



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

31 Foxholes Hill, Exmouth. EX8 2DQ  
Tel: 01395 276148. Email: [admin@novisurvrat.org](mailto:admin@novisurvrat.org)  
Web-site [www.novisurvrat.org](http://www.novisurvrat.org)

## **Newsletter 062 March 2019.**

Like most of the country Devon is basking in glorious sunshine, a far cry from the same time last year when we were in the grip of the 'Beast from the East'. Although this weather is not expected to last spring can't be far away.

Pat, Roger, Julia & I had the pleasure of visiting Goa at the end of January and meeting all the children and staff.

### **Day Care Centre.**

It was very encouraging to see the progress some of the children are making and what a huge difference to their lives and those of their families the work of the physiotherapists is making. It was interesting to see how the speech therapist works, the next step is to try and find an occupational therapist.

We are working towards the provision of a sensory room and have been fortunate to be able to purchase 1600 special plastic balls for the ball pool thanks to Exmouth Raleigh Rotary Club.

### **Educational Sponsorship Scheme.**

Whilst in Goa we were able to meet nearly all of the students involved in this scheme and go with them on boats from Coco Beach to see the dolphins. This was followed by a picnic and a great time was had by all. One of the students Tweba had recently broken her arm, which was in plaster, but that did not stop her from taking part in the day's events.

### **Starting Point School.**

Although the temperature was in the mid-thirties it is winter in India and the children's parents object to us taking the children on a beach trip because the children catch colds! Instead Jane organised a trip to the new shopping mall in Porvorim which is so different to anywhere else. The children (and most of the staff) who had never visited such a modern shopping establishment were amazed at the facilities there. On one floor there was a small soft play area and roundabouts for children and on another an electric train ride. As you can imagine the children were delighted but for some of them (and the staff) riding up and down on the escalators was 'out of this world'! The children were treated to snacks and hot chocolate; they were not allowed ice creams as it was too cold!

### **Outreach work.**

We visited one of the slums local to Starting Point where sixteen families live in what looks like a row of garages. The 'houses' consist of one room measuring approximately 10ft x 10ft and is home to sometimes up to ten people. They have no furniture or facilities such as a kitchen or toilet as there is only enough room for them all to lie on the floor to sleep. Cooking is done on open fires outside and washing of clothes on a large stone. There are no proper toilets or bathing areas and during the monsoons life is very harsh. Jane and her team make life a little easier by taking clothing and

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essential foods to these people. Anyone who has not seen poverty or visited a slum in a third world country would not be able to envisage the conditions these people live and raise children in.

### **Sponsors and supporters.**

Once again I have to stress how grateful we are to all of you who contribute towards the running of the charity whether it be for the educational sponsorship scheme, the Day Care Centre or for the general running costs.

I would however like to mention a few people who donated monies before we went to Goa in January to treat the children. These are Mrs Margaret Hughes, Jill Hutton, Dawn Humphries, Alison Spurrel, Stephen Worth and Daisy Stossel. With your donations we were not only able to treat the children to days out but also to quantities of fresh fruit.

Since it moved, the school is not in an area where people can easily visit so I would like to thank Terry Andrews from Amsterdam who came to England last summer, visited the Exmouth Indoor Market, bought a bag from our stall and took with him one of our leaflets. He contacted me at the beginning of February and said he was in Goa and took the trouble to visit Starting Point.

I am saddened to report the passing of David Butler who has been sponsoring two of the students. Our condolences go to his wife and family.



Homes of the people living in the slums. Note no furniture or facilities for cooking etc with just enough room for the family to lie down to sleep. For the privilege of living in these conditions these people have to pay rent which they can barely afford. Each 'home' measures about 10ft x 10ft with up to 8 or 10 occupants.



A group of the children riding on the 'land train'. We had to pay for each child but when the operator told us there had been 35 children on the rides and we had only taken 28 we realised some of them had managed to slip on more than once. The girl top left of the picture was one of those!

Thank you all for your continued support.