



Holiday lunch instead of the usual X'mas Party

HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME – ONE OF A KIND!

- January 2017 -

As we used to say where I once used to live: "Well, there's another year done and dusted!" In this instance though, yours truly might well have been what was once referred to in Colonial times as part of the "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust!" bit!

Given the travails of the year past, Arlene and I cannot but look forward to better things in the year ahead. One adjustment I've had to make is to re-evaluate my intent to live to a hundred and thirty-eight, by which time I reckoned I would have been able to get under the skins of that part of the world's population that I hadn't already severely upset, REALLY get them "P-ed Off"!

Thanks to some rain somewhere upstream in the Kandy District there has been a marginal but significant improvement in our potable water supply, which had reached truly crisis proportions shortly before I wrote this.

However, there appeared to be another face to the coin of water availability because we had a whole posse of the local constabulary checking out our single resident family and demanding that the adjacent unoccupied unit's padlock be opened. The reason for all this excitement was apparent when the group of cops, guided by what would pass for a rural "beat cop" showed up at HPH for a cup of tea later that morning. Apparently the word had gone out that local *kasippu* ("hooch"/moonshine) makers were using the water on our land to distill their product! Fortunately a false alarm, though based on some reasonable assumptions. If nothing else, news of the raid would act as a deterrent to anyone with intentions of using our turf for their production of hooch! If ever there is a likelihood of tedium, something comes along to relieve us of that likelihood!

Kiki who was the designated companion to our old faithful, *Natta*, whom visitors appear to love earned, if that is the word, a certificate from the local veterinarian saying she wouldn't ever get pregnant. Either "hysterectomy" doesn't mean what it used to or something wasn't done right because *Kiki* (which is the Sinhala for female pup) displays the most obvious evidence of her gender's maturity! Oh, well.....

Our bookings over the Christmas season have been the skimpiest since we started the paying guest operation. However, we've used the lull to increase our storage for hand tools, re-organized our (large) stock of lumber and increased the accommodation in Nellie's Suite from three to four beds.

We have also begun to seriously consider commercial distribution of our high quality, home grown spices – cinnamon, cloves, pepper, nutmeg and vanilla – in addition to the very well received gourmet jams, jellies and fruit preserves of various kinds for which we are seeking less fragile packaging. ***Any suggestions from readers of this newsletter will be most welcome!***

We would be failing in the matter of expressing our deep gratitude to all those who've kept in touch with us throughout the past year and for their help and suggestions. A special "thank you" to Trisha Suresh who put a great deal of her two days with us into the (futile?!) exercise of trying to make Emil less 'web illiterate'!

Even though government seems to be insistent on pursuing a "Same old, same old" path as their predecessor we are finally rid of the violence and despotism that we endured for too long.

With our very best wishes for the year ahead and those to follow.

Arlene & Emil



New layout in North-West corner of Nellie's Suite

For January, as in month's past, we'll continue our very popular "Sampler pack" of HPH-grown and -roasted coffee and a "Surprise Basket" of HPH "goodies" that appears to delight visitors as they take their leave of us and HPH!

Halgolla Plantation Home

- 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:

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

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.

Please note that there is a **minimum stay of 2 nights for each booking** and we do **not** accept credit cards. Payment is accepted in US\$, Sri Lankan rupees or any major currency at the prevailing exchange rate.



Vanilla beans AND flower.
Climate change?

We are also on [Facebook](#). Bookings can be made on [Trip Advisor](#), [freetobook](#), [Airbnb](#), [Booking.com](#) and [Agoda](#) or, preferably, by contacting us directly.

For regular updates of what is happening at Halgolla Plantation Home, please like us on [Facebook](#).



Table centre-piece of *Madithiya* seeds