



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

August 2010

Welcome to *Char's Fund's* latest quarterly newsletter. 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 £24,000. Char's Fund celebrates its fourth anniversary in September and with yet another milestone in fundraising having been passed. An astonishing £157,397 has now been raised in total to date (gross). This is again largely thanks to another record year at *Onionfest 2010*, the subject of this issue.

Onion Fest 2010

The main annual fundraising event is now Onionfest and on Saturday 31st July, our 6th such 'boutique' music festival was held. In many ways, this annual day of joyous celebration of Char's life, counterbalances the sadness felt each Boxing Day by family and friends. This is what Char's friend Sarah Tubbs, and main event co-ordinator, had to say in the run up to the event: *"The event is very important to me personally as Charlotte was one of my best friends. We met when we were 12 (sort of through Petersfield Youth Theatre). I was poised ready to fly out to meet her in Thailand the day the Tsunami struck as the 3 of us were going to travel together for the following year (Rebecca Bate is the 3rd person, who was with Charlotte when she died). To lose someone so close in your early 20's and in such a dramatic way had a profound effect on all of our group of friends. We not only wanted to give a living legacy to Charlotte (who was the life and soul of every party!) but also to do something very positive that others could enjoy and that would bring our group of friends closer, at a stage in our lives where we could have easily dispersed and lost touch. I think Onionfest has gone a stage beyond this now, we still do it for Char and her family, but it's more about the kids that we support and also it's so rewarding for us to put on a truly fun and enjoyable event whilst also raising money for a good cause. We have learnt how to work together, be more resourceful and put our energy into positive activities, instead of just going to the pub and getting merry. We spend our time together like a big family!..."*

This year's sell out event had a circus theme and attendees went to town with their fancy dress - clowns and mime artists were in abundance... The weather was again very kind to us with the light showers clearing around noon and a warm and sunny day followed. The Spin City pole acrobats (aka the Onionettes) and many of them Char's friends, once more brought the house down on the Pickled Onion stage (see www.spinsitypole.com). The music on this main stage and also in the Onion Ring acoustic marquee and the Big Top dance arena was much more mixed than previous years - from ska to reggae, from hip hop to funk, from rock to heavy metal, from pop to triphop (!), and blues to folk. Many commented this year that the bands were all superb, with some having not only regional but national profiles. We were lucky to have them. One of the organising crew, Samantha Waterhouse said, *"I think it was the best one we have ever had. The atmosphere, the music and the costumes were amazing – there was a really good vibe"*.

A tremendous amount of work goes into the event and we are so grateful again for all our sponsors and supporters and these included once more: Stansted House, South Downs College, Cheeky Rascals, RKdia, PetaPrint, Shilling, Liddiard Scaffolding, Hamilton Arms, our facepainters Aimie & Janie, our Tea Tent helpers Mary and Liz - and the list just goes on.....The event would also not happen without the enormous amount of effort put in by the core and rather small Onion Fest crew and the wider group of helpers. We are so very grateful for all their hard work and magnificent efforts again this year. And then there are the bands, who essentially play for free - so again a huge thanks to them all too. And last but not least very many thanks to Ian and Jen and Keith for the kind loan of their land. The provisional 'accounts' suggest that our target of £10,000 for Char's Fund has been surpassed, even breaking last year's record.... With the 'Spring Onion Event' included, some £14,000 has been raised... Amazing!... And just to let folk know that there are still some Onionfest T-shirts and vests available. These have become collector's items over the years.... For pictures of the event, please see the website.

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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