



A SMALL selection of the fruit from our garden!

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## HALGOLLA PLANTATION HOME – A SRI LANKAN DESTINATION – - MAY 2017 -

One of the (small) compensations for the really terrible drought that we are enduring has been that the clear definition of wet and dry seasons has resulted in crops of various fruits in which not even the monkeys and giant squirrels have been able to put a serious dent. Talk about clouds (or the lack thereof) and their silver linings! The selection in the container that provides the opening to this Newsletter contains Sapodilla, Avocado Pear, Mangosteen, *Uguressa* (*Flacourtia indica*), plantains, papaya, mangoes, grape fruit and oranges!

The urgency of our developing a means of distributing our jams, jellies, preserves and chutneys has begun to present a serious challenge though there appear to be at least some short-term or partial solutions on the horizon.

The phenomenon of the smaller birds – particularly sunbirds moving closer to and now, inside, our house to get away from their predators has reached a new high with a pair of sunbirds suspending their scraggly-looking nest from the clothes line that runs the length of the corridor leading to the “domestic’s” quarters! It is so close to the cement floor that we have been seriously concerned that the always-inquisitive “*Kikki*” will grab it to see what it contains! Hasn’t happened yet, thank goodness! This is close to probably the “highest (human) traffic area, adjacent to the dish-washing table and draining racks and the birds obviously have a clear

perception of who their friends are! These are Purple Sunbirds, the males of which carry a truly iridescent coat of feathers while the hens are typically drab. The same species of avian has now begun construction on the outside of the dishwashing/drying table, on our Chinese Guava tree and a third couple are building on a small *Flacourtia* (“*Uguressa*”) tree on the pathway from our open-hearth kitchen to the generator room. And people can’t understand my attachment to my ancestral home, water supply problems and all!

My regular political commentary is back in the Sunday Leader, the web publication, Colombo Telegraph, as well as a tabloid distributed free to members of the Sri Lankan community in Toronto, Ontario called the Anchorman. None of this is, of course, likely to endear me to the “powers that be” even though they don’t seem to have a fleet of White Vans to “disappear” their critics as their predecessors did! If you can’t cock a snook, at my age, at those you consider not deserving as representative of decent humankind, when are you going to be able to do so!

P.S.

As I complete what I hope is the final draft of the May Newsletter we have had a great shower of rain as the sun went down and we can but hope that there are more to follow!

The quickest method to register with us and the most trouble-free is to go to our

**Website:** [www.halgollaplantationhome.com](http://www.halgollaplantationhome.com)

**Email:** [emil@halgollaplantationhome.com](mailto:emil@halgollaplantationhome.com)

**Mobiles:** 0094 773470702, 0094 722849770

We are also on [Facebook](#) and bookings can be made on [freetobook](#), [Airbnb](#), [Agoda](#) and [Booking.com](#) or, preferably, by contacting us directly at our email address, [emil@halgollaplantationhome.com](mailto:emil@halgollaplantationhome.com).

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

For May, 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



Purple Sunbird sitting on eggs in her nest on our (indoor) clothes line

Check In date:

01 Jul 2015

Nights:

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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.



Purple Sunbird's nest facing dish-washing & -drying table

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