

Living On

TheHILL

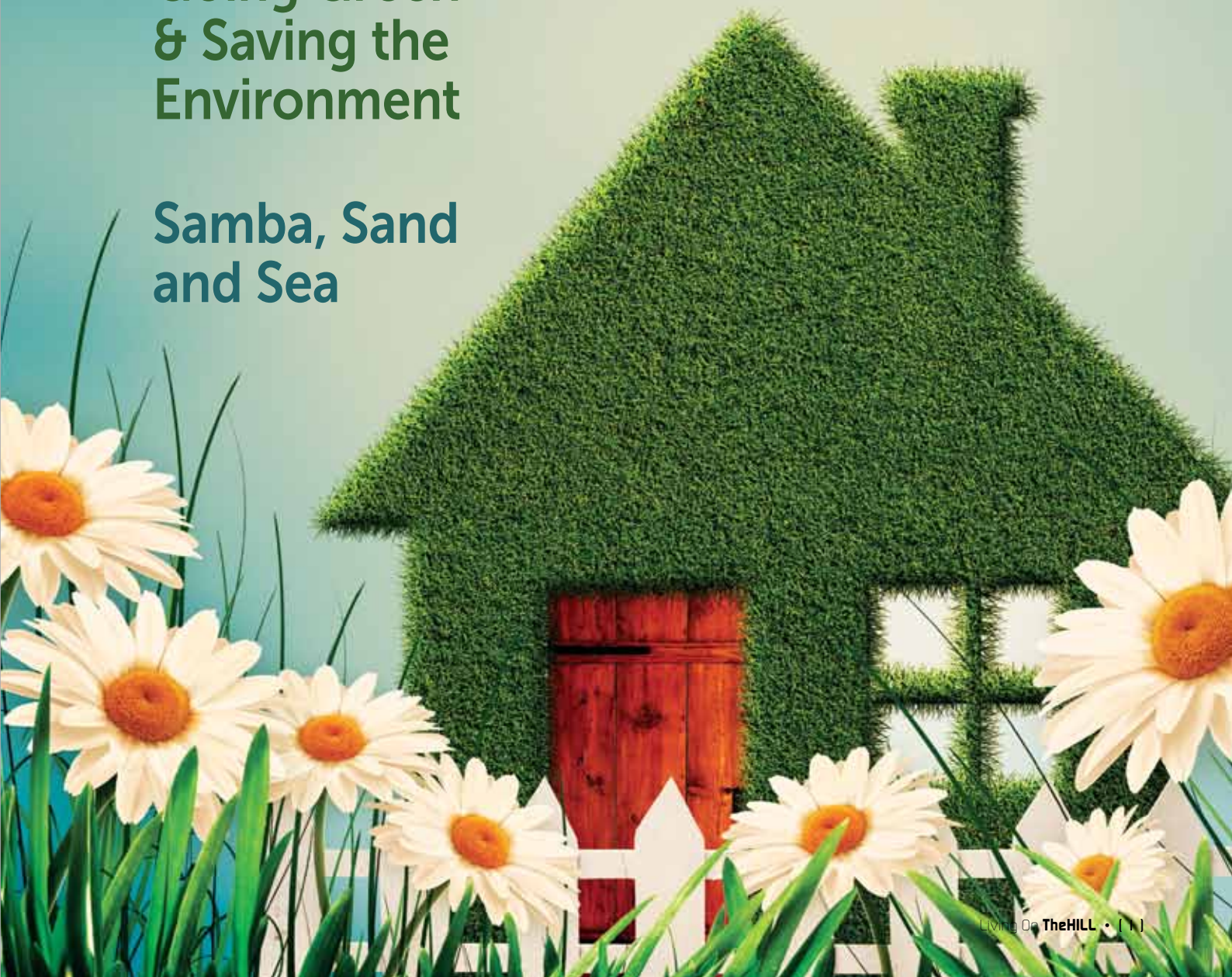
DECEMBER 2015

**Security goes
a Long Way**

Beginnings of BTRA

**Going Green
& Saving the
Environment**

**Samba, Sand
and Sea**





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The President Speaks

After a long hiatus, Living On The Hill is back! It is significant that the team behind the revival of this important mode of communication among residents is led by the younger generation of residents of The Hill. Thank you Sasya Ahmad Sebi and Team!

Bukit Tunku Residents Association (BTRA) is open to all residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta. A committee is elected annually at BTRA's AGM. BTRA is acknowledged by the local authorities as the official representative of all residents of "The Hill". In fact, DBKL allocates an annual sum of RM9,000 to BTRA to assist its activities. BTRA's Committee sets out its annual agenda and committee members take on specific responsibilities with a view to achieving this agenda. This year, focus is on Environment, Development, Security, Youth, and Membership.

Being so close to central Kuala Lumpur and being so green, The Hill is probably one of the most sought-after residential locations in the Federal Territory. The majority of BTRA members, if not all, prefer that The Hill is populated by detached houses rather than condominiums. In fact, BTRA was originally formed to tackle high-density developments on The Hill. The Committee has not heard otherwise and will therefore continue to safeguard this desire. The recent spate of sale of homes to new residents and the subsequent construction of owner-occupied new homes further validates this view. Notwithstanding this positive trend, our Development Committee is constantly on the lookout for attempts to breach our present density and height restrictions.

We are fortunate to have an excellent relationship with DBKL. I'm happy to report that DBKL has committed to undertake a specific flood mitigation programme to tackle the flooding problems that continue to beleaguer certain areas of The Hill annually. We hope that the programme can be completed before the end of 2015.

