

Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Summer is on its way out and the children are due to start school very soon here in the UK – where does the time go? Or is it because I am getting older that it seems to race by. Initially Goa did not enjoy the rainfall usually expected at the start of the monsoons but on Saturday Panjim received 228 mm of rain in 24 hours – that is nine inches to those who are still using old measurements and as expected caused many floods. England won the cricket test series against India but lost the One Day series – almost even stevens!

Day Care Centre.

Dr Lorraine was married on 23rd August 2014 and I am sure you will join me in wishing her and her husband a long and happy marriage.

In the past three months we have acquired a new standing frame (which had to be made to order) and an electrical inverter which takes over when the power goes off (which is very often during the monsoon season).

In a recent report I received from one of the doctors she mentioned that two of the children were receiving Botox. The only recollection I had of Botox was as a cosmetic application for the ‘covering up’ of lines, wrinkles etc so I questioned how it helped the children. This is the reply I received:- “In Cerebral Palsy cases Botox is given to paralyze spastic muscles so that we can work towards improving their function. It’s a very difficult process. Giving the injection itself is fairly easy, the difficult part is after that because the child requires to be in a cast for 15 days continuous followed by intensive daily therapy. Fortunately the two children who received this treatment have shown a marked improvement in their overall function”

Three of the babies who have for some time been attending from the Mother Teresa missionary in Panjim are now developing normally and will soon be fit enough not to

require further treatment which is good news and shows how valuable the centre is to these children who have nowhere else to go to receive this treatment.

Starting Point School.

Jane has again been working hard purchasing and sending goods to us to sell in the Exmouth Indoor Market including dresses, kaftans, Russian dolls and Mango Flavoured Chewing Gum and Mango Tic Tac's which come in mini packs containing only ten sweets!

This year seven children graduated from Starting Point and are now attending either Little Flower or St. Teresa's schools. We wish them well and look forward to monitoring their progress over the coming years.

Roger & I look forward to meeting the new children that Jane will have recruited to replace those who have graduated when we visit in November.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

The children who graduated from Starting point will be commencing 'big school' – a daunting prospect for any pupil wherever they live whereas some of the older children will be starting their final year before taking their Year 10 exams (equivalent to 'O' levels). Hopefully they will all do well, and, if they wish to will go on to college and take their 'A' level exams in two years' time. Apika is also commencing her final year at university and will hopefully graduate in June 2015.

Sponsors / supporters.

A very big thank you to John Pemberton who over a two year period offered for sale hovercraft memorabilia on a web site called Delcampe. He raised well over £2500 for Novi Survat and sold to people in the following countries:

France, Taiwan, Spain, Czech Republic, Turkey, Netherlands, Italy, UK, Switzerland, Germany, USA, Norway, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Portugal, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Hong Kong, South Africa, Kuwait, Japan, Mauritius, Australia, New Zealand, India and Malta.

John noted that many of these countries only had a single sale, but it's the scope of internet sales that is surprising.

Thank you to Doreen who has been collecting pennies, two pence, & twenty pence coins for heavens knows how long and has been bringing me five or six bags at a time – the current total is £34.00! Also to Alice and the others who bring bags of small change which all adds up!

Thank you Michelle for knitting another wonderful 'Clown' which we successfully raffled.

To Carol for another box of enhanced mugs and shell collections which go down well with the visitors.

To Asda of Birkenhead for donating a number of teddy bears which Pat & John will take to Goa in January.

To Ron & Pauline for donating the two fantastic lorry models for us to use as raffles etc.

Thanks also to Joy, Olive & Jackie who have donated goodies to Roger & Julia for the car boot sales that they do and for the books for our stall in the Indoor Market.

Volunteers.

As briefly mentioned in the last newsletter Hazel (who returned from India on 29th August) has after twelve years decided to retire and will not be returning to ASRO Goa. Hazel has seen many changes in those years some very good and some not so good. The introduction of the anti-viral drugs has seen the life expectancy of the children increased greatly but sadly when Caritas took over the running of the home and built the current premises the homely atmosphere vanished and instead of a happy loving home it now assumes the mantle of an institution. The children are very well looked after which is the main criteria but everyone I have spoken to who have visited over the last two years shares the opinion is that it now lacks warmth. This may be due to the fact that the children are growing up but I can understand that Hazel now feels that the time is right to call it a day.

I am sure you will join me in thanking Hazel for all she has done over the last twelve years and wish her a long and happy future in her new venture – she is emigrating to a town near Toulouse in France. As a small token of our appreciation for all that she has done we were pleased to present her with a Kindle Fire so that she can enjoy her reading without having to carry books and so that she will be able to keep in touch by email with her friends, the Charity and the children and staff at ASRO.

Regards to you all and thank you for your continued support.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

