



Buying vegetables at the Sunday fair

## Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- May 2016 -

May brings with it the most important of Buddhist holy days – Wesak – which commemorates the birth, attainment of enlightenment and demise of Gautama Buddha. Apart from the religious observances that occur at this time in temples are the huge, intricately illuminated *pandals*, enormous wooden frames, often straddling highways and major streets, which contain scenes from the life of the Buddha and other events of significance to those following the teachings of the Lord Buddha. Another symbol of the giving kindness of Buddhist philosophy are the myriad wayside *dansalas* where food and a variety of (non-alcoholic) beverages and sweets are provided to travellers at no charge, unless they choose to deposit a donation in the box that sits within the building the entire contents of which goes to a deserving charity. Experiencing Wesak in all its glory is a “must” for anyone visiting our fair isle because it perhaps **the** event that epitomizes the great generosity of a people whose own often-straitened circumstances do not in any way impede a demonstration of that trait perhaps without equal anywhere in the world.

The picture at the top of this newsletter, while not of very recent origin, indicates where we try to buy the food we eat (and provide) guests at HPH. The Kurunegala fair has “everything from soup to nuts,” and, as we’ve said before, is certainly worth a visit to provide new memories of an old institution. Mind you, we’re prejudiced because we believe it certainly beats shopping at some supermarket!

The newest fruit tree to produce its unobtrusive blossoms has been our Chinese Guava and we are determined to save as much of the crop as possible from the birds and palm squirrels because it produces guava jam beyond compare!

And speaking of home-grown products, we are about to embark on an attempt to duplicate an old village practice of drying jak fruit for later use in various forms, both as a regular food item and as a snack. If we succeed, we’ll certainly share that success with those who visit HPH!

Those of you who’ve had to negotiate the, admittedly, rough approach road to HPH from the A10 highway connecting Kurunegala with Kandy will welcome the news that the local jurisdiction *above* HPH, also in the Central Province, has had its engineers do the preliminary assessment of what is needed to connect Harankahawa, the large village above us, to the A10, thereby making unnecessary the need for travelers in that part of the Central Province to negotiate **two** sides of a triangle to get to the capital of the North Western Province. It will also result in a significant improvement in the track that brings visitors to HPH. Hosting a “pocket” meeting during the last national election campaign to impress upon the local MP (incidentally a Cabinet Minister now) that road access was a major issue does appear to have had the desired effect.

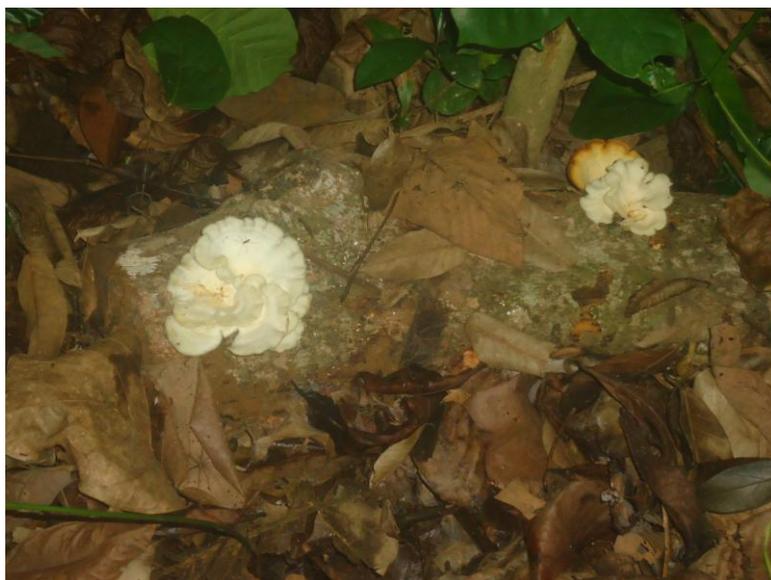


Minister Haleem addressing our "pocket meeting."

As I write this little newsletter, we are going through one of the hottest times we've ever experienced. The only lining to that cloud is that our Flamboyant trees (*Delonix regia*) in front of the house are a riot of colour,

If you have sampled what the HPH experience has provided you and haven't already reviewed us on TripAdvisor, please do so because we depend very heavily on this honest form of advertising to keep HPH operational. All you have to do is go to [www.tripadvisor.com/reviewit](http://www.tripadvisor.com/reviewit).

From time to time we've reproduced photographs of the vegetation, birds and other wild around HPH. This month we have a picture of the most-recently observed mushroom, one of many that we've encountered over the years and many of which we've photographed. While we have a not-inconsiderable knowledge most of the fauna and flora our knowledge of wild mushrooms is limited to a few varieties that the writer of this newsletter remembers from his childhood and, given how long ago that "childhood" was we are loathe to use any of these fungi in what we serve our guests (and ourselves!) unless we are **absolutely** certain of their being non-toxic. If any reader of this newsletter has knowledge of tropical mushrooms, I'd be only too glad to send on photographs for identification.



Mushrooms on Springhill Path

With all good wishes!  
Arlene & Emil

For May we'll continue our very popular  
"Sampler pack"  
of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee  
and  
the "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies," both now  
famous trademarks of HPH hospitality

## Halgolla Plantation Home

- now ranked #8/241 B&Bs in Kandy on Trip Advisor
- Certificate of Excellence 2015 from Trip Advisor
  - rated as [Best Home Stay](#) in Sri Lanka 2013
- recommended by [Bradt Travel Guide for Sri Lanka](#) 5th edition, 2014

HPH is highly recommended on Trip Advisor.  
See what our previous [guests](#) have had to say!



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You can now book directly with us from our website at: [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com). Look for the booking widget:

Check In date:	Nights:	Search
01 Jul 2015	1	

Use the widget above\* to check for availability at HPH and to make your booking directly with us. Please note that there is a minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking.

If you don't see it, refresh your browser and make sure that your browser is set to "allow blocked content".

Please note that there is a **minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking** and we do **not** accept credit cards. Payments accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any major currency. We are also on [Facebook](#). Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [Airbnb](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) or, **preferably**, by contacting us directly.

Sri Lanka: rated as a top tourist destination by [The Lonely Planet](#); [Condé Nast Traveller](#); [The New York Times](#); [National Geographic](#); and [the \(London\) Times](#). And most recently by [Huffington Post UK](#). In addition, [Fox News](#) follows the lead of The Lonely Planet by recommending Sri Lanka as the #1 place to visit!