

LIVING ON THE

HILL

New Year Issue 2010

A better world

What's Going On?

Community News

MY BT

An old resident writes

Wildlife Watch

Keeping BT **Green**

DO YOUR BIT



NEWSFLASH

**Wall of
Shame**

**Happening on
the Hill**

What about those

Monkeys?

SAFETY FIRST

Security Update



Ceramics
Lithographs
Fine Arts
Sculpture
Photography
Water Colours

Archana Gallery,
F1-1, Taman Tunku,
Bukit Tunku,
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia.

THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Muthanna

Dear BTRA Members & Neighbours,
Time flies! It does not seem that long ago when we held our AGM when in fact it is already almost 4 months since it was held on 26th June 2009. The new committee went on to have its 1st meeting on 1st September. It wasted no time in deciding what key issues to address in its 12 month term of office:

Development. The KL Plan still needs to be gazetted. So long as this is not settled, our rights will never be certain.

Environment. We cannot call ourselves a premier neighbourhood if we look at our (uneven)road surfaces, our (broken)drains, our (messy)grass verges, our (fallen)trees, our (eroding)slopes.

Neighbourliness. Or more accurately the lack of it.

Membership. A higher proportion of residents as members gives us more credibility when dealing with the authorities

Security. Members who subscribe to our Security Service have not had their homes compromised. If all residents subscribe to our service, we can double-up our patrols which already visit each subscriber's home 8 times a night – thus discouraging intruders from our neighbourhood

Various Committee members have agreed to take on the following responsibilities:

Cik Khatijah Khalid will be responsible for Development

Mrs Marcia Tan, Mr Tan Beng Keong & Miss Ruth Yeoh will be jointly responsible for Environmental issues

Mr John Smurthwaite, Tan Sri Dr Yahya Awang, Mr Paul Loosely, Mrs Lorien Holland and Miss Ruth Yeoh will take on the challenge of increasing membership
Mr Gan Tee Jin will be responsible for the Security Scheme

Mrs Lorien Holland and Mr Paul Loosely will be jointly responsible in communicating neighbourhood news and BTRA activities via our newsletter and website

Datuk Tan Hoe Pin and Datuk Lim Fung Chee will assist the various committees as and when required

I was invited to the Bukit Damansara Carnival held on the 4th October. It was organised by the Bukit Damansara Residents Association and was launched by the Minister for the Federal Territory himself. It was very impressive to see participation by many residents with stalls selling food, books and household items.

There were activities for children. Performances by residents. Medical talks by doctors. It was even obviously important enough to attract a bank to set up a booth and an airline to have its stewardesses there promoting its destinations and fares! I'm told that one mobile phone company was itself sending SMS texts to its users to attend the Carnival! The place was packed and the strong feeling of neighbourliness prevailed. Something similar will be planned by the present BTRA Committee. I hope that it will draw strong participation from members and neighbours
Watch This Space!

A note from the editor



Well hello there. As Bukit Tunku residents I would, on behalf of the Bukit Tunku Residents Association (BTRA) welcome you to this latest issue of 'Living on the Hill.'

Actually it's the first to bear that name because, as you will see, we have tried to make the magazine a little more than just a news letter. Sure, there's updates and news from folks but there's also some little think pieces; Kenneth Smith's recollections of the Hill in the 70's and my observations of the primate situation. I hope to make these a regular feature. And there's a lovely piece by Ruth Yeoh on the environment in China. And there's colour. Which is nice.

This we have called our New Year Issue because we will be trying to do this three or four times a year.

But, most importantly, this cannot happen without content so; write letters, write articles, idle gossip, observations; just get the dirty water off your chest. Let us know of any events, parties, weddings etc and do send in photos. It will all go to make an interesting reading and really enable us to bind our community together.

And, last but by no means least a huge thank-you to our team from the committee for their great contributions; Kat, Marcia, Tee Jin and Lorien.

So I really hope you find this issue interesting, informative and even fun. If you do please let us know. If you don't.....erm, also can.

Love. Paul

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KUALA LUMPUR, Bukit Tunku Residents' Association No.
Pendaftaran 1443/92 (Wilayah Persekutuan)

What's Going On

Marcia Kok &
Kat Khalid



The roads/drains situation

We recognize the roads and drains in Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta are in deplorable condition and getting increasingly worse as new projects and renovations get underway. Many roads are uneven and riddled with potholes; Pinggiran Tunku is particularly bad and band aid solutions by DBKL in recent years to cover up the potholes and patch up the roads are ineffective and inadequate.

