

In the name of Allah (SWT), the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Serendib

Serving the Community since 1972
The oldest Sri Lankan Association in the UK

Issue 120
Thu1-Qadah-Thu1-Hijjah
1437 AH
September 2016

This issue:
Building Sub-Committee Report
Treasurer Report
Ramadan Appeal Update 2016
My journey to Neeravipitiya village

Executive Committee

President

M Jazal Marzook
07961 983146
president@slia.org.uk

Vice President

Alan Wahab
07970 103160
alanwahab@hotmail.com

Secretary

Azhar Salahudeen
07814 753999
as22418@hotmail.com

Asst. Secretary

Fathima Sulaiman
07914 398019
fmsulaiman@virginmedia.com

Treasurer

Fazly Wahab
07795 643654
fazlywahab@hotmail.co.uk

Asst. Treasurer

Khalid Malhar
07752 729009
Emperor_mal@hotmail.com

Committee Members

Nakeeb Atheeq
07947 500651
nakeeb123@yahoo.com

Ishreen Bradley
07734 209809
Ishreen@hotmail.com

Rafat Hashim
07984 604420
Rafathashim@hotmail.com

Jezri Mohideen
07595 982510
jezrim@gmail.com

Haleem Ossman
07957 362444
haleem.ossman@gmail.com

SLIA Vision

To connect our members with
their Sri Lankan heritage

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

It is now almost five months since I assumed the Presidency role and it has been very busy period for us due to the blessed SLIA Ramadan Iftar programme and annual Eid-ul-Fitr event in July.

The Iftar programmes proved to be very challenging due to the late breaking fast times, venue hire requiring us to vacate premises by midnight and the logistics of moving equipment from one location to the venues.

Alhamdulillah, I am pleased all the programmes proved successful and were well received by the membership. Following these events, during our last ExCo meeting we held a review of 'lessons learnt' which proved useful and Inshaa Allah we plan to implement some of these recommendations for the benefit of the membership.

The Treasurer, Fazly Wahab has been very busy and we are making good progress to satisfy our requirements and the position of current accounts is detailed in his report on Page 2 for reference. I am pleased to report that the Ramadan Appeal resulted in receipts of £23K and included £1,132 following the SLIA Ramadan Appeal we made at the West Ealing Mosque. Our special thanks to Haleem Ossman who was instrumental in organising this collection on Saturday, 25th June and attended along with three other members from our ExCo team.

Alhamdulillah we have now paid the £7,193 as per our agreement in respect of the three projects in Sri Lanka for Ramadan Food Distribution Programme and Inshaa Allah will ensure the rest of the funds are utilised as soon as we identify suitable projects in Sri Lanka.

The Building Sub Committee report from the Chair Jezri Mohideen on Page 3 provides details on our efforts and the progress made to date on our Hanwell Building as agreed at the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) in April.

Please do review the future Events Calendar for other planned events this year, regrettably due to other pressures and the holiday season we have not been able to secure venues at the time of publication but will inform you as soon as this is finalised.

Looking forward, we are now approaching the Hajj season and as some of you are busy preparing for your journey and the Hajj pilgrimage, may Almighty Bless you all and grant you Hajj Mabroor. For those of us that have not been invited this year Insha Allah may we also attain the pleasure of Allah (SWT) by reciting more Dhikr, Takbeer, reading Quran, fasting on the Day of Arafat, doing more good deeds and taking part in Qurbani.

JazakAllahu Khayrun to you the membership, our generous donors and sponsors for all your help and support towards our Ramadan Iftar programme, Ramadan Appeal and Eid Events and Inshaa Allah we look forward to your continued support in our future events.

My ExCo and I take this opportunity to wishing you all joy and prosperity on Eid.

Wassalam

Jazal Marzook, President of SLIA



Treasurer Report

My dear Brothers and Sisters, Assalamu Alaikum

Alhamdulillah our SLIA finances are still in a healthy position after two major events so far this year.

