

# SPARKES HOME SRI LANKA Newsletter 2017

Charity registration number : 1128189



## Celebration of a decade of helping in Sri Lanka

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 Claire and Peter Stratton and Juliet Stoker opened our first home in Kallar. We had over 30 girls as our first residents. As this letter goes to print in April 2017, there is only one of our original girls still in Kallar, Janathini.

We keep up with many of our girls, some are married, some are at home working in small industries such as sewing, some are following IT courses and some are working and helping in their local communities. 5 of our Kallar girls are now at university

In December 2016 Juliet and Alistair Stoker attended a Christmas celebration in Kallar that also celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



## The Work of Sparkes Home Sri Lanka

Sparkes Home Sri Lanka was founded following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. At the same time Sri Lanka was in the throes of a long civil war, which ended in 2009. The Methodist church asked us to build a home for displaced and orphaned girls on the East coast.

We now support 4 homes for vulnerable and poverty stricken girls, some are orphans, others are from broken or endangered homes.

In addition to referrals from local communities and churches, our homes are viewed as safe havens by the authorities for girls with troubled backgrounds. The girls all attend local schools and we provide them with a safe place to live where they can study after school and be given proper food, welfare and loving support throughout their primary and secondary education. We provide after school classes and each Home is given a trip every 2 years to another part of the island. We also support a wonderful nursery school in the Kallar area.



## OUR FOUR HOMES

### KALLAR

Kallar is our original home, purpose built by us, on the East coast and has up to 25 Tamil girls living in the Home. Girls continue to prosper here and many of our past pupils come back to visit. They are wonderful 'ambassadors' and encourage the girls to work hard and achieve.

Last year they had a trip 'up country' to the tea area and to Kandy. They stayed in our home in Hatton and made very good friends with all the girls there.



### KALMUNAI

12 miles south of Kallar, this home is an old Dutch style building in a beautiful compound.

A new minister took over last year and he and his wife run a fantastic home where the girls are all given huge support and love. The local school is particularly good and Kalmunai girls have a good academic record.



## HATTON

In the centre of the Tea area, this home has benefitted from very necessary refurbishment over the last three years funded by generous donors. The girls and staff have responded so positively to their new environment. We co-fund this Home with the Methodist church in South Korea. When we last visited we coincided with a small group of visiting Koreans, one of whom was a doctor attending to a girl in the home who had a hair lip.



## TUMMODERA

Situated just north of Colombo airport on the west of the island, this Home has also had a wonderful rebuilding programme over the last two years.

As we write, there is work in progress to improve the drainage of the compound and a level area is being created to provide a games area and netball court. None of this would have been possible without the help of a very generous donor.



# UNIVERSITY GIRLS

We now have eight girls who are attending / about to attend university. This is a remarkable success story as the percentage of Sri Lankans attending university is approximately 8%. All our girls come from remote villages where, until now, university was unheard of. Sulakshana attends Mahintale university, one of only two English medium universities in Sri Lanka; Sulakshana is studying 'Hospitality and Tourism' in English. She also had to learn German last year. Parameswaari is about to start at Jaffna university to study Education. Both these girls are a long way from their villages. We have 3 girls at the South Eastern university in Oluvil and 2 at Eastern university in Batticaloa. University tuition is free and we provide each girl with money for board, lodging and books.



# SILVER BELLS NURSERY SCHOOL

This is in a very remote village among the lagoons of the Eastern Province. Run by two dedicated and dynamic teachers, the children receive a wonderful pre school education here as well as a midday meal.

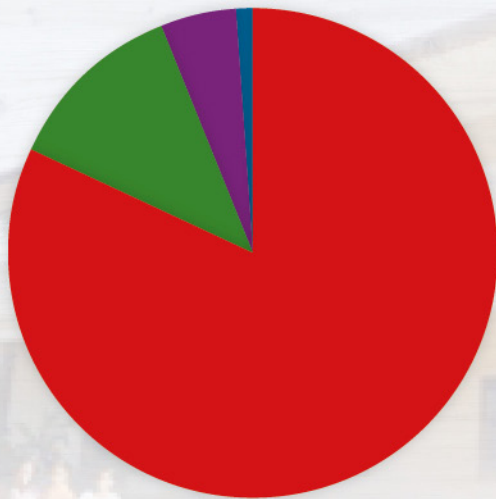
The school has very limited resources.

There are two further pre schools in the area which need funding and we are looking for sponsors.









# How we spend your money

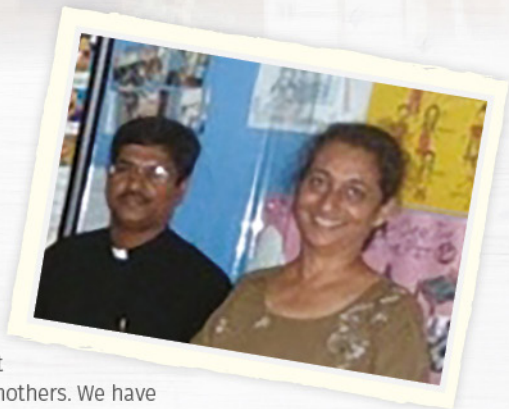


## Expenditure 2016

-  Girls home running cost  
£44,985 (82%)
-  Pre-School & Evening  
Classes £6,284 (12%)
-  University Bursaries  
£2,937 (5%)
-  Bank Charges/Just Giving  
£555 (1%)

## HOW WE RUN OUR HOMES

All the homes are run by the Methodist Church with funding from Sparkes Home Sri Lanka. The Church has a wonderful children's department that liaises with the resident ministers and the house mothers. We have an excellent relationship with the Church and in particular the head of the children's department, Gloria de Silva.



