

A tribute to our friend Jeyaraj **(on behalf of South London Tamil School)**

Recalling the late 1980s, when the Croydon Tamil School was becoming popular with the parents and the youngsters, late Mr Ponnampalam Jeyaraj from Cheam, Sutton, with his two children Pravin and Pramila Joined our Tamil School community at South Norwood Adult Education Centre. Soon, he became well known among the parents for his Commitment to the Tamil school. Jeyaraj was elected in 1989 as the treasurer of the South London Tamil School (SLTS). With his financial management skill, he was able to clear arrears and late payments, which helped the management committee to have surplus funds during the following years.

Jeyaraj was elected to serve in the management committee for further two more years. Jeyaraj's affection towards the Tamil school was such that he worked hard to help promote the profile of the school, by attending from Cheam to South Norwood.

Jeyaraj's another skill came to light when he joined the parents' drama group of the school, headed by late Mr S. Yogarajah. Jeyaraj's comedy acting skill was admired and appreciated by the audience in Yoga's dramas such as, "Ponu Parka Mappillai Vanthar", "Londonil Sellathurai" and "Pavama Punniyama". I still remember Jeyaraj wearing the "Vertie" acting as a Tamil "Pandithar" in the hilarious comedy drama "Londonil Sellathurai", staged in the 1990s.

Jeyaraj and his family were well respected particularly among the elders of the Tamil school community. His wife Kaushalya was also a Tamil language teacher at the same school, currently named, "Croydon Academy of Eastern Arts" (CAEA).

Jeyaraj's contributions to the annual Christmas party at the Tamil school was well remembered by both parents and students. We all miss him with good memories. May His Soul attain "Morksham"

S.Kanagasundaram
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