In the month of Ramadan where we hosted four successful Iftar functions which were all self-funding due to the generous contributions from our members and families whom attended the events and also from those who were unable to attend.

Eid-ul-Fitr Lunch

Our Annual Eid-ul-Fitr Lunch held at Double Tree Hilton on the 17th of July 2016 was well attended and it was a success due to untiring effort put in by the Trustees, their families and our membership.

We had 237 people attending this event this year and ticket prices were kept to a minimum (almost the same as last year) despite the many challenges we faced with increasing costs.

Membership Subscriptions

In the seven months to 31st July 2016, we have received the sum of £2,111 in membership subscriptions against £3,149 received in the last Financial Year.

This being our main source of income to cover SLIA annual administrative expenses, we kindly urge any members who have not yet paid, to pay their subscriptions at your earliest. Please see page eleven which provides full details of the current rates for 2016 and bank details.

Charity Account

Charity Account funds at 31st July 2016, stands at £28,838 of which 'Restricted Funds' of £18,900 has been set aside for Water, Toilet and School projects in Sri Lanka as detailed in our last year's accounts.

From these funds, we have also released payments towards the Ramadan Appeal contributions to Tsunami Village and Neeravapitty for dry rations and kanji distribution of £2,887 and £4,306 respectively.

Building Account

Regular monthly rental receipts continues to come in from our tenant at Hanwell Building. As at 31st July 2016, 'Rent Account' bank balance stands at £38,006.71.

Ramadan Appeal

Your generous contributions during the month of Ramadan has helped us to fund three Ramadan Projects at 'Hambantota Tsunami Village' and 'Mullaitivu Neeravapitty' and the balance funds shall will be distributed towards rehabilitation projects in Sri Lanka for families who have been affected by the recent floods and towards other worthy causes to be identified and agreed by the Trustees.

I am pleased to report that the total donations received for the Ramadan 2016 was the sum of £23,212 for Ramadan Appeal, Zakat, Permanent Toilet Construction (PTC) Project and Sadaqah.

Finally, may I kindly urge you to contact us should you have any questions and with your valuable comments and suggestions.

Waalaikum Salaam

Fazly Wahab, Treasurer

To receive an online version of the Serendib Newsletter, please e-mail: membership@slia.org.uk
This will assist us in our endeavour to cut costs and provide valuable contributions towards protecting our environment.

Building Sub-committee Report

Sub-Committee

Chair:

Jezri Mohideen

Members:

Shamique Ismail

Jazal Marzook

Haleem Ossman

Althaf Zahir

Current Status

By the Grace of Almighty Allah we are pleased to announce that the SLIA Centre continues to be rented and we are in receipt of monthly income and has not resulted in any concerns or issues. This rental income is held in a sub-account of the main SLIA bank account and the closing balance as at 31st July 2016 is £36,903.

Plans for this Year

Masha' Allah at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) the membership agreed with the building sub-committee's recommendation to continue renting the property and explore the option of the proposed rear extension.

The sub-committee is currently seeking advice on submission of the application for the rear extension plan. We had an initial meeting with the Planning Officer from Ealing Council and Masha' Allah pleased to report that we received a positive outcome. We have been advised that the council should give us consent providing that the neighbors don't have any objections.

Insha'Allah we plan to submit the full planning application form within the next two months. This requires detailed drawings from the architects, construction plan and use of space etc. Once this application is submitted we should obtain the consent from the Council within 8-12 weeks. At that stage we shall be presenting a comprehensive extension plan with costs for membership approval.

As previously iterated, it is important that the membership have as much say as possible in this process since the building is our greatest asset and as such, should be of interest to the entire membership. If you have opinions you would like to voice, or would like to serve on this sub-committee, then please contact any member of the ExCo.

Wa Salaam

SLIA Building sub-committee



SLIA Building
Rear aspect



Adjacent building
with rear
extension

SLIA Ramadan Iftar Programme 2016

Alhamdulillah the SLIA ExCo hosted this our 44th annual Ramadan Iftar Programme this year starting on Saturday, 11th June with a different programme each Saturday to provide you the membership with the opportunity to choose which event you wished to attend thereby ensuring maximum participation.

