

NEWS RELEASE

Sri Lankan Celebration Evening by Fund Raisers

An evening celebrating culinary delights from Sri Lanka is being held to raise money for children orphaned by the 2005 tsunami.

The social get together is at Birchington Village Centre on Saturday, June 10, from 7pm. The £15 entrance fee includes the chance to sample a full range of traditional food from Sri Lanka, enjoy music and dance performances, and help boost funds via a ticket prize draw, a raffle and tombola.

The event is organised by a volunteer group from Kent that is working to help devastated communities in Sri Lanka.

The KASTDA Fund – the Kent Association for Sri Lankan Tsunami Daruwo – is dedicated to helping orphans throughout the stricken country, and members have visited on fact-finding missions to see how best they can help.

Funding goes direct to the point of need to ensure the social and educational welfare of the youngsters on a long term basis.

Now in its second year, the fund raisers had a successful first year raising more than £20,000 through a variety of events.

The Birchington get-together is the first major fund raiser of 2006 and as well as being a chance for people to explore the culture and heritage of Sri Lanka, it is also the opportunity for the volunteers to mix socially.

Any business that wishes to donate prizes for the raffle to help raise money for the tsunami orphans should contact Mr Methananda on 01843 228828. Also call this number for more details about how to become a volunteer with the group, or for information about the Sri Lankan evening.

The volunteer group chose the Sri Lankan word for 'sons and daughters' – Daruwo – as part of their name to create a high profile focus on the children who will need assistance for many years.

* KASTDA Fund members include representatives from the Thanet, Canterbury, Herne Bay, Deal and Dover areas.

* Patrons have been invited to join the fund, which is seeking charitable status.

* KASTDA Fund is supported by the Sri Lanka High Commission.

Tickets are in advance only from the KASTDA HQ at 75 Canterbury Road, Westbrook, Margate, tel: 01843 228828. Adults £15, children aged 5-12 years, £10, under 5 free.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT KASTDA AT WWW.KASTDA.ORG