

KEMPSON ENTERPRISE TRUST

(Charitable Trust formed in 1989 - Reg. No. 900126)

OUR REPORT for the year 2004-2005

For twelve years the Trust has continued to give an ever-increasing number of grants to encourage enterprising activity among sixth-formers at St John's School and Marlborough College. We are inspired in this by the memory of E G H Kempson who gave to so many of his pupils in such a wide range of interests, from mountaineering to printing, botany to local history.

During the year, we supported 10 pupils from both schools and one group of six from St Johns. The range of their experience was considerable, and we have tried to give some idea of this, using their excellent reports.

Ben Gill spent ten weeks on the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific, mostly surveying the reefs around the tiny island of Nasonisoni with the charity *Greenforce*. One of their aims was to educate the local people on the importance of preserving the coral reefs, and as they were the first group to go to this island they had to act as ambassadors among people who had not met outsiders before. While their camp was set up, they lived in the small village, 'an amazing cultural and culinary experience'. Then there was the setting up of the camp near the beach and the diving in an almost totally unknown area, which made every dive an adventure. They found the Fijians kind and generous; the beauty of the location and the wonderful experience of diving 'made the project the best ten weeks of my life'.

John Ovans had an interesting three months with *Trekforce* in Belize. After jungle training (how to use a machete and deal with snakes, scorpions and jaguars), he helped to cut 19 km of trail through jungle on the island of Balacar Chico, stayed in a village in Guatamala for a month of learning Spanish, then back into Belize to teach (and paint the school library) in a traditional Mayan farming village. It was, he says, 'a brilliant experience and I owe a big thanks to you for sponsoring me'.

Jessie Barstow found herself 'smelling the African air' in northern Tanzania with *British School Exploring Society*, travelling among the craters, volcanoes and rich wildlife of this remarkable Masai area. After some environmental studies of plant coverage in the Rift Valley they trekked in the Crater Highlands and the Ngorongoro Crater. She saw at close hand the vast range of animals from elephant to vultures and, staying in Masai villages, met children who had hardly ever seen a white person before. Camped below Ol Doingo Lengai she experienced the unforgettable night sky; 'almost white with patches of black, there was no moon, but the sky glowed so brightly that it silhouetted the vast volcano to our right'. She describes it all as 'an eye-opening experience'.

David Kiy went to sunny Singapore at Christmas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Shaolin Kung Fu club and was soon immersed in the world of lion and dragon dancing, Iron shirt chi kung (techniques to resist blows to the stomach and groin) and kung fu training. After the anniversary celebrations he visited other masters in Thailand and Penang

where on Boxing Day morning he felt the tremors of the tsunami earthquake, returning exhausted and penniless from an insightful trip.

Robin Mason went to the *New Zealand Film Academy* for a six-week course on film production in friendly Auckland. He enjoyed the hands-on involvement in making a music video and two short films, the professionalism of the tutors and the involved atmosphere of the small teams. 'The course has strengthened my interest in film and encouraged me to follow the profession further'.

Mary Hancock is planning to be a vet, and she went to South Africa with *African Conservation Experience*. For two months she worked and learned at the Greater Makalali Game Reserve, helping a project which was aiming to control the population of elephants and lions by contraception (rather than culling), to check on the numbers and distribution of species in the reserve, and to control erosion. She learnt to camp out, drive 4x4s and shoot a rifle, and she found the animals and plants endlessly fascinating. For her last month she moved to Moholoholo Rehab Centre where she helped look after orphaned and injured animals including eagles, eagle owls, caracals and a baby zebra which demanded feeding every four hours. It was hard work but a great experience.

Amy Walker had a rewarding and hard-working time as a volunteer on a farm in South Africa which provides a range of services to the impoverished township of Embo, and learnt a lot of building skills making a hostel for volunteers.

Will Foulsham's gap year experiences took him first to India, and his is an amazing account of his frenetic journeys right across the subcontinent, interspersed with some football, a bout of dysentery in Rajhistan, meditation in Bodhgaya (with 'a bit of a breakdown'), and a trek into the mountains above Darjeeling, before going down to Madurai to work at an orphanage. Astonishingly he then went on to North America where his adventures continued at an even greater pace. Read and wonder!

Julie Cozens spent five months in South America with *Quest Overseas*. The first few weeks were spent improving her Spanish in Quito, Ecuador, but this involved making many friends and exploring the markets, forests, craters and beaches (her first sight of the Pacific). Then she flew down to Peru to work with the children of Villa Maria, a shantytown on the edge of Lima. Their homes clung to the arid slopes of the surrounding hills, with no electricity, running water or sewage. She helped these severely disadvantaged children in the streets, a nursery, a rudimentary care centre and the Quest playground; 'impossible to describe,' she says, 'but these experiences were the most rewarding and enlightening of my life.' This was followed by 6 weeks travelling in Peru and Chile and Argentina, visiting all the archaeological sites she could get to.

Elizabeth Loveday was another who found herself in Quito, Ecuador with Outreach International. With two other girls she stayed with a teacher and her family; her two weeks of language training coincided with a period of political unrest and rioting, which unseated the President. Her work was with SOS Children Villages who run 7 centres in Quito, and for three months she helped look after younger children from single parent or problem families at one of these. She got to know the children well and to understand their poor and difficult backgrounds by going on visits to their homes with the social worker. At weekends she was able to explore, visiting the rivers, mountains, rain forests and beaches of this fascinating country. 'Reflecting on my time spent in

Ecuador, the people I met and the experiences I had, makes me realise what a huge impact it will have on the rest of my life.'

Nicola Martin also went to South America. She lived for five months with a family just outside Quito, taught English to affectionate 5 - 12 year olds in a private school in the morning and, more challengingly, helped with deprived children and their mothers in a centre in the poorest suburbs in the south of Quito. On her weekends she explored the wonders of Ecuador, and after completing her time there travelled to the Galapagos Islands, Chile, Bolivia and Peru. In her report she comments honestly on the highs and lows of a gap year. 'I now have greater confidence in my ability to face challenges and make difficult decisions. I have become more appreciative for the world I am used to, I have made life-long friends of every race age and colour and I have healthily whetted my appetite to travel. Life has been good to me and now I long to turn others around and so help them feel the same'.

Finally a group from St John's planned an expedition down Offa's Dyke from Prestatyn to the Severn. The team, **Hannah Tarrant, Seb Frysol, Ben Scriven, Emma Turvey, Jess Holloway and Mike Lohr**, made meticulous, if optimistic, plans; their superb report describes the progress of this 'momentous undertaking' through the beautiful Welsh Marches as they overcame a number of minor disasters and some major blisters, until Mike's glandular fever took them all home after a week and 113 kilometres. We congratulate them all on a good try.

*The Trustees would like to thank all those who have supported us in the past. We want to continue to give young people a chance to get a broader view of their world and more confidence in it. We have now made grants of over £33,000 to projects involving more than **115** sixth-formers. But if we are to continue to be able to give worthwhile grants to the increasing number of pupils with good projects we will need more support from our friends, by donations, covenants or legacies. Please help us to go on making our small contribution to a more understanding world.*

Trustees of the Kempson Trust

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