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ISSUE

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# U.S. Peter: The Iconic Tailor Shop

By: Tan Mei Kuan



Sardar Pertap Singh



Pertap with his eldest grandchild



Pertap with his team



Pertap's grandchildren outside the shop after his passing

**D**id you know that the present site of Burps & Giggles boutique cafe was formerly a tailor shop named U.S. Peter? The keen-eyed ones would notice as its faded signboard, along Jalan Sultan Yussuf (Belfield Street), is visible and, happily, is retained by the new proprietor. Read on as we unveil the heartwarming story of a craft business born out of love by the late Sardar Pertap Singh.

*Continued on page 2*

## MOVIE ANIMATION PARK STUDIOS

**M**ovie Animation Park Studios (MAPS) is celebrating the dawn of the New Year by offering tickets to a dream experience from RM50 beginning January till the end of March.

The ultimate animation theme park in Asia is located in Meru Raya, Ipoh and is reputed to be among the most visited tourism spots, especially during school and public holidays, in the country.

MAPS features games and characters adapted from international and local animation series, a wholesome appeal to your whole family.

There are a total of six themed zones namely, Animation Square, Dream Zone, Blast-Off Zone, Live Action Zone, Fantasy Forest Zone and Lakeside Zone with over 40 exciting games for that one memorable experience.

Move over to the Stunt Legend Arena for live-car and motorcycle stunt shows, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia.

Step into the *BoBoiBoy 4D Adventure Theater* and *BoBoiBoy Hero Academy* to experience the adventure of Malaysia's favourite TV character as well as *The Smurfs Theater* for an interactive animated show.

Don't forget to drop by *Space Face* to get your face painted like your favourite superheroes.

Other attractions include HyperSpin, Asteroid Attack, The Adventurous Cartoon Factory, The Smurfs (Live Attraction, Party Land and The Smurfs Club House), Wormhole Technologies, International Cultural Celebration and Selfie Boardwalk.

Then, saunter and enjoy delicacies on sale at cafes with varying concepts.

You'll find yourself returning to MAPS for more, as one day is never enough!

Operation hours: Saturday (10am-6pm), Sunday, Public Holiday, School Holiday (10am-10pm).



By: Rosli Mansor Ahmad Razali

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## U.S. Peter – More Than a Shop

### How It All Began

In 1928, 21-year-old Sardar Pertap Singh from Jalandhar, Punjab arrived in Malaya on a ship with just a bag on his back looking for a job. A tailor back in India, he had heard so much about Malaya and decided to try his luck in the British colony.

Initially, he worked as a tailor at a British-owned departmental store at 33, Station Road. His own tailoring shop, U.S. Peter, was established in 1936.

Ipoh Echo spoke to 48-year-old Charanjeet Kaur, a granddaughter of Pertap for the full story. “U.S. Peter is named after my great grandfather, Utham Singh, thus ‘U.S.’. Meanwhile, ‘Pertap’ became ‘Peter’, the name given by the lady boss of the store where he worked since she could not pronounce the latter,” explained Charanjeet.

Leading a team of twelve tailors, Pertap sewed dresses, gowns and men's clothing for the British officers and their wives for social events. He was known for his meticulous work and thus became a household name among the European community in Ipoh.

“He loved his job as a tailor and took pride in his sewing. Many who knew my late grandfather can attest to that. I used to look forward to visit him as I’d get new clothes each time,” Charanjeet enthused.

“According to my mother, Jasbir Kaur, my late grandfather's family business back in Jalandhar, India was also tailoring. His uncles were tailors and he joined them soon after he obtained a certificate in tailoring. A British woman who was residing in Jalandhar taught my grandfather and his uncles the trade secrets and was their mentor,” she continued.

### Overcoming Obstacles

In 1945, he was arrested by the Japanese and taken to Batu Gajah. During the Japanese occupation period, no one was allowed to sell black cloth which was deemed to be going against the Japanese. Fortunately, during the arrest, a Japanese officer recognised him and told the superior that Pertap had black cloth in his shop as he was a tailor. He was released soon after.

A few months later, the shop was broken into and Pertap lost quality materials, most of the ready-tailored clothes as well as family jewellery which were kept in the shop. His business suffered subsequently but he continued to sew, as he had to repay his customers. Some of the generous ones passed the hat around to help him out.

Growing up in the shop, 78-year-old Jasbir Kaur recalled, “Although he lost everything he was always positive-minded. When business was booming we had new clothes almost every week. He was a well-respected figure in the community and was helpful to anyone in need.”

