



The this is a photograph of Clerodendron chinense, an admittedly invasive plant but one which we've tolerated for a very long time for its pretty flowers and lovely scent and because we've been able to keep it under control in our low-brush vegetation

Halgolla Plantation Home

Accommodation of a different kind

- August 2016 -

Apologies for the tardiest production of our newsletter hardly seem necessary given the circumstances that were responsible for that fact – open-heart surgery required by complications arising from a medical procedure that was allegedly so simple that it did not require the services of a surgeon nor an operating theatre, ultimately taking me within, what I was told , was 2% of death's door. (How does one measure stuff like that anyway?!)

Anyway, this is not the place for me to tell that tale of woe and about the only satisfaction I can draw from the whole business is that, unlike in the case of the many health problems I've faced over nearly 8 decades on this green sward, I did not contribute **one iota** to what befell me this time. In any event, going back to M.L. King's times, let's just say, "we shall overcome" while keeping HPH the unique destination it has grown into over the years.

Onward and upward for August, the month of the unique Dalada Perahera in Kandy of which mention has previously been made and hardly merits repetition given the mass of information about this unique torch-

lit procession that seemingly saturates the Sri Lankan media at this time of year. A final note though is merited, and we do not exaggerate when we say, "You **have** to see it to believe it."

My own health challenge has not been unique because readers will remember Arlene having had open-heart surgery earlier in the year to repair a leaking mitral valve, Gamini having problems with kidney stones, Senevi continuing to nurse a dodgy hip which should have been replaced a dozen years ago, Pathma going on premature retirement because of a respiratory condition, and the irrepressible Mallika having to make dawn-arrival trips at the Kandy General Hospital for treatment for her nephritis-related problems. One of these trips resulted in her raising Cain about the condition she found me in, having me pulled back from the brink , and thereby offering me the opportunity of inflicting even more HPH Newsletters on a defenceless readership! There is a whole other tale to be told in that respect and, at least out of respect for Mallika's contribution to my still being at HPH, WILL be told. once the dust settles. One thing all this

adversity has achieved, though, is that it has built personal bonds among all of us that some simply “professional” relationship would not have sustained. This is not only unique but promises a strengthening in the years ahead of what HPH is all about and what it can and will deliver to guests.

A few days ago we received notification that our jams, jellies and preserves have been licenced for commercial distribution under the HPH label. These will have no additives except, perhaps, for a little bit of cinnamon or a clove. NOTHING SYNTHETIC OR ARTIFICIAL. We’ve found, however, that the weight of some fruit preserves differ slightly from one to the next, the explanation we’ve been given being that the larger commercial producers of such products ensure uniformity of weight by the addition of “fillers.” Now, it seems that we will have to resolve this problem before our product hits market shelves. Nothing is impossible and everything is “doable” in the interests of honest marketing and product purity and we know we will find a means of dealing with this issue before too long, even if it is another price to pay in order to avoid the hypocrisy of any arrangement whereby we add an extraneous non-natural substance while still keeping what we put out in marketable form.



The unique and delectable passion fruit which will soon be back in the quantities we once grew it!

Arlene, I and our working colleagues look forward to seeing you at HPH soon. If nothing else, we need you to assist in our “recuperation project!”

For August, we’ll continue our very popular “Sampler pack” of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and the “Surprise Basket” of HPH “goodies,” that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!

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!



TripAdvisor Mobile and Tablet Apps

You can now book directly with us from our website at: www.halgollaplantationhome.com. Look for the booking widget:

Check In date:	Nights:	
<input type="text" value="01 Jul 2015"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>

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. Payment accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any other 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!

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