A common question I hear from potential residents is "How safe is The Hill?" My response is always the same: "Safer than you think. In fact we probably have fewer security breaches than other residential areas". And I should add that homes that are under BTRA's Security Scheme are less affected, if at all. In fact, more homes should subscribe to our Security Scheme. Its record speaks for itself.

The Committee has recently reached out to the younger generation of residents. It has not gone unnoticed that the average age of the Committee is well above the average age of the country. The Committee feels that it is of vital importance that the younger residents participate in BTRA. We hope to see some activities initiated by the younger residents soon. That this newsletter is being led by a younger resident is a great start!

BTRA needs more residents to become members. This will serve to strengthen our representation of residents. At the recent AGM, it was suggested that we should launch our own Member-Get-Member Campaign. Why not? If each member secures one new member, our membership will double immediately.

On that note, enjoy this issue of Living On The Hill!

Muthanna Abdullah

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BTRA AGM

Since BTRA is a registered society with the Register of Societies, there are certain statutory obligations that we must meet.

One of the obligations is to hold an annual general meeting within three months from the end of our financial year. Other obligations include the filing of our audited accounts and the minutes of our AGM.

This year, the 23rd AGM was held on Sunday 14th June with around 30 members at Frenz Café.

Dato' Muthanna was re-appointed as President of the Association. The President has established a number of sub-committees to assist him.

The six sub-committees are:-

- 1. Membership: Datuk Tan Hoe Pin, Tengku Dato Rahimah - doubling membership numbers, e.g. Member-Get-Member Campaign
- 2. Communication: Datuk Tan Hoe Pin, Puan Rossana Rashid, Mr. Juarez Lowe – producing Living On The Hill



- twice a year; website management; Facebook, Twitter management
- 3. Youth: Mr Cheah See Hong, Mr. Juarez Lowe, Mr. Sam Tan – engaging “younger” residents
- 4. Security: Mr. Gan Tee Jin, Mr. Brahmam Vasudevan - increasing membership of BTRA Security
- 5. Environment: Mr. Tan Beng Keong, Ms. Jaspreet Kaur Gill, En. Mohammed bin Abdullah – engaging DBKL and ensuring delivery of the flood mitigation programme, underground cabling to replace overhead cabling
- 6. Development: Cik Khadijah Khalid - ensuring that development in Taman Duta and Bukit Tunku follows DBKL guidelines

THE BTRA OFFICE

Our Deputy President, Dato' Tan Hoe Pin, kindly provides space for BTRA in his Segambut office.

Mrs. Filmer is available in the office on a part-time basis between 9 a.m. and 12 noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Contact details:
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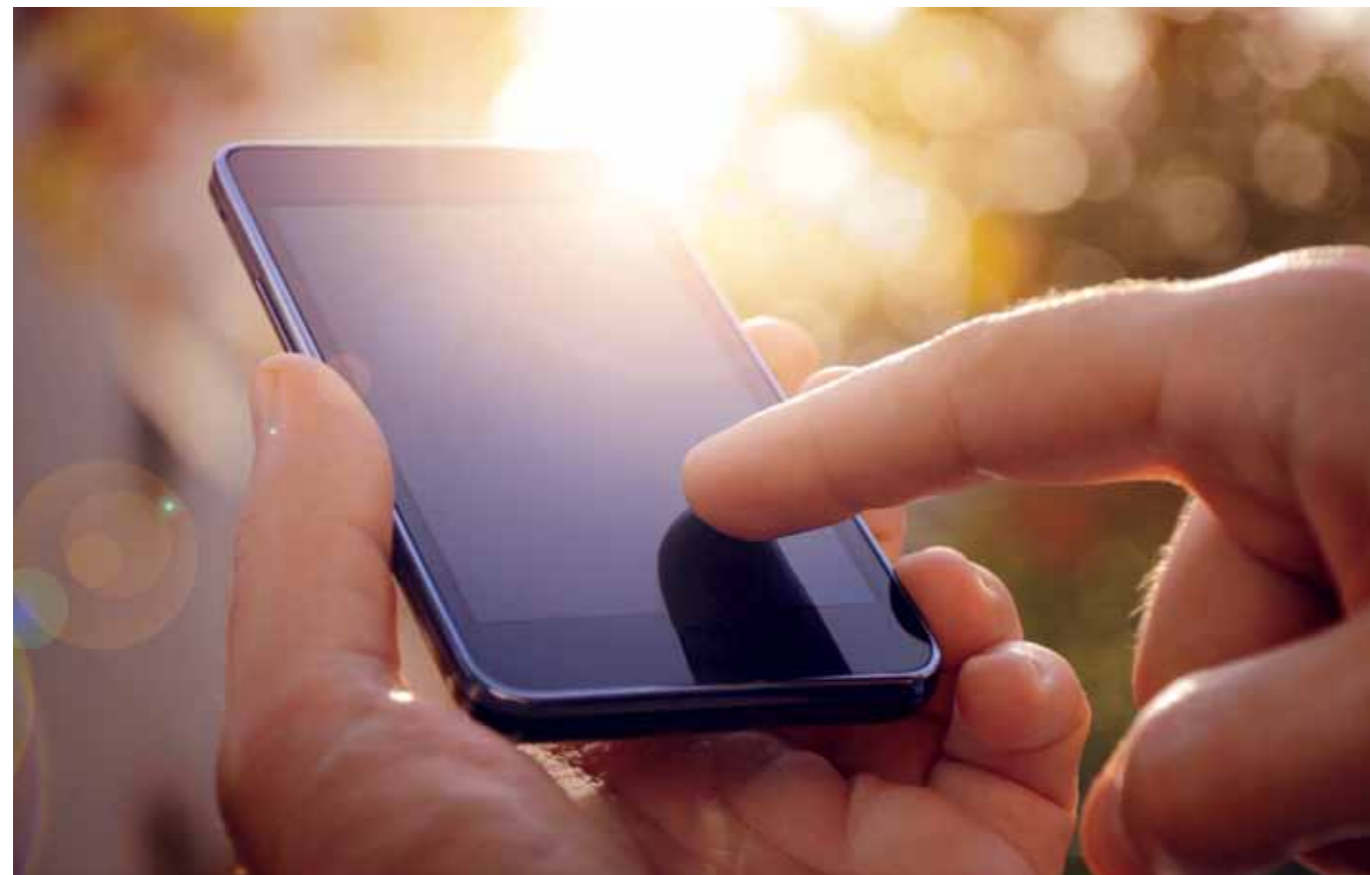
Mobile Phone Reception

