

# Tea Caddy



The Goodricke House Magazine, January 2015

## Our cover



From the Camellia plc Art Collection

'Untitled'

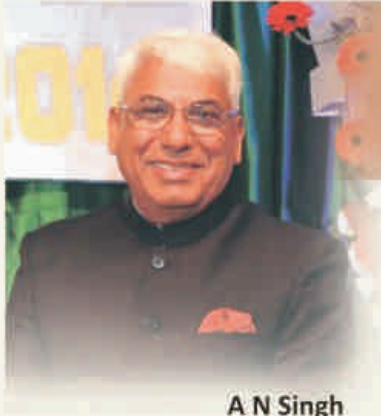
By Ganesh Pyne

Tempera on paper

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A N Singh

## From the MD's desk

*“ I would like to wish all stakeholders, the workers, staff, my colleagues in HO and gardens, and all well-wishers of the Group, a very Happy New Year. ”*

**F**irst of all, I would like to wish all stakeholders, the workers, staff, my colleagues in HO and gardens, and all well-wishers of the Group, a very Happy New Year.

A few tragedies in the Goodricke family towards the end of the year had serious emotional setbacks. The passing away of Mr David Reeves, ex-Director of Camellia plc and Trustee of Camellia Foundation, in November, the sad demise of young Subrojeet Shyam, son of Mr Dilip Shyam, and the unexpected loss of Mr Veeru Narain, retired Manager, were tragic moments for all of us. I pray to God for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

On the national front, the Parliamentary elections were held peacefully and once again the wise electorate of our country chose to give a mandate to stability to end the policy paralysis, caused mainly by fractured mandates that led to a coalition era since 1989. Thus India got its first Government led by BJP with absolute majority to the surprise of many. I wish the new Government all the best and hope it lives up to the expectations of the people of India.

The year gone by had mixed fortunes for the Industry. While North Bengal could survive due to relatively better weather conditions and improved irrigation facilities right across the Industry, and also by marginal increase in prices, Assam had to bear the brunt of the weather as well as pest and disease conditions, which now are almost akin to what prevailed in Dooars between 2009 and 2013. Entire North India has to learn to live with drought and climate change. It is now a rule rather than an exception. The Industry needs to take serious note and adopt all possible sustainable methods to fight the ill-effects of drought. Adding to our woes is severe attacks of pest (directly related to drought) which are posing a serious challenge to planters in keeping the MRLs in line with international norms that has caused substantial loss of crop.

The recently introduced Plant Protection Code is a step in the right direction; however, all stakeholders have to understand the ground realities and especially regulators have to wake up and expand the base of plant protection formulations.

Unfortunately, the wages for North Bengal due since 1st April 2014, have not yet been settled. It appears now politics is being played on workers' wages. The unions who have been marginalized are playing spoilsport to an otherwise smooth settlement.

The year 2015 is going to be a tough year for Industry. The impact of wage increase and expected decline in commodity prices across the world which includes tea, will put severe pressure on the Tea Industry. "The FAO studies also confirm that declining crude oil prices brings down the commodity prices across the world".

For the Group, we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Margaret's Hope in November 2014, where quite a few of our buyers participated. To mark the anniversary, school bags were given to all school-going children of the garden, five laptops were given to Margaret's Hope High School, and in keeping with the spirit of "Swachh Bharat Abhyan", 150 latrines are being constructed for the garden and the people staying on the fringes of Margaret's Hope. To help tourists have a decent view of the Hill and its valley, a beautiful tea-room will be constructed for tourists.

The Group also had the distinction of having four of its Dooars gardens acquire the Rainforest Alliance certification, the first of its kind in Dooars. All concerned need to be congratulated. The Group is committed to sustainable agriculture and whole-hearted efforts are being made to reduce the pesticide load and project worth Rs. 3 crores is on track working with two outside agencies to achieve this goal.

The Group continued its commitment towards quality and Group's gardens featured in top 20 of Dooars and top 40 in Assam with Harmutty and Dejoo occupying the top two positions in Assam Orthodox. All our Dooars factories are poised to achieve FSSC 22000 certification by end of 2015 and 2016.

I would like to congratulate all workers, staff and managerial staff, without whose unstinted support, the above could not have been possible. I also pay my gratitude to all workers and Unions for maintaining peace and very healthy working environments for progress. We need "sabka-sath sabka vikas".

We continue to be guided by the Camellia core values of "integrity, humanity and quality" that will always keep us on the path of progress and growth.

*"we celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Margaret's Hope in November 2014, where quite a few of our buyers participated."*



# Margaret's Hope celebrates 150 years



*One and a half centuries of tradition are steeped in this fine cup of tea ranked among the finest Darjeeling teas and prized by connoisseurs all over the world.*

*One can savour history, perfection and romance in every exquisite cup of Margaret's Hope that will send you on many magical journeys*

*... an emotional one where you are moved by the poignant story of a father grieving over the tragic loss of his daughter;*

*... a meditative trip into an inner harbour of calm and repose, where every sip turns the mind within;*

*... or delve deep into its golden depths on a voyage through time that blends the anchoring quality of traditions with the needs of the present.*

*Today, Margaret's Hope continues to produce its renowned first flush (spring) tea, which has a flowery aroma and golden colour. Its second flush produces a mellow cup with a fine fragrance, muscatel character and bronze colour.*





## The mystic Margaret's Hope – compiled by Jeevan Pande

**D**arjeeling was initially conceived as a health resort and the British came to Darjeeling for the purpose of setting up a sanatorium for their army personnel. Dr. Campbell, a civil surgeon of the Indian Medical Service was the man who stimulated the growth of tea on an experimental basis in the Darjeeling hills. Dr. Campbell was posted to Darjeeling as the first superintendent in 1839 and he started an experimental tea plantation in Darjeeling in the year 1841. It is said that he managed to get a few seeds of the Chinese variety of tea (*Camellia sinensis*) and planted them around his bungalow. Dr. Campbell's experiment yielded results. Tea trees grew very big, some upto 20 feet. Soon it was established that the climate in Darjeeling was suitable for tea production.

The government offered land on favourable terms to entrepreneurs, and commercial development of tea gardens began during the 1850s. The government designed a formula according to which each allottee of forest land could only clear 40% of the land to plant tea and the rest would remain as undisturbed forest. Captain Samler was the first tea planter who started the Alubari Tea Estate in 1856 under the management of Kurseong and Darjeeling Tea Company. The company further launched Ging, Ambotia, Takdah and Phoobsering

between 1860 and 1864. The Leborg Tea Company also started Takdah and Badamtam gardens during this period. Pandam, Makaibari, Singell and Margaret's Hope also came into existence during this time. By the end of 1874 there were 113 gardens covering an area of 18,888 acres and employing 19,000 workers. By 1905, the number of tea gardens in Darjeeling was 117, covering an area of 42,700 acres. At present, there are 87 gardens over an area of 50,000 acres, providing permanent employment to 55,000 workers, besides a temporary force of 16,000 workers who are employed during the plucking season. The tea industry also provides livelihood to a large number of people engaged in transport, supplies, repair and maintenance of hardware, and marketing.

Margaret's Hope Tea Garden was established in 1864. It used to be called Bara-Ringtong and was owned by Mr. Bagdon of England who had come to India with his wife and two daughters. The younger daughter named Margaret loved the property very much, due to its charm and scenic beauty. She was going to England with her mother and sister and promised to return soon. Unfortunately, she fell sick during the journey and died. Mr. Bagdon renamed the garden as Margaret's Hope in memory of his

daughter. The tea garden folks believe that the ghost of Margaret still roams in the garden and that she visits the Manager's bungalow every night. The ghost is believed to visit the guest room on the west, moves on to the study, and then to the tennis court through the verandah. This has also been experienced by a number of guests who visit the garden and stay in the bungalow.





