



Another fantastic year of fundraising from schools and universities

by Kirsten Smith, Rainforest Concern



Rainforest display at Pennar Community School

More and more schools, teachers and students every year are teaching and learning about the value of our environment and of rainforests in particular, the damage caused by deforestation and loss of biodiversity, the importance of reusing and recycling, and of reducing energy consumption. We are delighted to see that the environment continues to be a subject growing in importance under the school curriculum, and the response from children and students over the last year has once again been very enthusiastic.

We would like to thank all the schools and universities that have continued to support us and to welcome those that have contacted us for the first time. Well done to all the schools that have been recycling paper, ink cartridges and mobile phones, and to all those students who have fundraised so tirelessly again this year. In particular, a very special thank you to our top fundraisers, Sheffield University who raised an impressive £5,500 through their "Bummit to the Baltics 2006" hitchhiking event, and to George Watson's College who managed to raise over £1,000, bringing our schools annual total to over £15,000 last year - a new record!

Schools and universities make a big difference to Rainforest Concern's work and we rely on their support and enthusiasm for spreading the word

about the charity, and importance of rainforest conservation. We are always interested to hear about the imaginative ways children and students find to raise money to help the rainforest, as well as seeing all the creative effort that goes into their studies. At George Heriot's School, class P6 organised a cake and candy stall and raised £280, sponsoring 11 acres of forest, and Fivemiletown Primary school in Northern Ireland came up with the novel fundraising idea of organising a trail for each class, which pupils paid 50p to participate in. They raised enough to sponsor 3 acres through their event! At Rushen Primary school, class 3B learnt about rainforests, recycling and saving energy and sent us the wonderful, colourful posters they made (some examples are printed here, below and left) and Year 5 at the Jessie Younghusband School sent us an incredible project on DVD involving individual films, interviews and animations from students. Some of our younger supporters have held sponsored bike rides and ice-cream sales to raise money for us over the last year, and schools supported us on the 5th June this year, by organising events for World Environment Day.

If you are a teacher, remember to have a look at our new website www.rainforestconcern.org for ideas and information about rainforests, and in particular see our interactive tour of the rainforest, which you can also get to through our linked website at www.guidedtour.rainforestconcern.org. This has been specifically designed for use in the classroom, and includes printable activity sheets.

We continue to be grateful to Phil Williams and to Dave and Sue Shaw for their school presentations, which always generate enthusiastic responses and new school supporters. If you would like to know more about "The World within your shoe" and how to arrange a visit, please phone Phil Williams on 07798 802087. For information on "The Rainforest Roadshow" please contact Dave and Sue Shaw on 01982 560244.