Many of our residents suffer from poor mobile phone reception.

Telecom companies have endeavoured to solve the problem on a number of occasions over the past few years. Invariably, however, their plans have been rejected because the transmission towers were too close to residents' homes and consequently did not follow official regulations.

Recently, two new sites have been located that have received approval from both nearby residents and from the BTRA Committee.

One site is along Jalan Bukit Tunku as it passes over Lebuhraya Mahameru. The other site is at the entrance of Tijani 2 on Langgak Tunku. Both these sites seem suitable and, importantly, the Tijani residents seem very much in favour of the site at the entrance to their apartments. Hopefully, poor reception for some residents will now improve considerably.



Thank You, DBKL

During the past few years, DBKL has shown interest in supporting Residents' Associations in Kuala Lumpur.

In May this year, DBKL hosted a dinner for some hundreds of representatives from KL-based associations and handed out a "promissory note" of RM9,000 to each association. The cheque is to be collected at DBKL.

Guest of Honour was YB Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Adnan bin Tengku Mansur

who addressed the large crowd and personally handed out the RM9,000 promissory letter.

BTRA wishes to publicly thank DBKL for the money that will be used for improving our communications.

Photo source from: <http://media.themalaysianinsider.com/assets/uploads/articles/>

Environment

Rubbish/Garbage Collection

Alam Flora provides efficient services in Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta for the collection of domestic waste (including garden waste) two to three times a week, regular road sweeping and grass cutting. Alam Flora also removes fallen branches, cleans drains, clears illegally dumped waste and debris, among other environmentally-based tasks.

Alam Flora has reportedly, effective September 2015, implemented a mandatory "separation at source" 3R programme - separation of domestic waste to Reuse, Reduce, Recycle. All households are required to separate their domestic waste accordingly.

Surroundings

DBKL [Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur, or City Hall] handles the upkeep of the neighbourhood - i.e. dealing with

potholes, illegal banners, landslips, fallen trees on public roads, catching wildlife (snakes, monkeys), among other matters. Since mid-2014, DBKL has also been carrying out major resurfacing of our roads in stages as well as upgrading and repairing drains, including a large project to solve the flooding problem in Lembah Tunku [on which works are expected to start in the last quarter of 2015].

BTRA would like to encourage residents to be responsible, not only for their own properties but also for their surroundings; in particular, aedes mosquitoes are an ongoing concern in the area and proactive action is needed to wipe out existing breeding grounds and prevent new ones. Complaints can and should be made to DBKL regarding unclean and messy surroundings, including those resulting from irresponsible neighbours (e.g. overgrown gardens, unused pools breeding mosquitoes, construction debris left outside on pavements or on the road side for long periods of time).

We are fortunate that our local service providers are usually prompt in attending to complaints/problems. They can be contacted through their websites or telephone hotlines printed in the pull-out.



Photo source from: <http://www.starproperty.my/index.php/articles/property-news/taman-beringin-transfer-station-has-begun-operations/>

A little security goes a long way - BTRA Security



On 17 June 2015 at 7:35pm, a BTRA Security member raised a distress call to the BTRA Security patrol. Within nine minutes, the two patrol cars on duty had rushed to the said member's residence to provide assistance.

Members will be comforted to know that this was not a real emergency. It was a drill to test the responsiveness of our boys in yellow. Needless to say, the response time was excellent and shows that the security team was on its toes.

Based on this drill, it is re-assuring to know that BTRA Security provides a responsive security presence in Bukit Tunku.

So what is this security service all about?

The security team, which consists of two patrol cars and one patrol motorcycle, works in eight-hour shifts. The task at hand is physically taxing. Each shift sees the team making visits and 'clocking in' at each member's house. A comprehensive log of these visits is prepared at the end of each month by the security company. This allows for strict monitoring on our part to ensure that the level of service is acceptable. For example, long gaps in between visits can be captured and reported to the security company for an explanation.

In short, members can expect up to nine visits per night. To incentivise and recognise the security team's commitment and efforts, cash bonuses are paid out on a monthly basis directly to the guards.

Although it would be great to report that the security situation in Bukit Tunku is under control and we can sleep easy at night, this is simply not the case. In the space of a week in October, there were two break-ins reported in Bukit Tunku. The intrusions occurred on a Saturday when the occupants were not at home - a sign that they were well organised and coordinated. This is a timely wake-up call that security is a key issue for any neighbourhood community and there is always room for improvement.

Firstly, the paying membership base can be augmented.

Latest checks show that there are only 67 paying members out of nearly 500 individual homes and 25 apartment blocks in the whole of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta. This represents a take-up rate of only 12.8%.