Similarly, many of our drains are old and some have given way and they have not been repaired and upkeep. Along Jln Bukit Tunku, works commenced last year to upgrade the drains but the contractors appear to have left before completion of the project.

We have sent pictures to DBKL and have appealed to them once again to re-tar our roads and repair/upgrade damaged drains. So far, the only roads which have been completely retarred are Jln Tunku Putra and Jln Taman Duta leading to the residence of the Prime Minister at Taman Duta. We hope to meet with DBKL once again and accompany them on a site visit before the month is up.

Street lighting

Apart from isolated blowouts, street lights in the neighbourhood appear to be in order. After a long lapse and constant reminding, the street lighting at Jln Merchu have once again been restored. Please do your bit and call 15454 whenever you notice any of the street lamps not functioning especially along where you live.

Landscaping

Over the years, lallang has overtaken much of the grass verges and greenery in Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta and grass cutting is unable to keep up with the rate at which the lallang grows. An attempt was

made by DBKL to beautify the mini roundabout at Jln Tunku last year but the transplanted trees died and the area which was dug out by DBKL to accommodate the replanting is now covered with lallang and is a real eyesore. We have on many occasions appealed to DBKL to have the lallang dug out and cleared and replanted with cow grass and have recently been advised that there are now plans afoot to relandscape Bukit Tunku/Taman Duta in stages. We have quickly notified them that BTRA would like to participate in any forthcoming plans and hope to meet them soon to further discuss their proposals.



KL City Plan 2020

The drafting of KL City Plan 2020 is in the final stages. Latest news is that the Public Objection Hearing Committee has presented their report to the Mayor's office for further review, after which it will be presented to the Ministry of Federal Territories. We shall inform you of any further updates.

Telco Towers

Celcom Tower at Lenggak Tunku and Asiaspace Tower at Pinggiran Tunku

The Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission (MCMC) has reassured us that the towers are 'safe' (read footnote below). DBKL meanwhile, says they gave approval for the construction of these two towers as our residents had complained about poor reception. They had allowed these two towers to be erected at the particular sites to cover the "blind spots" in our area. However the point of contention is that the distance of tower to a house must comply with the Ministry of Housing guidelines in relation to "falling objects" safety issues i.e.



	Minimum distance of tower from nearest existing building	
Building type	Tower height below 45m	Tower height 45m and above
Residential	20 meters	30 meters
Commercial	10 meters	15 meters
Industry	5 meters	10 meters

BTRA and the residents whose houses are directly affected by the proximity of the towers have brought this up with DBKL time and again. BTRA was informed recently that the Planning Department of DBKL will re- open the file and revert to us. An excerpt from the website: *Radiation produced by mobile phone base stations is not serious at all. The radiation produced is extremely small. Its strength is just enough to allow its communication with mobile phones within in a limited area. A series of assessments carried out by the Malaysian Institute of Nuclear Technology Research (MINT) indicate that the radiation emitted by mobile phone base stations is below 0.001% of the exposure limit allowed by national and international authorities for members of the public to receive.*

More information can be obtained at www.rfrad.gov.my

Dangerous exit

Lenggak Tunku to Jalan Duta

A bit of background – What used to be a roundabout became an intersection when the flyover /viaduct were built in front of Arkib Negara. Works were carried out by JKR and was handed over to DBKL in August this year.

BTRA and a few residents had made several complaints to DBKL regarding the "merging and weaving" problem caused by incoming traffic from the Segambut roundabout, which made it quite impossible for our cars to exit into Jalan Duta.

There is also the traffic jam problem on Lenggak Tunku caused by this backflow. After our complaints, DBKL did carry out the following:-

- Trimmed the tall plants on the island at the junction

- Installed 3mm speed breakers on the stretch from Segambut roundabout to the intersection

- Painted a yellow box at the intersection

We then went to DBKL for a meeting with the Traffic Department officers recently.

A few suggestions were discussed and will be looked into by DBKL. Various alternatives such as humps, safety mirrors, tigers eyes, road stars, ribs, traffic lights, turning radius realignment etc were thrown back and forth but will all depend on whether any of this will cause backflow to the Segambut roundabout traffic which directly affects Jalan Kuching as well. DBKL has made several site visits and will have their own survey done before any changes are carried out. We will follow up.



