



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, FEBRUARY 2008

Welcome to *Char's Fund* sixth quarterly newsletter.

**Char's Fund** supports thirteen needy school children and college students, aged between 12 and 17, with long term educational bursaries at Muang Phuket School and Phuket College, southern Thailand. Monies raised for the Fund have now reached £62,150 of which some £7060 has already gone directly to the school. February is always a poignant for those who knew Char, as she would have been 27 on the 5th of the month.

### Charity Challenge

Raising money for any charity can be quite challenging but what about raising money and having the trip of a life time? This was exactly what was done by one of our Trustees Danielle in 2006 through *Charity Challenge*, raising more than £2000 for the Fund. Danielle, a childhood friend of Char, wanted to help raise money in a way that would represent Charlotte's adventurous and energetic personality. Charity Challenge offers a selection of trekking adventures and Danielle felt that trekking through the foothills of the Himalayas seemed ideal, especially as Char had been travelling through India just before arriving in Thailand. Sponsorship and training in place, Danielle flew to Delhi and then took an over-night train up to Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama and the exiled Tibetan community. There were nine others on the trek, all from different backgrounds and ages and each raising money for their chosen charity. After a couple of days acclimatising, the two-week trek began through a largely unvisited region, following the Uhl River and taking in Hindu settlements and Buddhist monasteries. Each day's walking began at around 7 am after spending the night at camp sites set-up in valleys along the river. A good part of the day would be trekking mainly uphill, through forests, meadows, pastures, beaten track and sometimes walking scarily close to sheer drops – often having to share the narrow path with mountain goats or cows! On the trek, this is what Danielle had to say more recently, "*The whole trekking experience was an incredible adventure and despite it being exhausting and tough I really enjoyed the challenge. The trek was for Charlotte and had it not been for her contagious energy I am unsure whether this is something I would have done. I hope that somehow I shared the experience with her and that I was able to contribute something to her memory as I know that she would have enjoyed the challenge as much as I did.*" If you might be interested in a similar challenge as a way of raising money, do please see [www.charitychallenge.com](http://www.charitychallenge.com).

### Thanks to TPS

Following Alan addressing morning assembly meetings at The Petersfield School (where Char was a pupil) Science Teacher Nicholas Kershaw's tutor group 10NKW (14-15 year olds) have adopted Char's Fund as their charity for 2007/8 and have been donating £15 a month and which Nicholas has been very kindly matching - this actually enough to fund one student each month. The Trustees would like to thank Nick and his Tutor Group most sincerely for this.

### Fundraising activities to watch out for 2008

Char's sister Vicki will be running her first ever half marathon for Char's Fund with her Pops Alan in the *Reading Half Marathon* on the 2nd March. Thanks to all for their kind sponsorship. The *Windsor Half Marathon* is also planned on 30th September. And *Char's Fund* will be 'participating' in the *Eastern Cultural Fete* on the 28th May in Stedham, West Sussex. And *Onionfest 2008* will be on Saturday 26th July and will have an Indian theme this year.

### Other Charity Activities

The Trustees met in January for the first annual general meeting of the Charity and Becky Bate became a Trustee. Becky was with Char on Racha Yai. Also all the necessary paperwork (annual return, annual report and accounts) will shortly be sent off to the Charity Commission and an application made to the Inland Revenue for Gift Aid monies.

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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