Margaret's Hope is located in Kurseong subdivision of Darjeeling district at an altitude ranging from 1500 ft to 6000 ft. It has an area of approximately 586.16 hectares. It consists of four divisions- Margaret's Hope, Dilaram, Edenvale and the Maharani hills. It is a conventional garden yet great emphasis is laid on ecology, biodiversity conservation and social responsibilities. The use of fertilizers, weedicides and insecticides is minimal. The garden is using Bio-compost and Vermicompost which is being prepared on the Estate itself. Pesticides have been replaced by the extracts of some common plants like Titapati (*Artemesia vulgaris*), Sishnu (*Urtica dioica*) and Kurkurey (*Equisetum arvens*). These extracts are sprayed on tea bushes to control the pests and are proving to be very effective. Neem-based pesticides are also being used. Weeding is done manually and largely constitutes an employment resource. A number of species have been introduced in the garden like Amlesho (*Thysonalina agrostic*), lemon grass or citronella grass (*Cymbopogon citrates*), Guatemala grass (*Tripsacum andersonii*), Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*) which are very good soil binders and prevent landslide during monsoons and also provide Biomass for organic compost and act as an insect repellent. With the introduction of these measures, the vitality of the soil is getting restored and the population of natural predators is increasing which is helping in pest control.

There is a lake in the garden called the Margaret's Hope Lake. This lake is the center of attraction as it contains a

rare and endangered species called the Himalayan Salamander (*Tylototriton verrucosus*). This amphibian is only found in Darjeeling, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Myanmar and Eastern Nepal. This animal is cylindrical in shape with four short limbs. It looks like a lizard. It is active at night and feeds on small aquatic insects, aquatic plants, tadpoles, water beetles, earthworms, snails etc. It is the only tailed amphibian in the Indian fauna. It resembles amphibians on the one hand and reptiles on the other. Because of its resemblance with the reptiles, it is also called Crocodile Salamander. It is a highly endangered species which is listed in the Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. This animal is an important link between amphibians and reptiles and can help us understand the process of evolution. Margaret's Hope tea estate is protecting the habitat of this rare and endangered species.

Apart from the Himalayan Salamander, the garden contains rich floral and faunal diversity. The important tree species found in the garden are UTIS (*Alnus nepalensis*), Dhupi (*cryptomeria japonica*), Ghonge champ (*Mangnolia campbelli*), Lali gurans (*Rhododendron arboreum*), Katus (*castanopsis hystrix*), Gogun (*Sauraria nepalensis*), Kharaney (*Symplocos Sp*), Malata (*Macaranga axillaris*), Siris (*Albizia Sp*), Panya (*Prunus nepalensis* and *Prunus cerusoides*) etc. The main herbs are Banmara (*Eupatorium Sp.*), Titapaty (*Artemesia vulgaris*), Thotney (*Polygonnum molle*), Sishnu (*utrica dioica*), Kurkurey (*Equisetum arvens*).



The main animal species include the Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*), Leopard (*Pantherus pardus*), Himalayan Black Bear (*Selenarctos thibetanus*), Tree Bear (*Arctictis binturong*), Wild Pig (*Sus cristatus*) and the Northern Indian Jackal (*Canis aureus indicus*) amongst others.

Margaret's Hope is an eco-friendly garden. It is blessed with many perennial streams. The garden harvests Shiv Khola stream to generate 100 kw of hydropower which is sufficient for the factory requirement. This hydropower turbine was established in the garden in the 1890s by the Ansel Engineering Company which did pioneering work in the field of hydro-electricity in the hills and had its workshop at Tung near the garden. The company has set up hydropower turbines with a capacity of 25 kw which was enhanced to 100 kw. The garden is also using eco-friendly "chute-way" which is a kind of ropeway to transport tea leaf to the factory. The Thothey Khola stream water is harvested for irrigation and is supplied by gravity without the use of energy.

Margaret's Hope is also one of the first tea gardens in Darjeeling to get Rain Forest Alliance Certification. It aims at conserving biodiversity and improving livelihood by promoting and evaluating the implementation of sustainability standards. RFA ensures the well-being of the tea farm, tea communities as well as forest and wildlife on which we all depend. RFA certification also promotes decent living and working conditions for tea workers, gender equality and access to education for the children of the tea workers.

Margaret's Hope is also UTZ-certified garden which stands for sustainable farming and ensures quality of tea as well as better quality of life for workers and their families.

Margaret's Hope produces one of the best Darjeeling teas which is known for its consistency in quality throughout the year. The aroma is influenced by seasonal patterns. It is further influenced by varying altitudes of the garden and the exposure of the slopes to the sun and the rain. The aroma of Darjeeling tea remains an enigma; even if Darjeeling tea is produced anywhere else in the world, the unique Darjeeling flavor and aroma will not be there. Darjeeling tea also has medicinal properties. It is beneficial for relieving fatigue and helping in digestion and thought process. It contains catechins and polyphenols antioxidants which repair the damage to the cells and have anti-cancer and anti-tumour properties.

“Margaret's Hope is also one of the first tea gardens in Darjeeling to get Rain Forest Alliance Certification.”



MINI HYDRO PROJECT



“Margaret’s Hope... produces some of the most exquisite teas in the country, including some rare white teas.”



**Anna Chilton**  
Professional Wine Taster and Darjeeling tea enthusiast

Margaret’s Hope mainly produces famous special China black tea which is a top quality tea from the garden. It has a light liquor which is golden yellow in colour with fruity aroma. The garden also produces rare white tea and muscatel tea. White tea is made from very young buds before they unfurl and the bushes grow under shade. This tea has the maximum number of antioxidants. The liquor is light and almost white. The muscatel tea is processed during early monsoons. This tea has the evocative aroma of muscatel grapes. During monsoon, the green flies breed on the tea leaves. They bite and chew the leaves which get bruised causing water to evaporate from the leaves and inducing enzyme reactions that make the sap inside the leaves highly concentrated.

The garden recently celebrated 150 years of its existence and traditions. Hope it continues to enrich the lives of tea lovers all over the globe.

MARGARET’S HOPE T G	
JOHN TAYLOR FOUNDER/OWNER 1864	
MANAGER’S NAME	YEAR
C M ROSS	1869 to 1873
(FIRST MANAGER AS PER RECORD)	
D MCDONALD	1874 to 1878
RR LANDALE	1879 to 1895
JGD CRUICKSHANK	1896 to 1927
LT. COL. L HANAGAN	1928 to 1953
PJT OFFLYN	1954 to 1955
COL. FW NOBLE (SUPDT)	1956 to 1970
JD TAYLOR	1956 to 1959
RS RAI	1960 to 1963
G MACDERMAINT	1964 to 1964
S ISSAR	1965 to 1969
SK SHOME	1970 to 1971
S ISSAR	1972 to 1975
RC BIJAWAT	1976 to 1979
MS JABBAL	1980 to 1982
<b>GARDEN LOCKOUT - 1982 DEC TO 1984 MARCH. TAKEN OVER BY GOODRICKE GROUP OF COMPANIES FROM APRIL 1984.</b>	
B NARAIN	1984 to 1989
VS PARMAR	1990 to 1992
K PRADHAN	1993 to 1993
AK GOMDEN	1994 to 2001
JD RAI	2002 to 2007
JC PANDE	2008 to 2014



Whittard of Chelsea UK visitors at Margaret’s Hope Salamander Lake



Japan Tea Association visitors



2nd Flush Tasting May 2014



## 150th Anniversary celebrations



The celebrations were attended by Mr MC Perkins, Chairman plc, Mr PJ Field, Chairman, GGL, Mr AK Mathur, Mr TK Franks, Mr G McLean, Ms SA Walker; Mr AN Singh, MD, GGL, Ms Ragini Singh; buyers from Japan, Germany and UK; senior representatives of the Administration, senior planters of Darjeeling, other dignitaries and senior executives from HO and upcountry.