NEWSFLASH

WALL OF SHAME!



As you can see from the picture there is a retaining (10 ft concrete) wall outside a property on Dataran Tunku which, as of writing, is in great danger of falling over. Not only does this pose a threat to the public roadways and utilities it is potentially a hazard to life and limb. BTRA have informed DBKL and they have sent notices, warnings and have even fined the owners and the consultants in charge of the building works. These have all been totally ignored, even though the DBKL engineers have said reinforcement work needs to be done fast. Some female representatives of the BTRA actually went to the site and were treated with insults and aggression by the men on site. And of course, BTRA are in constant contact with DBKL.

On recent viewings the wall seems to be leaning even more acutely than shown in the photograph.

It is extraordinary to think that people living in our lovely neighbourhood could behave so selfishly, so thoughtlessly, so shamefully and so completely without consideration. Next step is the Datuk Bandar himself!



STOP PRESS

On the morning of December 3rd the wall came down further, and a pole holding the electricity cables smashed onto the road. Many homes were without electricity until nearly 3pm, by when a new pole was set up on the opposite side of the street. Luckily, due to the rain, there were not too many local walkers out. What might have happened if there were doesn't bear thinking about. As of going to press the inclined wall still hangs there...

Environment Seminar

Lorien Holland

Stuff, stuff everywhere – if you always wanted to cut down on what you have, read on! BTRA member Leni Chan organized an excellent talk for the BTRA on September 19. Around 40 members came along to hear how we can PRACTICALLY live a more environmental life. Speaker Ee Lynn from the "Greener Living" special interest group of the Malaysian Nature Society cut through much of the conflicting information out there and came up with many strategies to REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE in Malaysia. The BTRA already has a recycling truck at the ready at the Selangor Property Shops every 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 4-6pm. The recycling guy will take all your cans and bottles and newspapers and other recyclables and even pay for some of the more lucrative ones, like aluminium drink cans.

But if you've read this far, I guess you already know that isn't quite enough. Leni kindly compiled a list of useful recycling venues for many other kinds of stuff that we no longer want, like clothes, computers, glossy magazines and furniture. This is in a very useful list below.

More important, our MNS speaker Ee Lynn's underlying point was that REDUCING consumption is the most important thing we can do. Of course, recycling is important, but the key is to buy and use less. If you are prevaricating and think that you are actually doing "national service" by buying more things and boosting the Malaysian economy, then please take 20 minutes to watch "The Story of Stuff" on your computer or TV. You can download it on You Tube, and it's a funny and compelling look at how much we shop and how we can cut down. More than 7 million views! I think all of us who watched it at the MNS talk were affected by its clear and simple message to CUT DOWN.

Of course, clearing out your stuff is a very good first stage. Here is Leni's compilation of useful recycling points:

- Old furniture (in good condition) electrical items (working & not working) old clothes, newspaper, cardboard, plastic glass (quite a one-stop shop, and they will pick up...)

Pertubuhan Amal Seri Sinar

Lot 754, Jalan Sungai Tekali,
Batu 14, 43100 Hulu Langat, Selangor
Tel: +603- 9021 1888

Fax: +603- 9021 3022 website: <http://recyclecharity.org/en/>

- Computers – Google "Dell Malaysia recycling" and see how Dell will take away your old computer
- Glossy magazines – BTRA member Sal Addington uses old glossy (must be glossy) magazines for a basket-making project for single mothers. sal@addingtons.com
- Mens shirts and shopping bags – Thrift Shop, 81 Jalan Berangang, Kuala Lumpur (between 12-5pm)

Also, here is a check list of 10 things you can do to reduce, reuse and recycle

- 1: Bring my own shopping bag when I go shopping
- 2: Bring my own food container when I take away food
- 3: Bring my own drinking water in a bottle whenever I go out
- 4: Make memo pads from used paper rather than buy Post-its, memo pads or note books
- 5: Take good care of my mobile phone and other electrical appliances rather than keep replacing broken ones
- 6: Practice a "buy nothing" day once a month
- 7: Reduce my waste to such an extent that I only need to take out the garbage one day a week
- 8: Set up a compost heap for garden waste
- 9: Buy only relevant gifts that will be appreciated. If unsure, check with the recipient or his/her family
10. Avoid going shopping when hungry or depressed as these are times when consumers are most vulnerable to impulse spending



THE BRUNEI LOT

Hope springs eternal

As you can see from this very nice letter and the pictures that the demolition of the abandoned old Brunei Palace is underway. And it is being done with great care for the neighborhood. For which we should be grateful. It bodes well that hopefully what will replace it will blend into and enhance the beauty of our Hill.

