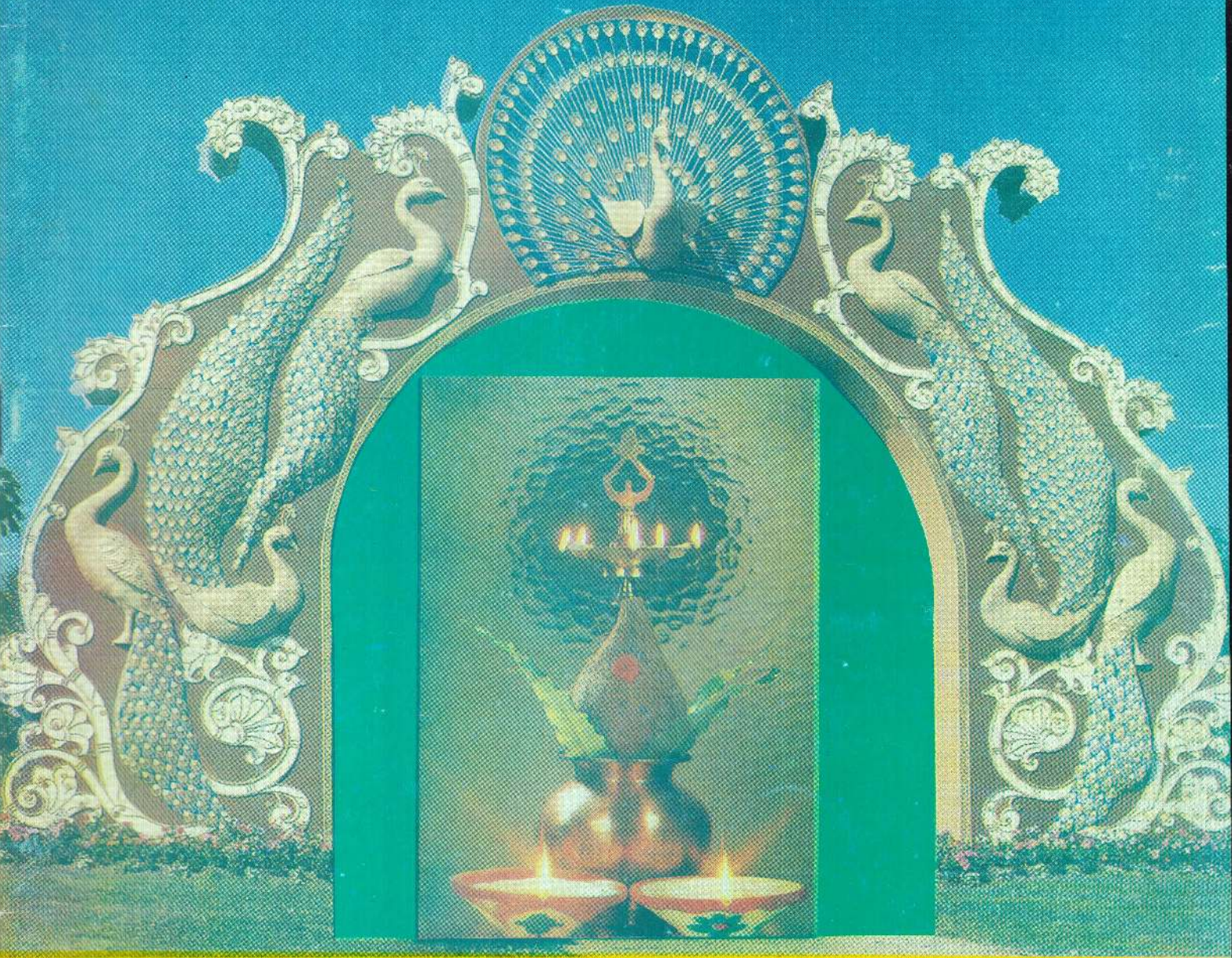


TWAN

ANNUAL REPORT 1990



TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K

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"புறநாடு உயரே யாங்கும் தெளிர்
தீதும் நன்றும் கிற்றேற வாறா."

This renowned ancient Tamil verse (from "Puranaanooru") teaches us:-

Good & bad are geared from within (you) and not by others and on to say that the lord where you are, is your home and all around you are your sincere friends.

This is to inform that it is the make of the "SELF" that is vitally important in determining ones character, behaviour and attitude.

It is inculcated in the minds of the Tamil population who adapts efficiently to any situation in the world.

Tamil language has its wealth of knowledge embedded in its learning, like in learning Tamil Alphabets from "AATHTHI SOODI" the nursery book that was produced many hundreds of years ago by AUVAYAR who taught morals as a child learned the alphabets.

eg:- அ - (A) - அறநீடுவ விரும்பு (Enjoy good deeds)
ஆ - (B) - ஆழ்வது சினம் (Control your Temper)
Unlike A for Apple
B for Ball
C for Cat

Such is the richness of the Tamil Language and learning this language and the cultural values equips one to face life with ease and intelligence. This makes a Tamil person to advocate justice in a scholarly manner anywhere in the world.

It is a pride for us, the Tamil Welfare Association of Nahum (U.K) for having helped very successfully to make homes and welfare facilities for numerous Tamil speaking population who arrived in the U.K. for various reasons and we endeavour to ensure our services, irrespective of caste, creed or sex, within the framework of the British Society.

The Newham Borough has been very considerate and justifiably helped the Tamil community to meet their needs, with due care and respect.

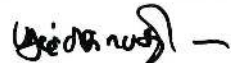
Various institutions like the Trust for London and British Churches of Council, in the U.K., have been indispensable in providing such valuable care and assistance.

Thus, this region of the U.K. has become a cynosure and is hailed as a unique development in caring for the Tamil population. Our experience, with the help of all the supporting institutions, is so enormous as to enable us to project our welfare service outside this region. This year - PRAJOPATHI - makes a very significant step forward in this direction and has driven us to care for our brotheren with a wider scope and this, fortunately, coincides with the ensuring European year 1992 and our Association has taken this new challenge and rightly agreed to rename itself as the "BRITISH TAMIL ASSOCIATION" from 1992, as it is our deep - rooted desire to go forward as an umbrella for the Tamils in the U.K.

Isn't it a coincidence, the name of this new Tamil year - PRAJOPATHI - means PRAJA = CITIZEN and PATHI = LEADER to gear ourselves to "LEAD THE CITIZENS" under the banner of "British Tamil Association" in the right direction and we would like to say a

" HAPPY NEW YEAR "

to all our Tamil Citizens of Newham Borough and to all our well-wishers


DR. P. AMBIKAPATHY
(CHAIR PERSON)

OM MURUGA



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Date

25.3.1991

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தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கம்
33 ஸ்டேஷன் சாலை
மனோர் பார்ட்
இலண்டன் கிழக்கு 12

நம்தமிழர் பண்பாடு, நாகரீகம், கலைகள் வளர இந்நாட்டில் பாடுபட்டு வரும் தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கத்தின் அரும்பணிகளை அறிந்து மிக்க மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகின்றோம். ஒன்றுதொடும் தமிழ் வருடப்பிறப்பைக் கொண்டாடியும், நிலைபெறும் வரும் தங்களின் சங்கத்தினர் அனைவருக்கும் இலண்டன்வாழ் தமிழ் மக்கள் அனைவரும் நன்றிக்கடன்பட்டுள்ளார்கள் என்பதை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கின்றோம்.