Perhaps residents either:

- a. Are not aware of the service, or
- b. Feel that there is no need to spend RM3000 per year for the service.

Some residents who have not signed up for BTRA Security Patrol may already have their own security guards, but there is certainly no harm in having an additional layer of support.



If you know of a neighbour who is not a paying member, let him or her know. These households can be identified because they do not have the 'BTRA Security' house sign.

More paying members means a bigger budget to expand the service with more patrolling vehicles. Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta collectively cover a massive area; two patrol cars and one motorcycle will be pretty inadequate moving forward.

Secondly, it would be most helpful if residents could be more proactive in reporting suspicious activity to BTRA

Security. These days, professional syndicates are on the prowl for their next target. A family friend's residence in Damansara Heights was the unfortunate target of a Latin American gang. Another problem is the influx of construction workers in Bukit Tunku as residents build new homes and renovate old ones. Many of us have most likely noticed a substantial number of construction workers along Langgak Tunku, where a few new houses are being constructed.

Finally, additional help from residents to maintain the security service is needed. At the moment, Gan Tee Jin (who does not even live in Bukit Tunku) has been tirelessly dedicating half a Sunday each month to monitor the performance of the security guards and serves as the point of contact with the security company.

After many years of helping BTRA upkeep the service, he has indicated that it is time to phase out his involvement.

We would like to thank our paying members of the BTRA Security service. For those who have yet to sign up, here's what you need to know:

- Cost per year per household: RM3,000
- Contact to sign up: email bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com



DBKL Briefing on Implementation of Flood Mitigation Project in Bukit Tunku

Date and Venue	Wednesday 10th December 2014 at Laman Tunku Car Park
DBKL Attendees	A group of officers, led by Encik IR Sabudin Mohd Salleh, Deputy Director, JPIF
Consultant Engineers	UNITI Consultants Sdn Bhd
BTRA Attendees	Approx 25 members, led by: - Dato' Muthanna Abdullah, President - Mr John Smurthwaite, Honorary Secretary - Mr Tan Beng Keong, Exco Member

1. Encik Sabudin updated the group that as a follow-up to the meeting between DBKL and BTRA in 2013, a project consultant had been appointed to undertake a detailed study of the affected areas and they have recommended next steps to mitigate the flooding in those areas.
2. The drainage facilities around and in the flood-prone areas along and near Sungai Batang Tolak - namely the areas around the hockey and tennis stadiums, Langgak Tunku, Laman Tunku, Taman Tunku, Lembah Tunku and Tijani 2 - require upgrading. These facilities, built a long time ago, were adequate to cater to the volume of water flow at that time.
3. The water flow from upstream and from the hill is now estimated at around 160,000m³ during a heavy downpour. The current facilities are unable to contain such a large volume of water flowing into these areas.
4. DBKL and the Consultants identified a number of areas where drainage structures require upgrading and widening, especially along Sungai Batong Tolak, the monsoon drain along Tijani 2, and Lembah Tunku.
5. The culverts under Jalan Kuching have to be widened and realigned to allow for discharging of water into Sungai Batu, which is on the other side of Jalan Kuching.
6. A number of on-site detention ponds (open or covered): three detention ponds and an enlarged sump were recommended to be built.
7. Encik Sabudin said he would recommend that the monsoon drain along Tijani 2 and Lembah Tunku be covered, allowing its use as a cycling path and as a footpath.
8. DBKL has allocated a budget of RM6 million to RM8 million for the project. Encik Sabudin said the project would be implemented as soon as the plan is finalised, and could be completed by the end of 2015.
9. In closing, Encik Sabudin said DBKL welcomed suggestions and recommendations from residents. Dato' Muthanna Abdullah, on behalf of BTRA and residents, thanked Encik Sabudin for organising the briefing and DBKL for undertaking the project.



Photo source from: <http://www.vinann.com/2010/09/flood-at-bukit-tunku-tijani-2.html>

A Bakery In Our Midst

John Smurthwaite

When an old neighbour friend of mine told me he was planning to relocate a bakery he bought to our neighbourhood, I was delighted. More so when this bakery utilises traditional methods to create handcrafted breads, pastries, sandwiches and freshly brewed coffee.

Friends from around KL, and as far as Penang and Johor, visit, having heard about it from their friends, or read about it somewhere. The bakery's commitment to excellence extends beyond its products to the value of developing relationships, feeding family, friends and neighbours.



It occurs to me that Kenny Hills Bakers, as the name suggests, is unique to Bukit Tunku. It's an artisanal eatery - not a big-name coffee chain, thank goodness. That would have eroded the vibe of this neighbourhood. Even eroded the "brand image" of Bukit Tunku, as Tai Hon put it (his background is in advertising, after all).

As a long-term resident of Bukit Tunku, I believe that a great community is not made by grand mansions or high-rise condos. Its soul emanates from the people who live here - a sense of belonging, being a responsible community member and neighbour, driven by ethical and moral principles.

At the heart of Kenny Hills Bakers is a deep appreciation for the principles of traditional baking and for the community it serves. Bukit Tunku seems more complete with the aroma of fresh bread and coffee wafting through it.

This friend waited patiently for more than six months to obtain a lease in Taman Tunku from Selangor Properties. The site in contention held a small convenience store; since January 2015, half of it became Kenny Hills Bakers.

Yes, the bakery area is small - I call it compact - but somehow it works. Maybe it's because when you step in, you enter Au Tai Hon's kitchen, where the aroma of freshly baked bread and patisseries and brewing coffee captivate you. The ambiance takes on a natural family-like atmosphere. In fact, Tai Hon puts his family members on roster duty!

