, Jill and Michelle for knitting the outfits! Over 300 were sold!

The Rotary Swimathon was held at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre on March the 15th. The Novi Survat Team (Julia, Tracey, Skyy, Caron, Olivier & Jason) swam 93 lengths in 55 minutes raising £320 in sponsor ship 60% for us & 40% to Rotary Charities. Well done to you all –your efforts are very much appreciated.

Volunteers.

At present we only have Hazel currently in Goa but there are a number of young people who are considering going out later this year once their A level exams are completed and their university places secured.

There is just room enough for me to wish you all a very long and happy summer and to again remind you how valuable we regard your support – without which we could not continue to help the destitute children in Goa. I wish you could all visit Goa and see for yourselves the difference your contributions make.

Thank you.

Clive.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