TO: MEMBERS OF THE BUKIT TUNKU RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Update on Demolition Works at Lot 9 & 19, Jalan Tun Ismail, Kuala Lumpur

It has been some 9 months since demolition work started on the abovementioned site. We are pleased to report that work is progressing smoothly albeit slowly and in accordance with Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur's (DBKL) rules and regulations. We are also pleased to inform you that the Air Quality and Environmental Noise Reports regularly submitted to the Department of Environment (DOE) indicate that levels are within the recommended guidelines.

The Contractor has made every effort to ensure the vicinity surrounding the property is kept clean at all times. More importantly, they are ensuring that no regulations are being breached while undertaking demolition work at site. The cost of adhering to rules is that it generally requires more time to complete the exercise!

Whilst it was projected that the demolition work would take between 6-9 months, the recent rains and our commitment to undertake this exercise with as little interruption to residents as possible have resulted in the Contractor proceeding very cautiously.

The building is located on a very steep slope, approximately 30 metres down from street level. Any demolition work must be done very carefully as the recent rains has caused the surrounding soil to be water-logged. As safety is of paramount importance, and to avoid any untoward incidents, demolition work will be extended till 30 June 2010. Nevertheless, the Contractor shall use its best endeavours to complete the demolition work before the specified period. We thank you much very for your patience as we have tried our level best to make an unpleasant experience as bearable as possible. We seek your further support and understanding to allow us to complete this exercise safely and within all stipulated regulations.

Should there be concerns, however small, please call me directly on 012 203 8829 or drop me an email at sseye4words@gmail.com.

Thank you.

SHALINI SOCKALINGAM
Managing Principal
eye4words

2 December 2009





A better world

Ruth Yeoh



Dear Friends,

Having recently returned from a Conservation Trip to a remote region in China (near the Tibetan Border), it made me realise how much we take things for granted these days – From basic necessities like electricity and hot water, to food and transport. In our part of the world, and in reference to climate change, we talk about adaption all the time - But it is interesting to see how villagers living in these remote regions are already adapting to the shift in weather patterns and migrating up on the mountains as a response to more frequent flooding on their lands, and as a result of climate change.

Yes, 2009 has already become an interesting year, and it will be more so as the world focuses its attention on the COP-15 United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen in December. Whether nations developed and developing agree on set targets to reduce global emissions remains to be seen

- But there is hope as both Presidents (President Obama and President Hu Jintao) of the most-heavily polluting countries, China and USA, have agreed to attend the Conference. Already affectionately termed "Hopenhagen" by the public, a Great Climate Agreement needs to be sought, keeping in mind that scientists have warned we have around 10 years to avert climate disaster. For Folks who want to read up more on COP-15, the official website can be accessible at <http://en.cop15.dk/>. Please also visit the "Hopenhagen" website at <http://www.hopenhagen.org/> to find out more and to learn what you, in your own capacity, can do to help.

So back to conservation. Why is it important, one may ask? And doesn't it seem so small-scale compared to climate change that's happening on a global scale?



As a Trustee of two environmental organisations, I would say it's a blessing to be involved in committed organisations which support the need for environmental protection, from a grassroots level. Quite simply, I want future generations to know life on earth as I know it, and before it's too late. We can look at it as borrowing this planet from the next generation, and we have got to keep our Good Earth in good state in order to be good stewards of this Earth we have inherited from our good Lord.

My message for everyone is simple: If we look back on history, the greatest social transformations of our age - the end of slavery, the abolishment of apartheid, the end of colonisation, the women's rights and civil rights movements - all began with public awareness, then engagement. Those movements were led by scientists, thinkers, concerned individuals and young people. They led, and governments followed.

