



Kempson Rosedale Enterprise Trust

OUR REPORT for 2011 to 2013

This, our 16th report, covers the period from 2011 to 2013. The Trust has continued with its objectives of supporting and encouraging sixth-formers at both Marlborough College and St John's School to undertake enterprising activities in their sixth-form or Gap years. These activities can cover travel, adventure and a wide variety of inspiring things which we feel would have been approved by those outstanding inspirers, 'G' Kempson and Rupert Rosedale. This report aims to give a flavour of most of those activities.

Otilie Macpherson (MC), who is planning to study Drama at university, spent a busy year teaching in a Otjikondo Primary School in a remote rural area north-east of Windhoek in Namibia. In a heart-warming report, she describes her pupils, 233 children aged from 6 to 16, and the wide range of subjects she covered, from art and agriculture to science and remedial maths. She taught recorder and keyboard and singing, helped her team to win the sports day activities and trained one of the girls to qualify for the 1500 metres at National level. As if this was not enough, she put on a nativity play and, later, a musical called 'Button Box' when she taught a boy with a stutter (and a mumble) to do a perfect solo rap! She clearly put a lot into her year in southern Africa, and got a lot out of it. "I had the most incredible year which is impossible to sum up in a short way," she says. "I can only say thank you for making my dream come true."

Edward Werrel (St J) went to teach for a year at the Salvation Community School near Myanzi Uganda, a total immersion in East African life with plenty of surreal adventures. At his school he taught maths, science and writing, and set up and trained the football team, a muddy process in the monsoon season. He had to learn the main local language, Lugandan, and he found the children fun and active learners. He was active in building new classroom, teachers' houses, a water tank and even a deep drop. None of this stopped him taking part in the local events, such as dancing in the parade for Uganda's 50th year of independence and exploring Kampala's nightlife. During the school holidays he and a friend started a heroic journey, first hitching to the capital of Ruanda, Kigali, savouring the French influence there and visiting the eerie Genocide Memorial museum, then paddling a canoe on Lake Kivu before moving on to a volcanic crater lake, Binyoni, in south-west Uganda, hiking through the Ruwenzori mountains to overlook the Congo border, and meeting a wide range of wild animals on a game safari. After a scary abseil down the 100m Sipi Falls near Mount Elgon and a visit to the Nile at Jinja, they returned to school to continue their teaching and

building with renewed enthusiasm, 'Thank you', he says ' for helping me have such a life-changing experience'.

James Lam (MC), inspired to climb by Rupert Rosedale, used the grant to get professional (guide) training in snow and ice work in the Chamonix alps. A classic rock route on the first day was followed by practice in crampon skills and crevasse rescue in the Mer de Glace. Next day they did the famous Cosmique Ridge on the Aiguille de Midi which ends up clambering onto the terrace of the top cable station, and on later days they progressed to more challenging techniques, culminating on the Goulotte Chere on Mt Blanc de Tacul, successfully completed in perfect conditions. This sort of training can make a lifetime difference to a climber.

Henry Barclay (MC) had a wide range of adventures during his 5 months in Madagascar and South Africa. On the east coast he first met the Indri, the largest of the lemurs which are indigenous to the island, before taking a local taxi van up the notoriously dangerous R6 road to the north-west coast and out to the island of Nosy Be where after a few days diving, he joined a team a team of volunteers and biologists surveying fish, corals and the critically endangered Hawksbill turtles. He visited very tame lemurs on a small island, the famous eroded limestone pinnacles at the Ankarana Reserve on the north of the mainland, and swam with Whale sharks and a green turtle. A stay with a friend in a smart hotel made him so ill he had to end his Madagascar travels and move to South Africa for treatment, which led to work surveying mammals at the Samara Game reserve in the Eastern Cape with more adventures with scorpions and cobras.

Ursula Gardiner (St J) spent 2 months teaching in Kalimpong and a month in rural China, with some travel in north-west India in between. In the Indian hills on the edge of the Himalaya with monsoon misty views of Kanchenjunga on the Nepalese border, she taught English in a rural school where some of the children walk an hour and a half to get there; although there were few resources, the children progressed visibly day by day. A week 'seeing the sights' took her to Delhi, Agra (the Taj), Udaipur and Jaipur before she moved on to the very different challenge of teaching in China with classes of up to 65 and children only in their first or second year of English. She bicycled and rock climbed in beautiful scenery and took part in a local wedding. 'China is a very different experience from India, but no less valuable'.