### A tribute- FTGFOP1-PS

To mark the anniversary, a limited edition of Margaret's Hope tea was named after its oldest surviving employee, 98 year-old Purney Subba. He had served in the garden as a plucker for 40 years and retired in 1974, about 10 years before Goodricke took over the Garden. His son continues to be employed in the Garden. This limited edition of tea was named FTGFOP1-PS (Fine Tippy Golden Flowery Orange Pekoe-Purney Subba).





# Going green

at Lakhipara T G



– by Rana Pratap Jung

## Afforestation

**W**hat would happen if there were no trees on earth? ..... Life could not exist on earth without trees because they produce most of the oxygen that humans and wildlife breathe. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen using the process of photosynthesis. There would also be no rain without trees, since trees absorb water from the soil and release it through evapotranspiration. A major source of greenhouse gases are industrial emissions. Gases include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane and hydro-fluorocarbons. When these gases enter the atmosphere, they hold in reflected energy from the sun and

emit that radiation back down to earth. This greenhouse effect can create climatic changes.

With the above concept in our mind, we would like to inform you that over the last 5-6 years we have been able to plant and create a man-made "Forest" covering an area of over 100 Hectares at Lakhipara Tea Garden. A total of 1,57,405 nos of trees have been planted on Garden land which is not suitable for growing tea, and by doing so we are directing our endeavours towards minimizing unused land areas. The following species of trees have been planted over the respective areas and years and which have come up quite well:



Species planted	Area (Ha.)	Year	No. of trees	Area classification
Derris, Procera, Lebbek & Bokain	28.55	2012 & 2013	48,192	Barabustee area
Eucalyptus	7.38	2011	12,457	Barabustee area
Derris, Elephanta, Procera, Subabul & Bokain	7.62	2011	12,863	Barabustee area
Subabul & Bokain	7.00	2010	11,816	Barabustee area
Subabul, Kher & Simul	6.95	2010	11,732	Barabustee thatch area
Eucalyptus	6.70	2010	11,310	Mangla Line area
Eucalyptus, Derris & Simul	28.62	2009	48,311	Bansbari area
Jharul	8.26	1984-1985	725	Old Forest Reserve area
<b>Total :</b>	<b>101.08</b>		<b>1,57,405</b>	



With the above plantation strength we are confident of having gained towards Carbon Credit. One Carbon Credit represents one metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, i.e., Carbon dioxide. Carbon credits are a global initiative to try to limit the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. Apart from this the trees will contribute towards generation of our requirement of firewood for distribution to garden workers and also revenue for the Garden by way of sale of high value timber. The "Forest" is also contributing towards a better ecological balance and shelter to many flora and fauna.

There are many other advantages of forests as they act as giant air filters for the world. Trees purify the air by absorbing pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, reducing pollution. Trees also help prevent topsoil erosion because they break the force of wind and rain on soil, their roots bind the soil, and their decayed, fallen leaves are absorbed by the earth and enrich the soil. Trees conserve rainwater and reduce water runoff and sediment deposit after storms.

Additionally, trees provide a supply of lumber, seeds and fruit. Dead trees that fall and get buried in the soil also eventually provide fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum products, among other things. Trees can also act as noise filters; they muffle urban clamour almost as well as walls do. Trees planted at strategic locations can also decrease loud noises from airports and highways.

*“Trees purify the air by absorbing pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, reducing pollution.”*

### Benefits of afforestation

Afforestation refers to the conversion of wasteland into a woodland or forest. It is essentially the transformation of land which has not been forested for a period of more than 40 years to woodland through seeding and planting. Since it is the best technique used to minimize the greenhouse effect, there is constant necessity to develop afforestation programs in order to preserve and protect the forestry including the wasteland. A massive afforestation program is required to meet the increasing demand of fuel wood, timber and fodder.

It is especially useful when it comes to protecting wildlife. According to scientific studies, upland forest vegetation tends to affect the population of birds on neighboring unplanted moorlands. Planting of trees simply restores and maintains ecological balance of all systems in the environment.



— by Saurav Bhattacharjee

## An organic approach in harmony with nature at Lakhipara Tea Garden

*It is becoming imperative for tea plantations to take a sustainable approach on cultivation that can foster crop productivity, soil ecology and biodiversity as a whole, without any further exploitation of nature's resource components.*

“The reproduction rate of pests is very high as compared to that of the predators”

Sustainability can be understood as a process through which farming and resource management systems are developed to permit regenerative agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is a cultivation system which aims to conserve natural resources, improve economic returns and continue to increase productivity and enhance human lives in the long run.

'Inhana Biosciences', a research-based organization in Kolkata provides a comprehensive method which attempts to provide an ideal environment to both soil and plant thereby bringing about qualitative changes in their performance.

The predator and pest relationship is so interdependent on each other that an increase or decrease in either population causes a drastic change in the population of the other.

The reproduction rate of pests is very high as compared to that of the predators, which, on account of their longer life cycle, cannot mutate rapidly to suit themselves with the changing environment or the applied chemicals.

Hence, a practical yet scientific approach needs to be initiated where the desired balance is achieved with just timely and judicious prevention of the growth of pests beyond the threshold level.

### Inhana Biosciences has a 3-tier approach towards the project:

1. Soil Management
  - (A) Optimum productivity of a plant is possible only if the plant's physiological development is correctly developed through increasing 'Microbial Deficiency' in the soil thereby enabling the soil to function naturally and is the most effective medium for plant growth. Once the plant is energized it will become efficient to extract, assimilate and utilize to the optimum nutrients available, as well as its efficiency, thereby increasing its host-defense mechanism which is within its structure against pests and diseases.
  - (B) This method aims at energizing the soil system through restoration, proliferation and reactivation of the living components of the soil primarily by the application of "Novcom Aerobic Compost" produced under 'Inhana Novcom Aerobic Composting Method". Application of Compost is done as per the 'Soil requirement/Analysis'.

(C) 'CDS Concoction' (Cowdung Slurry) is also sprayed on the collar zone of the bush for rejuvenating the soil and reducing the incidence of pest attack.

(D) Soil is also managed by 'Cheeling', 'Thully' and restricted weedicide use. Soil management protocol/ programme is also done by placing 'Novcom Aerobic Compost' in the soil, some without NPK and some mixed with NPK.

## 2. Plant Management

(a) Energization of the plant is primarily achieved by applying different solutions of 'Inhana Biosciences'.

(b) The solutions are potentized and energized extracts of different plants which does not offer inhibitory role but reach to the root cause of problems thus providing regulatory role and are curative in nature.

(c) The solutions are developed under "EEA" (Energy Element Activation) Principle.

(d) Hence, these potentized and energized botanical extracts do not add any element from outside but only provide the necessary 'Energies' for activation of plant physiology, towards better nutrient uptake/ utilization and better host-defense mechanism of the plant system.

(e) As per their advice, as much as 18 rounds can be sprayed in dilutions suggested by them on a weekly basis as dosages fluctuate according to the plant and pest scenario.