Never underestimate your Individual will to change this world for the better. It starts with you. What are you doing, for example, to help your neighbourhood? Do you participate in the BTRA's neighbourhood recycling campaign? How do you get to work and do you Carpool? Does your workplace have environmental policies? How do you reduce your energy consumption both at Home and at the Workplace? Because you know you have the power to bring positive change in your Community.

May God Bless each and everyone of you in your positive endeavours.

Blessings.

Safety First

Tee Jin

Patrol Service

A year ago, we upgraded the patrol service to 2 vehicles, with the addition of a motorcycle from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. At the same time, we shortened each shift from 12 hours (typical industry practice) to 8 hours per day. This was done in the interest of achieving a more sustainable workload, balancing rest and on-the-job rigour.

So, how well has this 8-hour shift worked?

My main dissatisfaction with the old setup was the high burn-out rate. I realised that point-by-point clocking is physically very challenging if performed over 10 1/2 hours each night (ie. net of permitted rest periods), and our strict monitoring of performance does not tolerate any slack. As a result, there was a revolving door of new guards every 3-6 months (max), that is if they were not weeded out sooner by our strict monitoring. We assess the clocking/patrol data with a computer and gps tracking, spotting deviations quite readily.

To accommodate the 8-hour shifts, the patrol car, which continues to operate 12 hours a day (from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.), is now manned by one guard for the first 8 hours, and

another for the last 8 hours. There is a 4-hour overlap with two persons in the car. During this period, the patrol car will make clocking visits to each paying member's house. When there is only one person in the car, patrols will be street-by-street (one clocking point per street), effectively halving the workload but without compromising patrol visibility. The car now makes 6 patrol rounds each night (as compared to 5 rounds of point-by-point clockings previously).

The motorcycle makes 3 full-clocking rounds per night.

Sorry to bore you with the above details. The long and short of it is that we can expect 9 visits per night, almost double of the old system (one vehicle only on 12 hour shift).

Has burn-out rate improved? Yes, for the car but no for the bike where it is pretty much the same. The bike also attracts more penalty infractions, typically in the form of longer than permitted rest breaks (fatigue?) and scattered gaps of >10 minutes between clocking points. I have taken this to indicate that demands on the motorbike guard is more strenuous than in the car, and have increased the permitted rest period for the bike.

Incidents

Over the past three years, I am happy to report that none of our paying members suffered any incidents except at 4 Changkat Duta. This was a vacant house undergoing major renovation, and thieves helped themselves to site materials such as copper pipes, drain covers and construction tools. At around the same period, other homes also found their metal garbage doors or drain covers missing. Victims of high scrap metal prices last year.

Otherwise, typical incidents involve young romancing couples (or double-dates), ghost seekers in abandoned houses, mat rempits and the occasional open gate of members. Of late, these encounters have abated. I would like to think that our patrols have something to do with it. Perhaps it is also due to the police dedicating one patrol car to cover Bukit Tunku, Taman Duta and the government offices on the other side of Jalan Duta.

For a long time, there was no street lighting on Jalan Merchu, purportedly because DBKL had not paid its electricity bills to TNB. The situation seems to be resolved now that a meter has been installed to measure electricity consumption for the purpose of a proper billing.

More Support is Needed

With only 47 paying members, only a small fraction of the households are supporting this service. More members will translate into additional patrol vehicles, beefing up visibility and deterrence significantly to the benefit of everyone. Anecdotally, some non-members have suffered higher rates of break-ins, whereas most of our paying members are satisfied customers.

See insert for easy application.



Our brave boys in yellow

Recycling is going well



Marcia Kok

We are pleased to report that the 1st and 3rd Wednesday recycling initiative has taken off and collection is steadily increasing with growing awareness amongst residents of this facility. The recycle truck currently accepts paper, magazines, cardboard, aluminium and metal tins, glass bottles and jars, plastic, beverage cartons and even used computers and computer parts for which payment is made based on prevailing rates for the respective materials.



How to recycle.

Please prepare your papers, bottles and plastic containers for recycling.

For information, a recycle truck comes by on 1st. and 3rd. Wednesdays of the month between 4 - 6 pm to Taman Tunku (Selangor Properties) shops and apartments at Langgak Tunku.

Please note that the truck may not be parked at the same spot every time. However, if you have any problems, you may call Mr. Umesh of Alam Flora, hp no. 019-276 2208

THE LOW CARBON DIET

Every time we flip a switch, take a hot shower or drive a car, we release more carbon dioxide that heats up the atmosphere. If everyone went on a low carbon diet, we could lose a bit of weight and even save money but ultimately, we'd end up saving the planet.

