



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Newsletter 052 September 2016.

School holidays are over and there must be a lot of relieved parents! Here in East Devon we have enjoyed eight weeks of really good weather so many children have spent a lot of their holidays on the beach, swimming surfing etc.

We are sad to report the passing of Alex D'Souza husband of Dr Mina and father to Rowan and Rosanna who died on August 13th at his home in Goa following a long illness and offer our sincere condolences to all of his family.

Starting Point

There were 40 children registered and attending school at beginning of June but we anticipate that this will reduce to about 30 after two or three months as some children find it is not for them or some families prefer the children to make money begging rather than receive an education. Some of the children will attend school and at the end of the school day will then go working or begging. It must be remembered that there is no welfare state paying out child benefits etc and without work there will be no money to buy even the basic needs of the family.

The school has had the pleasure of welcoming two volunteers Alba from Germany and Louiza from London who did great work with the children.

One of the teachers Valley will be getting married in November and I am sure you will join us in wishing her very best wishes for the future. Thankfully she intends to continue working at Starting Point.

Day Care Centre.

There is little good news to relate as the situation regarding appointment of replacement physiotherapists has not changed. Let us hope for better news soon but unfortunately qualified staff are lured to the UK, USA and Canada by better prospects and greatly increased salaries.

In the meantime the remainder of the staff are coping by putting in additional hours to ensure the children do not lose out on their treatment.

Outreach work.

Some of our work involves keeping an eye on the migrant workers whose families move from the neighbouring state of Karnataka looking for work during the dry season. Jane will visit these people and ensure the children have clothing and provide basic ingredients so that they will have some food when no work can be found. This is in addition to helping those who permanently live in local slums where similar help is given with the addition of assistance for children who wish to attend formal schools.

The following photos show three of the migrant workers 'houses' which offer little protection to the families from rain, mosquitoes or the blistering sun and some of the children we have looked out for receiving bananas from Jane.

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)



Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

Many congratulations to Rubina, Seema, Karishma & Biyama who were successful in passing their 10th Std exams. They have all registered to continue their education and will be studying for 'A' level qualifications in the commerce department of St. Teresa's. Sadly Malik failed his but has registered to retake them next year.

It is rewarding to see these children do so well and hopefully they will follow in Apika's footsteps and go on to university.

It is pleasing to note that most of the families of the sponsored children are taking on responsibility for some of the costs which means that with ever increasing costs we are able to maintain the level of sponsorship at £17.00 per month.

Sponsors and supporters.

Thanks:

To Chris Jones who held a coffee morning at her home and donated £100.00 to us from the proceeds.

To John Pemberton who is still donating monies from the Delcampe site where he has been selling hovercraft memorabilia for a few years and to Pat his wife for collecting dolls for my Pat to knit clothing for prior to them being sold.

To Shelagh Jones who donated the proceeds of her leaving collection when she left the Bowhill Primary School, Exeter.

To all of you who continue regular sponsorship and those who visit me in the Exmouth Indoor Market with bags of coins. Believe me it all adds up and in some way reduces the burden of transferring money which has risen alarmingly since the Brexit vote and the subsequent dip in the value of the pound. A £450 transfer now costs £72 more than it did prior to the vote to leave.

The nights are drawing in with the approach of autumn and winter and inevitably the shops are displaying Christmas goodies. It does seem to get earlier each year and I feel it detracts from the magic of the occasion especially for the children. Maybe I will bore you with my own recollection of Christmas as a child in the next newsletter!

Roger & I will be going to Goa in early November when we hope to see all of the children and obtain up to date photos for the educational sponsors.

Best wishes,

Clive.