The first iftar was Nakshabandhi Zikr followed by the second on 18th June with an Islamic talk with our guest speaker Imam Syed Azmat Ali Shah giving a talk on the virtues of Ramadan, Zakat and Sadaqah.

The 3rd event was the annual Hizb event on 25th June which was held at Claremont High School in Harrow where 2 Kathams were thamed and Alhamdulillah with the past presidents taking an active role in leading the prayers. The programme was concluded on the fourth Saturday by holding the Shazulia Halara.

All programme were followed by Iftar, dinner and 20 rakats tharaweeh prayers which proved very challenging to ExCo due to late times for breaking fast and venue hire period ending at 12:00 midnight each weekend.

Alhamdulillah we are pleased to report all events proved successful with a record of 140+ attending the Hizb and fortunately, with the change of venue we were able to accommodate everyone without any difficulty.

JazakAllahu khayran to all our members, sponsors and donors for your support and generous contributions to our programmes and May Allah Bless you and reward you in abundance for your The efforts.

The Messenger of Allah (SAS) said, "When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained." (Imam Bukhari)



Above: Iftar 2—Islamic Talk with Imam Syed Azmat Ali Shah
Below: Iftar 3—Hizb; Bottom: Iftar 4—Halara



Charity Projects

Post Ramadan Update 2016



“Those who spend their wealth [in Allah's way] by night and by day, secretly and publicly - they will have their reward with their Lord. And no fear will there be concerning them, nor will they grieve.”

[Surah Al-Baqarah 2:274]

Alhamdulillah thanks to your continuing support and generous donations to our Ramadan Appeals since 2014, you have helped the SLIA distribute food parcels to households entitled to Sadaqah and Zakat in Hambantota (Tsunami Village) and Mullaithivu (Neeravipitty Village).

Last year we distributed food parcels to 235 families and Alhamdulillah this year with your generous contributions we increased this to 255 families as follows:

Ramadan food distribution programme

1. **Hambantota – Tsunami Village:** The feeding of 155 families with dry food rations at RS 5,025 per family at a total cost of £4,306.
2. **Hambantota – Tsunami Village local mosque:** The construction of the mosque is not complete and halted due to the lack of funds. The mosque has areas for prayers, religious activities and during the month of Ramadan kanji is distributed from donations. Alhamdulillah this year we contributed towards the Kanji distribution programme - by providing Kanji for 10 days at RS 6,000 per day.
3. **Mullaithivu – Neeravipitty Village:** The feeding of 100 families with dry rations at RS 6,150 per family at a total cost of £2,887.

JazakAllahu Khayran for your most generous donations and we pray Almighty Allah will help us to continue to provide help and support to these worthy causes in the future.



Hambantota—Tsunami Village distribution programme 2016



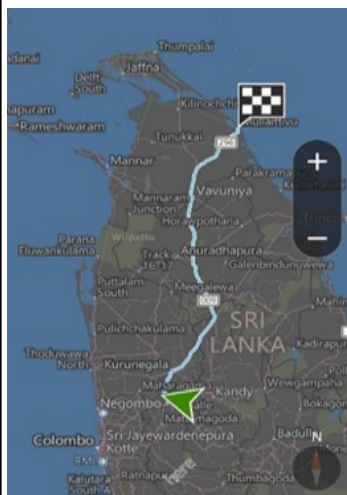
Mullaithivu—Neeravipitty Village distribution programme 2016

Charity Project—My journey to Neeravipitiya village

By Khalid Malhar

The SLIA in partnership with Volunteer Organization For Social Development (VOSD), a local charity working in Sri Lanka's Northern Province since 2005 for refugees returning to the North have been providing sanitation projects via the SLIA Permanent Toilet Construction (PTC) Programme to families whose houses were destroyed in the devastating 30 year civil war.

