

HelpLanka will be taking a stall at the Sri Lanka Festival at Trafalgar Square on Saturday June 17 2006 from Midday. A press release is attached for you below with details of the week long celebrations.

Please come and support the charity by buying a range of hand made gifts from Sri Lanka and help make a difference to the lives of children in Sri Lanka.

PARADISE ON PARADE AS SRI LANKA

TAKES OVER TRAFALGAR SQUARE!

Refreshingly Sri Lanka - ten-day trade and

tourism festival starts on June 15th

The Sri Lankan High Commission today unveiled details of a spectacular ten-day Refreshingly Sri Lanka festival to showcase the very best the Indian Ocean island paradise has to offer.

Highlight of the Refreshingly Sri Lanka campaign will be a massive open-air party, to be held on Saturday 17th June in Trafalgar Square, devoted to Sri Lankan arts, music, culture, crafts, food and drink and with a real elephant as guest of honour!

The four-hour visual and musical extravaganza will include dancers, drummers and fire-eaters, live demonstrations of traditional crafts from mask-painting, lace-making to Ayurvedic massage, food stalls, a tea pavilion, and an art and photographic exhibition.

The afternoon, co-hosted by BBC Radio 1's DJ Nihal and Russell Amerasekera from top TV travel show Wish You Were Here, will also feature a live link to Lord's cricket ground, where England and Sri Lanka will be going head-to-head in the first of the NatWest Series one-day internationals.

The Refreshingly Sri Lanka party is just one of a host of events designed to boost tourism and trade between the two countries, and to give a unique taste of the many facets Sri Lanka has to offer. The event is supported by the Mayor of London's office. Ken Livingstone commented: "I am pleased to

welcome the Sri Lanka Promotional Week to London in June 2006. This is a wonderful opportunity for Londoners to celebrate the vibrant heritage and culture of Sri Lanka and to recognise the contribution that London's large Sri Lankan community makes towards the enrichment of our capital".

Other activities include:

- * the Sri Lanka Food Festival, being staged from 15th-25th June at the five-star Royal Garden Hotel, in London's Kensington High Street;
- * the Sri Lanka Film Festival, at various venues around London, running from 20th-24th June;
- * the Sri Lanka Book Festival & Art Exhibition, at Foyles Book Shop in Charing Cross Road, from 19th-25th June;
- * and a traditional Sri Lankan Tea Tasting, at Fortnum & Mason, on 19th June.

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Running in conjunction with the consumer events, Sri Lankan exports - from gems and spices to IT and electronics - will be the focus of the Serendib Trade Exhibition, being held at the New Connaught Rooms in London's Covent Garden from 21st-23rd June.

And on 22nd June there will be an investment forum, organised by the Commonwealth Business Council in association with the UK's National Outsourcing Association, at Marlborough House, Pall Mall.

"Sri Lanka is rightly renowned for its beautiful beaches and wonderful weather, but the island also boasts a rich and thriving cultural heritage in addition to an abundance of trade opportunities," says Her Excellency Mrs Kshenuka Senewiratne, the Sri Lankan High Commissioner for UK and Ireland.

"It is hoped that Refreshingly Sri Lanka will open British eyes to the diversity of trade, investment and tourism attractions that our Island Home has to offer, and reinforce the already-close ties between our two countries."