

# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## **Newsletter 047 June 2015**

Following a very settled sunny April we are now experiencing showery, breezy cooler weather during May. It is however lovely to see the trees and hedgerows in leaf and blossom on the fruit trees. Everything is growing well but unfortunately that also means the lawns and weeds – although I am assured that weeds are only flowers in the wrong place!

Pat & I managed to get away for five days to Jersey which coincided with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Island from German occupation something the islanders celebrate in a big way. With a 20 minute drive to Exeter Airport and a one hour flight to Jersey it makes a change from the 24 hour journey to Goa!

### Day Care Centre.

Progress is being made to bring the new building up to the standard that we would like to achieve which will include some new and some refurbished equipment. Ramps have been made to facilitate wheelchair/buggy access and the road leading to the building has been improved to allow safer vehicular access.

We are very pleased to welcome back Dr Ashika whose husbands employment has meant they have been in Singapore for the past four years. Her appointment is on a short term basis pending her husband's job location but hopefully will become full time if her husband's position remains in Goa.

Fortunately the move to the new premises, which is only about a mile from the old building, has not hindered the children's treatment and all 30 plus are still able to attend as we transport those who do not have their own transport.

### Starting Point.

Whilst the school has been closed for the summer holidays Jane, accompanied by her husband Xavier and son Eron has been able to spend more time making weekly visits to the slums taking fruit, toys and clothes for the families. At this time of the year life in the slums is unbearable with the humidity soaring prior to the monsoons which usually arrive in the first few days of June resulting in torrential downpours for hours on end lasting until October.

We have three children who will be graduating to formal schools in June who will be requiring sponsors making a total of six children waiting for sponsorship. In addition a further five children will graduate from Starting Point but their parents are in a position to afford to pay their education costs.

Xavier (Jane's husband) has made the long trip to Mumbai where he buys all the satchels, pens, pencils, books etc that the children attending senior schools will need for the coming year. He

***Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)***

catches the bus for a ten hour overnight (uncomfortable) journey; spends two days buying all the goods and then carries it back by bus to Goa as it is much cheaper than buying in Goa.

School will reopen after the six week summer break on June 4<sup>th</sup> and shortly after that Jane will be welcoming the new entrants.

One of the slums where a number of the children attending Starting Point live is called Aradi and for years the 'houses' have been built of wood, plastic sheeting, palm leaves etc with the occupants paying 500Rs per month rent. The owner of the land decided to demolish these 'homes' and build rough 'breeze block' type two roomed places but has increased the rent to 1500Rs per month.

Unfortunately some of the tenants have no way of increasing their income and with the higher cost of food etc. now find themselves in greater financial difficulties and with no social security or state aid their future is very bleak.

### Sponsors / supporters.

Thank you to Sara Worth who, together with her husband already sponsor two children, recently retired as a social work manager and when asked to choose a leaving gift selflessly requested that the money be donated to this charity. Thank you to all at Bath & North East Somerset Council's Fostering Service who raised £255.00.

Thank you to those of you who responded to our plea for educational sponsors – you will give the children an opportunity to make something useful of their lives and escape the poverty of the slums.

To Roger & Julia who, together with friends, have over the past year have raised £2000 holding car boot sales, knitting Easter & Christmas goodies, taking part in a Swimathon etc. A very big thank you to all those involved and who give their time so willingly to raise much needed funds for us.

To Michelle & Rebecca who once again put in more hours in the Exmouth Indoor Market to cover our stall whilst I was in Goa. Michelle also knitted Easter animals and her friends at the Exmouth Ceramic Group donated the Cadbury eggs to go in them.

Also to Tesco who again this year kindly donated Cadbury eggs.

Grateful thanks to Pat & John, Delia & Barry, Anton & Karna and Roger & Julia who all brought back goods from India for us to sell on our market stall and who collectively saved us about £200 in postage costs.

Thank you to Joy Jones for all the beautiful knitted children's wear and to Jill Hutton for the colourful blankets.

Congratulations to Bianca James (Nee Clements) & Rob on the birth of their daughter Eleanor Sylvie. Bianca was one of the students from Braintree College who visited Goa a few years ago (2010 I believe) and has been sponsoring two children ever since.

### Finances.

Thanks to all the regular monthly donors, those that sponsor children and all of you who in some way or another contribute to the charity our financial state remains healthy. We are able to pay for all essential outgoings each year with a little left over to go into the reserve fund which is held to ensure that whatever happens the children at the various schools would be able to complete their education and those attending the Day Care Centre would be able to complete their treatments.

Our full accounts, and all relevant information, can be viewed on the Charity Commission Website ([www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)) and inputting either our name (Novi Survat) or registration number (1100768).

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of our accounts can do so by emailing / telephoning me:  
likewise if anyone has any questions regarding the accounts or the running of the charity I will be  
pleased to answer any questions raised by email / telephone.

On behalf of the trustees may I wish you a very pleasant sun drenched summer and to those of you  
with school age children – you are not allowed to wish them back at school until at least one week  
of the holidays has passed!!

Clive.