## 3. Integrated Pest Management

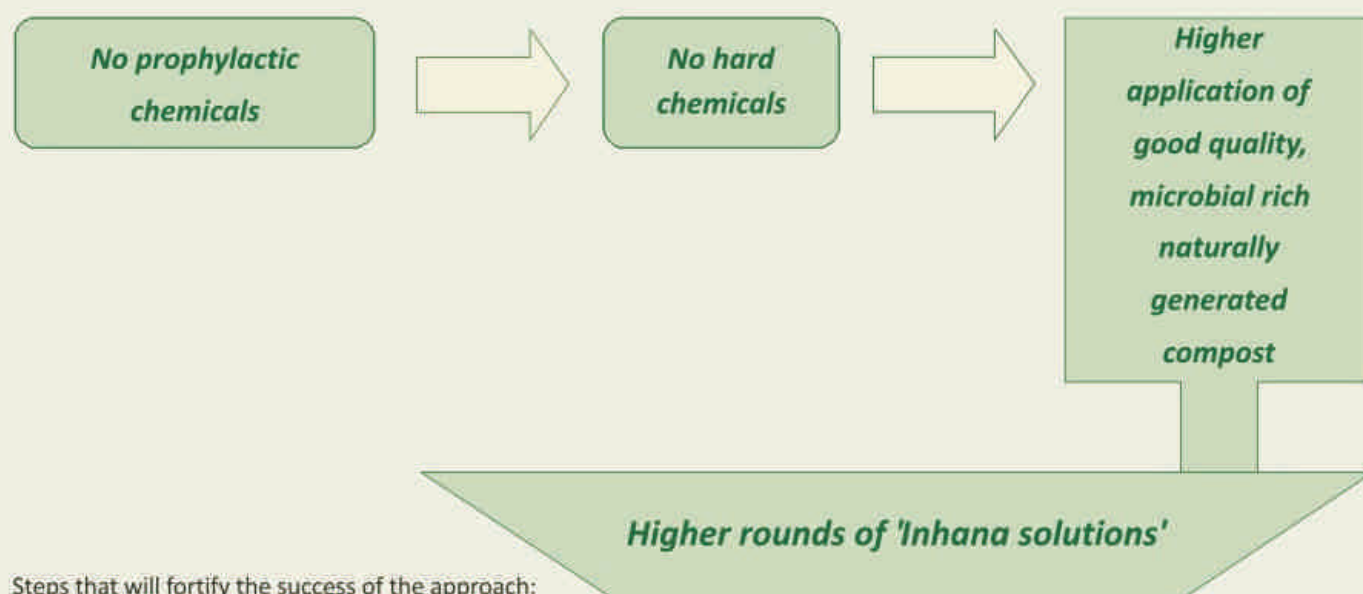
Chemical reduction and successful pest control are not mutually exclusive components, and can be meted out only when a 'Step-wise Management Programme' is taken up. The programme should work towards restoring and rejuvenating soil and plants' inherent character while suppressing the 'Biotic Potential' and creating a favourable atmosphere for enhanced "Environmental Resistance".

Integrated pest management is such a step-wise process, where 'Inhana Biosciences' is trying to initiate a programme:

'...that will not trigger biotic potential' and create a favorable atmosphere for enhanced environmental resistance'.

Through stoppage of prophylactic chemical application, non-application of hard chemicals and enhancement of plant's physiological functions (using Inhana solutions) to reduce the buildup of free amino acids and sugar pools or, in other words, reduce the enticement for pest aggression as well as boost up the plant's inherent 'host-defense Mechanism' against pest/ disease and in the soil through "Compost/ Fertilizer Integration". Moreover, the natural secretions within the plant system which form the line of defense against pests and diseases is activated through application of the energy components.

Hence, conformity to the following steps shall not only enable successful chemical reduction from very 1st year but enable progressive decrease over the coming years.



Steps that will fortify the success of the approach:

1. Close observation,
2. Prompt action &
3. Spot application (blanket only when required).

These three components, though having an individual role, also complement each other in working towards the final objective of reduction in chemicals.

# Events

## Goodricke promotional activities

**G**oodricke conducts various promotional activities across key markets in India to promote different brands like Goodricke Tea, Roasted, Barnesbeg.

These activities give us an opportunity to connect with the consumer directly and gives us a first-hand understanding of the needs and wants of the consumers, specific to the brands. We do free sampling of teas as well as sale of tea packs and cups at a discounted price.

We take part in various trade fairs, melas and other high footfall events where we can touch base with large numbers of people at a low cost—such as Delhi International trade fair, Bhopal & Indore Trade Fair, Durga Puja Stalls, Club events, Kolkata Marathon, classical music conferences etc to name a few.

- Ojaswini trade fair Bhopal-11-19th Oct, Bhopal, MP
- Menart Indore Trade fair-11-19th Oct, Indore, MP
- CR park Puja stall-29th September to 4th Oct, CR park, Delhi
- Delhi International Trade Fair stall-14-27th Nov, Pragati Maidan, West Bengal Pavilion, Delhi
- The Calcutta Club Bakery Carnival-20th Dec
- St. Paul's Cathedral, Kolkata X-Mas stall -24-25th Dec.
- Barnesbeg Organic green tea sampling during Radio Mirchi Kolkata marathon promotion-11th to 18th Dec, 15 Joggers park & corporate offices across Kolkata.



## 15th Free Corrective Surgery Camp

**T**he Goodricke Group organized the 15th Corrective Surgery Camp for those affected with the congenital condition of a Cleft Lip or Palate.

The Corrective Surgery Camp was organized from 7th to 28th November, 2014 at the Goodricke Group Hospital, Aibheel Tea Garden, Chalsa, in collaboration with the Howrah South Point Handicapped Children's Home, Jalpaiguri.



*Prof. Cornelius Klien operating on a patient*

## Run for glory – by Shaibal Dutt



Pranjal Neog, Shaibal Dutt, Anuradha Dutt and Chetan Babbar

### Airtel Delhi Half marathon

Runners from Goodricke Group participated in the 2014 edition of the Airtel Delhi Half marathon which is one of the premier running events in the country attracting runners from various parts of India and the world. This year the event attracted over 30,000 runners. The following runners participated in the Open half marathon categories and all the runners finished with personal best times.

Anuradha Dutt – 2.12.32  
 Chetan Babbar – 2.15.46  
 Shaibal Dutt – 1.42.38  
 Pranjal Neog – 2.13.06

### Tata Steel 25km run

Goodricke runners participated in the inaugural edition of the Tata Steel Kolkata 25 km Run held on 28th December, 2014. The race, organized by Procarn International, marks the entry of Kolkata as the host of the first Association of International Marathon & Distance Races (AIMS) certified event in the city. AIMS is an offshoot of the International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF). Procarn

Anuradha Dutt (Net finish time: 2.45 hrs – Ranked 4th in 35-45 years category)  
 Shaibal Dutt (Net finish: 2.02 hrs – Ranked 10th in 35-45 years category)  
 Pranjal Neog (Net finish time: 2.35 hrs – Ranked 43rd in 35-45 years category)



International, the country's premier race organizer, expects that the event will grow substantially in the years to come. Almost 5,000 participants took part across various categories, including a 6 km Ananda(Joy) Run, other than the main 25 km and 10 km events.

### 6km 'Ananda' (Joy) Run

Rohan Abrar Ranked 3rd  
 Debdeep Ghosh (First-time runner)



Debdeep Ghosh



Rohan Abrar



# Our losses...



**David Reeves**

David's first contact with Camellia was as a supervisor of Duncan Lawrie during his long and distinguished career at the Bank of England. This connection with Duncan Lawrie was to bear fruit as he joined the bank when he left the Bank of England, eventually rising to the position of Managing Director. He then moved on to be a Director of Camellia plc, and applied himself with his customary dedication to this role over a number of years.

