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It is my pleasure to be compiling this news letter on behalf of CANE UK

For the benefit of those who do not know about our organisation, this charitable group in the UK fund the running of a Hospice situated in Maruthanamadam. The Hospice offers a holding haven for those diagnosed with Cancer, transport to Thellipalai Hospital for medical treatment, nutritional and Spiritual support.

Founded over a decade ago for the care of patients from the North and East of Sri Lanka for whom there was no other provision unless they journeyed to the Cancer Hospital in Maharagama, it now takes in Patients from beyond the North and East. In true Northern tradition, every patient is allowed a family member or



friend who is also allowed to stay and is fed free of charge, for the duration of the patient's stay, if they wish. In addition to caring for Cancer patients, this institution now trains Nurses and medical students on the care of Cancer patients and palliation. They also provide an outreach service visiting and caring for cancer patients at home.

The Jaffna Hospice is managed day to day by salaried staff- an administrator, nurses and health care support workers and a cook. The management board consists of retired Doctors volunteering for this cause.

last year saw us fund major refurbishments at this building- a new floor in the Prayer Hall, toilets in the Nurses rest rooms, renewing of tiles to wash hand basin splash backs and external painting of the buildings.

Although the building in Jaffna was commissioned in 2006, pioneering work on this project goes way back to 1993 by a hand full of volunteers.



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CANE UK is a registered charity in the UK (No:1044299) headed by an honorary committee with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Its mission is to raise funds for this worthy cause in the North of our Mother Land. To this end the UK committee is helped by a number of friends, relations and well wishers of the committee who donate their time, expertise and money. More recently International funds have been obtained from the International Monetary Organisation.

On the 2nd of July 2017 we held a charity Lunch. This was the first time this was tried by us. It was organised in the Summer to obviate travel difficulties in the Winter months. The function was held in a community hall with organisational help volunteered by the committee in order to keep expenses to a minimum. Caterers provided the main meal whilst the committee convened the rest.



The programme included a video presentation updating activities at the Jaffna Hospice, cultural dance and instrumental performances by young Tamil artists and was well attended. We felt honoured to note that John and Sadie Skelton-founder volunteers who helped set up CANE Jaffna all those years ago, decided to spend the day of their Golden Wedding Anniversary with us on this day..

Our main fund raising event-The Annual Dinner Dance was cancelled this year when Mr N Arunasalam a much loved and valued supporter of this charity fell ill late in Summer and was admitted to Hospital. His subsequent demise was a blow to us. Aruna was passionate about



this charity, gave freely of his time, efforts and funds to this cause and was his wife Kamala's right and left hand in all matters to do with CANE UK. His presence is sadly missed by all of us. Kamala continues to strive for the welfare of CANE UK, Jaffna and further fund raising efforts.

It is the aspiration of this organisation that the Hospice in Jaffna goes from strength to strength and addresses the needs of this group of patients, rising to the 21st century, to include modern methods of multi modal pain relief and psychological support to patients at the end stage of life, ravaged by Cancer. One of the main difficulties is the lack of trained Nurses in this field in the North. Recruitment and retention of staff continues to beguile and thwart our efforts from the UK, in fulfilling our goal for this cohort of patients. The National Health provision in the way of placement of Permanent Palliative and Oncology care Consultants in the North is lacking. This we feel is the main cause stunting the growth and development of this speciality in the North.

2018 launches the 25th Anniversary of this charitable venture. We look forward to continued support from all our well wishers, here in the UK, worldwide and in Sri Lanka. Long may our collective endeavours help those in their terminal months, unable to live a full or pain free life, without our compassion to care.

Our annual fundraising dinner dance will be on the 29th of September 2018. Please support us to make this a success.

"The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them: that's the essence of inhumanity"

George Bernard Shaw 1901

Dr S Nithianandan

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