



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

February 2011

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 some £28,500. £162,500 has now been raised in total to date (gross); £128,650 (net). We had hoped to have more news on each of the students in this issue, but this information has not yet arrived from Thailand. But the great news is that three of the older girl students continue at University and one more has now started. And later in the year we hope to add two more students to the scheme taking the total of personal educational bursaries to 17.

Making a difference

Despite the lack of an update on all the students, we have had a lovely email note from 19-year Mink (Pornkamoln Khoudee), who is the fourth girl student to start at Phuket University. This is what she had to say: *"Hello Alan, Liz & Vicki Jones. I am studying Humanities and Social Science in English major. I was very happy to study at university. I meet a good friend. I had a good knowledge and experience. All of this happened because of you. I feel very sad that did not send greetings to you on Christmas and New Year. So, I wish you a very happy healthy and successful one in everything. With best wishes, Mink"*. And Mira Traskelin, Finance Director at Raya Divers, and our local person on the ground in Phuket, sent us some information about what can happen to young boys and girls when they are not able to continue their education. This was her note: *"There was a piece of news in the local web-newspaper, Phuket Wan, last week about a meeting of Phuket school teachers, the governor and the police. The teachers had told the governor about the growing problem of gangs of boys and girls in Phuket. Poor families do not have money and time to look after their children. If the children don't stay at school, it is easy for older kids to attract them to the wrong path. 'Gangs of boys and girls from all over Phuket are combining in a 'mini-mafia' to distribute drugs and terrorise neighbourhoods, the meeting was told. One group, the KB Club, had 724 members and drew its membership from children as young as seven years old,' says the article. This is one reason why your work at Char's Fund continues to be very important."* See <http://phuketwan.com/tourism/phuket-kids-gangs-shock-governor-police-13652/>.

Latest on the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004 memorial

A letter from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport arrived this month with news on the Memorial. Planning permission has been granted and the block of granite is being extracted from a quarry in the South West of France. Apparently no British quarry was able to provide a block of suitable proportions! The block will hold the names of all British and dual nationals who lost their lives, including that of Charlotte, and the inscription of all the names will be engraved at the quarry. The Opening Ceremony and dedication are still expected this summer but with no date as yet.

2011 Fundraising

No news either as yet on Spring Onion or Onion Fest 2011 but our first fundraising effort for 2011 is already in progress with a team of six hard in training for the Reading Half Marathon on the 20th March - Alan, Vicki, Vicki's friends Kate and Anna, and two of Char's best friends, Sarah and Pee. Wish us well in our training! Last year we raised over £5,000 from this event and we are hoping to be able to match this again this year.

Holiday & donate!

One of our regular benefactors, who owns an apartment in Spain, has very kindly offered to donate 10% of any rental bookings to Char's Fund. It costs £250/week plus a 50 euro cleaning charge payable directly at the resort. The ground floor apartment is situated on the La Torre Golf Resort, 20 minutes from Murcia airport and 1 hour from Alicante. It is 20 minutes from the beach and La Manga. The apartment sleeps 4 and is air conditioned with cable TV, including British channels. It has a terrace and a small garden, near a communal pool and is quiet and secluded. Contact Sarah Wilkins on 07905449701 or at sarahw.wilkins@btinternet.com for more information.

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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