இலண்டன் ஸ்ரீ முருகப் பெருமானின் அருளால் இவ்விழா நன்முறையில் நிறைவு பெற்று தங்களது நற்பணிகள் நன்கு நடைபெறவும், தமிழர்களின் ஒற்றுமை ஒங்கவும், தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கம் உயர்நிலை அடைந்திடவும் இறைவனை வேண்டி எங்களது நல்வாழ்த்துக்களை கூறிக்கொள்கின்றோம் வணக்கம்.

இதன்மேல்

ச. சம்பத்குமார்

தலைவர்

பொறுப்பாளர்கள்/நிர்வாகக் குழு சார்பாக.



London Borough of Newham

The Worshipful the Mayor

COUNCILLOR SALLY MURRAY

MAYOR'S PARLOUR : TOWN HALL

EAST HAM : : : LONDON E6 2RP

Telephone: 081-472 1430 Ext. 23067

Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) U.K.
33a Station Road
Manor Park
London E12 5BP

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to send my best wishes to all Newhams Tamil Community on the occasion of the Tamil New Year.

My congratulations also go to the officers and members of the Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) who will at the same time be celebrating the 5th anniversary of the Associations founding during which time they have come to play a major and vital role in the co-ordination of welfare work among the Boroughs Tamil Community.

May they continue with the same success in the future as their hard work and dedication has distinguished them in their first 5 years.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Murray
Mayor



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Message

On the auspicious occasion of Tamil New Year, my Wife and I have great pleasure in sending TWAN and its members and friends our warmest New Year greetings.

Founded in 1986, TWAN has - on a shoestring budget - provided invaluable material and moral support to members of the Tamil Community in Britain. Frequently arriving in hazardous and straitened circumstances, Tamilians have, in TWAN, found friends and succour in what must at times seem a cold and inhospitable land.

TWAN helps them in so many ways and perhaps in one way above all: to retain their sense of pride in being Tamil, and to foster their cultural and linguistic identity in our midst. We are proud of them, and we again salute TWAN on this happy day !

வாழ்வு செங்கிழி ! வாழ்க நம்முடைய ! வணக்கம் !

J.R. Marr

John R Marr

Department of Art & Archaeology, SOAS

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TWAN - on 081 478 0577

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20th JANUARY 1991

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AGENDA

1. Opening Speech
2. Election of AGM Chair Person
3. Apologies
4. Speech by Ex-Chair Person
5. Annual Report by Secretary
6. Project Report from Co-ordinator
7. Finance Report from the Treasurer
8. Constitutional Amendments
9. Election of Committee Members
10. Questions and discussions

1. Opening Speech

Leader of Central Committee
Mr. Loganathan welcomed the gathering and called for the nomination of Chair Person to AGM.

2. Election of AGM Chair Person

Mr. P. Sivasupiramanian was unanimously elected as the Chair Person. He was proposed by Mr. J. Asokan and seconded by Mr. V. Janarthanan.

3. Speech by Ex-Chair Person

Mr. S. Thiru, the Ex-Chair said that he is too busy with his own profession that he will not be able to render active services to TWAN. However he said that he would be always available if ever, his services are needed by TWAN.

4. Apologies

M/S Kumaran, Arumugam and Sampanthan.

5.0 Secretary's Speech

5.1 *Change of Name*

TWAN will function under the name of British Tamil Association (BTA) from January 1992. A Sub-Committee will be going into the drafting of registration matters. We decided to change the name for the reasons given below:-

a. We would like to represent Tamils of all parts of this country, rather than confining ourselves with Newham area.

b. We can develop better relationship with various Tamil organisations in this country who carry out similar activities as ourselves.

c. We would be able to co-ordinate our work activities with other Tamil organisations from different parts of Europe.

d. With the new title it is possible to establish our identity in the Euro Parliament.

5.2 *Membership*

General Membership of TWAN stands at more than 100. TWAN needs financial support from wellwishers. It would be of great help if these wellwishers could pay by standing orders.

5.3 *Permanent Building*

Due to large number of Tamils coming to TWAN office for varying type of help we find the space in the existing office thoroughly inadequate. In this situation TWAN must look for a spacious and

permanent building. And at the same time TWAN is one of the groups under the Tamil Community Council. As we play an important role in the welfare activities of the Tamils. We urgently need a spacious office. The present office is too small.

5.4 Voluntary Organisation

TWAN functions on purely as a voluntary organisation. All the members of the organisation render free service to TWAN. The office worker renders enormous service to TWAN.

5.5 Office Administration

Under so many financial difficulties TWAN continue to render enormous service to Tamils for the past 5 years. This we have been doing from an office for which we pay £70.00 per week. TWAN will register as Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable status. This way TWAN would stand to benefit from Charitable Funding Bodies.

6.0 Project Report from the Co-ordinator

PROJECT 1 ADVISORY PROJECT

6.1 IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY

6.1.1 Asylum Application

We started the above mentioned project only this year. In the past, the asylum seekers were interviewed briefly first, and later they were asked to face interview which normally went in depth depending on their claims. These matters were handled exclusively by the immigration authorities, with the assistance of official interpreters. Situation has changed now. Since there are a vast number of applications from asylum-seekers and because of the increasing work load, the immigration authorities expect the claimants to fill up an application for due consideration. Because of this new approach we have to bear the additional work load and

in the last year we handled more than 450 applications in our office with the only officer we have in our office.

6.1.2 Work Permits

Refugees who have settled in this country for more than six months have the right to work in this country. We try to get permission for them, from the Home Office to work and our success rate is very high.

6.1.3 Educational Enrolments & Grants

All refugees who have completed one year in this country, have the right to enrol themselves in colleges and other educational institutions. We try to get them places in these institutions, by contacting the Educational Authorities. In many cases, we find that these Authorities are not aware of the procedures they have to adopt regarding refugees, and because of that a number of applications are rejected. We represented these cases individually and succeeded in obtaining places. We also try to get minor award for those who have completed one year in this country as refugees.

6.1.4 Getting Visas for Asylum Seekers

It is a normal procedure in this country, that the Home Office should never hold the passport of any asylum seeker for more than a year. But there are cases in which the passports are kept for more than 2 years without any decisions being taken by the Home Office. We make our representations to the Home Office on their behalf. We were able to get their passports endorsed with valid visas. This will pave the way for them to lead a normal life like others free of fear of any sort. They are now able to seek jobs or face interviews with renewed confidence.

