

KEMPSON ENTERPRISE TRUST

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

OUR REPORT for the year 2006-2007

For fifteen years, the Trust has continued giving grants to encourage enterprising activity among sixth-formers at Marlborough College and St John's School, Marlborough during their sixth form and gap years. In this, we recall the inspiration which E G H Kempson gave to so many of his pupils in such a wide range of interests, from mountaineering to printing, botany to local history. We continue to help students to do a wide range of things which will broaden their experience, build confidence, and enrich their lives.

This year we assisted twelve sixth-formers to undertake surprising and enterprising activities in four continents, and it is our pleasure to give a flavour of this diversity, based on their enthusiastic reports.

For a quarter of a century, Marlborough has been linked with a small town in the Gambia called Gunjur, and the Trust supported some of the young people: Chloë Blackmore, Simon Budden, Laura Mitchell and Lindsey Hancock, part of a team from both schools, going there for the summer visit. They all lived for a month with families, without running water or electricity, during the hottest and rainiest part of the African year, and their work objective was to work with Gambian villagers to repair six classroom blocks in the Islamic school. They worked six days a week, clearing the rooms, removing old plaster and concrete floors and replacing them, fitting new windows, a new veranda and a new roof. As they had collected extra funds in UK, they were also able to build a toilet block with a pit which should last 25 years. A huge number of local people came to help out and there were many opportunities to get to know more about this way of life. 'Some of the best times' says Chloë 'were when a group of us would just sit under the trees and talk to our Gambian friends about the differences in our culture and about the Muslim religion'. This successful visit has greatly strengthened the link and made many friends.



Wall Painting in Gunjur

Clara Strachan (MC) went to Brazil for three months to run an 'out-of-school' club for disadvantaged children in a favela (slum area) in Rio de Janeiro. This was a successful and popular scheme, and she was responsible for preparing sessions in painting, games and basic English for 20 children aged 4 to 13 for six

hours a day. She lived in the socially diverse neighbourhood of St Teresa with sumptuous mansions and three favelas, and got a good experience of living in the bustle of Rio. In spite of



Out-of-School Club

some inevitable frustrations, she found volunteering to be a unique way to discover what a city and country are really about. 'My experience was one of a very strong sense of community coupled with a desire to relish the opportunity'.

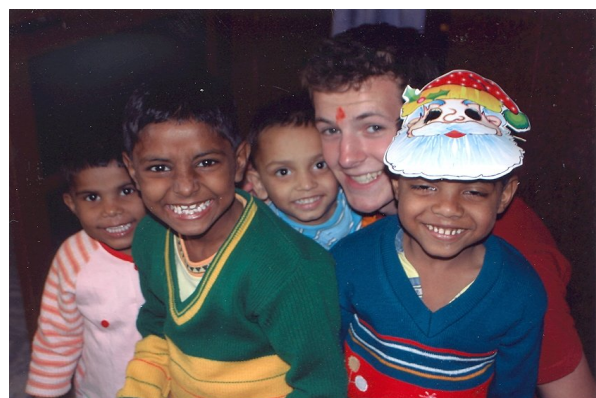
Robert Peal (MC) with the support of three friends, wrote and performed a 50-minute comedy sketch, 'Comic Abuse', for four exhausting weeks at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. 'Straight from the sheltered confines of school we were thrown into the chaotic and unscrupulous world of fringe theatre'. This sparkling report describes the writing, the debut rehearsal in the back room of the Sun Inn, the acceptance to perform at the Pleasaunce, settling into 'a grimy little flat behind McEwan's Brewery', endless hours spent handing out the flyers to snare an audience, and the terrors of the performances themselves, 25 of them. These started at 11.15, a late slot which ensured a good but rather inebriated house with much inconsistency and variation in audience reac-

tion. They got the odd bad review and many congratulations as well. 'Extremely rewarding; it has given us all a fantastic awareness of the world of theatre and comedy'.