Kenny Hills Bakers has certainly brought some buzz into the neighbourhood. One telling outcome: the Taman Tunku car park is spilling out on to Langgak Tunku - I am lucky to get a parking spot each time I visit! Within one month of opening, word of its high quality bread, patisseries, and coffee was travelling.

John has lived in Bukit Tunku for more than 30 years. He's seen the changing landscape of the neighbourhood first-hand and strives to preserve its essence with fellow BTRA members.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kennyhillsbakers
Instagram: www.instagram.com/kennyhillsbakers



Those were the days, my friends and neighbours

Jaspreet Kaur Gill

Growing up in Bukit Tunku in the 1970s and 1980s, neighbours were a significant part of life.

I lived on Jalan Natesa (now Jalan Tunku Putra). My playmates on the street were the children of the City Hall engineers, doctors, etc who lived in the government houses on Changkat Tunku. Mostly, I tortured the three Moorthy children – they were closest in age and physical proximity – I call Shankar Moorthy (now a successful cardiologist) “annai” to this day, much to his embarrassment I’m sure. Auntie Monica would take us on adventure walks in the jungle ravines (where the Mahameru highway now is) and we would catch tadpoles and other little fish in the monsoon drain that ran past the bottom of my garden.



at Shankar Moorthy's birthday party...he's getting ready to cut the cake [look at that wonderful tea spread!], I'm standing with my mother [my head just above the table] & the young man with his elbow on the table is Soorya Muttu who still lives on Langgak Tunku

In the evenings, my mother or amah would often walk me down to the end of Changkat Tunku to feed the monkeys that would congregate there at that time of day. On the way home, I would always want to stop at number

1 to see Dr. Visvanathan; he was a gregarious man whom I adored and not only because he always gave me chocolate.

Behind us lived a succession of various expat families. The first of them I remember clearly were the Gardeners. The son, Simon, was an only child like me and we were about the same age so we would play together. He would come over to swim, and once or twice his dog came and joined us in the pool, until my mother saw it and shrieked that its fur was going to get into the pump and clog it up. Christmas was a confusing time for me then; I simply could not understand why Santa Claus went to Simon's house on Christmas Eve and gave him presents but didn't come to my house. No one ever told me it was because I was naughty.



Beyond them were the Cheahs, in the neighborhood even before my parents. Theirs was a wonderful old colonial style house. Auntie Ruth taught ikebana-style flower arrangements, and Madeleine, her daughter, would come over and teach me to swim during her school holidays. After

Dr. Visvanathan, my father, Shankar Moorthy



*Come early morning,
the birds are chirping,
The smell of fresh bread
just out of the oven
infuses the air with the aroma
of your coffee*

... almost heaven

  kennyhillsbakers

Lot 1-1B, Taman Tunku, Off Langgak Tunku, 50480 Kuala Lumpur
For further enquiries, contact 03 620 64111

Uncle Cheah passed away in the 1990s, Auntie Ruth went back to Singapore and only recently sold the property. The new owner is currently building a large modern marvel.

Next door to us lived Frank Sullivan. He was a promoter of local art and artists and he got my father to buy a couple of interesting pieces. He would sit on his porch in the evenings with his favourite drink, coconut water and rum.

Across the street were the Jefferies, who lived there for many years; John Jefferies was with Guthrie Plantations. The children, John and Anne-Marie, were a few years older than I was and were mostly away at their boarding schools. Auntie Jill would usually have afternoon tea on the verandah or sometimes on the front lawn. She always had a slice of papaya (with a wedge of lime of course) and would feed the skin to the waiting dog who would gobble it down with relish. I remember trying it once and thinking what a silly dog to eat something so bitter. Perhaps it was a vain dog who knew what wonders were being worked on its coat; and it did have a lovely glossy coat.

One evening, a frantic lady from up the road rang our doorbell saying that one of her dinner guests was having

a heart attack. My father called our GP, Dr Rashid Mallal, who dashed over. Happily it turned out that the guest merely had a bad case of indigestion.

The very polished and glamorous Drs. Rashid and Gwen Mallal lived a bit further into Bukit Tunku, on Pinggiran Tunku. Theirs was one of those “upside down” houses, where you entered at the top floor at the bedroom level, and then went downstairs to the living room area. He was one of my late father’s closest friends; they met while doing their housemanship in Singapore in the late 1940s and became fast friends after Uncle Rashid asked my turbaned and bearded father if he knew of a good barber. Once when we went over to visit, their huge Rottweiler, Tiny, came charging out of the house and chomped onto my arm; I thought the bone was going to break, his grip was so powerful. Thankfully he let go immediately when Auntie Gwen came and shrieked at him. The faint scar I have is now a fond memory. When the Mallals retired from their medical practice [the Mallal Dispensary on Jalan Travers] about 20 years ago, we felt utterly lost. They emigrated to the UK soon after; to be close to their children who live there. They are still polished and glamorous in Chelsea.

My father. Dr. Gwen Mallal, Dr. Rashid Mallal



Samba, Sand and Sea

Geoffrey Yeow

The well-traveled British explorer, Freya Stark, once said: “To awaken quite alone in a strange town is one of the pleasantest sensations in the world.” Although she could have added terms such as ‘disorientating’ and ‘perplexed before breakfast’, one must admit that the mystery that shrouds the lives of backpackers is the definitive fuel for travel. It is also what keeps my engine going.

