



the Charlotte Jones Memorial Tsunami Fund

Char's Fund is a memorial tribute to 23 year old Charlotte Jones, beloved daughter of Alan and Liz Jones and sister to Vicki who so tragically succumbed to the Asian Tsunami on December 26th 2004. A memorial statue stands at the headland of Siam Bay beach on the island of Ko Racha Yai, Thailand and there is a memorial tree and garden in the grounds of the Cittaviveka Buddhist Monastery in West Sussex. We will never forget her.

## **NEWSLETTER**

**July 2011**

Welcome to *Char's Fund's* latest newsletter, now biannual. The Charity supports 15 students, aged 7-19, with long-term educational bursaries at Muang Phuket School, Phuket College, and Phuket Rajabhat University, Thailand. They each receive a monthly allowance of 2,000 baht (= @£40) to spend on school fees, books, travel, uniforms, etc. University tuition fees are also paid annually. So far the students have received a total of some £30,970. £172,695 has now been raised in total to date (gross), £137,769 (net).

### **Reading Half Marathon**

Team Char's Fund again took part in the 2011 Reading Half Marathon held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March. The runners were Alan, Vicki, Vicki's friends Kate and Anna, and one of Char's best friends Sarah. The original Char's Fund Team was reduced to 5 runners on the day as cousin Stephen was let down by his horse-sitter (!), cousin Georgie (a banker) could just not do the training (!) and Char's friend Pee (now a doctor) ended up on call.... The day was dry but with a cold wind and everyone did really well, with one notable exception! The times were Anna (1:55:55), Kate (1:57:24), Vicki (2:14:03), Sarah (3:06:16) and Alan right at the very back in a time of 3:26:06. Alan was 12,472nd!... He said that it was so embarrassing being overtaken at the very end by a fish and a chip (1 +2 Reading Firemen) and a hairy scrotum (testicular cancer charity runner)!.... He had a very funny comment back from a kind female supporter. She quipped, "*There is no shame in being beaten by a hairy scrotum. Many women know this experience!*" .... We again we raised over £5,000 from this event and are so very grateful for all our sponsors. There are some pictures on the website. See [www.charsfund.co.uk](http://www.charsfund.co.uk).

### **Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 memorial unveiling**

Bereaved families and survivors of the Indian Ocean Tsunami this month remembered those who died as the Prince Charles laid a wreath at the new granite memorial in the gardens in front of the new Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum. The sculpture is inscribed with the names of the 153 people from the UK who perished when the massive wave hit the coasts of 14 countries in December 2004. The disaster claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people. Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall were invited to join a minute's silence by Michael Holland, chairman of the Memorial Project board. The ceremony was also attended by John Penrose, minister for tourism and heritage, and Tessa Jowell, the shadow Olympics minister. The 115-tonne memorial was funded by a £550,000 grant from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and was designed by Carmody Groarke, an award-winning, London-based architecture studio which was involved in the July 7 memorial. The stone was quarried from Les Carrières Plo near Toulouse. A sober day and pictures will be available on the website shortly.

### **OnionFest 2011**

Onion Fest 2011 is being held on Saturday 30th July. It is our major fundraising event of the year and in 2010 it raised £12,500 for the students in Thailand. It only takes place because of the extraordinarily hard work of a small band of Charlotte's close friends and so it is fitting that Onion Fest won the Event of the Year category of the 2011 Business and Community Awards, organised earlier in the year by the *Life in Petersfield* magazine - in 2010 Char's Fund won the Charity of the Year award. So very well done to all the events team (not all could be there on the night) and we look forward to another successful year. Again there are pictures on the website. This is what Sarah had to say, "*It was a real honour to even be nominated for the Life in Petersfield event of the year award, and to win was very surreal - we were truly amazed and very pleased! Josy, Becky, Rachel and I joined Alan, Liz and Vicki and sat close to the front. We had a long wait as our award was one of the last to be announced as it was voted for by the award ceremony attendees. We didn't think we stood a chance as we presumed no one had heard about OnionFest. We dedicated the award to everyone who has ever kindly donated their time, hard work, services and assets to help with OnionFest. It always makes me so proud to think what we have achieved over the years and Onionfest is a true legacy to our lovely Char who had such a huge impact on all our lives*".

*We are making a real difference to young lives in Thailand. Do please continue to support us. Thank you.*

**The Charlotte Jones Memorial Tsunami Fund. Charity Reg No: 1116217**

Trustees: N. C. Doe, S. L. Tubbs, L.M. Edwards, D.J. Horn, R.L. Bate, E.C.A. Jones, V.L. Jones, A.D. Jones

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