“It was his determination and hard work that we children admired the most,” she added. Jasbir and her older sister, the late Mahinder Kaur, learned tailoring to assist him.

After the robbery, Pertap started to sew for the local community and craft costumes for Indian classical dancers. The local tailors stayed back to help him while the rest went back to India. Eventually the local ones also left to look for greener pastures.

### Remembering Pertap

Mahinder's husband, 88-year-old Dharam Pal said, “He was a very humble man and a wonderful father-in-law who treated me like a son. We could sit for hours talking. He would go to Ipoh Wadda Gurdwara daily to do volunteer service. He never missed his prayers.”

Pertap's third grandchild, 49-year-old Anuradha Rani chipped, “As a child what I remember most was a tuck shop inside my grandfather's shop.”

“Grandfather would say, ‘Take whatever you want!’ so we used to fill our pockets with sweets, chocolates and comic books not realising that he would have to pay for it later,” chuckled Rani.

Meanwhile, the seventh grandchild, Hanns Raaj Singh added, “He used to tell me stories about his past, especially during his time in Malaya. I used to play with his sewing tools and sit with him for hours to see him doing his work.”

“My grandfather was a soft-spoken and humble man. I remember



Charanjeet Kaur



47-year-old dress made by Pertap for Charanjeet's third birthday



Pertap's sewing machine hailing back to 1936



Dharam Pal, Pertap's son-in-law (middle) together with Pertap

he only wore a white shirt, white turban and dark-coloured pants (either black or blue). His always had his signature black umbrella as his walking aid. To this date, I still have the dress which he sewed for my third birthday,” Charanjeet shared.

“He’d take us to a Chinese restaurant, which is running till today, at the back of his shop lot for *chee cheong fun* (rice noodle roll),” she reminisced.

When asked for her views on the preservation of pre-war shops in Ipoh, she opined, “It’s a wonderful idea. There’s always a story waiting to be told like my grandfather's shop.”

“My grandfather's shop was abandoned for many years. When Ipoh City Council decided to transform the old Belfield Street into a heritage street, we’re pleased that our grandfather’s shop would be preserved for good. Plus, it’s a nice gesture for the owner of Burps & Giggles to retain the signboard and old decor as they were. Every time we are in Ipoh we will stop by the shop just to take a peek and feel a sense of pride seeing the signboard,” she elaborated.

