



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

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## **Newsletter 073 December 2021**

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and looking forward to a brighter future now that the Covid restrictions have been eased. We are now being asked to look after the health of the planet which it would appear has been seriously damaged by our reliance on modern appliances and travel since the industrial revolution. I am sure we can and will all do our bit to reduce waste and carbon emissions.

When we first started going to Goa the tourist season was from mid-September to late March when virtually no rain fell. Now, due to the seasons changing, Goa is still experiencing heavy rains in late November and in some parts of India floods. Similarly, I recall that in England during the 1940's & 1950's frosts and heavy snows were a regular winter feature whereas for a number of years now frost & snow has rarely been seen.

**Please note Novi Survat's new address (above) following our move in September: our telephone number, email address and web-site remain the same.**

I had hoped to visit Goa this year but due to the ongoing problems with Covid 19, the fact that India has only recently opened its borders to foreign travellers and the uncertainty of flights and restrictions I have decided to delay my visit until early 2022.

As it has been two years since my last visit I doubt if I will recognise many of the students as they have all grown up and matured during that time!

### Covid 19 Food Distribution.

We have continued to provide food each month for between 50 & 60 families who have been unable to find work due to the restrictions in Goa or because the breadwinner is seriously ill. However, the government of India has lifted the ban on foreigners travelling to India which will hopefully see tourists once again visiting Goa and providing much need employment for many of the poorest families. The number of families needing regular food parcels due to being out of work has reduced but we are finding others who are unable to work due to ill health and we are helping as many of those as we can afford to.

### Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

The older students and those attending colleges continue to attend school on alternate days with online studies on the other days. Those below standard 9 have full-time online studies. These in particular are very upset – missing seeing their friends and taking part in non-academic school activities. Some of them are seeking part-time jobs to help their parents with their finances. It is anticipated that all students will resume normal school attendance in early December.

As I will not be able to visit Goa until the New Year Jane is once again taking the graduates photographs and emailing them to me so that with luck all Educational Sponsors will receive an up-to-date photo of the student they sponsor.

### Day Care Centre.

Most of the patients have returned to attending the Day Care Centre but a few are not doing so due to the risk of catching Covid. These continue to receive treatment in their own homes largely with expertise taught to their parents by our staff. All are making progress, some greater than others and it is very pleasing to learn of some of their achievements which is testament to the skill of our staff. A few of the patients have not yet returned from their native villages to where they went during the height of the pandemic. I have no doubt I will be surprised at the progress they have made when I do eventually get back to Goa.

### Starting Point School.

All nursery and pre-schools are still not authorised by the government to reopen so those who would normally attend Starting Point are still receiving work sheets to do at home which are marked and reissued weekly to keep the children in touch with learning. In addition staff from Starting Point visit the slums to teach the youngsters in the open air. It is believed that all schools will be allowed to reopen full time in early December.

### Financial.

We are very fortunate and grateful to maintain our regular monthly donors as well as those that sponsor the graduates. In addition we receive donations from some who hold coffee mornings to raise money, one who collects 20p pieces in a small jar, some who keep their 1p, 2p, & 5p pieces whilst others donate various amounts as and when they are able. This all means we are able to carry out our normal work and respond to ad hoc requests such as the monthly Covid 19 Food Distribution to those in desperate need. To you all we extend our gratitude because without your continued support we could not continue to help those who are not able to help themselves.

### Sponsors & Supporters.

It is with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Ann Stevens who many will remember as she has been a supporter since day one and was a regular in Goa. Ann had a tumour in her mouth and had completed her chemo sessions when she contracted sepsis. At the time Ann was living in Spain with her husband who has advanced dementia but she had recently bought a bungalow on Merseyside and was hoping to return to the UK. Our condolences to the family of this lovely lady who will be greatly missed.

A very big thank you to Gabby for once again organising a Mind, Body & Spirit Fair in October and raising lots of money for us. Gabby has also organised an Evening of Clairvoyance to take place on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Now that British Summer Time, Halloween and Bonfire Night are behind us we can look forward to Christmas (which appears to start earlier each year) so I am taking this opportunity of wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous 2022.