6.1.5 Travel Documents

There are relatives of British asylum seekers scattered all over the Western countries such as France, Germany, Norway and Switzerland. In many cases members of the same family live in three or four

different countries and they have not seen each other for more than four or five years. Once these people are granted visas, we apply for travel documents on their behalf for they are not in a position to approach the Sri Lankan Authorities for passports through fear of prosecution. This action of TWAN enables them to travel abroad, to see their kith and kin. Thus we succeed in bringing about family reunion.

6.1.6 Visa Renewals

People who have already got one year visa must send their visas for renewal six weeks prior to visa expiry date. They have to give reasons why they require further extension. We represent their cases to the Home Office to get their visas extended further. Tamils who are here as students or visitors face problems in extending their visa further, once they expire. Home Office refuses to extend the visa of the students who have completed their courses and they are asked to leave. This applies to tourists as well. These people are unable to go back for the political situation has worsened in Sri Lanka. They are greatly affected by the political instability and the insecurity they face, being members of the minority Tamil Community. They also fear of persecution and racial harassment. We write to the Home Office on their behalf to get their visas renewed.

6.1.7 Family Reunion

Those who have been given exceptional leave for four years have the right for reunion with their family. There are hundreds of families in this country where the father has not seen his wife and children for more than five years. For people of this category, we submit their applications to the Home Office and we have succeeded in two cases, where the husbands and wives have joined after six years.

6.1.8. Social Welfare Rights

a. Income Support

Most of the asylum seekers do not know that they are entitled for income support. Even some of them know that there is a benefit, fear that their asylum cases may be affected, if they claim the benefit. We advise them against their unfounded fear and help them to claim their benefit, in order to maintain at least a minimum standard of living.

The greatest handicap of our people is their limited knowledge of English. They are unable to read and understand about the benefits they are entitled to. For these people we explain the contents of the leaflets and channel them according to their requirements to the proper departments in order to get reasonable benefit from Social Services Department. We also help them to fill their application forms. Sometime we find that their forms are not given proper attention by the respective officers because of claimants lack of conversational ability in English. In these circumstances, we back their cases up, by providing the authorities with the relevant documents.

b. Housing Benefit

Our organisation has helped most people of this category to get housing benefit. The refugees who arrive here have no knowledge about housing benefit. They pay a major slice of their income support, which amounts to £33.03 a week for people aged more than 25 and £25.05 for under that age limit, to the landlords as rent and live under the poverty line with about £10.00 - £15.00 for their food and other expenses. We were able to help these people to find accommodation for which the rent expenses are met by the council thereby they were able to lead hand to mouth living with the limited income support they received. Because of drastic cuts by the councils, a certain number of applications submitted for the housing benefit were not dealt with immediately and the landlords were forced to wait for nearly three to four months to get their rent. This sometimes caused friction

between the landlord and tenants and in some cases the tenants were threatened to be taken to the courts for non payment of rents. We take initiative to meet the landlords concerned and we explain the situation to them and give assurances that we will be responsible for the rent to be paid on time. Thus we act as intermediaries between the two parties to ease friction.

It is normally a long process where the Housing Benefit Department and DSS are involved and sometimes applications get stuck in one of these offices and get delayed. We try to contact both offices to make arrangements for Housing Officer to visit the property to be rented and then by the rent assessing officer. Action will then be taken to pay rent to the landlord. We act as an arbitrary body for the parties involved to bring understanding and harmony.

It is very unfortunate now that since October 1990 the local council has reduced the payment of rent to the landlords because of the drastic cuts they faced from the central Government. Landlords are unable to pay their full mortgage try to evacuate the tenants, in short tenants become the victims of the cuts by the Central Government. We would like to bring the following to the attention of Authorities concerned on behalf of the refugees who have been given these accommodation by private landlords.

a. Because the housing benefit has been cut so drastically it is very hard for us to find accommodation to a house the refugees and it is the most vital and basic need for every human being.

b. Homeless persons unit doesn't work efficiently and effectively in order to satisfy the need of the needy people. They do not have a system to accommodate the refugees once they are allowed into this country. They need to be accommodated somewhere.

We request the council to give us

further support.

a. Rent allowances need to be increased to reasonable limits so as to enable us to find accommodation for refugees. We would therefore be grateful, if action is taken to review rent cuts to private landlords.

b. Refugee accommodation system need to be improved. Necessary action be taken to house refugees as early as possible through homeless persons unit. If not it is advisable to establish a special unit under housing to deal with matters relating to refugees.

c. Existing Council community relationship need to be improved further. It is advisable that changes in policy matters are discussed at length with community groups before effecting them.

6.1.9 *Community Charge*

Tamil refugees community who live in the borough face this community charge in a drastic way. The effect of community charge is severe and not acceptable. The refugees are given temporary admission and they have no hope of any future. They are requested to pay the community charge and in some cases they are taken to court and bailiffs are sent to take things away from home. There is no coordination between the council & DSS regarding community charge matters they are taken to court for no reason when they have to pay the 20% only.

We would like to stress that the refugees should not be asked to pay any community charge when their future is so bleak. We as an organisation try our best to present our matters clearly to the council and we hope that council will take action to reduce is burden of paying community charge.

6.1.10 *D.S.S. Grants for Refugees*

This system helps the refugees in great way but the DSS action is not favourable. This loan is meant for very needy people to solve their emergency needs but

it is done in very slowly by the local DSS offices. We try to contact the DSS and give pressure to them in order to get grant and loans for refugees to fulfil their needs. We would like to bring to the attention of DSS supervisors to try to influence the officers to speed the work.

6.1.11 Other Benefits

Most of the working women refugees do not know about maternity benefit. We advise these women employees to pay full stamp in order to be eligible for full maternity benefit. We also advise people to claim family credit if their income is very low. Many one parent families are benefiting from one parent family allowance because of the necessary advice given to them.

A person who is 16 years old is not entitled for income support. He is only entitled for child benefit. But if a refugee of 16 years comes to this country he can't apply for child benefit as he has no parent or guardian. It is very hard for us to find a guardian for a child and it is equally very hard for him to survive in this country without any financial help. We have decided to take up this matter with the authorities and find a way to solve this problem. We are seriously concerned about this matter as it is affecting many youngsters of our community. Hence we have decided to take up this matter with authorities to solve this problem.

6.1.12 N.I. Number

When people apply for N.I. Number after being in this country for more than six months they are asked by the local DSS authorities to get the letter from the prospective employer that he is prepared to offer him a job. This exercise by the DSS is not satisfactory because employer is not always prepared to give his intention in writing. We have pointed out this to the authorities concerned and we were able to get some of our members to apply for NI number in spite of great reluctance shown by

the authorities concerned.

Because of the computerisation of DSS, most of the refugees who claim the income support are given national insurance number in two or three months. But once they are given the numbers the DSS refuse to pay their income support and they are asked to claim unemployment benefit. But unemployment benefit office refuse to enrol them as they haven't paid any contributions because they never worked before and they are sent back to DSS. The so called refugee is made to switch between these two offices because of lack of understanding of these issues by the officers and because of insufficient co-ordination between the two offices.