David Stansbury (MC) spent nearly five months in the Cusco region of Peru, teaching English and sport in a school in a farming town 3800 metres up in the Andes. He learnt of the difficulties and shortcomings of the Peruvian education system, but in spite of this and, to start with, his 'dodgy Spanish' he got on well with the pupils and set up a library of 400 books. On the sports front he helped with volleyball and basketball, but also introduced them to touch rugby, struggling to teach the idea of passing backwards.

Living with a Peruvian family was an unmissable experience and very different as the family unit was entirely interdependent, supporting each other and an integral part of one another's lives. 'They couldn't have done more to make me feel like a brother or a son, and I am still in contact'.

Bart Quinton Smith (St J) was planning to go to Sri Lanka but was prevented by political troubles there. Instead he



Orphan Children in Jaipur.

went to India, working for several months as a volunteer with a sales team in Mumbai, travelling widely about the slums of this crowded city and getting an intimate view of the poverty, hunger, disease and child labour, as well as its friendliness and hospitality. Most importantly he went to visit Shishu Bal Grah orphanage in Jaipur. It has a box outside the compound door for unwanted babies; by the age of 4 most of the boys have been adopted and the girls move into the prison-like orphanage on the ground floor. He was so concerned by their needs that he is fundraising for them and organised charity concerts to raise money for bathrooms, a kitchen and some simple luxuries.

It was diving and conservation for Stephanie Reading (St J) who went on a 10-week project on the coast of Fiji. They lived in very basic conditions, a palm-frond hut for twelve with a tarpaulin for a floor and rats and land crabs for visitors. They did their own cooking and cleaning and came close to real hunger when the vital supply boat was four weeks late (because, they later learnt, of a military coup). Here having learnt advanced diving and how to recognise 100 species of sea dweller, the survey started and Stephanie carried out an elegant study to compare fish populations in protected and non-protected areas as well as a programme to try to persuade local people to eat less older turtles. She made good friends with her Fijian family and clearly had a profound experience. 'It was the best experience of my life and I am grateful to the Kempson Trust'.

In a similar project, Harry Mills (St J)

went to the Philippines to work on coral reef conservation. After a quick view of Manila, he went down Padre Burgos on the southern end of Leyte Island and a friendly welcome at the Coral Cay base. Here he had his training in diving and species recognition before starting an intensive programme of diving which he describes in his report and clearly found entirely satisfying.

Laura Adams and Rebecca Hazlewood (St J) went to teach at the Mathieson Music School in Kolkata for underprivileged children from 6 to 17. They were impressed by their friendly welcome and the dedication and hard



Laura and some of the Children.

work. The day started at 5.30 with instrumental practice and continued with English, Bengali, Science, Maths, dance and tabla, with a lunchtime concert every day. Laura taught everything from creative writing to Indian

social studies, and Rebecca gave flute, piano and singing lessons to many of the pupils. They started a small choir and worked together on the successful school production of *Joseph*.

Although they found the established teaching methods hard and somewhat restricting, they were able to introduce some new techniques and overall enjoyed the experience of seeing the progress of the children and their own greater confidence. They took the opportunity of weekend visits to the wonders of Darjeeling and the mountains and several trips into the history and bustle of Kolkata (an epic journey by cycle-rickshaw, two auto-rickshaws and the metro). All-in-all 'it was the most memorable and worthwhile experience we could have hoped for. We have both come away more confident, passionate and determined people'.

In a more restricted and security-conscious world, we feel that international understanding and broader experience improves the chance of peace in the future. We want to continue to give young people a chance to get a broader view of their world and more confidence in it. The Trustees would like to thank all those who have supported us in the past. We have now made grants of over £37,000 to projects involving more than 140 sixth-formers. But the costs of projects are rising and our funds are not. 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

*Treasurer: John Robins 9 Swan Meadow Pewsey Wilts
SN9 5HW*

Tel: 01672 562703