

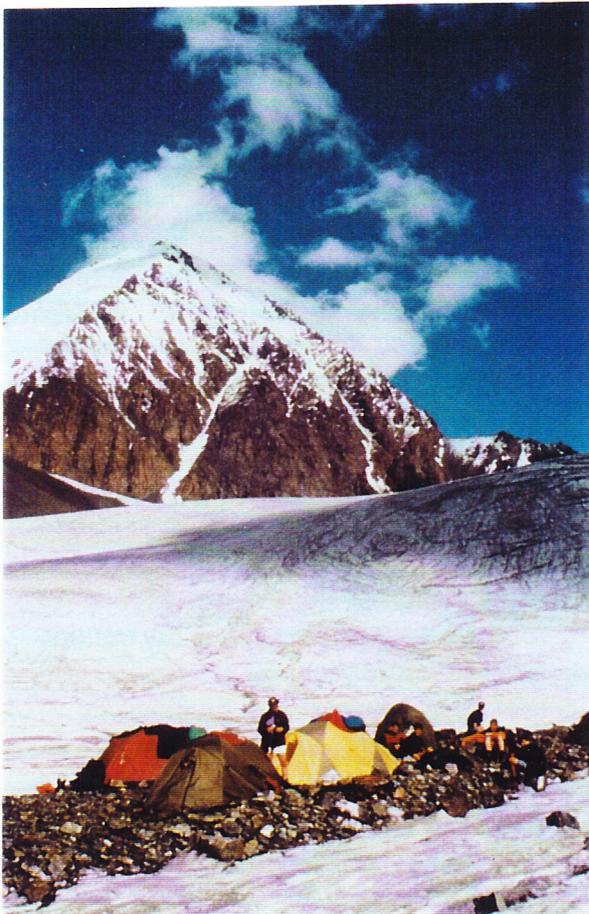
KEMPSON ENTERPRISE TRUST

(Charitable Trust formed in 1989)

OUR REPORT Year 1998-1999

We are now in our tenth year, and the Trust continues to pursue its objectives of encouraging enterprising activity among sixth-formers at St John's School and Marlborough College. We remember the breadth of E G H Kempson's many interests which inspired so many of his pupils, in mountaineering, scouting, printing, archaeology and natural history. We continue to help students to do things, which will broaden their experience, build confidence, and enrich their lives.

Dr Irvine Smith, who has been a trustee since the foundation of the Trust, died this autumn. He will be deeply missed by his many friends here and in Derbyshire and we are indebted to him for his wise guidance of the Trust through its early years.



Miriam Manook:
Glacier camp in Kazakhstan

This year we supported seven applicants with a record level of grants, four from the College, three from St John's.

Their experiences covered five different continents and a wide variety of activities, of which their reports give us a flavour.

Miriam Manook (College) was one of eight students from three schools who joined a mountaineering party to the Dzhungarian Alatau, a beautiful but little visited alpine range full of unclimbed 4000m peaks and huge glaciers. It lies in the south east corner of Kazakhstan, on the border with China's Xinjiang province, with an adventurous three-day journey from Almaty and total isolation from the rest of the world for the three weeks of climbing and exploring. During this time Miriam was one of the summit party of the previously unclimbed Jumbula (4300m) and also carried out a geological survey and made recordings which she later edited into a contribution to Radio 4's "Itchy Feet" travel programme. 'Thank you for all your support', she writes, 'I had an amazing time. I seem to be getting the Travel Bug and am already planning my next trips...'

Louisa Trickey (St J) went with GAP to teach English for six months at a school based on a leprosy hospital in the Malaysian part of Borneo. The school, run entirely by GAP volunteers, seeks to educate children of leprosy patients and hospital staff to increase their chances of employment, and Louisa taught using a combination of formal lessons and games, songs, arts and crafts. The 60 children represented several different cultures and religions, and she was able to celebrate the main Christian, Hindu and Muslim festivals in the traditional ways. 'The most important thing for me was the chance to be part of the community and begin to understand the Malaysian way of life; the overwhelming friendliness of all the people I met added to my love of the country...I can't thank you enough for the contribution from the Kempson Trust.