6.1.13 Registration of Marriages & Births

When the refugees want to get married at the registrar's office, they are asked by the officers there, to bring their passports for identification purposes. The passports of refugees are held either in the Home Office or they did not have any passport when they arrived at the airports. The IS 91 form is the only form of identification they are issued by the Home Office. It contains no photograph, they are asked for other forms of identification, such as cheque books, credit cards, birth certificates, the driving licence. They do not have cheque books or credit cards because the banks insist the refugees to produce the passports for identification. TWAN took right measures to overcome this problem and now the couples are able to marry without much ado.

6.1.14 EDUCATION AND GRANT

We provide information about schools, colleges, polytech and universities and courses taught there.

The children of refugees are finding difficulties in getting places in schools as the education authorities demand for the passport and sometimes the children who come in

December have to wait till next year for the admission. We help them to get places in schools. Because of TWAN's hard work now a number of refugees are benefitting by paying the registration fees only. We would like to thank Newham education authorities for their sincere help.

•
Last year the colleges gave admission to those people who have not finished one year stay. We would like to thank South Bank Polytechnic & City University for helping us and we hope that others will follow this example.

Previously it was the policy of LBN to consider the refugees who were on exceptional leave as home students even though they did not complete three years of stay in the borough for grants. But it is their policy now that anybody who wants to get a grant should have completed three year period in this country. We would like to appeal specially to the LBN to consider the refugee cases very sympathetically as they have done all these years.

6.1.15 *Giving Support to Gain Admission*

Local educational authorities have new experience in dealing with the refugees. We found most of the education authorities haven't come across the problem facing refugees in colleges and universities. They always request the applicants to produce their passports before offering them places. But the passports are either in the Home Office or in many cases the refugees do not have passports. Their applications are turned down for failing to produce the passports. In such cases we either meet the authorities concerned or write letters explaining the cases individually and we have succeeded in getting places for them.

We advise the applicants to make a correct choice of their courses and direct them to proper channels to find places in educational institutions through UCCA & PICAS.

6.1.16 *Fees Assessment*

Though number of applications are accepted by the educational institutions, when it comes to the payment of fees they request the refugees to pay overseas students fees which they cannot afford. We approach the respective institutions and request to have a sympathetic view on the plight of tamil refugee students and consider them as home students for fees purposes. Most of the institutions are not aware that refugees are treated as home students.

In some cases these students who could not afford to pay the full fees were even allowed to pay on instalment basis at our special request. Additionally there are certain bodies to help refugees and we have applied for sponsorship and we have succeeded to certain extent in obtaining the grant from them.

6.1.17. *To Deal with the Grant Matters with The Relevant Authorities*

The grant authorities refuse to give grant to people who have already completed three years of his/her education, they argue that if s/he was able to pay for the last three years s/he will be able to do so in future as well. Their argument is invalid and we have made representations to the authorities concerned pointing out the changes in the financial position of the applicants and we managed to obtain help for the needy.

6.1.18 *Employer Employees & Problems (The Wages, Basic Problems about Employees Tax)*

The Tamil Refugees are unaware of the following tax matters.

1. The tax paid during the first year of employment is refundable.
2. The proper tax code.
3. The tax rebate.
4. Unemployment office pays extra allowance for those who get into employment after long lapse of time. TWAN help and advice Tamil refugees in this matters.

6.1.19. *Racial Harassment & Police Harassment*

The refugees faced tremendous problems in 1986-1987 and because of TWAN's hard work in that matter paved way for the community harmony, this we could say as the direct outcome of our meeting with, the then home minister Mr.Hogg. This year there are seven reports of incidents submitted to us. We took proper action in conjunction with Newham monitoring projects, and helped to remove fear from local community.

6.1.20. *Domestic Problems*

We are able to note that domestic problems among the families is on the increase last year. The basic cause of the problem is the uncertain future the refugees face in this country. Most of the refugees live below the poverty line which brings strain to the relationship in the family as they are unable to provide basic needs for the family.

This drives the main bread winner normally the male, in a situation to unnecessary arguments with his/her partner. Some women who are unable to bear the ill treatment they get from their husbands turn to us for guidance and we mediate with both parties to bring about reconciliation. Even there are various bodies in this country to deal with matters of conflict, our women turn to us for help with the expectation that we will understand them better. Same cultural background unite us to them.

6.1.21. *Translation & Interpretation*

We have volunteers to help in this and central grant unit of the council has promised us to provide with an interpreter in the next financial year under section 11 of the ethnic minority fund. We hope that we will be in position to work effectively and efficiently once we get their service. We normally act as translators to DSS.

PROJECT 2 ACCOMMODATION

TWAN provides three different kinds of accommodation to the Tamil Community

- 6.2.1. Private Tenant Accommodation
- 6.2.2. Accommodation Through Tamil Housing Co-op
- 6.2.3. Council Accommodation

6.2.1 *PRIVATE TENANT ACCOMMODATION*

We launched this project in 1990. TWAN initially accommodated refugees in houses belonging to its members and wellwishers. Now TWAN has arranged private houses for nearly 180 people. We rent houses from estate agents and private landlords with the support of local authorities and the rent is usually paid by the local authorities.

6.2.2. *Accommodation Through Housing Co-op*

This was set up in 1986 by TWAN on the advice of Newham Council in order to accommodate the refugees who come to this country. In this project we took properties from the council to accommodate the people. We took responsibilities for collecting rents and for the maintenance of the properties. The repairs are carried out through P.I.G.(Property Improvement Group) and the Housing Coop.

Since 1986 we received nine houses and about 25 people are accommodated there. This is not sufficient to satisfy the needs of 10% of the people, and we need at least forty houses per year to meet the demand of the homeless people.

We expect to get more help from the council and Housing Cooperation.

6.2.3. *Council Accommodation*

In 1986 when the influx of the refugees was high Newham Borough gave us

15 two bed roomed flats to accommodate 30 people in Docklands New Development Area. It was very helpful at that time and since then we have not been successful in getting that type of accommodation. In 1990 we were able to get only five people accommodated under this project.

We feel that to make this project effective, it will be better to introduce quota system to the ethnic minorities in which they will be able to get a fair share in the housing allocations. This will put the Tamils in a better position than they are in at present.

We are planning to discuss this with the council. Through section 11 fund we can have officers employed to monitor the effective working of the system

PROJECT 3 CHILDREN'S PROJECT

We worked out four children's projects successfully last year.

- 6.3.1. Holiday project
- 6.3.2. After school project
- 6.3.3. Mother teaching project
- 6.3.4. Fine arts project

6.3.1 *Holiday Project*

This is a summer holiday project for children. Although this project had been running successfully, since 1986; in 1990 we couldn't succeed because we didn't get any fund from the council as we used to in the previous years. But we accomplished this project with the support of the parents.

We conducted this project at St.Pauls Church Hall ,Burges Road,E6. during July/August for 6 weeks. There were 27 children participants. During this course the children were taught about our cultural and moral values. There were facilities for games and recreation. The children who are benefitted most from this project are those whose parents cannot afford to buy toys and also having limited space at their homes. They get no opportunity to play in the open

grounds because they fear racial harassment. Also they did not get the chance of mixing with our own community because of a very few Tamils live in the flats. This project was greatly beneficial to them.