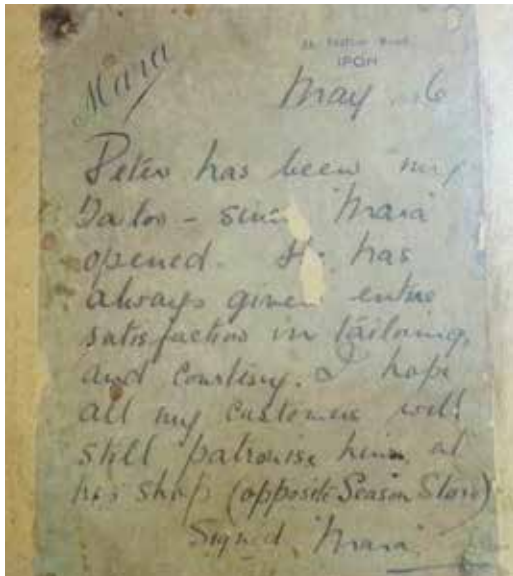


Current facade

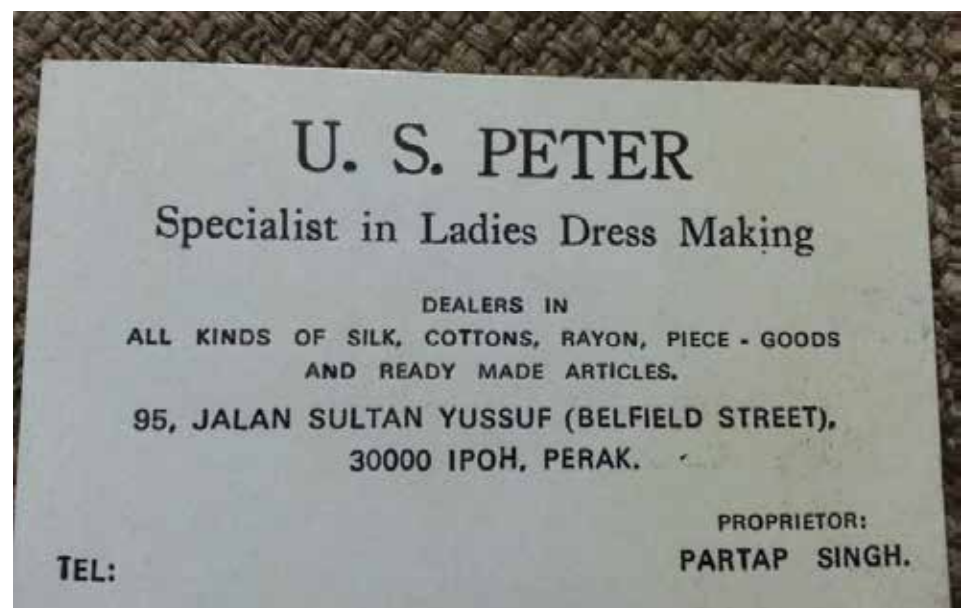
### Possible Reunion

“My grandfather had a helper, a Chinese lady we only knew as Missy. Among the tailors in my grandfather’s team, she stayed back the longest. She was the last person to work with my grandfather before he passed on in 1994. She was a petite lady and hailed from Buntong. She wore only samfu. I’d like to locate her, if she’s still alive,” she added.

Readers who remember that era or were friends with Pertap can get in touch with Charanjeet for a reunion by calling **016 274 4635** or email: [charankaur6669@gmail.com](mailto:charankaur6669@gmail.com)



Appreciation letter from MARA to Pertap



Business name card





From The  
**Editor's Desk**

By Fathol Zaman Bukhari

# A CAT AND MOUSE GAME

*There are laws prohibiting littering but they are seldom enforced, as the punishments do not reflect the severity of the offence.*

I like to look on the bright side although there is not much brightness to look at for the moment. The day I received a text from Syahrizal Azmi, Ipoh City Council's over-worked Public Relations Officer, alluding to a cleaning campaign in progress, I thought it was just another gimmick forced upon the poor guy. His eagerness in passing the news to media representatives in his WhatsApp group, along with photos and figures on the clean-up campaign, was rather strange. It was not the laidback Syahrizal that I have the "misfortune" of knowing for the last 12 years.

Syahrizal relayed a steady stream of information and photos providing details of actions taken to keep the city spotlessly clean.

What had gotten into the guy, I asked? Was he under some form of substance influence or was he being directed by a superior and was acting like a puppet on a string. When Syahrizal (Syah) acts strange we know something good or bad is happening at Ipoh City Council. The good thing about Syah is that he never shies away from his media friends however obnoxious they may be. He will answer whatever queries put across to him and he does so promptly and with finesse.

The council had embarked on a cleaning operation, upon the direction of Mayor Dato' Zamri Man, dubbed "Operasi Cari Sampah" (Operation Rubbish Hunt) beginning on Thursday, January 18. The reason was obvious. Having been nominated the cleanest city in Malaysia, and was amply awarded in the process, plenty of face-saving measures need to be taken in order to live up to the recognition. But Muar too has also been declared the cleanest city in Malaysia recently. Wonder which is the cleaner of the two? I will leave that to conjecture considering the sensitivity of the matter.

Incidentally, Ipoh had been known as the cleanest town in the country during the 1960s when the Seenivasagam brothers, from the once all-powerful People's Progressive Party, were in charge. In those hazy days local council elections were still the order of the day only to be suspended later.

The 1960s was a challenging time for local authorities in the country. They faced many problems regarding internal politics and administration. Indonesia's opposition against the formation of Malaysia in 1963 forced the federal government to suspend local council elections in 1965. The suspension was formalised with the passing of the Emergency (Suspension of Local Government Elections) Regulations 1965 and its amendment on the same year. Since then, local governments in Malaysia have not been elected. This impediment has a serious impact on the promised political reforms ordinary Malaysians have long envisaged.

The fact that the *rakyat* could determine what was good and bad for their neighbourhood was the icing on the cake before the passage of the enactment.

The rubbish-clearing operation is a weekly affair contingent upon request and reports made to the council. To date over ten such operations had been conducted and over 300 tons of rubbish had been cleared. I was elated when uncollected rubbish was cleared from my neck of the woods in Taman Cyber, adjacent to Taman Botani, on Monday, February 12. However, what happened next defies belief. Barely a day after the area was cleared, I chanced upon a fresh pile of garbage consisting of boxes and discarded papers at a clearing. This unsightly pile appeared in spite of warning signs posted at the blighted spot. The perpetrators, obviously, were impervious to warnings however discerning they may be. I am lost for words.