Anyone meeting David would not get the impression that he had been placed in such high professional esteem. David had no ounce of ego, and his abilities and influence gave him no sense of superiority; on the contrary, they gave him a great sense of responsibility – to use the talents he had been given for the good of others. He did not use

his position and good fortune to transform his own, modest, lifestyle, but to help to transform the lives of many both at home and abroad. As well as providing his professional expertise to Camellia plc, as a member of The Camellia Foundation he embodied the philosophy and culture of an organisation whose overriding priority is the security and welfare of Camellia's employees and their communities.

Many will have seen him in the tea gardens of Darjeeling, Dooars, Assam and Cachar, as well as at Camellia House in Kolkata; his face was equally well-known in Bangladesh both in Dhaka and up-country, where he was a keen supporter of the CDF Hospital and the CDF School. He had also visited most of Camellia's other international businesses. That said, David's heart lay very much at home as a devoted husband to Pearl and loving father to their three sons. His great interest in and dedication to the work of Interlink and the Goodricke School for Special Education, amongst many other such organisations, was a reflection of his enthusiastic support for people with learning disabilities, and other disadvantages, in his local area.

David's sincere concern for his fellow humans was to him a natural

consequence of his Christian faith, and it was truly inspiring to see him apply this care to those of all faiths and none, to dispense his love for humanity widely without preference, and to respect other people's personal convictions as deeply as his own. Moreover, he neither expected nor desired appreciation. There is a standing stone at Wrotham Place on which is carved a quotation from Goethe: "The deed is all, the glory nothing". This line aptly summarises David's approach to the good he did for so many, one of the reasons why we will remember him with such great fondness.

Although his life ended far too soon, following a relatively short illness, David was not one to complain. His positive approach to life, that we are always capable of doing something useful, will endure in the many lives he touched. He will be deeply missed, most keenly by his family, but also by his friends, his Church and local community, and all those he knew through Camellia's global family. For our part, The Camellia Foundation has lost a loved and trusted guide, a wise and dedicated colleague and a kind and good-humoured friend. Despite our sadness we can all be thankful for what David meant to so many, and for a life well-lived.

– by Simon Turner



**S**ubrojeet was born in 1972 at Koomber TG. He did his graduation in Kolkata and MBA from Cranfield University, UK. Subro was a natural sportsman and played football, tennis, badminton, cricket and golf. He helped raise funds for causes he believed in, such as Oxfam for the girl child. He passed away suddenly on 17 November, and is survived by his wife Sonu and daughter, Adesya, parents, brother and sister.

I got to know Subro during his brief stint with us as a trainee in the Accounts Department. As a trainee he never even once let us feel that his father, Mr Dilip Shyam, was a very senior person in the organization; he used to respect us so-called seniors and was always willing to put in the extra hour. He used to regularly drop into my place for a chat or to play with my daughter. Considering he was so young still, he was quite adept and comfortable with handling a six-month-old child. This showed that he liked kids and as my

daughter grew up, she would love the visits of her young Uncle. Both Urmi and I used to treat him like a kid brother and we can still recall the arguments and fights she used to have with Subro. He lived life kingsize and enjoyed it to the full. A good golfer he had won quite a few prizes at club levels. He was one of the few young fellows in those days who was unwilling to go abroad for higher studies, and was totally disappointed when I sided with his father on this issue. I remember he did not like his stay abroad one bit and was looking forward to his return to India after completion of his studies which he did. He was never pessimistic and always had creative ideas which may or may not have been practical, but that is Subro. Unfortunately, we had lost touch for the last couple of years but I presume he had still looked at life with a positive and optimistic attitude. It was a bitter shock to all of us when we heard the news of his untimely death

— by Arjun Sengupta



**Subrojeet Shyam**

**B**irendra (Veeru) Narain joined the tea industry in 1967 at Samsing TG, then under the Duncan Brothers. He married Neelam in November, 1972, and they were blessed with two lovely children, Nidhi and Saurabh. His journey with Goodricke took him through undulating hills and plains of Zurantee, Newland, Meenglas, Hope and Danguajhar, to name a few. As Acting Manager he was positioned in Sankos, Gandrapara and Aibheel tea gardens. In 1981 his saga with the hills commenced in Badamtam and Barnesbeg, and in 1984 he got the billet as Manager of Maragaret's Hope TG, which recently commemorated its 150th year. In Castleton, the garden was accorded world record prices of tea per kg in 1990 and 1991, after which he was posted to Kumargram, from where he eventually retired from Goodricke in 1995.

His persona as gentle, affectionate, hard-working, and caring, and an intellectual, will outlive the numerous achievements and the challenges he traversed.

— by Neelam Narain



**Birendra (Veeru) Narain**

# Between us

July to December 2014

## New Appointments

<b>Dr. Alok Das</b>	Medical Officer	Leesh River
<b>Saumen Ghosh</b>	Regional Sales Manager	Kolkata
<b>TK Sonwal</b>	Labour Welfare Officer	Orangajuli
<b>Sunny Parashar</b>	Commercial Officer	Zirakpur
<b>Vishal Vanwani</b>	Assistant Manager	Leesh River
<b>Dipendra Shrestha</b>	Labour Welfare Officer	Aibheel

## Promotions

<b>PK Singh</b>	Acting Manager to Manager
<b>RS Gill</b>	Acting Manager to Manager
<b>P Chatterjee</b>	Acting Manager to Manager
<b>RP Tewari</b>	Dy. Manager to Manager

## Newly-weds

**Aruna & Prafulla Mahat** of *Koomber*  
**Ishita & Debdip Ghosh** of *Kolkata*  
**Priya & Arnab Mondal** of *Kolkata*

## New-borns

**Jhuma & Tathagata Bhattacharya** of *Gandrapara* – a baby boy, on 4th August  
**Priyakshi and Mitra Borah** of *Lakhipara* – a baby girl, on 20th October  
**Kalpna and Digvijay Sharma** of *Danguajhar* – a baby boy, on 1st December  
**Anshul and Praveen Sharma** of *Aibheel* – a baby girl, on 18th December

## Silver Wedding Anniversary

**Sujata and Subhasish Ghosh** of *Kolkata*  
**Bandita and Atul Asthana** of *Kolkata*  
**Urmi and Arjun Sengupta** of *Kolkata*

# Meet your colleagues



**Saunak Mitra**  
*Manager (Operations)*

**S**aunak was born in Cooch Behar, a district town in North Bengal. He studied in Jenkins Higher Secondary School and after graduation in Science he moved to Kolkata for further studies. To support himself he

had to look for jobs; his first was with a bank for a brief period and then Saunak joined the Goodricke Group in early 1986 at HO.

To start with he was with the Internal Audit for couple of years, after which he shifted to the Operations Department looking after Budgeting, Cost control etc., apart from visiting the gardens for other assignments.

Saunak is a keen music lover especially Ghazals and Indian classical; this passion takes him all over the city attending concerts. At other times he is content spending time with his family and friends.

Saunak's wife, Shrimoyee, studied at South Point School, Kolkata, and, soon after completing graduation in English, joined a reputed organization in Kolkata. She however left the job after marriage to devote time to her family. She has proved to be a braveheart by donating her kidney to Saunak who is a renal transplant patient.

Ramyani, their daughter, has completed her schooling from GD Birla Centre for Education and is presently studying BSc in Mathematics in Gokhale Memorial Girls' College. She is a trained Odissi dancer and has performed in various cultural events.



**Dhribajyoti Baruah**  
*Sr. Manager*

**D**hribajyoti, better known as Dhrubo, clearly is a man who places action over words. Soft-spoken Dhribho hails from one of our prettier Assam districts of Sivasagar. Born in 1962, he studied in Amguri town and went on to do his post-graduation in Economics from Dibrugarh University where he specialized in Agriculture Economics.