Rule #1: Finish all your food.

We dispose around one-fifth of the fruits and vegetables we buy over a year. If we finished all our food, lower market demand would reduce production and transport related CO2 emissions. So don't buy more perishables than you can eat in a week. As mum says, "Finish all your veggies."

Rule #2: Bin your trash bin for a week.

As an experiment, avoid disposing anything for 1 week. Drop paper & metal waste at your local recycling centre. Convert food scraps into compost or a treat for a neighbour's pet. Reuse plastic items. After a week, we'd have learned to use the trash bin sparingly.

Rule #3: Feeling blue? Take a cold shower.

A soak in the bath averages 80 litres of water while a 5-minute shower uses only about 35 litres. What's more, if you're feeling a little under the weather, recent studies prove that short, cold showers drive the blues away.

Rule #4: Jog to the gym.

We often choose our gyms based on proximity to the place we work or live. If your gym is a short hop away, consider jogging over. After a few months, you might not even need to go to a gym altogether.

Rule #5: Switch off standby modes.

Electrical appliances left on standby mode slurp up energy in order to support features such as timers, clocks, memory and remote "on" and "off" switches. If you don't want to incur an additional 5% to 13% on your household electricity bill, just use your finger. Switch it off.



Rule #6: Plastic bag? No, thank you.

Decline plastic bags at shopping counters if you can. Use heavy duty canvas bags instead and keep one handy in your car. If shopping for only a few items, use your purse, pockets or hands. When the demand stops, we can finally bag the plastic bag.



Rule #7: Enjoy the morning paper on the way to work. Carpool.

Carpooling has many perks. You'll save on petrol and toll charges. You're less likely to be stressed out (if you take turns driving) and more likely to be productive at work. In fact, you'd have already finished reading today's paper.



Rule #8: Feed your plants.

Recipe to convert waste into compost. Put aside fruit & veggie scraps. Add tea bags & coffee grounds. Toss in crushed eggshells, shredded paper & soft cardboard. Mix with garden & grass clippings. Leave aside in your garden for 3 - 6 months.



Rule #9: Support your countryman. Buy local.

Vans, lorries and planes cover billions of kilometres a year transporting food, releasing vast amounts of CO2. So opt for local fruits instead of imported ones. Seafood from Klang instead of air-flown from Alaska. It's good for our economy and Mother Nature.



Rule #10: Harvest the sky.

We all love a freebie. And last we checked, rain water is free. If you don't want to install rain harvesting equipment, just place empty buckets in position. Use to wash your car, clean up bathrooms and water your indoor plants.





There are two sides to the issue of the huge number of monkeys now swinging their way through Bukit Tunku.

There are the horrid nasty 'rascals'. Pulling apart the Astro dishes, overturning dustbins, sneaking into the houses and grabbing anything they can, stomping about on the roof at 7 in the morning. These are the ones that seem to exhibit no fear of man nor beast. The ones that appear to have wandered here from Batu Caves possessed with more front than Selfridges. When confronted or shooed away they bare their nasty looking teeth.

On the other hand there are the unfortunate cute little chaps who have had their natural habitat ruined by greedy developers and unfeeling folks. Their natural leafy homes pulled down and large apartment blocks and houses put up with gay abandon and little thought to the wildlife that lives there. These are the ones that are eating garbage because too many of the natural fruit trees are being chopped down. The chaps that swing on our aerials because there are not enough trees to

swing on. Our home has a lovely large breadfruit tree. The naughty little hairy families come to feed regularly. They bounce up and down on our canopy, sit by the pool and eat fruit and generally treat the house like a primate theme park. (One chased Jennifer up the stairs!) They are now also pulling bits off of the cars. And their numbers seem to be swelling.

But in the end I have no serious solution.

Perhaps a reasonably sized python might be a good deterrent. It's ecologically sound – being a natural enemy, and fairly decorative, providing it doesn't eat your cat, dog or gardener.

When our nieces from the UK came out they thought the monkeys were very exciting and very exotic. So maybe we should adopt the same attitude.

Learn to love them. (Unless they bite your bum and give you rabies). But don't feed them; you wouldn't want them to develop a taste for canapés and foie gras!