Are Ipohites so insensitive? Do they really care for the environment? Must they treat the whole city as one huge garbage dump? Has littering become a habit or perhaps a hobby? I don't have the answers. The biggest culprits are those engaged in clearing rubbish and garbage. They find the easy way out flouting council by-laws by disposing their 'precious cargos' at illegal dumpsites all over the city.

The action of the guy, caught on camera (see pics), dumping rubbish in my taman speaks volumes about his attitude and demeanour. It is endemic, especially among the working class and those with little or no self-pride. There are laws prohibiting littering but they are seldom enforced, as the punishments do not reflect the severity of the offence. So it has become a cat and mouse game. No amount of warnings and signage will deter the culprits from doing what they do best.

So, Mayor Zamri Man, I don't really think your badgering would amount to anything. Your threat to come down hard on habitual litter bugs is slowly, but surely, losing its sting. I shall leave it at that.

The conviction of graphic designer Fahmi Reza by the Ipoh Sessions Court on Tuesday, February 20 has rattled the legal fraternity. Fahmi was sentenced to a month's jail and fined RM30,000. He was charged under the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (Act 588) for uploading, on his Facebook page, a caricature of Prime Minister Najib with a clown face. Law expert Aziz Bari opined that the "country was showing signs of totalitarianism with laws being used against critics of certain politicians."

"If laws were used selectively to protect one individual or a special group from legitimate criticism, it echoes of "lese majeste" (insulting of a monarch) as practised in Thailand," said Universiti Malaya law lecturer, Azmi Sharom.

On the same day and at the same Sessions Court 36 men were charged with gang-related activities. They were charged under Section 130 of the Penal Code for being



members and of assisting an organised crime group – the notorious Gang 04. The men were between 20 to 60 years old. If found guilty they face imprisonment of up to 20 years.

The majority were Indians, 34 in fact. Back in the old days those in the dock would be Chinese who were apprehended for triad activities. Their place has been taken over by Indians. Could economic factors be the reason behind this unhealthy trend?

## EYE HEALTH — BLEPHARITIS

*Ipoh Echo's EYE HEALTH series continues with Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. GILL talking to us about BLEPHARITIS.*

Blepharitis is the "inflammation of the eyelids", a condition that results in the **eyelid margins** becoming inflamed. It usually is **chronic**, causing irritation on and off and often results in the eyelids becoming swollen, crusted and red. Blepharitis is derived from the Greek word "*blepharos*", which means "eyelid" and "*itis*" which means inflammation.

It is similar in nature to chronic skin conditions like eczema except that blepharitis affects the eyelids and that too mainly the eyelid **margins**. Ladies especially find it a problem because it makes their eye makeup application difficult.



**Dr S.S. Gill**  
Resident Consultant  
Ophthalmologist,  
Hospital Fatimah

### SYMPTOMS

The eyelids usually appear crusted, red and swollen. The crust is yellowish-white and powdery like the scalp of a person who suffers from dandruff. There may be varied symptoms. In most cases, the eyes become itchy, irritated and sometimes feel dry due to the disruption of the layer of tear film that is normally present in the eye. Contact lens wearers may complain of discomfort and a gritty sensation. This is often mistaken by the layman as "dry eyes".

### Symptoms of blepharitis may include the following:

- > Swollen and red eyelids
- > Crusting on the eyelashes
- > gritty, burning or itching feeling in your eyes
- > eyelids sticking together
- > scaly or greasy eyelids
- > difficulty in wearing your contact lenses
- > blurred vision when the eyelid produces the oily secretions that get in to the eye.



People with **skin conditions** such as rosacea or seborrheic dermatitis (like dandruff in the scalp) are more prone to blepharitis. The increased oil produced by the glands near the eyelid margins causes excess **bacterial growth** resulting in inflammation and redness. Another cause may be **contact dermatitis** due to allergies from a new makeup that you may have just started on.

### CAUSES OF BLEPHARITIS

When the oil glands at the eyelid margins malfunction and produces too much oil (sebaceous secretions), blepharitis can occur. At times, it may be associated with an underlying skin condition called Acne rosacea where there is already a generalised illness of the oil glands of the skin. Allergies to certain cosmetics like mascara, eyelid lotions, contact lens solutions, allergens in the air and some chemicals may also trigger blepharitis.

### ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

Blepharitis may cause the following:

#### 1. STYE:

This occurs when the oil glands of the eye gets infected. A lump appears on the eyelid margin in a localised area. There may be some pus seen on the tip of the stye (appearing like a pimple about to rupture), with surrounding redness of the eyelid.

#### 2. CHRONIC CONJUNCTIVITIS:

Blepharitis may cause recurrent bouts of conjunctivitis or pink eye. If this happens, eliminating this underlying problem is essential.

#### 3. CORNEA ULCERS:

Due to chronic irritation by the inflamed eyelids and or a misdirected eyelash growth, an ulcer may form on the cornea. Corneal ulcers are serious conditions.

*More on blepharitis in the next issue of Ipoh Echo.*

For more information, please call Gill Eye Specialist Centre, Hospital Fatimah **05 545 5582** or email [gilleycentre@dr.com](mailto:gilleycentre@dr.com)



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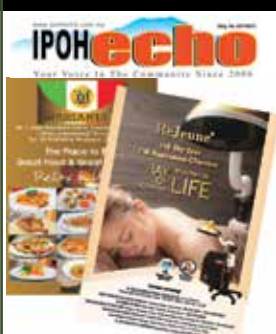
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# Modern-day Slavery is Alive and Thriving in Malaysia

Twenty-one-year-old Indonesian, Adelina Lisao, who was allegedly abused by her employers, died in the Bukit Mertajam Hospital on Sunday, February 11. A concerned neighbour had heard shouting from the house everyday and had also spotted bruises on Adelina, who had to sleep, for two months, on the porch beside a Rottweiler. They notified the Bukit Mertajam MP, Steven Sim, who tried to help Adelina by visiting her employer's house.

Adelina's employers refused to cooperate and told Sim to mind his own business. This did not stop him from attempting to help Adelina by lodging a report with the police.

The police were shocked when they saw the bruises on Adelina's head and face. They noticed chemical burns on her limbs, which had become infected. Adelina was immediately sent to the Bukit Mertajam hospital, but she died the following day.

Tenaganita volunteers who met with Adelina, said that she was so petrified by her ordeal that she was unable to talk about her abuse. The post mortem results showed that she was anaemic and had died of multiple organ failure.

On Wednesday, February 21, a 60-year-old woman, Ambika Shan, was charged with Adelina's murder at 67, Medan Kota Permai, Taman Kota Permai 2, Bukit Mertajam, about 4pm on 10 February. Her 36-year-old daughter, Jayavartiny Rajamanickam, was charged with illegally employing Adelina, who did not possess a valid pass, at the same place, between March 2017 and February 10.

The offence, under Section 55B (1) of the Immigration Act 1959/63, carries a maximum fine of RM50,000 and a maximum of 12 months' jail, or both.

A few years ago, 24-year-old Cambodian, Mey Sichan, died after being starved by her two Malaysian employers. At the time of her death, Mey weighed 26kg, this is less than the economy class baggage allowance on MAS flights overseas.

Mey's killers received a paltry 10-year jail sentence, after they appealed against the death sentence. Perhaps with good behaviour, her killers will be released early.

The lenient sentence for abusing and killing maids, in Malaysia, is not a deterrent. Will the same happen in Adelina's case? How many more deaths do we need before stiffer sentences will deter others from committing similar vile crimes?

Several hundred thousand foreign women come to our shores to help take care of our children, cook for our families, and clean our houses, cars and gardens. In many cases, maids become surrogate parents for those who are too busy to spend time with their children. Maids permit Malaysian women to pursue their ambitions and their careers.

So, how many more deaths will it take to prick our consciences, before we demand that enforcement, and stiff deterrents are imposed, on those who choose to treat these women worse than animals?

Aegile Fernandez, of the NGO Tenaganita, wrote about the lack of outrage by Malaysians, over these deaths? She is right. Where is our collective grief? Why do so few demand that our authorities act to stop more inhumane acts?

Many individuals think that because they have forked out RM12,000 to procure a maid, they are justified in treating their maids however they please. Our laws are so lax that many employers get away with abusing their maids, physically, mentally and sexually.

The Indonesian women who respond to adverts by local employment agencies, to work as live-in domestic workers overseas, bid their families farewell and often do not know what to expect when they arrive in Malaysia.

Many are delighted with their new employers, but a good number work and live in appalling conditions, endure loneliness and suffering, because they are in debt and need to earn money to send home to their families.

Many return to Indonesia with physical or mental scars. Some return home, in a box.

Foreign women who come to Malaysia as domestic workers are often exploited. They work from dawn until close to midnight. Some perform two jobs. Having taken care of the children and house in the morning, they are then taken by their employers to serve in their business premises.

