



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 2008

Welcome to **Char's Fund** eighth quarterly newsletter. The Charity currently supports 13 school children and college students, aged between 13 and 17, with long term educational bursaries at Muang Phuket School and Phuket College, Thailand. The school has now received £9905 with some £405 being sent each month directly to the school and then apportioned amongst the children - giving them around 2000 baht each every month (~£30) to spend on school fees, books, school uniform, materials, transport, etc. Monies raised for the Fund have now reached an amazing £82,375 although higher expenditure on Onion Fest this year (see below) means that the reserve is somewhat lower than this.

Onion Fest 2008

The big fundraising event over the summer was the fourth annual music festival, a celebration of Char's life and staged so very expertly by all her friends. The name 'Onion Fest' comes from her nickname Little Onion (shallot!) and music festivals were Char's most absolutely favourite thing. *OFO8* had an Indian theme this year and was again an amazing success. And the weather was just perfect on the day - warm, sunny and with no rain.... It was yet another sell out with a much greater variety of music this year on two outside stages. Char's sister Vicki kicked off the event on the acoustic stage - her first ever public performance! And new this year was Char's Chill Out Bar with Becky at the helm and a wonderful place to sit and reflect in the shade. One of the best acts again was undoubtedly the fabulous Onionettes on the main stage, who received rapturous applause. The duo this year performed an amazing Michael Jackson Thriller routine and with several changes of costume, again demonstrating their superbly athletic pole skills. Another highlight of the day was also to see all the adults collecting at the face painter tent! Overall the day went far too quickly and we all would have liked to have been able to do it all over again. A truly magical day and it all worked so beautifully. Two people were even heard to say that *OFO8* was better than the very much bigger Reading Festival!... So a huge thanks to all of Char's friends for all their magnificent hard work yet again this year as well as all the very kind sponsors. Whilst not wanting to pick out any particular star in the permanent (all are very much amateurs at event management) thanks so much to Sarah Tubbs for so excellently project managing this year and the very many hours spent in the run up to the day. Particular thanks are also due to RKdia (for the sponsored BBQ), the Hamilton Arms, Cheeky Rascals, Liddiard Scaffolding, South Downs College and Stansted House. Very many thanks too to Ian and Jen and Keith for the kind 'loan' of their land. After all the costs of running the festival have been deducted, you will be pleased to hear that over £5000 will be going into the Fund. For pictures of the event, please see www.onionfest.co.uk - this dedicated website was another first. The event just gets better and better each year so here's to *OFO9*, probably again to be held on the last Saturday in July (25th). Please put it in your diary as we had turn folk away, restricted as we are by licence to no more than 500 people on the site.

Other Fundraising and charity activities so far this year

Char's Fund 'participated' in the first *Live Thailand* event on the 28th August at Aylings Garden Centre, Trotton, near Chithurst Buddhist Monastery. Alan will again be running the Windsor Half Marathon at the end of September and Tanya and Abby (Char's school friends) are running the Great South Run in October. And Char's Bristol University friend Pee climbed Mt Kilimanjaro this summer, which Char climbed with a party from Petersfield School. At the top she lit a candle for Char and left a tiny copy of the last picture ever taken of her plus a very brief message of love.

Returning to Thailand

Liz, Vicki and Alan will spend the fourth 'anniversary' of the Tsunami on the island of Ko Racha Yai and on the 19th December will meet the children once more in Phuket. Your continued generosity has meant that they will be able to inform the Principal during their visit that it is now the Trustees' wish to offer an additional two scholarships to children on the school's needy list. And at the Charity's AGM in September, the possibility of establishing similar scholarships in the UK will also be discussed for the first time - this about the dream of establishing a living memorial to Char much closer to home.

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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