It is pity that the children who enjoyed their summer project all these years couldn't do so last year because of the blind eye shown by the Leisure Service play section of the council. The fund for this project is vital for ethnic minorities. Abolition of this project because of lack of funds from the council, affects ethnic minorities most.

So it is our request that the council should rethink before they refuse funds for the project that affect ethnic minorities.

6.3.2. *After School Project*

This project is based on equal opportunity for women. We tried to push through this project last year. We started this in September in order to help the parents who had to go to work maintain the upkeep of the family.

There are a number of women who are unable to find someone to look after the children. They could not afford to pay enormous amounts of money to child minders. Because of this a number of families live below poverty line depending only on their husband's earnings for their survival.

Although we launched this project to help working or to be working mothers but was abandoned due of lack of funds. The main aim of this project is to collect the children from schools and keep them under care upto 7 p.m. Parents will be able to go to work with peace of mind.

Even if the council decides to reduce the funding of various voluntary organisations, we request them not to reduce the funding of ethnic minority projects as our community is in a desperate situation.

reducing the grant or taking away the grant will only worsen the situation.

6.3.3. Mother Tongue Teaching Project

Teaching of one's mother tongue is important and vital for maintaining one's culture. there were many Tamil organisations involved in teaching of tamil to our children. But these organisations which were funded by the local authorities are facing financial problems. They are not in a position to continue with the good work. Local Tamil parents pressed us to continue teaching the children their mother tongue.

Inorder to satisfy the local Tamil population, we have started a Tamil class at the Fraud Centre from 2p.m. - 4p.m. every Saturday. For this project the Council has provided us with a minimal sum which is not enough to make it a success. But we have a great trust on our local community. We sincerely hope that they will give their support whenever we are in need. With their help we are certain that we will succeed in this project.

6.3.4. Fine Arts

This project has not been started yet. This project aims at teaching our children the basic of our cultural music such as Carnatic dances like Bharathanatiam which has a history of many thousand of years and teaching of musical instruments such as Veena, Violin & Miruthangam. Some organisations are already involved in this object in the borough but they are scattered and do not have a strong base or body to unite their activities.

Our main aim in this will be to bring all of these bodies together into a main stream by which the Community as well as the artists will benefit. As our initial step we have succeeded in bringing two experienced artists from India and to start a workshop seminar for both dance & vocal. They will start in April.

Hundreds of children will benefit from their workshop. Mr. Maharajaparm Santhanam who is an expert in Carnatic vocal and Smt. Chithra Vishwerswaran who is an expert in Barathanatiam will be present with us on 10th & 11th April to guide our tutors and advanced students in their own respective friends. TWAN thanks the Newham leisure service arts section department for the support and service rendered to us.

PROJECT 4 SOCIAL PROJECT

6.4.1 Tamil New Year Social Evening

We have been conducting this social evening since the formation of TWAN in 1987 and this cultural evening falls just after every Tamil New Year's day and has been very successful.

Last year about 25 children participated in the program conducted by TWAN. Local artists also took part in this and made it a success. About 450 people attended the cultural night and our Chief Guest was Mr. Ron Leighton who is our local M.P. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ron Leighton, for his valuable services he renders to our local Tamil Community, particularly to TWAN whenever we are in need. Our warmest thanks goes to Mr. Steven Tims who is our present Council leader and formally an ordinary Council member, he touched our minds and hearts by his relentless services to our community.

These cultural evening bring awareness of our cultural heritage to the Tamil community, especially to our younger generation. We try to preserve our culture even we are thousand of miles away from our homeland.

6.4.2. Summer Day Trip

This is another successful project

which we carry out during every summer holidays. This gives an opportunity to our people to visit the places of interest at a minimal cost of a few pounds, which would otherwise not be possible for them.

Last year we went to Great Yarmouth hiring two coaches with a large group comprising 130 people. We have further plans to organise one week trips to European countries, these have a dual purpose behind them. Not only some of the members will be able to see the places of interest but also will be able to meet their family members who are scattered in other European countries. Thus it will bring about family reunion among our members who have not seen one another for a number of years.

6.4.3 *Christmas Dinner Party*

This has been going on for the past two years and last year we had our party at St. Paul's Church on Burgess Road, London E6, where nearly 150 people took part. We organised a children's party for the first two hours. Children participated in some games and other for entertainment and the participants were given presents.

Second half of the programme was devoted to older generation with different kind of entertainment. We would like to thank the members and well-wishers of TWAN for providing delicious food, free of charge to those who were present.

7.0 Finance Report from the Treasurer

SEE PAGE 20

8.0 Constitutional Amendments

8.1 A.G.M should be convened by Leader of Central Committee or the Secretary.

8.1.2 The association is to take steps to register its name under the name of " British

Tamil Association " as a Company Limited By Guaranteed with Charitable Status.

8.1.3 The association will co-ordinate activities with other Tamil organisations in the country with have similar objectives as ours.

8.1.4 The number of Central committee members is to be increased from 10 to 15.

8.1.5 Any Executive or Central committee member who fails to attend 3 consecutive monthly meetings would automatically lose his or her post.

8.1.6 Quorum of the Committee Meeting (Monthly) Minimum of 2 Executive and any other 3 Committee members must be present.

9.0 Election of Committee Members

9.1. Thirty two nominations were received for the election of twenty two executive and Central Committee members. The election took place on secret ballot basis and the following were elected to the two Committees for 1991.

9.1.1 Refer to page 30 for Names and Details of Committee members.

9.1.2 These twenty two members would elect the Executive Committee at the next monthly meeting. Apart from the seven Executive members the rest (15) would form the Central Committee after the election.

10.0 Questions and discussions

None

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Tamil New Year

On Saturday 13

*** PROGRAM**

TAMIL NATIONAL ANTHEM

Students of TWAN

Denesh Srishanker
Thenushya Chandradas
Pratheeshya Chandradas
Nisha Ehamparanathan
Shankari Rajanavanathan
Sinthuja Jeganathan
Karthika Poobalasingam
Thurkka Poobalasingham
Kavitha Asokan
Shanmugapriya Shanthalingam
Tharsika Shanthalingam

**Presented by: SMT. Meenambikai
Thavaratnam**

VEENA

Students of SEL Music Academy

Tharshini Ganesapillai
Vasanth Nayer
Ganthimathi Selvaratnam
Lavanyah Srirangan
Sinthuyah Srirangan
Saranyah Srirangan
Jeyani Seelan

Presented by: SMT. Suthamathy Srisatkunam



CIATION (NEWHAM) U.K.