Rachel Adams (MC) had 4 months in South America, in Bolivia and Peru, with a charity called Latin Link, working with a team of eight 19-year olds in church communities. In El Alto outside La Paz, as well as building the roof of the main meeting hall they were involved with some 240 street children 'as we became aware how little they had, yet how happy they all seemed to be'. With the church community they helped with services, ran Sunday School and sang. Despite the language barrier they were invited into local homes most evenings, becoming close to the people and immersed in a new culture.

In the Andean Mountains of Peru, in Hanocca in Cusco region they helped extend and plaster a building of a local church and assisted with a large medical mission from America which saw over 3000 patients in 5 days. Moving on to nearby Urcos, as well as building a wall, the team worked

with the local youth group which proved to be a lot of fun. The whole team visited Machu Picchu before dispersing home. 'I know I will never forget the time I have spent away and the significance it will have for the rest of my life'.

Charlie Ramsden (MC) went to Sabah in north-west Borneo with a group of 12 organised by The Leap in Marlborough. Most of the 3 million inhabitants of the province live along the north coast, but inland the country is mountainous and covered in tropical rain forest, sparsely inhabited but supporting a huge range of plant and animal life. This is threatened by mining, deforestation (often for palm oil plantations which destroy the orang-utans natural habitats) and great increases in the human population, and his project was to assist local efforts to reduce and repair this damage.

At his first camp, welcomed by the local tribespeople with drums and gongs, he helped build part of an eco-center where tourist can study the rainforest sustainably and provide some income for the tribe. In the next camp further west in the foothills of Mount Kinabalu he worked on a new community center, experimenting with more sustainable building blocks, and after that he moved to a forestry reserve where he planted trees and collected seeds and had his first sight of the endangered orang-utans, visiting a unit where orphaned primates are rehabilitated until they can survive in the wild. His final setting was an island off the north coast which is one of the world's most important places for turtle conservation, with coral reefs damaged by techniques of bomb fishing. Here the tasks were to educate the local people, especially the young, about the importance of maintaining the diversity of the reef and to build an extension to the village school, which was a great success.

He writes of his dismay at 'the destruction of habitat essential to such important wildlife. This must be addressed as a matter of urgency, otherwise future generations will not enjoy this beautiful island. I would like to think that in a small way I ... did a little to help this situation.'

Will Steward (MC), having returned from Fiji where he completed his PADI divemaster course and a marine conservation project, accepted an offer of an unpaid job as divemaster in a dive centre at Nungwi on the white sandy beaches of the northern tip of Zanzibar. Here he lead clients on guided dives as well as all the other duties of a dive centre, and in addition organised 'clean-up' dives of the local reef where he lead experienced divers to collect rubbish off the reef, mainly rope, fishing nets, bottles and scrap metal. He also carried out a systematic survey of fish diversity and population, coral health and invertebrate numbers, so that later changes in the reef's health could be detected. 'I had an amazing time in Zanzibar' he says. 'The experience I gained will help me ... with my course and future in Marine biology. I am very grateful.'

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race is a prestigious and gruelling annual race over 126 miles; involving 77 portages, and a variable number of overnight camps. **Tom Bond** and **Robert Bridger** (St J.) had regularly watched competitors paddle through their village each year, and in 2010 acted as part of a support crew for a competing team. In 2011 they decided to enter as a doubles team themselves, and started training in January for the race in March. An unstable boat, a broken boat, and numerous dunkings in bitterly cold water did not deter these novices,

and they wisely entered for five shorter races, including one on the fast-flowing and choppy Thames, before the main event. The four days of the race were blessed with fine and warm weather. The portages proved a welcome relief from the “bum-numbing” lengthy paddling stages, and the psychological boost provided by friends along the route with a personalised banner, were most welcome.

The pair reached Westminster on day 4 in a very respectable overall time of 24 hours and 51 minutes.

Ben Bradish (MC) joined a Latin Link Gap Project in Ecuador for 2 months. Starting in a fishing town on the coast, the task was to help in the construction of a new school building in the mornings, and teach some of the children in the afternoons. Arranging physical recreational activities for 100 children, Ben claimed, definitely developed his organisational and leadership skills. After six weeks, Ben and the others embarked on a two week exploratory trip. Starting in Quito, they followed the route known as The Avenue of the Volcanoes. Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, Sangay and Tungurahua were visited (but not climbed), and a cultural stay in Cuenca provided a welcome contrast. Horse trekking, zip-wiring, waterfall jumping and white-water rafting gave adrenaline rushes to all concerned. Ben, in thanking the KRET for helping to make the trip possible, says, “One aspect of this trip which has been particularly rewarding has been the opportunity to work as part of a team, valuing the strengths and different contributions from individual team members.”