Upon researching I found it was a six hour drive from my home in Mawanella to the town of Mullaitivu where this refugee village is located. Mullaitivu, is the main town of Mullaitivu District and situated on the north-eastern coast of Northern Province. A largely fishing settlement, the town in the early 20th century grew as an anchoring harbour to the small sailing vessels transporting goods between Colombo and Jaffna. Mullaitivu, was also the



Our route to Mullaitivu

scene to the final conflict between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan army in the bloody end to the civil war.

My family and I were keen to avoid wasting time in heavy traffic on our journey and so decided to set off early morning at 3:30am. However, the downside to this meant we were unable to see the amazing views of the mountains as we drove through the Sri

Lankan jungle.

Upon arrival in Mullaitivu around 09:30am we were met by Hallaj, the Director of VOSD. Hallaj, like many Muslims and minorities were chased out of Sri Lanka's north when the LTTE took control and like many others fled to the west coast city of Puttalam. Here, some 100,000 Muslims have been internally displaced for the past 20 years and live in refugee camps in the Puttalam district and neighbouring areas after the Tamil Tigers expelled them. Now, after the end of the war these refugees are starting to return to their homeland in Mullaitivu. Unfortunately, what they returned to is the

complete destruction of their homes from the cross fire and fighting between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan military. Many now live in their land in makeshift homes next to the rubble foundations of what once was used to be their homes without even the basic necessities their homes once provided such as sanitation facilities and running water.



Thankfully it's not all doom and gloom, foreign aid from international governments and charities such as Hallaj and his team at VOSD they are helping the returning refugees to rebuild the houses and restoring basic needs such as toilets, wells for washing and drinking water; things which we take for granted here in the UK.

Hallaj took us back to his house which was destroyed during the war and has since been rebuilt through donations from foreign aid from international governments. He introduced us to his team including his son Haszan, who works part time at VOSD whilst studying Finance at the University of Jaffna. He was born in Puttalam and is also now relocating to Mullaitivu when he is not at University. Haszan showed me around his Dad's land where he and the team constructs the concrete blocks used for the building of wells and toilets which are funded by SLIA donations. It was inspiring to see the skillsets and commitment of the team at work to



Left: Creating the concrete blocks



Right: Finished blocks ready for well & toilet construction.

help rebuild and deliver these vital facilities for the community.

Hallaj and Haszan then took us around the site to see the families on the waiting list to benefit from the toilets being provided by the SLIA. One of the families kindly let me look around their makeshift house. It was on seeing their minimal living standard that reminded me of the comfortable living we have in the UK; solid roofs and walls, the comforts of bedding mattresses, sofas, big flat screen tv's etc. The inspiring thing was they had no

concern for these material items. They are happy and have the drive and determination to succeed over



*Left The family currently uses a small covering for privacy
Right: One of the new SLIA / VOSD toilets*

adversity and despite not always having the basic necessities of food, running water and sanitation. It is this drive and determination of these people that makes me want to assist in any way I can to help them on their journey.

I was then taken to see families who have benefited from having a toilet constructed and how such a simple thing can make a big difference. On seeing this and the difference they can make, I was inspired to write this piece not only to document my visit but mainly to inform all our SLIA membership of the work that is being done. I whole heartedly hope you will get behind the SLIA and their charity projects which makes a real

difference to the lives of those benefiting from them. The SLIA has so far built 15 toilets for the community with a further 13 currently under construction.

These projects can only be undertaken due to your generosity in donations and fundraising, so please keep up the amazing work. I would also urge anyone planning a trip to Sri Lanka to make the visit to Neeravipitty village in Mullaitivu and see the work that has been undertaken. You will also be treated to some wonderful scenery whilst journeying to Sri Lanka's North East. Should you be interested in making this visit please contact the SLIA ExCo who can provide you with the necessary information.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to Hallaj and Haszan for their hospitality and showing my family and me around the site and the Mullaitivu area. Thank you friends.