Presents

r Cultural Night

3 th April 1991

GRAMME *

VIOLIN

Students of Natha Vidyalaya

Janani Atchuthan
Jayavani Atchuthan
Thuwaraka Vetpillai

Presented by: SMT. Kalaivani Indrakumar

BHARATHANATYAM

BY

Chithra Visweswaran

VOCAL: P. Visweswaran

NATTUVANGAM: Sri Kala Suresh

FLUTE: A. V. Unnikrishnan

MIRDANGAM: S. Jegatheesan

Shri. M. Sivarajah

MORSING: K. Sithamparanathan

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TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
APRIL 1990 TO MARCH 1991

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/91

	£	£
INCOME		
Subscription	632	
Grant	5568	
Donation & Well-Wishers	4689	
Special Events	4408	
Total Income		15297
less EXPENDITURE		
Rent & Rates	3642	
Volunteers Expenses	2857	
Transport	960	
Printing, Publicity & Reports	1460	
Computer costs	852	
Maintenance	266	
Cultural Activity	1364	
Children's Activity	164	
Stationery, Postage & Office Materials	579	
Bank Charges	181	
Heating & Lighting	493	
Telephone	573	
Hall Hire	208	
Registration Fee	10	
Insurance	168	
Miscellaneous	23	
Bad debts	1078	
Depreciation	464	
Total Expenditure		15342
Excess of Expenditure over Income		45

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03 91

FIXED ASSETS	£	£	£
	01/04/90	Additions	31/03/91
Office Equipment	690	3799	4489
less Depreciation	174	1078	1252
