



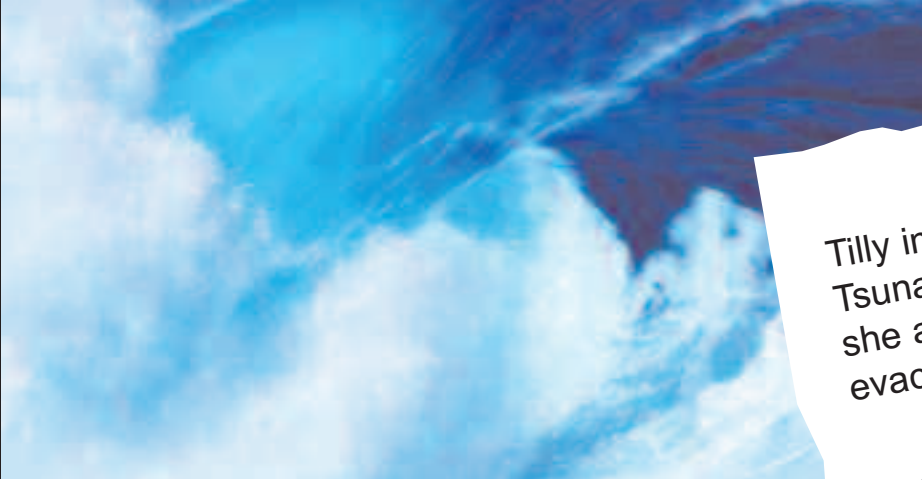
⇒ The most powerful earthquake in 40 years erupted under the Indian Ocean near Sumatra on December 26, 2004. It caused giant, deadly waves to crash ashore in nearly a dozen countries, killing tens of thousands.

⇒ The number of people believed to have perished in total currently stands at 273,435.

⇒ In Thailand the number of confirmed dead is 5,395 and in Indonesia the death toll is currently at 125,498.

⇒ Over half those killed in Indonesia are children

(figures correct on 5 March 2005)



Tilly immediately recognised the beginning of a Tsunami that day and with just minutes to act, she alerted hotel staff and her parents who evacuated the beach.

this world, enough to bring tears to eyes and enough to cause a tide of compassion from all corners of human civilisation.

A good thing to come out of this disaster, if that can be said, is that people have been united in their grief and have been united in a common goal of alleviating the suffering of the victims. Black or white, young or old, Christian or Muslim, they have been united. The Sri Lankan, Indonesian and Indian peoples have been united for once, talking not fighting and aiding not inhibiting. This disaster has shown what we can do if we join as one.

Ironic then, that the disaster could have been prevented by this new found co-operation and if these peoples had been united when discussing a Tsunami warning system.

Alerts could have been sent, lives would have been saved and the devastation would have been just as grand, but the loss of human life would have been greatly diminished.

This world is like a ship with 200 odd different steering wheels all going in different directions. Nothing gets done, nothing is achieved and people die **END**

Let this Tsunami be a warning to us all; going our separate ways is only going to cause us more trouble and if we act swiftly, decisively but as one maybe there can be a brighter future for us all.

## WHAT SCHOOLS HAVE DONE FOR THE TSUNAMI APPEAL

Tiffin School has led the way with fundraising and the Tsunami appeal and has so far raised £3,000. I have spearheaded fundraising events at Tiffin School with parents, students and teachers alike coming together to help facilitate the buying of tents to provide shelter for the homeless.

In other Schools similar showings of compassion have taken place. Coombe Girls School and the Hollyfield School have dressed up in their own clothes, the students co-operating very eagerly, to raise funds for the tsunami appeal.