Many maids are treated with contempt, from the time her employer sets her eyes on her. Most, if not all, have

their passports confiscated, not for safe keeping, but more as an 'insurance'. The employers do this to try to deter them from leaving the house.

"It is like living in a prison", said one maid. Although she accepted that she was not in Malaysia on a holiday, her trust in her employers faded when she found that the letters from her family, had been opened. She was not allowed to call home and once, when she wanted to return for her mother's funeral, was told that it was inconvenient, as it would clash with Hari Raya.

In October 2013, the late executive director of Tenaganita, Irene Fernandez, said that more than 90 percent of migrant domestic workers in Malaysia toiled for over 12 hours per day, averaging between 14 to 18 hours of work, with some managing only four hours of sleep per night.

She said that data compiled from helping around 2000 domestic workers, over an eight-year period, revealed a depressing situation and she warned, "The pattern of abuse is increasingly brutal and becoming life-threatening."

It is widely acknowledged that many maids are pinched, shouted at, or beaten by their employers and their employers' children. Some allege that they are only paid at the end of their contract and say that their wages are docked, even for minor damages.

Many do not have a proper place to sleep and are forced to work during illnesses. Others say that their employers are insensitive to their religious needs. Muslim maids are forced to handle pork, or bathe the family's dogs. Christian workers are denied time off to attend church on Sundays, or have a small altar of the Virgin Mary in their rooms.

Not all women who leave Indonesia are desperately poor. Some are helping other family members settle a debt, while others leave to escape disputes with other relatives. Most, however, are attempting to finance a new home, save for their children's education or pay the medical expenses of a sick relative.

So, what will it take to make more Malaysian employers treat their maids with respect and common decency?

## CHILD HEALTH

**Dr Shan Narayanan**  
Consultant General Paediatrician, Hospital Fatimah

### CROUP

#### WHAT IS CROUP?

Croup is a childhood condition that affects the voice box (larynx), windpipe (trachea), the airways to the lungs (the bronchi). It is thus also known as laryngotracheobronchitis. Croup usually affects young children aged between six months and three years, with most occurring in one-year-olds.

However, croup can sometimes develop in babies as young as three months, and older children up to 15 years of age. Adults can also get croup but this is rare.

#### WHAT CAUSES CROUP?

Croup usually develops as a result of viral infection. Parainfluenza virus is the most common virus that causes croup. Viruses such as Influenza A, B, Rhinovirus and Respiratory Syncytial Virus also can cause Croup. The infection causes swelling (inflammation) of the larynx, trachea and bronchi. The swelling makes the airway narrower, so it is harder to breathe.

#### HOW DOES CROUP SPREAD?

The virus spreads easily through coughing, sneezing, and respiratory secretions (mucus and droplets from coughing or sneezing). Children with croup should be considered contagious for three days after the illness begins or until the fever is gone.

#### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CROUP?

- Croup often begins like a normal cold, eg a runny nose and cough.
- The cough will change to become harsh and barking.
- The voice may be hoarse.
- They may have a harsh noise when breathing in, called 'stridor'.

The symptoms are often worse at night and reach their worst on the second or third night of the illness. The illness may last three to four days.

#### HOW IS CROUP DIAGNOSED?

Your child's doctor will ask his symptoms and examine him. The giveaway symptom is the harsh noise (stridor) when breathing in.

#### HOW IS CROUP TREATED?

Most of the time croup can be treated at home. Croup can be scary, as the child has a noisy breathing and at times can have breathing difficulty. Comforting your child and keeping him or her calm is important, as crying and unsettledness worsen airway obstruction.

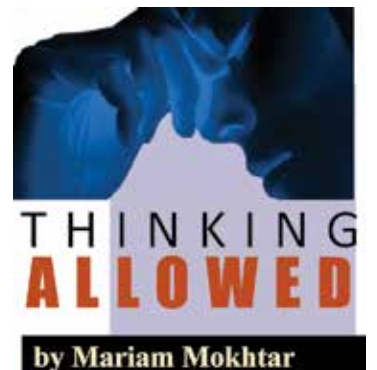
If the symptoms are persistent, consult your doctor. Your doctor will give him a steroid medication (dexamethasone) to reduce the airway swelling. Your child's fever will also be treated. If the child has breathing difficulty, your doctor may give him an inhaled medication, adrenaline.

Most cases of croup clear up within 48 hours. In some cases symptoms can last longer.