SELEKOH TUNKU HOUSE Serious earthworks and concrete slabs here. Looks like the makings of a modern masterpiece worthy of inclusion in Wallpaper* mag. The views will be stunning.



LURAH TUNKU HOUSE This roomy "des res" has been a model for efficient building and is on target for completion next summer. Should have good views of the Federal Mosque.



DALAMAN TUNKU HOUSE Plenty of rooms with a view in this up and coming construction in the heart of Bukit Tunku

Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta are an oasis of wildlife in our ever expanding city. Here are three of the more common birds you might see out of your window, in your garden, or on an early morning walk..



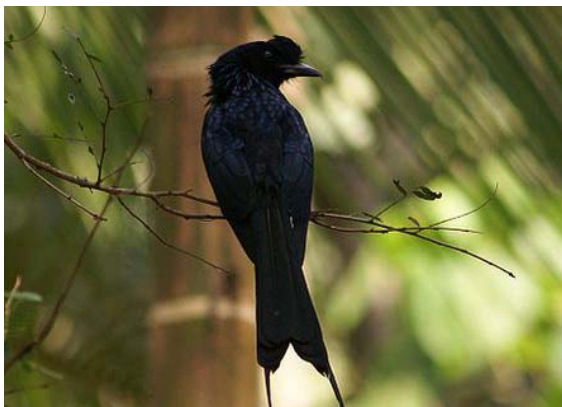
Zebra Dove (*Geopelia striata*)

These are the small pigeon-like birds that like sitting on the road and in the grass, and only seem to get out of the way of passing cars (or footballs) at the last possible minute. Their call is a series of soft, staccato cooing notes and they are popular as pets, particularly in Indonesia where cooing competitions are held to find the bird with the best voice.



White-throated Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)

These are tree kingfishers, sometimes mistaken for woodpeckers on account of their rather large beaks. They tend to live near to water, and not travel far from their nest, but you can often see their brilliant blue plumage flit through the trees. They mainly hunt insects, earthworms, rodents, snakes, fish and frogs. The call of this kingfisher is a chuckling *chake-ake-ake-ake-ake*.



Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)

The drongo is conspicuous in forest habitats around Bukit Tunku (well, at least in my garden) as it often perches in the open and attracts attention with a wide range of loud calls that include near-perfect imitations of many other birds. Its main distinguishing feature is its racket tail – a bunch of feathers at the end of a bald quill. In flight it can appear as if two large bees were chasing a black bird.

MY BT

Kenneth
Smith

My Bukit Tunku...

...was called Kenny Hill. I go back a long time. So here are snippets of memories.

The first week in Malaysia a car came off the road and into a rain drain opposite the house. A few hours later an open truck with standing room only for a team of Indian men stopped and the men got down. Each took in hand a section of the car and heaved it on to the road. My first lesson in things are done differently in Malaysia.

Buildings alone don't make a home, but our house in Jalan Kenny Selekoh certainly contributed. We felt it was ours. The living room had wooden suspended flooring that felt good in bare feet but made the needle jump when we danced to Joe Cocker LPs. A friend lived across the valley and fortunately was fond of music. "The Shostakovich last night was yours, I imagine," he would remark.

I enjoyed this house so much that I was horrified years later to discover that it had been destroyed and turned into a mixture of museum and mausoleum. The architect, I think, was Nissen, as in hut.

Last memory of this period was the story circulated by the Mat Salleh wives with horror in their voices: "Do you know, they are going to drive a great road right through Kenny Hill!" Good gracious!

I left KL for three years and came back to find Kenny gone and Tunku rightfully recognised. I couldn't find a house on the hill so settled at the bottom in Jalan Gallagher. I really liked the road leading to it: Carruthers! By gad, sir, there's a daft name to keep today. I quickly learned the local way for taxi drivers: Jalan Ca-

roo-tah, uh!" It was here that I acquired a parrot, built a small town and failed to beat Chinese table tennis players.

A large climbing frame was left in the garden. I covered it with wire netting and the parrot had a grand home. When I discovered his genus a name came naturally: Wally, the Red Lori Polly.

The small town was "n" gauge. Model train enthusiasts will know what I mean. We had an spare bedroom and two enthusiastic children and eventually the layout was four metres long and a metre wide. We put down the track, put up tiny buildings, spread "grass" and "earth" over rolling polystyrene hills.