**Let's help each other to Jannah. Don't pull others down as you go up.
Instead, reach out a hand and help those who are down when you are up.**

KadimulQuran—Wisdom for the Seeker

Your generous support can help the SLIA make a difference.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other _____ Forename _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Post code _____ Cheque No. _____

Zakat £ _____

Water Project: £ _____

Sadaqah £ _____

Education Programme: £ _____

Gift Aid

Please make cheques payable to Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association and return to:
The Treasurer, SLIA (UK), 7 Broadway Buildings, Boston Road, London W7 3TT.

Direct/Electronic payments to the Lloyds Bank Account:

Sri Lanka Islamic (UK) Association Account Number 21061860 Sort Code 30-99-08

SLIA Eid-ul-Fitr Annual Lunch

Alhamdu Lillah on the 17th July, we held our annual SLIA Eid-ul-Fitr celebration at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Ealing. The lunch provided an excellent opportunity for family and friends to celebrate the end of Ramadan and enjoy an eventful afternoon which included children beautifully performing a Nasheed.

The lunch was well attended, with over 225 guests and included members, friends and special guests. We were honoured by the attendance of the Councillor Mayor Dr Patricia Walker, London Borough of Ealing and Acting High Commissioner Mr Sugeeshwara Gunaratna, Representative of The High Commission of Sri Lanka to the UK. We were also delighted to see many of our past Presidents and founder members of SLIA including Sister Aileen Cassim a valuable SLIA supporter. It was a privilege to receive their acknowledgment of the valuable contributions made by the SLIA to the wider community. The President, Jazal Marzook and the Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that attended. Eid Mubarak and May the guidance and blessings of Allah (SWT) be with you and your loved ones.



SLIA Community News

Births

Alhamdulillah we would like to congratulate the parents and their families on their new arrival:

29th July 2016: **Gazali and Shazreen Hammard**, Isleworth, Greater London on the birth of their 3rd daughter Nuha Aafiyah.

May Almighty Allah make the children a blessing to their parents and a blessing for the Umma of Prophet Muhammad (SAS)

Weddings

The SLIA is pleased to announce the following weddings that took place with Allah's grace

20th February 2016, London: **Zumri** (son of Mohamed and Aiysha Marzook, Southall) and **Sakinah** (daughter of Syed and Zainab Ali, Basingstoke).

26th May 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Aisha** (daughter of Mr & Mrs Althaf Zahir) and **Abdul** (son of Mr and Mrs Akram, Colombo, Sri Lanka).

23rd July 2016, Galle Face Hotel, Sri Lanka: **Farah Hamid** (daughter of Aysha and Kamal Hamid, St Albans, Herts) and **Shezan Aroos** (son of Fathima & Mohamed Aroos, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates).

May Almighty Allah bless you, and may He send blessings upon you, and may He unite you both in good.

Obituaries

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un - 'Surely we belong to Allah and to Him we shall return'

13th July 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka: **Mrs Alavia Ismail**, wife of the late Mr Cassim Ismail passed away and her funeral took place the following morning at Kupiyawatte burial grounds.

She lived in London for over 50 years before returning to Sri Lanka with her son, Ali Hyder, nearly 2 years ago. She is survived by her son and her remaining brother, Mr. Mahdi Hussein.

24th July 2016, South East London: **Fahad (Ahad) Azad**, Bexley Grammar School, Welling, Kent, 18 years old and son of Azad and Dina Sadikeen; grandson of S.A.M. Sadikeen of Kahatapitiya, Gampola (former Chairman of UC-Gampola and Member of UC for many years) and Mrs Nashooha Sadikeen; paternal grandparents N. M. Sadikeen (Retired Post Master and Majestic Shoe Palace of Matale) and Mrs Rafeeka Sadikeen. The Janaza took place on 25th July 2016 at Gardens of Peace, Hainault, Ilford and burial grounds.