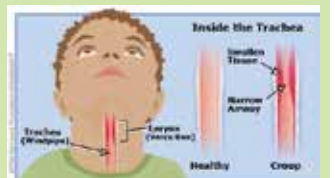
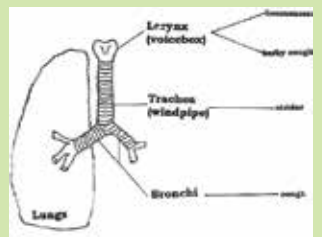
At times children develop complications such as pneumonia or middle ear infection. These are treated accordingly by your doctor.

#### HOW CAN I HELP TO PREVENT CROUP?

Croup is difficult to prevent. Good hygiene is the main defence against croup. Regular hand-washing and cleaning surfaces is the most important. Keeping your child away from anyone who is sick also helps. Keep your child's vaccination up to date. The diphtheria and Haemophilus influenza type b vaccines offer protection from some of the rarest but most dangerous upper airway infections. There isn't a vaccine yet that protects against parainfluenza viruses.



by Mariam Mokhtar



For more information, call Dr Shan's clinic at Hospital Fatimah 05-546 1345 or email [shaniea02@gmail.com](mailto:shaniea02@gmail.com).



# SeeFoon Uncovers Treasure in Pasir Pinji



**ON IPOH  
FOOD**



By SeeFoon Chan-Koppen  
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Pics by Vivien Lian



It's amazing what my notoriety as a food reviewer can bring. Here I was sitting one day in Crab House, my favourite Chinese restaurant when Fanny, the female half of the proprietorship told me that she had a brother a Master Hoong (Feng Shui) who also owned a restaurant and would I care to taste the food there?

I acquiesced but gave my usual caveat that I don't and won't promise a written review if I didn't find the food up to scratch.

So off we went one fine sunny lunchtime and sat down to dish after dish of what Chef KP Wong proudly presented.

To start with, their **pickled papaya** which is given gratis at every table is delicious. It is homemade and had all the right tastes (sweet without being cloying, sour without cringing), textures (crunchy) and made me crave to take a whole bottle home.

Our first dish was **chef's pork belly** deep fried served on 'Dao Pau' a type of Tofu 'pau' that is quite rare these days. Topped by a sweetish sauce, the pork belly with some crispiness juxtaposed against the soft tofu was a good balance – **RM20 for four**.

One dish which appears to have gone out of style and it was good to be reminded on how good it actually tastes is the **Yeen Yeong Kai Lan**, kale whose leaves are slivered and crisped contrasting with the sauteed stems which were crunchy and juicy – **RM16**.

Their homemade tofu appears to be one of their signature specialties and served as a miniature mound, topped with a choice of anything from shrimp to fish to pork to squid, with or without sauce, is a delight. Called **Kam San Tofu** (Golden Mountain) this is a 'must order' dish in this restaurant. Begins at **RM26**.

As their menu features a lot of 'Ka Heong' dishes, I asked if they do some of my favourite dishes to which Chef Wong obliged by producing a plate of **fried large intestines and sauteed fallopian tube**. A real treat for me as I can seldom find this as most people are squeamish about offal (on order).



Their next dish was equally exotic, a *Dao Si* (preserved black beans) **Yau Mak**, Kembong fish which is pickled and served on romaine lettuce. Yummilicious if you like *Dao Si* – **RM13**.

Their **Sambal Lo Shu Fun** was unusual although lacking in 'oomph' factor and could afford to go stronger on both the belacan and the chillies and could be more generous with the crispy lardons – **RM12 small**.

**Herbal Pork Knuckle** (RM28) was tender and umami and their **Ham Yu Yoke Pang**, which can be steamed or deep fried is just like grandma used to make.

**Baby Bak Choy with Goji Berries and Dong Guai** was an interesting departure from the

usual green vegetable norm with the *Dong Guai* permeating the whole dish. For those who enjoy the smell and taste of this pungent herb, wonderful. For those who don't, please do not order – **RM16**.

Moonlight is indeed a hidden treasure, offering a vast choice from country style cooking to grand displays of one dish meals....all elaborately displayed and perfect for celebrations. You'll have to go to the restaurant to see the selection and discuss with the very helpful Ah Fong who will help you to decide. If a special dish is what you're hankering for, like something your Grandma used to make, ask the chef if he can arrange it. Chef Wong is very helpful and amenable.