Dhribho started his innings in Borbam Tea Garden under Amgoorie India Limited in 1987. After a ten-year stint there he moved to Orangajuli, where he worked till his next transfer took him to Harmutty, and after just seven months returned to Borbam for an 'acting'. In 2004 he moved to Orangajuli as Acting Manager where he was confirmed as Manager and worked till 2010. From 2011 to 2014 he was posted at Sessa. Presently he is at Borpatra as Sr. Manager.

Dhribho is a keen sportsman and played cricket for his University. Now he is an enthusiastic tennis player and has passed on his obsession with the game to his family. Shantana whom he married in 1992, shared his

enthusiasm and learnt and excelled in the sport under his guidance. She, along with her husband, was frequently spotted on the tea club courts and is now a regular Veteran Tennis player of the All Assam Tennis Association, Chachal Complex, in Guwahati. Their son Amlanjyoti Baruah, has proved himself in tennis at the state and national level. He was crowned the Assam State Champion in 2014 and has now started entering in Senior Professional Circuit Tournaments. Their daughter Neethi studies in Class X, and continuing the family tradition of sports excellence, represents the Junior Assam team and the Guwahati District team.

# Our young world

## A Book Review

### An East African Journey *by Charles Handy*



— by Vikramjit Lama (son of Ishwar Lama)

*“ This opens up our eyes, broadens our horizon, and widens our knowledge and appreciation for the tea industry and all the people working in it. ”*

The book 'An East African Journey' written by Mr. Charles Handy is an excellent read. The book is a record of some of the people Mr. and Mrs. Handy met and of the work they did during their tour of East Africa in November, 2012. The couple were invited by Mr. Malcolm Perkins, the Chairman of Camellia to visit the Group's properties in Kenya and Malawi. The book is in the form of short commentaries by Mr. Handy interspersed with the photographs shot by Mrs. Elizabeth Handy. The portrait photography of Mrs. Elizabeth Handy is excellent, and captures vividly all the emotions and beauty of the people living and working in the vast tea gardens of Eastern Produce Ltd. The commentary in the entirety of the book is very interesting, entertaining and lucid- all at the same time- and captivating and encouraging me to read it right from the start till the finish. An enthused reader will take no time to go through this book.

It is through this book that we get to have a glimpse of the beauty of the Nandi Hills tea estate, of the scenic gardens in Kazuki where pineapples, avocados and macadamia nuts are grown for export as well as local sale, and of the gardens in Malawi resting on the laps of the majestic Mt. Mulanje. We get to see 'the same job' (tea growing) being done by different people in a different continent. This opens up our eyes, broadens our horizon, and widens our knowledge and appreciation for the tea industry and all the people working in it.

This book helps in throwing a good amount of light about the work and

lives of the management and the plantation workers working there. Nowhere else have I seen such beautiful worker quarters as the one photographed by Mrs. Elizabeth Handy. Not only do the quarters look clean and immaculate, most of the residents also practise kitchen gardening, and have a chart prepared by the management which talks about the nutritional value of the vegetables grown by them.

The author then goes on to talk about the challenges that the tea management face. The author rightly describes the role of the management when he says that running a tea estate is more like "being the mayor of a small town" instead of just "managing a business". Managing a tea estate is definitely not an easy job since one needs to always ensure a balance between "social responsibility" and "business efficiency". In this regard, the author rightly states that in the tea industry the two are "inextricably intertwined" and that we "could not envisage one without the other". Going through the book, one gets to see how well the welfare of the plantation workers and their children is undertaken by the management. There are good elementary schools and health clinics for the plantation workers and their children.

In the end after going through the book, one can conclude that Camellia Plc is a very special company, and "a model of enlightened capitalism" in the words of the author. Rightly so, the structure, the values, and the culture of Camellia Plc can be a model for other businesses.



**Ashwika Kapur**  
(daughter of Ashwani Kapur, *Retd.*)



## Kolkata's Ashwika Kapur wins Green Oscar

**'Sirocco – How A Dud Became A Stud',** – a film about the only bird in the world with a government job in New Zealand, wins newcomer award

India's only entry this year at the Panda Awards, *Sirocco—How A Dud Became A Stud*, won the Icon Film Newcomer Award in Bristol. Directed by Ashwika Kapur, 27, the documentary is about a New Zealand parrot who is the official spokesperson for conservation.

*Sirocco* beat competition from the US film, *Pride*, and the UK film, *We Are Rhino*. Wildlife filmmaker Mike Pandey is among the few Indians who have won this award, also known as the Green Oscar, in the past.

"Symbolically, this award is important as it's the highest accolade in the industry. But I didn't make *Sirocco* expecting any awards," Kapur said after her victory from Bristol, where she collected the award on Thursday in the presence of David Attenborough. "I was simply doing my best, and that's always going to be my attitude towards my work: to always give it my best shot. The rest will follow."

Kapur's interest in animals and birds started when she brought home a duckling when she was four. "My unsuspecting parents didn't realize that the little duckling I brought home would be the beginning of a mini menagerie in their 12th-floor apartment. That's how I fell in love with animals," said Kapur, who studied wildlife filmmaking at University of Otago in New Zealand. "A few years later, I became a child actor in Calcutta (now Kolkata) and I acted in several commercials and TV shows. And that's how I fell in love with films. Post-college,

when it was time to decide upon a career, I followed my heart, put my two loves together and declared that I was going to be a wildlife filmmaker."

Kapur made her film on *Sirocco*, a kakapo (night parrot in the Maori language), as her university project on a shoestring budget of just £500 (around Rs.49,350 today) last year.

"As a filmmaker, I believe that natural history documentaries should both educate and entertain. So, when I was researching story ideas for my graduation film, I was looking for a subject that would strike that balance," she said. "While researching kakapo, I came across *Sirocco*, a bird that incidentally happened to think he was a human being. *Sirocco* was an absolute character. So I chose to tell his life story in the form of a rags-to-riches tale through which audiences learn about this very unique species at large."

Kakapos are a flightless, nocturnal, ground-dwelling species of parrot in New Zealand that are critically endangered.

There are less than 150 of these birds surviving in the wild, according to information available on the Kakapo Recovery Programme's website.

In a male-dominated field, Kapur is holding her own and enjoying the challenges wildlife filmmaking throws at her.

"It takes years to make your bones in the industry. You have to make your peace with being in all sorts of

dangerous situations, permissions to film in national parks are a nightmare, and the competition is fierce, even though there are only a small number of people pursuing it full time. The only way to get ahead is to let your work talk for itself. And for that you need skill and determination," she said. "The payoff is the things you experience in the wild. You get to see the most amazing places, travel the world and film the most incredible animals out there. You get to climb trees and sleep under stars, you get to drink from mountain rivers and capture all that magic on your camera to share with the world. The upsides outweigh all the countless challenges."

Kapur is currently involved in the filming and production of two wildlife shows in India for Animal Planet. She also conducts workshops for students and parents where she uses her experience in wildlife filmmaking to create awareness that there are career options outside the standard box, and though these are challenging, they can be extremely fulfilling. Kapur wants to be able to continue to tell incredible animal stories from around the world and keep reminding people what a weird yet wonderful world we live in. "Kapur is a hard-working and earnest wildlife filmmaker and photographer," said Bangalore-based conservationist Gerry Martin. "Her winning this award at such a young age is great news for wildlife photographers and conservationists in India."

