

## **KATE STOKES MEMORIAL TRUST**

(Registered Charity No 1119478)

13a Balaclava Road  
Southampton  
SO18 6NS

Telephone: 02380 476730  
[ksakstokes@btinternet.com](mailto:ksakstokes@btinternet.com)



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Dear Friends

Once again we are circulating our annual review later than originally planned, but this time the delay has been intentional.

Earlier this year we were approached by one of the former conductors of the Southampton Orchestras at the time when Kate was a member, who asked us how we would feel about the Charity Symphony Orchestra holding a concert in aid of Kate's Trust. We were, of course, thrilled and delighted by this completely unexpected and amazingly generous offer. The concert took place on 21 November at St Mary's, the parish church of Southampton, and despite a miserably wet and blustery evening was extremely well attended. The event will have added more than £1500 to the Trust's fund; for a charity that does not actively canvass donations, this is a remarkable boost, for which we are enormously grateful.

And now for an update of the Trust's other activities. The recipients of Kate's Award this year are a well established group working at the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary in Western India, seeking to train local young people to become community conservation leaders. This project started in August and an interim report from the leaders has been very positive.

As you will probably remember, the first recipients of Kate's Award in 2006 were the Green Corridor Project team in Misiones, northern Argentina. The 2007 Award, which went to a team in Azerbaijan, has enabled them to add extra ranger training and scientific monitoring skills, and to produce the first eagle and kestrel monitoring book in the Azeri language for the use of rangers and other relevant groups.

The 2008 Award was granted to the Spot-Billed Pelican Conservation team, ECO-V, in Sri Lanka and has been used to train 20 youngsters from a village youth group. This has been a particularly successful project. The enthusiasm and professionalism of the training were outstanding. In October Sue met the ECO-V leader, Kanchana Weerakoon, in Cambridge, and both were delighted with the progress of the project. We have already received an interim report, and the final report is due next month.

We are pleased to report that, despite the current difficult economic climate, the Trust's finances are in a sound condition, with sufficient funds in place, thanks in no small measure to the concert receipts, to fully cover the 2010 Award. The prospects for 2011 are already looking very promising, and although the financial environment beyond then is likely to become much tighter, we are confident that the Trust will continue to thrive.

The Conservation Leadership Programme continues to go from strength to strength and we are indebted to Marianne and Robyn for their continued involvement with the Trust. As we mentioned last year, the proposed changes to the CLP staff have taken place; Robyn has become the CLP Executive Manager, while Marianne is now the Director of Conservation Capacity at Fauna & Flora International,

We plan to be holding the annual Trustees' meeting in April, at the same time selecting the 2010 Award winners. As the CLP Executive meetings are to be held in Washington next year, we may, for a change, have to resort to tele-conferencing.

We would like to thank you again for your continued interest and support.

Further information on the CLP and Kate's Award can be found at [www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/](http://www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org/)

Our very best wishes, yours sincerely,

The Trustees: Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes, Marianne Carter, Robyn Dalzen & Evan Bowen-Jones