I try to make it a point to backpack, once a year, to a region or country previously untouched by my pudgy feet and somewhat out of my comfort zone. This year, I made a five-week sojourn to South America - Argentina and Brazil. Here are my top four stops.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

A sprawling cosmopolitan with architectural sights, an engrossing food culture and colourful characters. What was most interesting is the mix of architectural influence one can get just along a specific street – from British to French to Spanish in a blink of an eye. The city has a bustling



This is the Basilica of the Holy Sacrament in Buenos Aires. The basilica dates back to 1916 and is one of the most lavishly-decorated in the city, with gold and silver works, a French organ and Venetian mosaic ornaments. It was used for one of the most high-profile Argentinian weddings of all time – the wedding of Argentinian footballing legend, Diego Maradona.

youth culture that gathers life throughout the night. Other passions of Buenos Aires dwellers include football (of course!) and the popular dance form, tango – in equally strong measure.

Perito Moreno Glacier, Argentina

It is hard to ever visualise walking on a gigantic slab of ice, which is the exact experience one gets at the Perito Moreno Glacier. It extends its icy body 170 metres into the water and covers the size of roughly 35,000 football pitches. The experience is through phases: seeing the giant for the first time; walking up towards it in awe; and finally, putting on the crampons to traverse the icy surface.



Iguazu Falls, Argentina

One of the seven new natural wonders of the world, and rightly so. Walking into the national park, it seems like any other with its lush greens and chirping birds. Then, the beauty of the cascading waterfalls comes into view and one stands there mesmerised. A never-ending volume of water gushes down whilst spectators stand at the very top. A well-planned park that allows a comprehensive walk-through from seeing the falls from afar to being right on top of it.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A city with something for everyone – tour-loving families, rugged backpackers or those looking for a new lease of life (I met a number of people who travelled to Brazil on holiday and have just stayed...). The famous beaches of Ipanema, Leblon and Copacobana have their own eccentricities and are popular spots for residents and tourists alike. Restaurants and cafés are aplenty as you walk through the bustling city. Some tourist spots are must-see, such as the monumental Christ the Redeemer, the colourful steps Escadaria Selaron, and Sugarloaf Mountain. As day turns to night, the life and soul of Rio comes to the fore with bars, clubs and beach parties providing comprehensive entertainment. When dawn breaks (and you've had your 7th Caipirinha), a stroll to the beach and watching the morning light wash over the wonderful city of Rio de Janeiro is a perfect way to start (or end) the day.



Geoffrey is an enterprising young man with an inclination for adventure who steps out of his comfort zone at least once a year to savour strange new sights and sounds.



18th Hole

From Bukit Tunku to Bonnie Scotland: Ryder Cup 2014

Karen Hoh

It's a fair distance from Bukit Tunku to the Scottish Highlands, but the allure of watching some of the best players fighting it out at the Home of Golf proved incentive enough to swap the tropical breeze of Bukit Tunku for the chilly winds of Gleneagles in Scotland during Ryder Cup week in late September 2014.

The Ryder Cup is the third biggest sporting event in the world (after the FIFA World Cup and the Summer Olympics) and after watching the passion on the small screen, I took a chance and submitted my entry for the ballot. Lo and behold, with typical non-golfer's luck, I secured the full six-day ticket while my brother, an avid golfer of 20+ years who had always dreamt of attending, wasn't picked and instead had to shell out for a package that only covered the final Practice Day and the three Match Days! The Golfing Gods have a wicked sense of humour indeed...



Team USA and Europe fans' social board

monetary reward, but for team, country, continent and glory. With Team USA captained by Tom Watson, five-time Open Champion and a living legend of the game against World No 1 and back-to-back Major winner Rory McIlroy



Everyone's hero and Team Europe star Rory McIlroy

as Team Europe's star performer, the stage was set for a memorable contest.

Enough has been written about the golf on display that week by sports journalists. But being there to witness Martin Kaymer's chip-in for eagle at the 16th hole to win his singles match, Rory McIlroy's 45-foot putt on the 17th to save his foursomes partnership with Sergio Garcia, and possibly "the greatest match in Ryder Cup history" in which Justin Rose and Henrik Stenson defeated Bubba Watson and Matt Kuchar in a fourball match that had 21 birdies between them in 16 holes – 12 for the European pair and nine for the Americans, with 10 successive birdies by the Europeans - made me appreciate that the Ryder Cup really does bring the best out of the best players in the world. Combined with the atmosphere, it's a unique competition that The New York Times described as a "rare event that usually lives up to the hype." My brother was simply in awe at the quality of play – "much better than at a Major," he quipped.



Tea Europe's Sergio García, Ian Poulter, Justin Rose, Henrik Stenson

For me, the real winner was Scotland. The organisers ensured an experience that showcased food, hospitality and a well-oiled engine. Some 45,000 spectators each day ate delicious food whose ingredients were sourced from all over the country – catered by Jamie Oliver's Fabulous Feasts! The food was indeed fabulous. While waiting to be served, another spectator asked me where I was from – "Malaysia," I replied. "I'm from Greenland!" he said; then another chipped in: "Colombia!" None of our respective

countries had players competing, demonstrating the worldwide appeal of the event. It was televised to an audience of 500 million people in 185 nations.

Fancy getting more memorabilia? Once you've spent far more than you intended (yes, everyone does!), you exit the Official Merchandise Shop to a friendly FedEx representative – "Live Overseas, Ma'am? Let us send that home for you!" If you say yes, they pack everything you bought in a nice box AND submit a pre-prepared VAT form on your behalf so you can get your goodies TAX-FREE. Shopping and shipping to 50480 has never been easier!

To top it all off, even the weather co-operated – for the whole week! Anyone who has visited Scotland knows how easily a storm can appear to turn everything very cold, very wet and very grey but on a fine day, one understands where the term "Bonnie Scotland" comes from – the scenery is truly stunning. When the Welsh hosted the Ryder Cup in 2010, the venue was more appropriate for the sport of mud wrestling due to the rain!