Victoria Cox (St J) went with GAP for a year as a teacher in a girl's school near Toronto. She lived with a family next door to the school and spent most of her time in the Junior Kindergarten as well as helping with gym classes, Maths teaching, hockey and all the general school activities. With school trips she went camping and canoeing among the lakes and wilderness of Northern Ontario, first in the early Fall, then again in the freezing contrast of the winter. At the end of a busy school year, she met up with a friend to travel across Canada and down the West Coast of USA. 'I had a fantastic time' she says 'and am full of fond memories. I would go back and do the whole year again if I could.'

Rowan Woodhouse (College) went on a Raleigh International expedition to Belize for three months in the summer 1999. In the first of three phases his team of 13 venturers from several different countries worked in the Belizean Botanical Gardens, founded 10 years ago near St Ignacio. They gravelled paths, built frames for climbing plants and planted numerous trees and shrubs, but also had time to visit the local sites including the first major Mayan site to be opened to tourists. On the next phase his training as a diving instructor was made good use of in helping in a dive survey of the coral reefs of Coco Plum Caye. The final task was the completion of a school building near the Mexican border, fixing the roof in time for the ceremonial opening. The group had to come to terms with the death of one of the volunteers during the expedition.



Some of the girls Kate Bailey worked with at Nossa Casa, Abrigo

Kate Bailey (St J) had a wonderful year in Brazil. She went with Project Trust to Blumenau, a small city in the South of Brazil (first settled by German immigrants in 1850 and still with a very European feel to it). She worked with a language school as well as an orphanage and creche on the edge of the city. The language school was a busy private school with 15 teachers from Brazil and several other countries and dealt with a wealthier section of society. Here she taught English to several teenager and mixed groups who wanted to improve their language skills in their spare time. As part of her social project, which she was able to do two mornings a week, she worked first at a creche for about 100 girls of six to sixteen, many of whom came from families with problems with alcohol or violence. Later she helped at an orphanage with about 30 children, feeding babies,

changing nappies and teaching English. She loved the friendly atmosphere here and wishes she could have spent more time with them. From her experience of living with two very different families and travelling to many remote areas and cities (including Rio and Salvador in time for the famous Carnivals), she came to a clearer understanding of some of the problems, including the poverty, sexual inequalities, corruption and an uncritical worship of the USA, as well as the friendliness and hospitality of many Brazilians. "I feel privileged" she says "to have had this opportunity, not necessarily to change Brazil or someone else's life, but instead to give me a greater understanding of the world, while at the same time teaching some Brazilians about life in England and putting a smile on their faces!"

Rebecca Willcox and **Zoe James** (College) went to Ghana in January 1999 for a three-month Medical Experience programme with teaching and Projects Abroad. Coming from wintry England, they found the heat and humidity of Accra a shock. Hosted with a generous but unfathomable family in a slum suburb of the capital, they endured the climate with a dribble of a shower and no fan, and learnt to manage the West African diet and pace of life.

They were based in a regional polyclinic where the resources were swamped by the swarms of patients, and they saw first-hand the depressing conditions in the various clinics, wards and classes, and the poorly equipped laboratories and pharmacies. They learn how complicated the economics of third-world medicine can become when patients cannot even afford the few pennies for a simple course of

antibiotics, and how often outside aid is ineffective and inappropriate. They managed to get the opportunity to spend time in the Korle-Bu National Teaching Hospital where they were given a thorough tour including the country's only renal dialysis unit (kidney failure is a huge problem due to the use of uncontrolled herbal medicine), the eye clinic and the Blood Bank.

There were opportunities to travel widely, visiting the beaches, villages, markets, the old coastal forts and the rain forests, travelling by crowded 'troto' minibuses, trains and lake ferries. Rebecca writes 'What I was not prepared for was the painful process of having my every belief challenged and my way of thinking overturned...Ghana is now a home from home. I wouldn't exchange my experience for the world'



Fishing beach in Ghana

We hope you will agree that these experiences have been worth supporting as an investment in all our futures. The Trustees would like to thank all those who have supported us thus far, and enabled us to make grants of over £15,000 to 54 projects involving more than 70 sixth-formers. Please help us with suggestions and donations so that we can continue to grow in our second decade and a new millennium.

Trustees of the Kempson Trust

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