



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this newsletter but the truth is Roger and I did not return from India until late on Tuesday night (11th December). So whilst most of Britain was ‘enjoying’ heavy rain and high winds we were having to cope with temperatures of 33 – 34deg. Still we were able to enjoy many beautiful authentic Indian meals and the odd ice cold beer! No sympathy needed! Goa is gearing up for the festive season and it was very strange to be walking round on very hot sunny days and hearing Christmas carols being played and Christmas trees and decorations all around.

Day Care Centre.

At last the registration of the Day Care Centre is nearing completion which will have benefits for both the charity and the staff who work there.

Whilst we were there two workshops were held for the parents of the children: one being on nutrition and the other on understanding Cerebral Palsy. These were led by medical professionals to advise the parents on the benefits to disabled children of a correct diet and to get their commitment to carry out basic physiotherapy in the home. Both sessions were well attended and hopefully the children will benefit.

It is very important that these children receive treatment from an early age and we have two girls who started at the Day Care Centre before their first birthday and who are responding well to their treatment which will enhance the quality of life for them and their parents.

It is anticipated that a second speech therapist will be joining us in the New Year.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

Roger & I were fortunate enough to meet all but three of the sponsored children, take their photos and obtain copies of most of their school reports. I hope to have these in the post to the respective sponsors before Christmas. Unfortunately there are three students who failed their 10th standard exams who decided not to continue with their education but have instead taken up paid employment. I will be contacting the respective sponsors later. The rest of the students are doing well and some of them are attaining top marks in their exams.

Apika whose education was sponsored by Cath & Gareth Evans and who is now a doctor working in Community Health at the main hospital of Goa got engaged in August. The marriage is due to take place on March 19th and she and her fiancé Dhanesh have kindly invited her sponsor and Pat & I to the wedding.

Starting Point School.

It seems that in every newsletter I say the school goes from strength to strength but that is certainly the case. An example of this is that in the village where Starting Point is situated there is a government school. Government schools do not have a good reputation and Jane (Starting Point head teacher) recently had visit from the headmaster of the government school complaining that all the local children’s parents were sending their children to us as they were not learning at his school. Consequently with few students attending he was having to consider laying off staff and possibly

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closing the school. After much deliberation Jane agreed to take only children under five years of age saying that he could have all the children over five. As it happens we only take children under five as Starting Point is a pre-school and those over this age leave us to go to other main stream schools so we are not to blame for his problems!

Following the banning of imported fish into Goa the price of locally caught fish has rocketed and as a consequence so has the price of chicken and eggs meaning the school are only able to server these on rare occasions.

Outreach work.

During September following the devastating floods in the state of Kerala we sent much needed food, drink and essentials to Aluva a town near Kochi in Kerala. The goods we supplied were purchased by Novi Survat, packaged by Jane and transported in a lorry of aid gathered from the village of Sangolda where Starting Point School is situated. Roger & I wanted to fill a lorry with aid and take it to Kerala but time and costs made it unpractical so instead we have organised financial aid to an organisation which we know will see it is used in the best possible way. Bradley Stoke Rotary and Exmouth Raleigh Rotary were the main contributors to who we are indebted together with individual donations received by members of the public.

Jane and her team continue to help in the slums where necessary and Roger & I had an enlightening visit to a slum where a number of the children who attend Starting Point School live. To see the appalling conditions in which these families live is unforgettable.

Sponsors and Supporters.

All sponsors and supporters are very important to us and we could not carry out the work in India without your continued support.

We are indebted to the family of the late Molly Pritchard who sadly passed away earlier this year. I first met Molly who lived a very full and rewarding life in 2007 and I know she will be sadly missed by her family and many friends.

A big thank you to 7 year old Daisy who raised six pounds for the charity. We decided that we would use this money to buy eggs so the children can enjoy one of their favourite foods. The six pounds will buy 120 eggs providing the children with egg curry one day per week for the next five weeks! That just shows how a little can make a big difference.



These are the sponsored children who along with all of us from Novi Survat wish you a very

HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

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