



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.

CHAR'S FUND NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2009

Welcome to **Char's Fund** 12th quarterly newsletter. The Charity supports 13 school children, college and university students, aged 13-18, with long-term educational bursaries at Muang Phuket School, Phuket College and Phuket Rajabhat University, Thailand. A monthly stipend gives them an allowance of 2,000 baht (= @£40) to spend on tuition fees, books, uniforms, meals, transport, etc. The students have now directly received £15,600 since the charity started. And we have now passed the momentous milestone of £100,000 having being raised and reached £119,225. This is thanks largely to a record year at *OnionFest 2009*. So in this edition of the newsletter, we concentrate solely on OF5.

Onion Fest 2009

The big fundraising event over the summer was the 5th annual 'boutique' music festival. The name 'Onion Fest' comes from Char's nickname Little Onion (shallot!) and festivals were her most absolutely favourite thing. The sell out *OFO9* had an African theme and was again an amazingly successful day with folk dressed as witchdoctors and lots of loin clothes around... The face painter's skills certainly added to the effects. Provisionally it looks as if all records were broken with £10,000 going into charity funds. This will assure the scholarships of the young students in Thailand well into 2011 and beyond. And we were so very lucky with the weather - about the only dry day in July! There was a much greater variety of music this year and with one of the stages being replaced by an Acoustic Tent plus DJs performing in the 'Dance Tunnel'. The main stage again hosted the absolutely amazing Onionettes, now metamorphosed into the superbly athletic Spin Sity pole performing troupe - since 2008, Sam and Rachel have been giving classes and brought along their pupils this year. Needless to say that they received a rapturous applause at their routine close. And in front of the stage there was a mock up of Ben Southall, who was so disappointed not to be here this year having project managed the event in 2007. But then he did win the 'Best Job in the World' competition and is otherwise engaged (having a good time!!) on Hamilton Island, Queensland, Australia.... For his blogs & news updates, please see www.bestjobben.com and www.islandreefjob.com. And we had feedback from several sources on how well organised the event was this year - including folk at Chichester District Council and from the local Constabulary. This is totally down to the wonderful Organising Committee members, all still very much amateurs at event management but becoming more and more professional as each year goes by. They put so much hard work into organising the event and they do an absolutely amazing job. So once more a huge thanks to all of Char's friends.

However in the background this year a lot more work had to be expended on 'managing' the event. We particularly have to thank both Sarah Tubbs and Fraser Brown for producing an event management plan for the first time. We thank Keith Strong too for the production of an event sound monitoring report (as well as managing the car parking). An extensive mailing was also made to local residents letting them know what was going on and as a result we had several residents from the village of Stedham coming along this year to enjoy the festival. We are so very grateful for the forbearance of all local residents and were very taken by comments from 18-25 year-olds in the area saying that this was the only such thing in their locality for them and they so look forward to it. And a lovely comment from the 82-year old grandma of one of the committee members. She said that this was her first ever Pop Festival and she was glad she had made one and really enjoyed the day and is telling everyone that pop festivals are great!... We also had a friend bring a new born baby girl. So 8 weeks to 80-year olds must make it a rather unusual Pop Festival indeed!.. A wonderful cheque too for £1000 was presented on the day by Mrs Caroline Fry from the Mrs FB Laurence Charitable Foundation Trust. Finally, we are so very grateful for the support of all our sponsors, including Cheeky Rascals, Schilling Communications, PetaPrint, Liddiard Scaffolding, South Downs College, Stansted House, RKdia, the Hamilton Arms, and Pierre de Loup at the Mill Tavern in Haslemere. Thanks so much too to all the bands and DJs who played only for their expenses. And very many thanks also to Ian and Jen and Keith for the kind use of their land. Overall the day went far too quickly and one wishes the day would just slow down a little... But it was a truly magical day, not to be forgotten. For pictures of the event, please see www.onionfest.co.uk and www.charsfund.co.uk. The event just gets better and better each year so here's to *OF10* (OF6), probably again to be held on the last Saturday in July (31st). Please do put it in your diary and buy your tickets early so not to be disappointed!....

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

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