			3237
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors		560	
Cash at Bank		1428	
		1988	
less CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Loan	1518		
Other Creditors	1540	3058	
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)			(1070)
			2167
			=====
PRESENTED BY			
Accumulated Fund brought forward			2212
Excess of Expenditure over Income			(45)
			2167
			=====

Accountants' Report to The Members of Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) U.K.

In accordance with your instructions we have prepared without audit the accounts for the year ended 31st March 1991 from your books and records and from information and explanations supplied to us.

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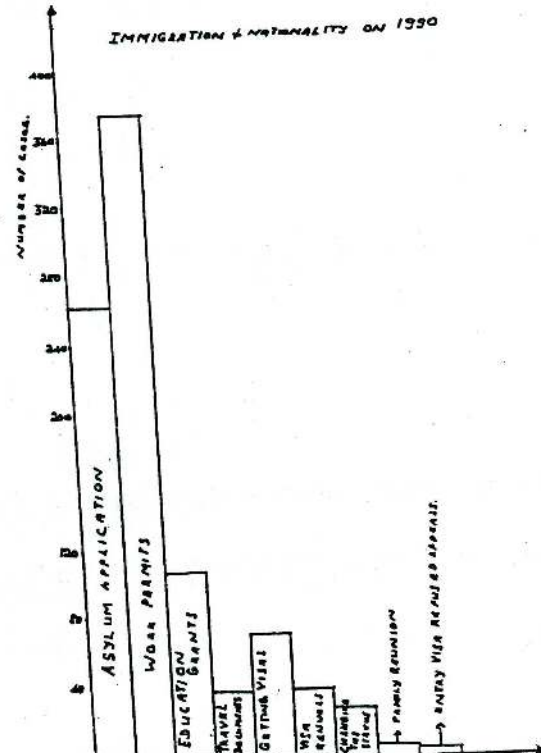
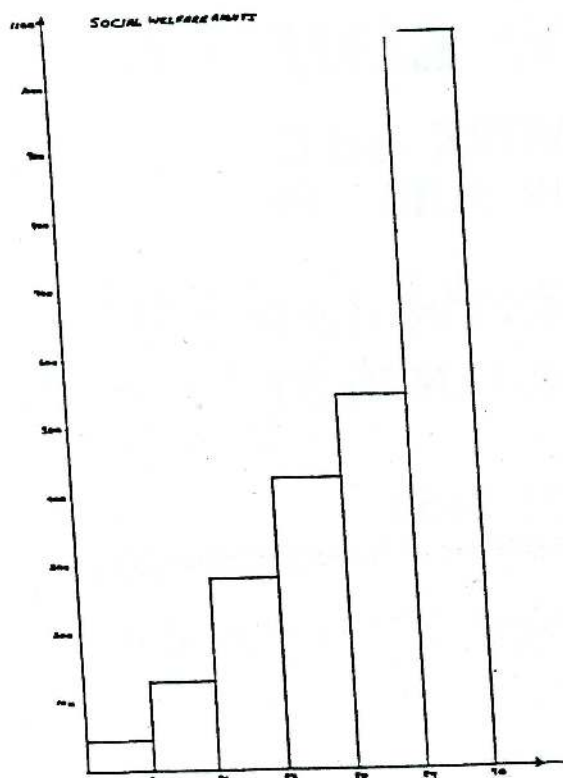
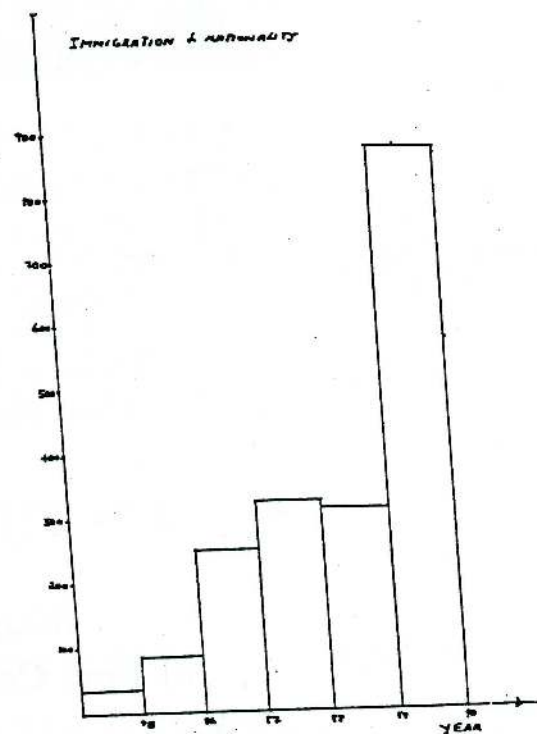
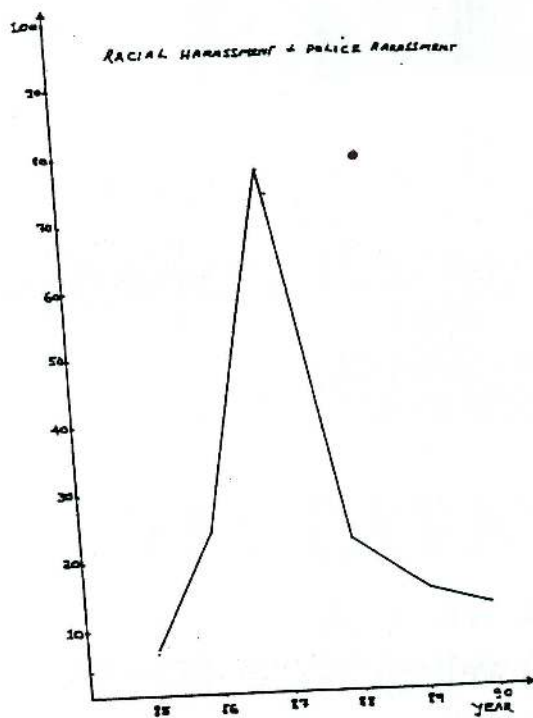
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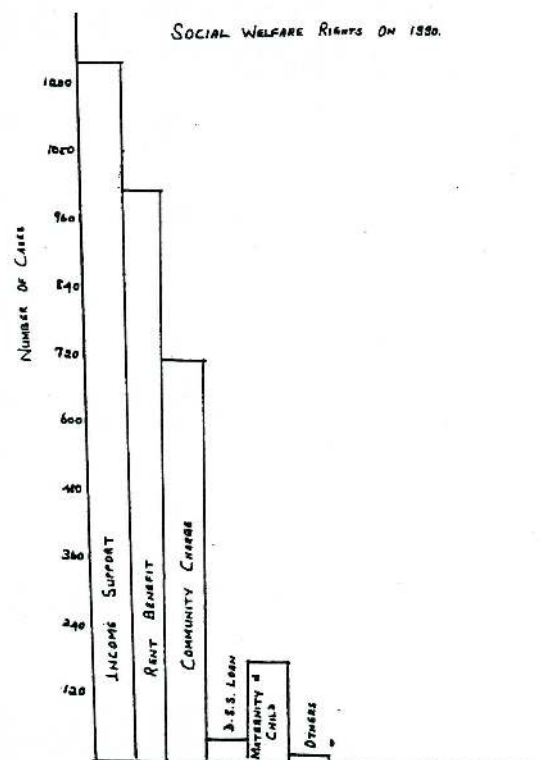
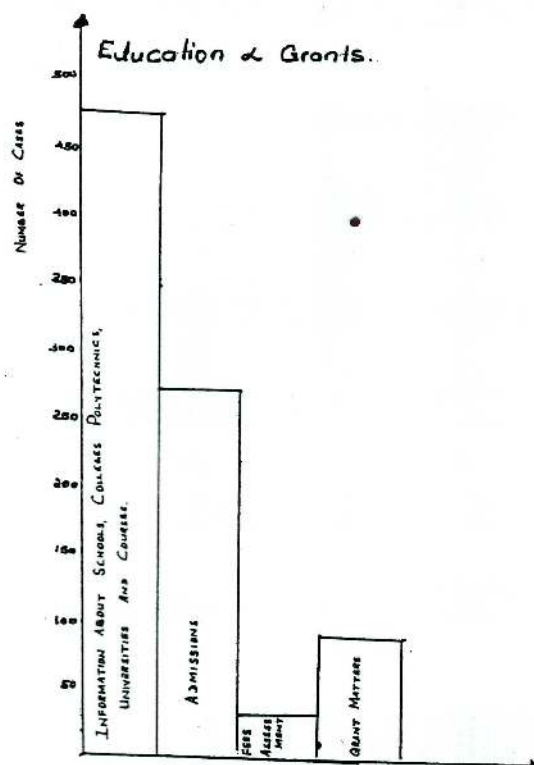
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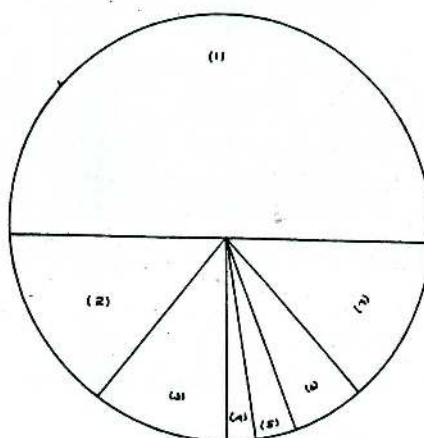
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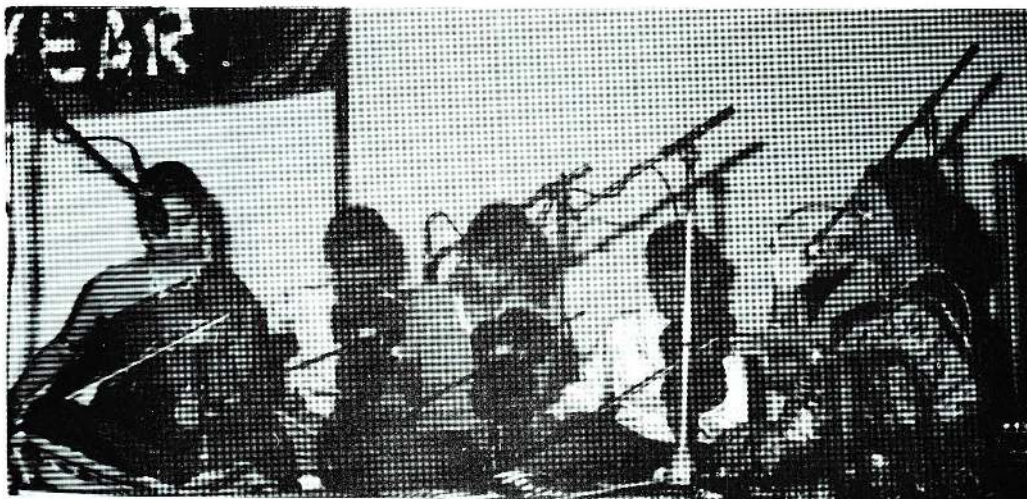
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TWAN NEW YEAR CELEBRATION DAY