May Almighty Allah grant them Jannat-ul-Firdous. Ameen

Hajj 2016

This year Hajj is expected to fall between Friday, 9th September and ends on Wednesday, 14th September. The SLIA ExCo and members would like to wish all our brothers and sisters going on Hajj Inshaa Allah 'May Almighty Allah (SWT) accept your ibadah and grant you Hajj Mabroor' and we ask that you remember the Ummah of Prophet Mohamed (SAS) and us in your duas.

And strive for Allah with the striving due to Him. He has chosen you and has not placed upon you in the religion any difficulty. [It is] the religion of your father, Abraham. Allah named you "Muslims" before [in former scriptures] and in this [revelation] that the Messenger may be a witness over you and you may be witnesses over the people. So establish prayer and give zakat and hold fast to Allah. He is your protector and excellent is the protector and excellent is the helper. [Surah Al Hajj 22.78]

Children's corner

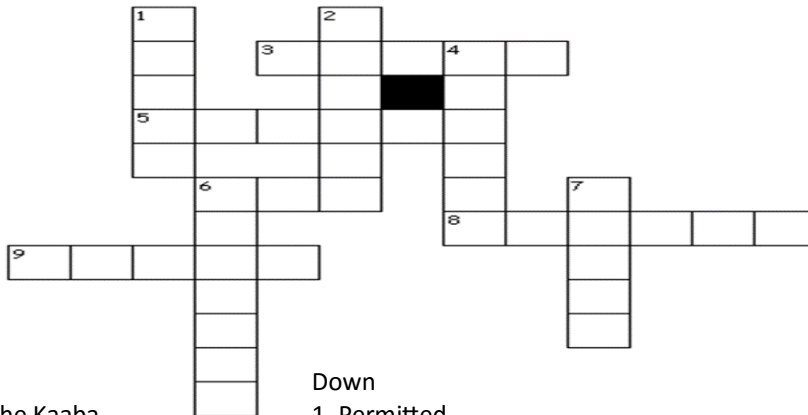
Test your Islamic Knowledge and Enter Prize Draw

Here is the opportunity to increase your Islamic knowledge and the chance to enter into a Prize draw and win £100.

Please hurry and send completed entries, including your name, age and parent's details by e-mail to:

membership@slia.org.uk. To be eligible to enter, children must be 14 or under (as at 1st September 2016) and their family must be 'paid up members' in 2016. Please note **closing date is Saturday, 10th September 2016**.

Entries received after the deadline shall not be entered into prize draw. A winner will be drawn from all the eligible correct entries received at the **SLIA Eid-ul-Adha Event on Sunday, 18th September 2016**.



Across

3. Going round the Kaaba
5. Kings name related to Surah 105
6. Prophet who will return to Earth
8. Prophet Salih's people
9. Associating partners with Allah

Down

1. Permitted
2. Surah with the longest Ayah
4. Important gathering during Hajj
6. Khalilullah
7. Purifies your money

SLIA Eid-ul-Adha Annual Celebration

Sunday, 18th September 2016 at 12:00pm



Ramada Crown Suite 2

Long Drive, South Ruislip

HA4 0HG

(opposite Sainsbury's car park)