Michael Richardson and **Jamie Prout** (St. J.) already had a pedigree of undertaking challenging activities, and filming these expertly for the enlightenment of others. Their original plan for this trip was to spend two weeks filming for Action Aid in the Austrian Alps. Two weeks before departure, however, their Austrian contact became “unavailable”, Quickly revised plans saw them travelling to The Jura, where they found that the river levels were far too low (following an unexpected heatwave) for their planned kayaking. On to Chamonix, where they enjoyed two days of climbing and a brief, but exciting kayak trip on a river with a feature dubbed “The Waterfall of Death”. To Switzerland, where the Rhone was dry, so back to France, where a tributary of the Rhone provided some exciting kayaking. On to Aosta in Italy, and finally back to Chamonix. The climbing and kayaking was all filmed (and much posted on You-Tube), and was enhanced by rainstorms, sand storms, and lightning storms. Their conclusion? “There is no such thing as a bad experience. Just a damn good story”!

In the summer of 2012 a group of seven volunteers from St John's (**Sammy Waddell, Claire Gent, Jak Maloret, Jess Shields, Georgina Thatcher, Ellie Vesey Thompson, and Hannah Seward**) joined two others and went to Gunjur for four weeks. This smallest summer group for 27 years tackled one of the largest projects ever attempted by the Marlborough Brandt Group, namely, the rebuilding of the market in the centre of the village. And the group only discovered what the task was to be about one week before they departed! Starting by clearing the rubble of the old building, and concluding by plastering the completed market, the task was just completed in the time available. The group also devoted six hours per week to working with Disability Africa, an NGO promoting equality for disabled people. As usual, the

group stayed with host families in different compounds, which gave them a unique experience and the opportunity to make some good friends and establish lasting relationships.

When most of us were glued to our television sets watching the 2012 London Olympics, **William Hatlapa** (St. J.) and two companions were cycling from Land's End to John O' Groats to raise money for the "Make a Wish" Foundation. Setting off on 3rd August, they covered about 80 miles per day, facing heavy rain, strong winds, and (more predictably) many steep hills for the first three days. Their support team met them with lunch each day, and set up the tents and provided supper, each night. Two separate collisions involving team members and a series of punctures were the most serious mishaps. Highlights were: The Forest of Bowland, The Great Glen of Glencoe, and the empty moorland around Altnaharra. It was a wet and windy John O' Groats that welcomed them – 13 days and 969 miles after leaving Land's End.

Alice Duffy (St.J) spent 10 weeks in South Africa at the Kwa Madwala Private Game Reserve as a member of a 27 strong group organised by a local Gap Year Company. Staying in a backpackers' lodge, the group worked on Reserve Conservation, Wildlife Education, and help in the local community. The former involved digging drainage trenches, clearing paths, and repairing fencing. The community work was based in an HIV/AIDS orphanage in the local town, where Alice says she "was shocked by the joy and vitality of the children". She also visited a "private" school (fees £30 per month), where the facilities were very basic, but the standard of English spoken was astonishingly high; and she helped with a visit to the Reserve by the "Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls" - a school founded with the aim of encouraging intelligent girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to become future leaders in South Africa. The wildlife education aim was achieved through game drives and bush walks, including visits to the nearby Kruger National Park.

Iona Humphries Cuff (MC) travelled to Peru with Projects Abroad to work for three months in local communities, and then travel for a further two months. She stayed with a local family in Cusco to start with, where she first worked with forty 5-12 year olds in a summer school. For the next six weeks, Iona was placed in a nutrition centre helping mothers and young children understand food groups and healthy diets. This also involved visiting families in their homes. Finally, Iona worked in two day-care centres, looking after 1-5 year olds, and helping them with feeding, singing, and games-playing. For the final two months, Iona left Cusco and travelled to Lima, and then across the border to Ecuador. Cuenca, Quito and Vilcabamba were all reached despite landslips en route. From here, back to Peru and on to Bolivia, taking in a remarkable range of activities and sights.