CHILDREN 'S SUMMER PROJECT



TWAN SOCIAL ACTIVITY DAY TRIP

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VICE CHAIR	Mrs. Maheswary Balasingam
SECRETARY	Mr. P. Chandradas
ASST. SECRETARY	Mr. P.S. Santhalingam
TREASURER	Mr. J. Asokan
ASST. TREASURER	Mr. T. Kumaran
CO-ORDINATOR	Mr. V. Janarthanan

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7. Mrs. J. Vivegananda
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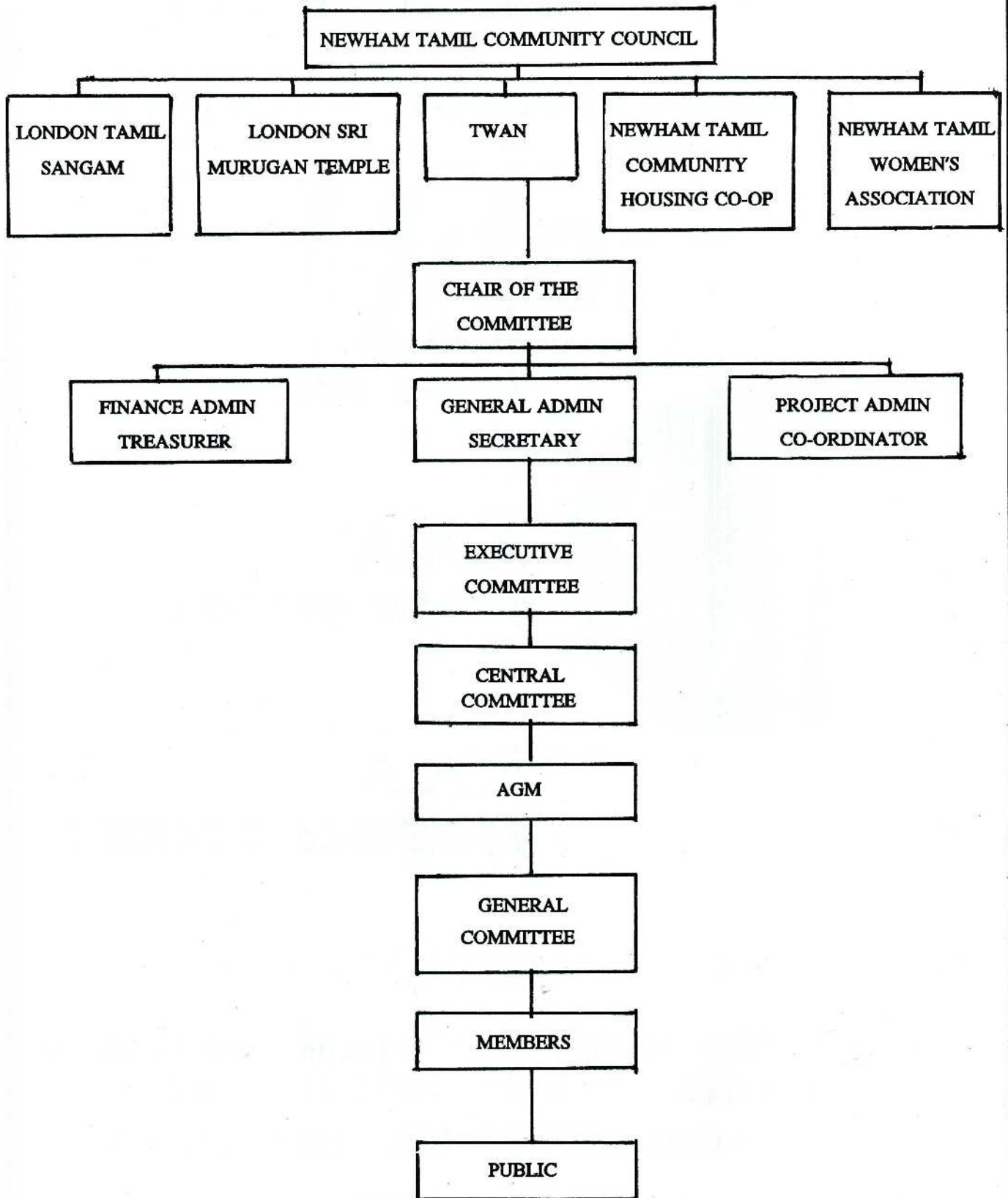
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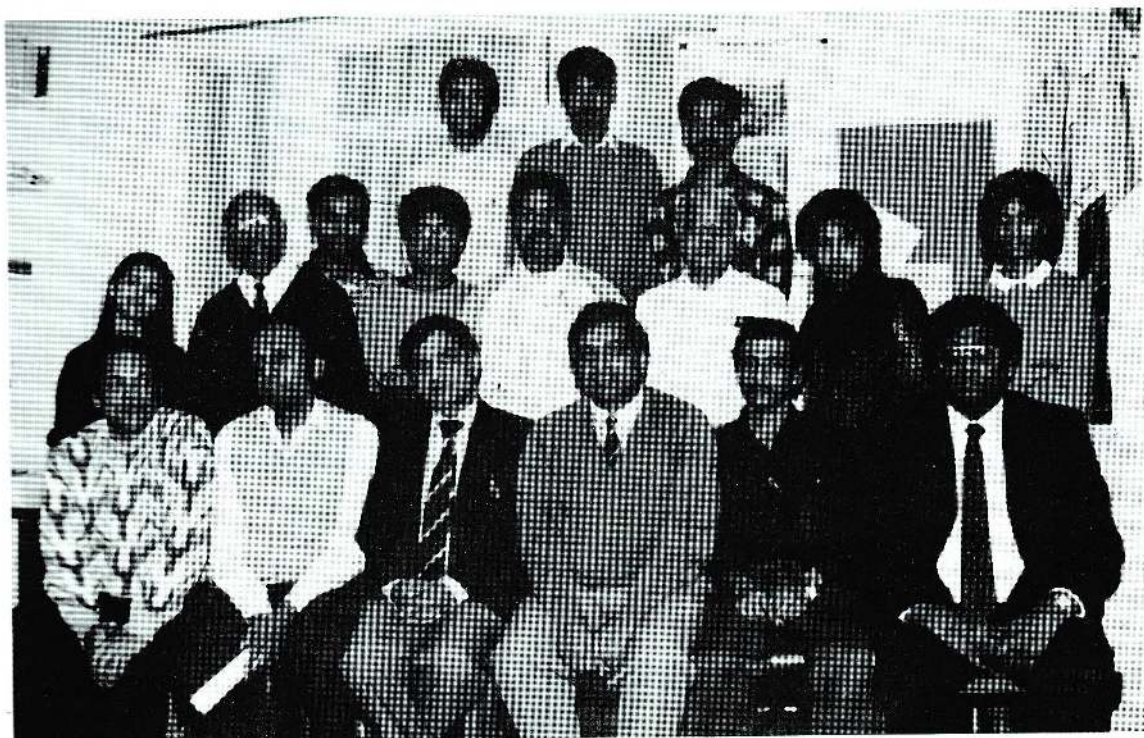


Mr.T. Kumaran
Asst. Treasurer



Mr.V. Janarthanan
Co - ordinator

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF TWAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank all our distinguished guests for having consented to grace the occasion with their presence this evening.

Our sincere thanks to the following for their unqualified support and assistance.

All students of TWAN, SEL Music Academy, Natha Vidyalaya, parents and teachers.

Guest Artists

London Borough of Newham who has been our main funding body .

*Race Equality Unit
Leisure Services Department
Education Department
Central Grant Unit*

*Other funding bodies
Trust For London
British Church of council*

Mr.S.Parthipan our accountant for his untiring effort of preparing our annual accounts regularly on voluntary basis.

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All members of European Parliament and members of Parliament of Newham

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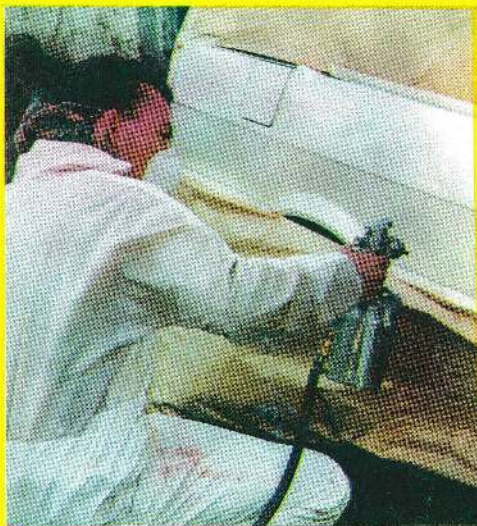
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