Adults £20

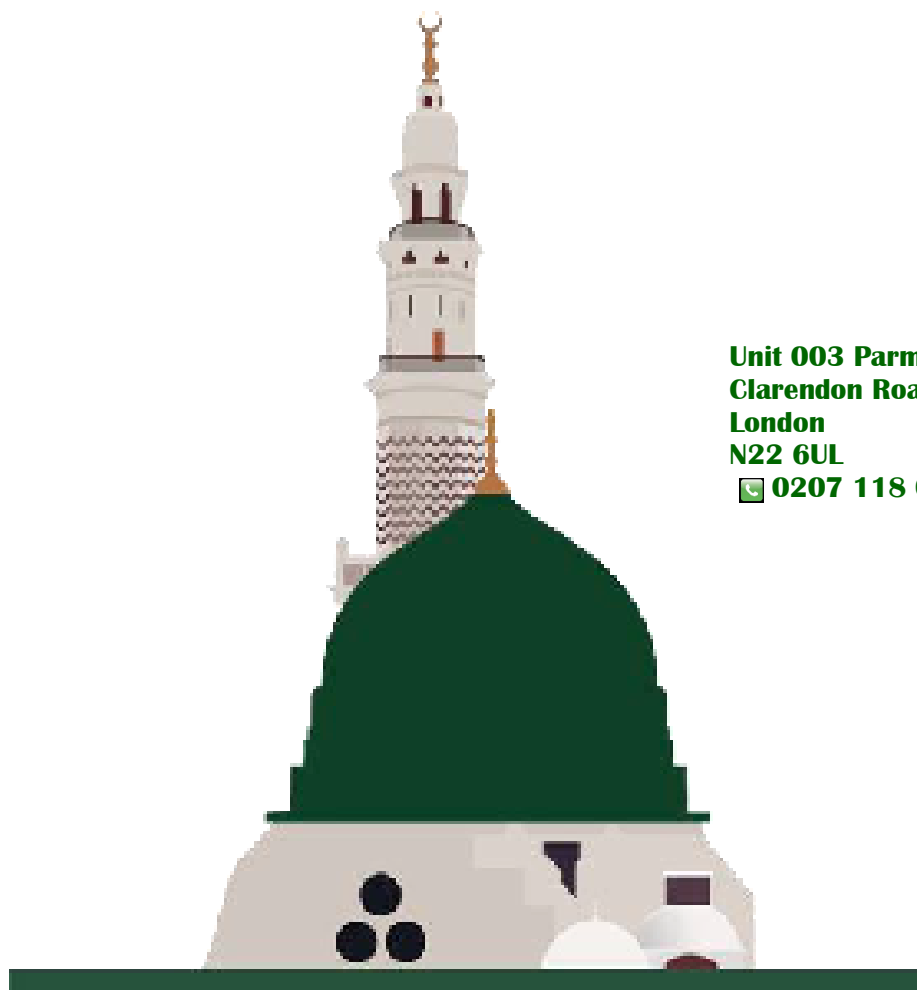
Children £10 (age 5-12)

sri lanka

islamic (UK) association
Registered Charity No. 1098114

Best Wishes from

DASA ACCOUNTANCY 



**Unit 003 Parma House
Clarendon Road
London
N22 6UL
 0207 118 0555**

SLIA Upcoming Events

Eid-ul-Adha Celebration

Sunday, 18th September 2016

Ramada Crown Suite 2
Long Drive, South Ruislip
HA4 0HG

Indoor Sports Event

October/November 2016

Details TBA

Meelad-un-Nabi

December 2016

Details TBA

Islamic Talk

29th January 2017

Details TBA

Nakshabandhi Zikr

February 2017

Details TBA

Shazulia Halara

March 2017

Details TBA

45th Annual General Meeting

April 2017

Details TBA

SLIA Mission

SLIA's mission is to promote charitable, social, cultural, sports and educational activities to achieve unity and strengthen relationships in line with our religious and cultural values for the benefit of our members and the communities we engage with

SLIA Membership Subscriptions 2016

Please can all members pay the 2016 subscriptions which was **due on 1st January 2016**. In addition to paying any previous outstanding subscriptions could you also ensure we have your current contact details. If not already in place, please also consider paying your subscriptions by standing order.

Should you wish to action any of the above, contact one of the following:

Fazly Wahab fazlywahab@hotmail.co.uk
Khalid Malhar emperor_mal@hotmail.com

If you are aware of new members who wish to join the SLIA please request them to contact any member of the Committee for Membership Application and Standing Order mandate.

Bank Account Lloyds, Walthamstow
Sort Code 30-99-08
Account No. 01663411

Membership Type	Price
Life Membership (Single)	£250
Family Membership (Husband, wife & children under 18)	£30
Family Membership (Husband & wife over 60)	£15
Individual Membership	£15
Individual Membership (Over 60)	£7.50
Student Membership	£4