



FRIENDS OF ALALAY (SANTA CRUZ)

Registered charity no. 1123425

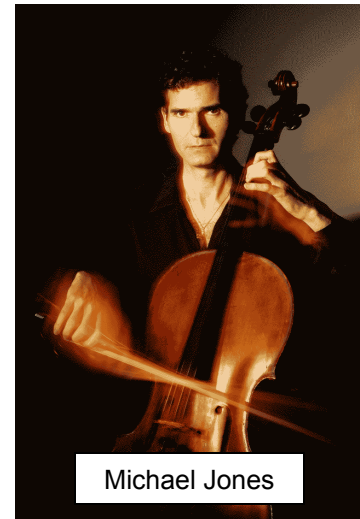
WINTER 2013 NEWSLETTER

I've now returned from an exciting, and at times frustrating, six months in Georgia working amongst displaced families. I continued to run my street children's work in Bolivia from there and currently intend to remain in the UK until later in March, in order to establish clearer future plans.

Let me continue this newsletter on a very optimistic note and quote from an email message that I've just received from the Bolivian projects' co-ordinator at Alalay. *"The past year has certainly had some problems but it has also had some great successes for the children at Alalay, Santa Cruz. In particular we have managed to reinforce the idea that Alalay itself can produce and create its own income and we have got much better at managing our activities. The young people can see that they are able to do useful and creative things to influence their own futures. Our production of food has been particularly effective, we have significantly reduced malnutrition amongst our children and now give them a much better diet. In addition we are establishing stronger ties with other local organizations, who previously did not know about us"*.

I find this enormously encouraging since, for the past six years, most of my efforts and resources have gone into helping the street kids to help themselves! I've always believed that simply handing over money would never be the best answer and feel rather vindicated in that view. Now let me look forward.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Michael Jones, a brilliant cellist, will be playing in a charity concert at St Matthew's Church, Kingsdown, Bristol, BS6 5TB, in support of my work at Alalay. The concert will start at 7.30 pm (doors open 7 pm) on Friday 1st March 2013 and **EVERYONE IS VERY WELCOME**.



Michael Jones

A major photographic exhibition, covering work amongst the street kids, will also be shown at the concert. Many stirring photographs were taken last year by a talented young British volunteer and form the basis of the display

We have now supported fourteen adolescents through vocational training, equipping them with a range of useful skills that will significantly increase their job prospects and self-esteem.



Street kids' shop

The quail farm is launched and 2,400 quail purchased so far. This is a serious business venture, not without some risk, and the first progress report is due at the end of February. Thanks to help from very generous donors, this project is fully funded. The aldea begins to resemble a farm, with pigs, chickens, cows, dogs, horses and geese intermingled with children – all coexisting well together, if a little noisily!

A small shop has been constructed in Santa Cruz, at which goods produced at Alalay can be sold – including eggs, vegetables, milk, textiles, bread and cakes, and furniture. The shop also provides a strong statement to passers-by about the plight of the street kids and what they are doing to solve their own problems.

The English classes continue, covering a number of both the older and the younger children. As I have explained previously, a facility with the English language is of great importance to the confidence of the children.

Please do take a moment to look at my updated website for more information. As always, I remain enormously grateful for all of your encouragement and practical support.

Annie Syrett, Bristol - January 2013

www.alalay.co.uk