— by Shrenik Avlani  
*Published in Live Mint, 25 October 2014*

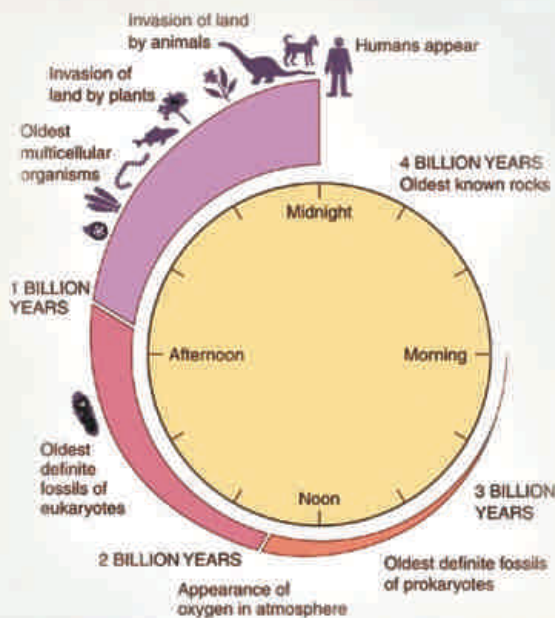
# Evolution, briefly

*Bill Bryson's popular "A Short History of Nearly everything" has been around for a long time, but its contents are unlikely to get dated soon.*

*In this unusual science book he treats heavy and complex subjects such as relativity and quantum physics with a light touch, forsaking the dry lifeless prose of normal science books to take us on a brilliantly entertaining voyage of discovery with his trademark quirky humour and wit. This is science at its entertaining best.*

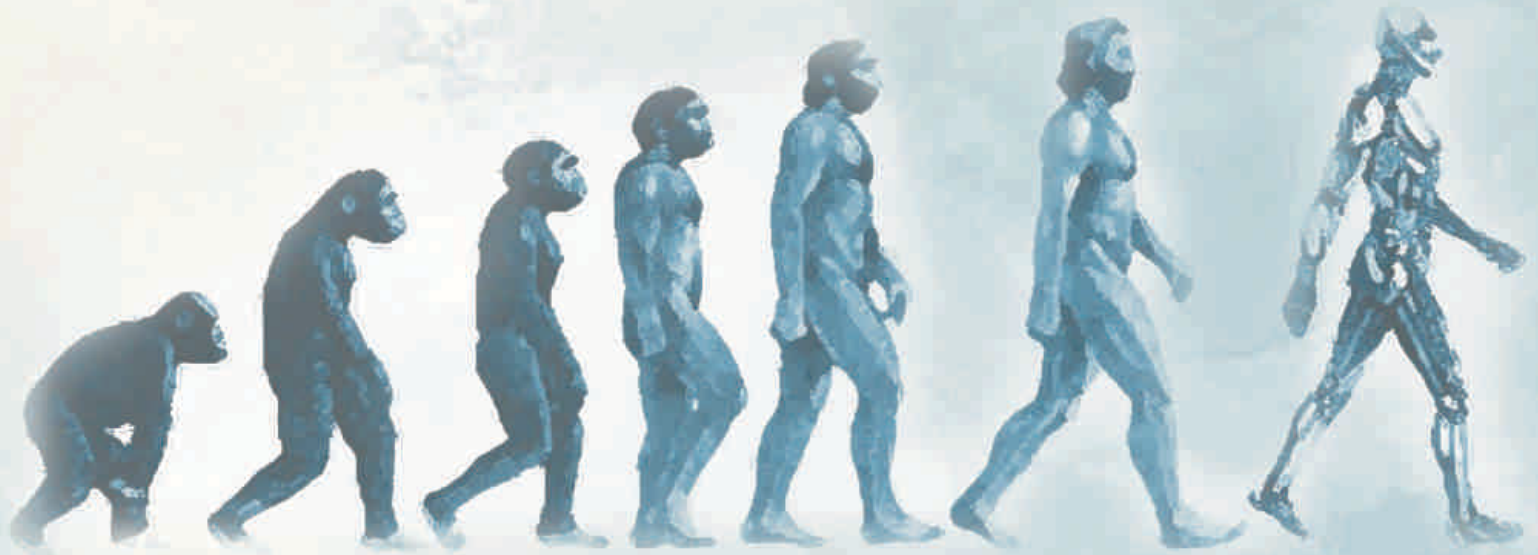
*Bryson is better known for his wittily-written travelogues; this too is an incredibly ambitious travelogue where he invites us to journey with him, not to places, but through time and space showing us its' incomprehensible vastness and complexity.*

*In these extracts Bryson simplifies the story of how life evolved on earth and also puts man firmly in his place in the grand scheme.....*



“If you imagine the 4,500-billion-odd years of Earth’s history compressed into a normal earthly day, then life begins very early, about 4 am, with the rise of the first simple, single-celled organisms, but then advances no further for the next sixteen hours. Not until almost 8:30 in the evening, with the day five-sixths over, has Earth anything to show the universe but a restless skin of microbes. Then, finally, the first sea plants appear, followed twenty minutes later by the first jellyfish and the enigmatic Ediacaran fauna first seen by Reginald Sprigg in Australia. At 9:04 pm trilobites swim onto the scene, followed more or less immediately by the shapely creatures of the Burgess Shale. Just before 10 pm plants begin to pop up on the land. Soon after, with less than two hours left in the day, the first land creatures follow.

Thanks to ten minutes or so of balmy weather, by 10:24 the Earth is covered in the great carboniferous forests whose residues give us all our coal, and the first winged insects are evident. Dinosaurs plod onto the scene just before 11 pm and hold sway for about three-quarters of an hour. At twenty-one minutes to midnight they vanish and the age of mammals begins. Humans emerge one minute and seventeen seconds before midnight. The whole of our recorded history, on this scale, would be no more than a few seconds, a single human lifetime barely an instant.



Throughout this greatly speeded-up day continents slide about and bang together at a clip that seems positively reckless. Mountains rise and melt away, ocean basins come and go, ice sheets advance and withdraw. And throughout the whole, about three times every minute, somewhere on the planet there is a flash-bulb pop of light marking the impact of a Manson-sized meteor or one even larger. It's a wonder that anything at all can survive in such a pummeled and unsettled environment. In fact, not many things do for long. ”

“ If this book has a lesson, it is that we are awfully lucky to be here-- and by "we" I mean every living thing. To attain any kind of life in this universe of ours appears to be quite an achievement. As humans we are doubly lucky, of course: We enjoy not only the privilege of existence but also the singular ability to appreciate it and even, in a multitude of ways, to make it better. It is a talent we have only barely begun to grasp.

We have arrived at this position of eminence in a stunningly short time. Behaviorally modern human beings-- that is, people who can speak and make art and organize complex activities-- have existed for only about 0.0001 percent of Earth's history. But surviving for even that little while has required a nearly endless string of good fortune.

We really are at the beginning of it all. The trick, of course, is to make sure we never find the end. And that, almost certainly, will require a good deal more than lucky breaks. ”

We enjoy not only the  
privilege of existence  
but also the singular  
ability to appreciate it  
and even...

# On birdbaths in the lawn



— by Madhumita Neog, Kolkata

There's something about birdbaths that always engaged me in rapture. A common feature of most tea bungalow lawns, the birdbath was always more than a landscaping accessory. It was an escape into fairyland for a shy and passive girl, someone who had a pixie residing in her.

The birdbath occupied a prominent position in our lawns; always whitewashed, to make it visible enough for my feathered friends, whose flight I still fancy. On waking up every morning, I would long to catch a sight of my friends chirping away at the birdbath. I loved to see the dewy grass being warmed up by the happy sun. In fact, I could sit on the lawn watching the birdbath through the day, and only the honking of a vehicle at the driveway would draw me back into the reality of my world.

The lawn was a place of considerable human activity with the malis going about their usual chores such as mowing, weeding, planting and watering. One of them would fill the birdbath with some water from his 'Jhinjri' or watering can, while walking dutifully across the length of the lawn. The disciplined tasks of the malis would be punctuated with some

casual banter that invariably centred around the elephants coming from the adjoining forest to consume the rice beer made by the workers, and the consequences of dealing with an inebriated elephant!!