We installed table tennis on the terrace of the house but one of the executives with whom I worked was a champion with a lightning style, so I had to content myself with beating my son from time to time.

Twenty years later, I am back in KL. Can't afford the Hill so am content with the Heights of Damansara. Bukit Tunku is still green, in our steel, glass and concrete KL. Don't see the monkeys much, though.

That's my Bukit Tunku, but for everyone there is a message. What makes that corner of KL so pleasant, not just to live in or jog around but simply to drive through, are the age-old trees among which the roads and houses were built. Over the last thirty years development has meant the land first stripped of all vegetation and top soil. Heritage includes living things. Greater KL should have been a city among tropical rain forest. That is what is glorious about our Bukit Tunku.



HAPPENING ON THE HILL

Say hello to **SID**



Just opened here on The Hill is Sid's Pub. This is Sid's third great pub in KL, the others are in Bangsar and Taman Tun. Each Sid's Pub serves up hot, delicious English pub grub and all your favorite tipples including Guinness and the aptly named Kilkeny's Irish Bitter, both on draught. It's there on the parade of shops under the Selangor Properties apartments.

There's a great atmosphere of chat, laughter and when Sid's has its famous big screen sports nights fair helping of shouting and friendly rivalry. Altogether it looks like Sid's just the place to meet you buddies, have meal or grab a drink and have a really good time. Laugh, argue and scream at the top of your voice. Sid's is definitely the place to call your 'local'.

Find out more at
<http://www.sidspubs.com/>

Art and Archana



Art is now more than ever an international passion. Indian art is bursting into art scenes everywhere from New York and Paris to Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong. And Malaysian artists are quickly gaining ground and regard all over the world. Gallery Archana is the brainchild of Archana Marshall dedicated to bringing some of the finest in contemporary Indian, Sri Lankan, Korean, French and Malaysian Arts to her gallery here on The Hill. Some recent exhibitions have featured the remarkable ceramics of Vinata Goswamy, Jolly Koh's vigorous paintings of Malaysian life and Karan's fluorescent photography. Altogether Archana Gallery is dedicated to making art more accessible and appreciated. Visit the website www.archanagallery.com and find out more.



Mountain Birds.
Jolly Koh



B13b: Vinata Goswamy

Malaysia School Holidays for 2010
13.3.2010 - 21.3.2010
5.6.2010 - 20.6.2010
4.9.2010 - 12.9.2010
20.11.2010 - 2.1.2011

CALENDAR

Date	Holiday	Applicable to
1 Jan	New Year	All except Johor, Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis & Terengganu
14 Jan	Yang di-Pertuan Besar Negeri Sembilan's Birthday	Negeri Sembilan only
17 Jan	Sultan of Kedah's Birthday	Kedah only
30 Jan	Thaipusam	Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Perak, Penang & Selangor only
1 Feb	Federal Territory Day	Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan & Putrajaya only
14 Feb	Chinese New Year	National
15 Feb	Chinese New Year (2nd Day)	National except Kelantan and Terengganu
26 Feb	Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Maulidur Rasul)	National
4 Mar	Anniversary of Installation of Sultan of Terengganu	Terengganu only
30 Mar	Sultan of Kelantan's Birthday	Kelantan only
31 Mar	Sultan of Kelantan's Birthday	Kelantan only
2 Apr	Good Friday	Sabah & Sarawak only
8 Apr	Sultan of Johor's Birthday	Johor only
15 Apr	Declaration of Malacca as a Historical City	Malacca only
19 Apr	Sultan of Perak's Birthday	Perak only
1 May	Labour Day	National
7 May	Hari Hol Pahang	Pahang only
17 May	Raja Perlis' Birthday	Perlis only
28 May	Wesak Day	National
30 May	Harvest Festival	Sabah & Labuan only
31 May	Harvest Festival	Sabah & Labuan only
1 Jun	Hari Gawai	Sarawak only
2 Jun	Hari Gawai	Sarawak only
5 Jun	Agong's Birthday	National
19 Jun	Hari Hol Almarhum Sultan Johor	Johor only
10 Jul	Penang Governor's Birthday	Penang only
10 Jul	Israk & Mikraj	Kedah, Negeri Sembilan & Perlis only
20 Jul	Sultan of Terengganu's Birthday	Terengganu only

DAN PUB

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