



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 050 March 2016.

Once again I would ask you to accept my apologies for the lateness of this newsletter but I only returned from Goa late on Wednesday night (9th March). As usual the time went by so quickly and I would have loved to have been able to spend more time with the children and to have accompanied Jane on her 'outreach' work.

As expected the sun shone from dawn to dusk but the temperature was much higher than normal for this time of the year, and on most days it was in the mid 90's. One has to feel for the migrant workers who build the roads in this heat. Large boulders are delivered to the site which are then broken up into small pieces by a man wielding a sledge hammer. These smaller pieces are then carried in pans on the heads of ladies to where the road is under construction. These smaller pieces are then 'fitted' like crazy paving making the surface as smooth as possible. Later on it will be covered in tarmac.



These photos show large boulders being smashed up by a man wielding a sledge-hammer and then being fitted by hand to form a level area prior to being covered in tarmac. These migrant families who live in squalid conditions are some of the people helped by the 'outreach' work.

Starting Point.

Thank you to all of you who took clothes, books and stationery out for the school. For future reference if you take pens (biros) please ensure they are blue as the children are only allowed to use blue pens in the formal schools. To those of you who took black or red please do not worry, they will not be wasted as Jane exchanges them for blue at local stationers whenever possible. Currently there are about 30 children in regular attendance with ages ranging from 3 ½ to 6 years. The children were treated to a day at the beach by the students from Braintree & Colchester College.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

Educational Sponsorship scheme.

We managed to take forty-three of the Starting Point graduates out on a boat trip from Coco Beach to see the dolphins. For many of them this was the first time they had been on a boat trip and certainly the first time they had seen dolphins. Most thought that dolphin trips were just another way of getting the holidaymakers to part with their cash and did not believe that dolphins actually existed!

After the boat trip we went to a beach restaurant for lunch of Dal & rice, chicken lollipops (chicken drumsticks to you & I) and chips washed down with limca, orange juice and water. Thank you to Rohan the restaurant owner for his generous donation towards the cost.

In June we are expecting that five of the children in Std. 10 will pass their exams with sufficient grades to enable them to go on to further education at Mapusa College and study for their 'A' level equivalent exams.

Day Care Centre.

Unfortunately we are still struggling to maintain the staffing levels we need, which has meant a reduction in the number of children we are able to treat.

The current political situation in India is not encouraging young qualified people to stay in India and many are emigrating. Of our staff one has gone to America, one to Canada, one waiting to go to New Zealand and another who will be returning to the UK where she qualified. Two others have left: one opened her own clinic and one to join another organisation to gain further experience. We currently have two full time and one part-time physio's with two more who will hopefully be joining us in the near future.

Supporters & sponsors.

A very big thank you to the 16 students and their tutors from Braintree & Colchester College for all the time and effort they put into enhancing the lives of the children at Starting Point. They did a fantastic job of painting aquatic scenes on the classroom walls as well as descriptive shapes, alphabet & numeric designs. They also took the children of Starting Point out on a beach trip, attended and assisted at the disabled children's centre and visited the children from the ASRO HIV home. I am sure they will all take home to the UK some long lasting memories of life in India. The students raise money to fund their trip and to pay for all the materials, transport costs etc to entertain the children and make substantial donations to the projects.

It was lovely to see so many supporters whilst I was in Goa so thank you to Anne, Sue & Dave, Sue & Mick, Marianne & Bjorn, Dee, Craig & Keith, four ladies from Manchester, Jayne & anyone else I may have missed who took the time and trouble to visit the school and the disabled centre.

Thank you also to all the other supporters who have visited the projects over the last few months. Alas Tim & Janet Cahill had to cancel their trip to Goa as Janet had a fall – we wish her a speedy recovery.

I would also like to express my thanks to Anton & Karna, Anne and Delia who are bringing back suitcases of goods on our behalf.

As the dry season comes to a close in Goa with the monsoon season expected in early June, we hopefully, can look forward to a summer of our own. For some this may mean hours of toil in the garden and for others lazing in the sunshine and enjoying barbeques but whatever you may be doing I send you my very best wishes.

Clive.