Then my winged friends would come and sit at the edge of the birdbath to sip some cool water and exchange a few notes with each other before resuming their flight. These were the moments I craved to see and never tired of. Every drop of water that trickled down their tiny beaks soothed me and their chirping beckoned me to join them.... they were messengers from Enid Blyton's fairyland. I was ever so eager to trade places with the pixies and fairies.

The afternoons were never to be wasted in siesta but to be spent lazing around with a book in my hand, waiting again for the birdbath to come alive. It stood tall and gracefully in the lawn encircled with a bed of dainty flowers. Every time the birds came, I thought they had some interesting news for me. The afternoon sun drew more birds to their oasis, the birdbath. I wondered if they were actually pixies in disguise, for I felt an unfathomable connect. Would they have some pixie dust for me, hiding in their little tails?!

I pondered over the position I'd like to choose for myself between a bird that fancies its flight and a birdbath that gave joy to the birds. I wished that by some druid's potion, I would shrink to the size of a falling leaf, just enough to be able to slip into the birdbath myself! Yes, that is a child's train of thought, justified from its own standpoint of reason.

The rains made me sad; it took away the joy of meeting my friends at the birdbath. I would sit on the edge of the wrought-iron chairs in the verandah, gazing silently at the birdbath, hoping in vain for my friends to show up at our usual rendezvous.

In my years of growing up, I learnt to give, like the birdbath; it has been a companion in my journey so far, making my heart resonate with the joy of giving. A poignant lesson that emerged from my experience was that beauty could only be felt with a heart that is pure and a mind that is uncluttered.

It is raining again, but I am not sad anymore. Haven't I transformed into the birdbath myself, giving and receiving such bliss that one calls 'a family'?

## My introduction to sports and games in tea



— by Loweta Saikia, Sankos TG



It is a well-known fact that sports and games play an important role in one's life. My interest in sports started in tea and it has not only helped to keep me healthy and fit, but has also instilled a spirit of self-reliance and self-confidence in me. It is a useful means of entertainment and physical activity, and helps remove our mental exhaustion and also helps keep one away from diseases relating to heart, obesity, mental stress and sleeplessness.

“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” – this is exactly what can happen in tea life. Sports keep all of us lively. Lawn tennis and golf are games which most of us learn in tea. I remember when I first came to tea life I was really depressed thinking life would be impossible to survive in tea but today I feel life in tea is fun if we keep ourselves busy, especially with sports and games. I never played lawn tennis before my marriage; it was 14 years back that I first played lawn tennis in Seleng Club; it was such an interesting game from the very first day. My game improved gradually and today I feel I am a decent tennis player. When I was at Lakhipara I was introduced to golf which is also an interesting game. People are amazed when they hear from me that I

too have won a few prizes in lawn tennis, table-tennis, golf, football and cricket, after marriage in tea.

With excellent club facilities, tea life gives us the unique opportunity to engage ourselves in sports and games which are not easily accessible elsewhere.

“Sports keep all of us lively. Lawn tennis and golf are games which most of us learn in tea.”



# Recipes



– by Sinam Rai, *Thurbo TG*



## Ginger cookies

### Ingredients

Butter	100 gms
Sugar	100 gms + 20 gms for caramel
Fresh ginger paste	20 gms
Baking soda	½ tea spoon
Flour	200 gms

### Method

Mix sugar and butter in a mixing bowl until creamy. Add ginger paste and set aside. Caramelize 20 gms sugar and mix it with the above mixture.

Sieve flour with baking soda and add to the mixture to make a dough.

Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface. Cut out the cookies using a cookie cutter, sprinkle some sugar crystals and bake in a preheated oven at 180 degrees C for 15 minutes.

### Kitchen tips

- To prevent a quiche pie crust from becoming soggy, partially bake the empty crust at 200 C for 15 minutes, Brush lightly with a little beaten egg-white and return to oven for 3 or 4 minutes. Pour filling into pie shell just before baking.
- When replacing dried herbs with fresh herbs use twice the amount.
- If you over salt your soup or curry, de-salt it by adding slices of a raw potato and boil it for a short time. Remove and discard the potato slices.
- When baking bread, a small bowl of water in the oven helps keep the crust from getting hard.
- Crack hard-boiled eggs and let sit in cold water for several minutes for easier peeling.
- Add sugar and a little lime juice to the cooking water for corn on the cob. Salt will toughen it.
- Dust with cocoa instead of flour when preparing baking pan for chocolate cake.

– Sudha Levin



– by Maitreyee Borgohain, Borbam TG

## Toffee apple trifle

### Ingredients

Peeled, cored and chopped apples	2
Caster sugar	70 gms
A squeeze of lemon juice	
Toffee sauce	6 tablespoon
Shortbread biscuits ( <i>preferably Good Day Biscuit</i> )	6
Whipping cream	150 ml
Icing sugar	
Toasted almonds, to serve	
Little butter	



### Method

1. In a saucepan put a little butter and then the apples with the caster sugar and a squeeze of lemon juice. Cook for 10 minutes until really soft, then mash with a fork until smooth.
2. Swirl through the toffee sauce. Divide between 6 individual glass bowls and crumble the shortbread biscuits over.
3. Whip the cream, sweeten the icing sugar and add to the cream. Spoon over the crumbs. Top with toasted almonds and serve.

**TIPS: For toffee sauce:** Melt 15 nos of Eclairs Toffee in a bowl over a pan of gently simmering water – don't let the bowl touch the water. Gently melt the toffees until smooth, then remove from the heat and cool a little.

## Pumpkin pudding

### Ingredients

Red pumpkin 1 cm cubes	700 g
Sugar	1 & ½ cups
Cornflour	1 & ½ tablespoon
Milk	1 & ½ cups
Cinnamon powder	½ tablespoon
Hazelnuts, roasted and crushed	½ cup & 2 tablespoon
Grated coconut	2 tablespoon
Pomegranate pearls	
Ghee	2 tablespoon

### Method

1. Place pumpkin pieces in a large pan. Add sugar and one cup of water. Cover and cook on medium heat for about twenty-five to thirty minutes.
2. Mix cornflour with milk till smooth. Once the

pumpkin is cooked add the cornflour-milk mixture and mix. Cook till the mixture thickens.

3. Sprinkle cinnamon powder. Add half cup of crushed hazelnuts, grated coconut and mix.
4. Then put the ghee and allow to cook for five more minutes.
5. Transfer the mixture into a serving dish. Sprinkle remaining hazelnuts and pomegranate pearls and serve.



# Everything happens for a reason...



— by Sangeeta Krishan, Jiti TG

Judge her, not for her looks...  
Her spirit is beautiful.

Look, not at her attributes..  
She is self-reliant.

Search, not her shortcomings...  
She is human.

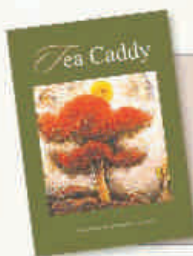
But who are we, in any case..  
To pass judgement?

She is a woman...  
Plain and simple.

With a mind of her own..clear and direct.  
A soul..which puts the other before she does herself.  
A heart, if touched..can do the impossible.  
A will, so strong..if aroused..can move mountains.  
Her love, so selfless..that it makes you wonder.  
A passion, so powerful..that no flood can drown.

And..if seen otherwise..  
She has her reason..

So believe in her,..cherish and value her  
For what she is..and the way she is.



Tea Caddy welcomes on board new editorial team members Nandita Sen, Sangeeta Krishan and Nishaat Ahmed who will be representing Darjeeling, Dooars and Assam respectively. Contributors are requested to send their articles to their representative.

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