The trustees visit the homes regularly, often accompanied by Gloria. The last visit was in December 2016. All funds sent from the UK are fully accountable right through to the rice on the table.

We are continually grateful to our regular donors who provide us with our 'bread and butter' funds through their standing orders. In 2016 we had three very successful fund raising events: 'Call My Wine Bluff' quiz night in London, 'The London Treasure Hunt' which took place around Shoreditch and a great talk on 'Rorke's Drift' by Rob Caskie. In addition to these, generous individuals raised funds from runs, ceilidhs, boat trips and school events. Thank you so much.

# VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

## Report from Bella Cable who volunteered last May

'I spent just under 3 weeks with the lovely girls in Sparkes Home Kalmunai. From day one they made my job so easy! They were always so full of energy, excitement and love. Teaching them English was not only incredibly rewarding, as they are all such fast and keen learners, but also a lot of fun as they were all enthusiastic participators in the learning games we would play. The girls also attempted to teach me a bit of Tamil, of which I tried and failed to grasp! Our daily activities included playing cricket, throwing water balloons, drawing with chalk, singing songs, playing cards, doing jump rope and sticking stickers on absolutely everything, which the girls never got tired of! Everyone in Kalmunai made my stay there so amazing and it was so great to see that a few weeks of entertainment and games made the girls so happy. They all have so much love in their hearts and I will certainly never forget the relationships I made with the girls in such a short period. Saying goodbye was very hard and admittedly a few tears were shed. Thank you to everyone in Kalmunai and I really hope to return in the future.'

As Sri Lanka becomes an increasingly popular tourist venue, we have many friends and donors who visit our homes while on holiday. The girls and staff are always delighted to see visitors and they are all impressed by the enthusiasm of the girls and dedication and love of the staff. Hatton is very close to the Tea Trails bungalows, Tummodera is 45 minutes' drive north of Negombo, Kallar and Kalmunai are a couple of hours north of Arugam Bay. Please do visit!

Volunteers in the Homes are enormously appreciated, the girls benefit so much from having English spoken to them on a daily basis and learn about the outside world. This year we have had gap year girls in both Kallar and Kalmunai.

If you know of anyone who would like to spend a week or two in our Homes, please do contact us.

## How can you help?

- It costs little more than **£1 a day** to give one girl a new start in life.
- If you would like to support Sparkes Home, please use the form attached to this newsletter or contact us direct at [sparkeshome@btinternet.com](mailto:sparkeshome@btinternet.com).
- If you are thinking of travelling to Sri Lanka, one of our trustees has a house near Galle in the south of the island where you are welcome to stay in return for a generous donation. Please get in touch via [www.puwakwatta.com](http://www.puwakwatta.com) to find out more.

We are a very small charity run by 6 trustees, who visit at least twice a year. We have no overheads apart from the bank charges for our monthly remissions to Sri Lanka and payments to 'Just Giving'. All postage, travel and any other expenses are met by the trustees themselves. Therefore all money donated goes straight to Sri Lanka and straight to the girls.



# Sparkes Home Sri Lanka - Standing Order Form

I would like to set up a monthly/quarterly/annual\* standing order gift of:

Donation of                    **£20**                    **£30**                    **£50**                    Or other

Amount in words

Date of first payment                    /                    /                    and thereafter until further notice

Title                    Initials                    Surname

Address

Town                    Postcode

Telephone                    Mobile

Email

## Payment Details:

Please pay the above amount on the specified date each month/quarter/year \* to:

**HSBC, The Commons, High Street, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8JX**

Sort Code: **40-41-01**                    For account: **Sparkes Home Sri Lanka**                    Account No: **21271954**

## PLEASE PRINT

Account to be Debited:

To the Manager                    Bank/Building Society

Town/City                    County                    Postcode

Account Name:

Account No:                    Sort Code:                   

Please sign                    Date

☐ **PLEASE TICK THIS BOX:** to enable Sparkes Home Sri Lanka to claim a further 25% tax rebate on your donation (GIFT AID). It will not cost you anything. You just need to be a taxpayer.

*giftaid it*

**DECLARATION:** I am a taxpayer and want to claim back the tax on all donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years until I notify you otherwise. My tax bill this year will be more than this gift.

Please complete this form and return it to Juliet Stoker, Sparkes Home Sri Lanka, 17 Glendarvon Street, London SW15 1JS. Once received, we will keep a copy and send the original standing order form to your bank so that they can process payments.

Charity registration number: 1128189

**Thank You**



# A very big thank you to all of our sponsors and donors



Registered Charity No. 1128189

**[www.sparkeshome.co.uk](http://www.sparkeshome.co.uk)**

The costs of this newsletter have been met by a private donor.

Design with the compliments of Stable Design Limited [www.stabledesign.co.uk](http://www.stabledesign.co.uk)