Would I attend another Ryder Cup? Can't say. But I wanted to experience golf's ultimate team competition at the place the sport was born – I was happy I went with keen golfers who knew their way around a golfing tournament and had played Gleneagles previously to navigate me to the best vantage points. Would I go back to Scotland? Absolutely.

Karen loves watching live sports – preferably where it's happening. Tennis, Football, Olympics 2012 and The Ryder Cup 2014 dotted her holidays in recent years.

Small things made a huge difference. For £10, one could buy an on-course radio with ear phones (that doubles as a radio off-course, so it is a functional souvenir). With that device, one could listen to live broadcasts of what was happening in matches going on around the course. Can't see over the crowds? Everyone shorter than 5' 8" was given golfing periscopes to see over the throng – and if that wasn't enough, 16 GIANT screens and scoreboards were strategically placed around the course, Spectator Village (the hub) and Car Park – flip a switch on your radio and you are immediately tuned into Sky Sports commentary to accompany the images playing on screen. Just brilliant.



Jamie Oliver's Fabulous Feasts main menu

Simple yet effective ways to building green

SAM CS TAN



The words 'sustainable' and 'property' have not historically been a comfortable pairing. Least of all during a period when supranormal profits are there to be had, given Malaysia's predilection for all things real estate.

Homebuyers are maturing. It is no longer enough even if a home is well thought-out and well-designed. They want more. People want homes that are ecologically friendly, offer a sustainable and fulfilling way of life, yet not break their bank account.

People are increasingly aware of the environment and that our current lifestyles are simply not sustainable. But this shift, especially in Malaysia, is also due to the need to address inexorably rising energy costs.

Our government, labouring as it is from an unsustainable fiscal deficit, will sooner rather than later cut the subsidies that make our current lives so affordable: water, electricity, petrol, sugar. The list goes on, but it doesn't need a rocket scientist to do the maths: global warming plus warmer climes equals higher fuel bills. And so it is that the process of dismantling our subsidies has already begun, and we, as all Malaysians must, need to examine the way we live and impact our planet.

As home builders, we are in a position to help people help the environment.

To take just one micro-example: light. Adequate illumination is necessary in every single home throughout the day and partways through the night, but rising energy bills will exacerbate concerns over the affordability of our existence.



In the course of our work as property developer, we discovered that light and the affordable illumination of our homes is an eminently achievable outcome, capable of being addressed by implementing a few changes. For example, by building homes with a North-South orientation. Since the sun rises in the East and sets in the West, natural light can be enjoyed the entire day if houses are built with a North-South orientation with maybe some help from a skylight. Cooling is also natural and can be enjoyed all day as air travels in a natural North-South flow.

Simple designs can be devastatingly effective: for example locate porch roofs high and angled upwards, allowing more

light to filter into the house. Again, this equals a brighter home and reduces the need for electricity-powered lights in the house during the day, cutting energy bills. Installing extra window panels to allow light in can also be easily incorporated into a building design.

In other words, the cost of adding sustainable elements, whether an additional tier of windows, or a carefully designed porch roof, whether in a terraced house, or a shophot, is small compared with the benefits, which can be tremendous.

The same goes for spatial utilisation. Lavatories at terraced houses in Malaysia are traditionally set in front or at the back.

But move the toilets to the centre of the house and the entire front and back of the house will be left for windows. No more lavatories front and back means no more competition for valuable light!

I will continue to demonstrate in this column that a sustainable existence need not be expensive nor cutting-edge. Mostly, in fact, it is about common sense and an awareness of our surroundings. Ultimately, sustainable living is not a fad. It cannot be, because neither we nor our government are able to continue living the way we always have. It simply is too expensive.

It is a sad fact that people know more about their cars than they do about their homes — despite the fact that they cost immeasurably more to buy and maintain. So we see it as our duty to re-align our priorities. We are at the beginning — on the ground-floor, as it were — of a Green Movement, which will one day see us living in homes drastically different to the current shape and form.



The Beginnings of BTRA

How did Bukit Tunku Residents' Association start? What was the motivation? What are its objectives? Who? What? When? Where? Why?

A small seed that was sowed more than 20 years ago by a group of intrepid residents continues to work behind the scenes to ensure the unique character of Bukit Tunku is preserved.

It was back in 1991 that a few long-term and concerned residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta came together in an organised manner to dispute the way in which two high-rise condominium developments were approved by DBKL to start building in Bukit Tunku.

The predecessor to what is now BTRA and informally known as “Friends of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta,” the group was disputing the “quiet” approval of two development permits by the then Datuk Bandar, WITHOUT first giving a chance to direct adjoining owners of the property under development to voice their objections and for them to be heard, as required under the law.

The action, spearheaded by, among others, the late Dato’ Kington Loo, the late Tunku Mansur Yaacob, Mrs Chan Mo Yin, Mrs Daisy Hoh and Mr John Smurthwaite, resulted in a legal landmark in Malaysia. On 7 August 1992, the highest court in the land affirmed that residents DO have a right to be heard. The Supreme Court quashed the development orders for the two condominium developments, quite an achievement for that time.

It was in this period of organised action that the Bukit Tunku Residents' Association was formalised and registered, in May 1992.

Membership was originally open to Bukit Tunku residents only, as this area was increasingly being targeted for high-rise condominium developments. The first BTRA newsletter – Berita BTRA – was published and distributed in September 1992. The content focused on the landmark decision. Written by Dato’ Kington Loo, one of Malaysia’s pre-eminent architects and indeed an architect of sorts of Bukit Tunku itself, emphasised that although a favourable judgement was given, engagement with the authorities should be ongoing. With his expertise and insight on land and property development, Dato’ Kington Loo proposed that a masterplan for Bukit Tunku be included in the KL Masterplan and discussed with DBKL to avoid indiscriminate, and achieve responsible, development.



Subsequent to this early action, BTRA was actively involved in engaging the authorities on a number of property developments in their early days, among them the development now known as Tijani. BTRA has also supported individual residents who were adjoining owners of property earmarked for high-rise condominiums. And the modest Berita BTRA, which went through a few iterations in layout, evolved into BTRA Bulletin in 2005/2006, and subsequently into a magazine format, 'Living On The Hill.'

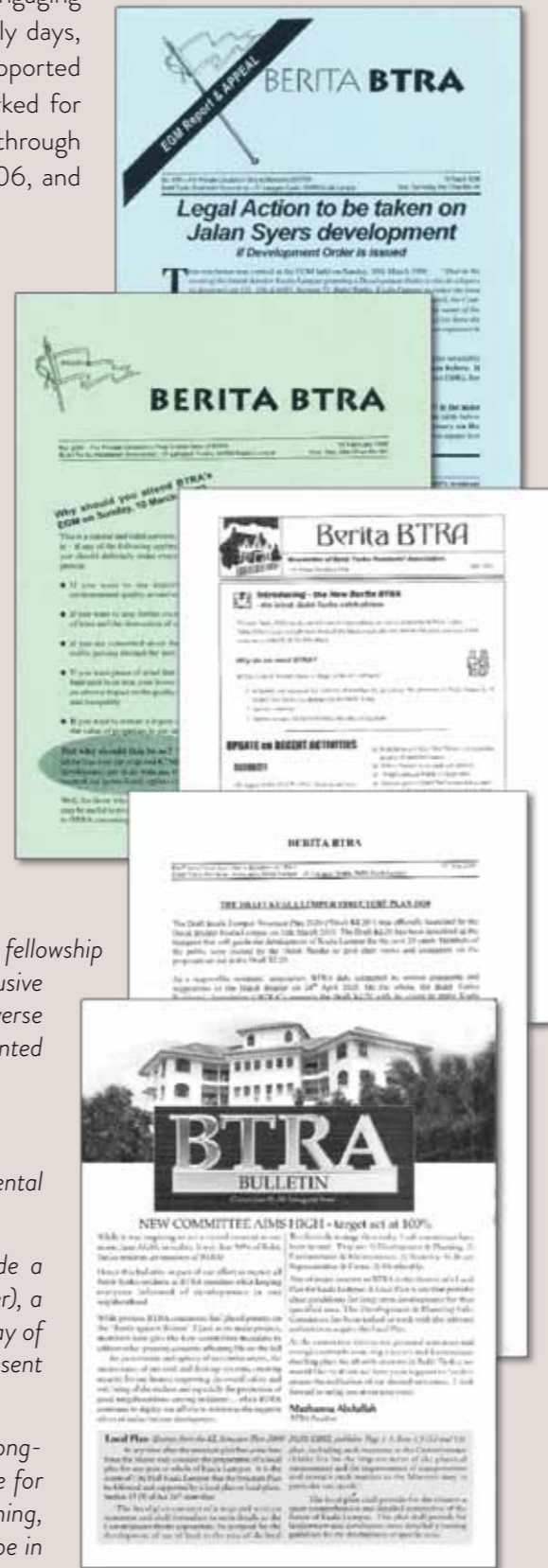
Today, in addition to the main committee, BTRA has sub-committees overseeing various aspects to ensure our quality of life and living is protected and preserved – environment and maintenance, security, planning and development. The dedicated committee and sub-committee members contribute their time and expertise on a voluntary basis, based on their genuine care and concern for the welfare of our community, and desire to build a sustainable environment for healthy living in Bukit Tunku.

For more information, email: bukit.tunku.residents@gmail.com

***BTRA goals and objectives were subsequently augmented in the early 1990s:**

1. To solicit input, obtain consensus and address the issues that affect the residents of our neighbourhood.
2. To work to recruit all residents to become members of BTRA to ensure maximum and effective representation.
3. To encourage and promote community spirit, awareness, pride and fellowship among neighbours. Keep our community safe, secure, friendly, inclusive and welcoming. Sustain our neighbourhood as a choice location, diverse by composition of residents, but build a close-knit and family-oriented community.
4. To protect the value and minimum living standards of our property.
5. To keep communication at optimal levels with governmental representatives and members of the city council.
6. To facilitate programmes that benefit our neighbourhood, provide a vehicle for communication among residents (through the newsletter), a vehicle for NGOs and other organisations to work with BTRA by way of smart partnerships to achieve mutually desirable goals, and to represent neighbourhood views on issues that affect us.
7. To monitor planning and development as a strategy to protect our long-term interests within our neighbourhood; propose changes that are for the benefit of our neighbourhood. Organise activities related to planning, coordination and implementing joint action as may be deemed to be in the best interest of the welfare of the neighbourhood.
8. To development a Central Resource Centre, a place to receive goods and record services that are contributed to community events, charitable or fund-raising purposes; a place where the history and chronological efforts of BTRA are well recorded.

In 1993, it was agreed that residents of Bukit Tunku and Taman Duta share a vital common interest in containing excessive and indiscriminate high-rise property developments in our respective neighbourhoods. Therefore, the BTRA Constitution was amended to include and encourage residents of Taman Duta as members of BTRA.



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