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## News

# Similarities...Not Differences

Malaysia achieved its independence in August 1957. The country is made up of people of different ethnicities and religions. Despite six decades of independence, dislike and distrust are prevalent among the races.

Though the problem may be deeply rooted, Our Mother of Perpetual Help (OMPH) Church, Ipoh organised a colloquium titled, "Interfaith Christmas Fellowship Lunch" with the assistance of the Diocese of Penang, the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael's Church Ipoh. The objective was to inculcate better understanding between races and religions.

The one-day event was held on Sunday, January 7 at OMPH. In attendance were Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and members of non-governmental organisations.

"We can live in a harmonious environment and talk about issues, sports and anything else while respecting our different beliefs. This is the first time this church is conducting such an event. I am pleased with the turnout," Reverend Joe Stephen told the media.

According to Reverend Joe, the church organised a similar event two years ago where speakers from different religions spoke about their religions and their practices. This gave others an insight into each other's belief.

Shazni Bhai Rashid, 29, a social worker shared his views about Islam. Instead of talking about the differences he spoke about the similarities.

"If I talk about differences it'll cause misunderstanding. If there are differences between sects and denominations what more between religions? We can talk about

whether Jesus is the son of God or the son of man, who gets to go to heaven or hell, which religion practises caste system, which is the oldest religion, will there be a judgement day or will there be reincarnation and so on. Why don't we talk about something more relevant?

For example, the condition of our environment," said Bhai.

"It's upsetting to hear news about houses of worship being destroyed and petitions made against other religions. I hope everybody will make a concerted effort to look at everyone, not just their religion but the characteristics that define the individual," added Reverend Joe.

The church is planning a peace walk in August this year. Watch this space. We will update readers about this upcoming event.

Ili Aqilah



## A New Ipoh Tree

After nearly a year since the iconic Ipoh Tree in front of the Ipoh Railway Station was uprooted during a storm, a new Ipoh tree was planted on Wednesday, February 21.

The tree-planting ceremony was led by Menteri Besar of Perak, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir together with two state Excos, Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon and Dato' Rusnah Kassim and Mayor of Ipoh, Dato' Zamri Man.

Zambry then took the chance to congratulate Ipoh City Council (MBI) for their efforts in keeping the city clean and more lively with trees and flowers scattered around the city.

"MBI has done an amazing job in maintaining the city. However, I hope the public will realize that they too are responsible to take care of the city," said Zamry who expressed his disappointment when he found out about the state of a flat at Taman Pertama, Silibin that was recently cleaned-up by the staff of MBI.

"It might be hard but I think it is time for the public to have a new habit. Take a look at how the Japanese have done it. Instead of dumping trash mercilessly on the road, the Japanese would instead keep the trash in their pockets and bags until they find a trash bin. This is something that I want Ipohites to do," added Zamry.

The Ipoh Tree, *Antiaris toxicaria*, is also known for its poisonous latex that was previously used by the hunting communities in Southeast Asia. There are currently two trees in Ipoh, one which was recently planted and another is at Taman DR Seenivasagam.

Ili Aqilah



## Property

## The Haven Expands

The Haven is renowned in Ipoh and it has been proven time and again what creativity and hard work can achieve. This is by no means an ordinary feat for any ordinary person from a medium-sized company located in a relatively quiet town better known for its food.

The Haven is a group that is acknowledged and honoured with a history of 46 accolades bestowed by local, national and international organisations to date. At The Brandlaureate SMEs Best Brands Awards 2017-2018 held on February 8, The Haven and its CEO, Peter Chan, walked away with two top awards.

This time around, The Haven received the 'Brand of the Year Award' while Peter Chan received the 'Man of the Year Award'. This is not the first time he has been recognised as an innovative, creative and outstanding leader. In 2013, he received 'The Property Man of the Year' given by the Malaysia Property Press Awards.

The 'Brand of the Year Award' was given to The Haven for two reasons. The first is being able to attract local Malaysian tourists to Ipoh. When thinking of a resort for relaxation and holiday, many locals will think of other notable spots. Most Malaysians do not consider Ipoh as being promotable. However, Ipoh today is on par with other major tourist hotspots such as Penang. This is due to the untiring efforts made by The Haven.

The second reason is how The Haven has attracted foreign tourists of 45 different nationalities to come to Ipoh. Though most are Singaporeans, the nationalities are spread out to countries such as New Zealand and those in the Middle East. The Haven is a favourite haunt for tourists from Singapore and the Middle East because of the halal food being served. Asian tourists are not throwing in the towel as citizens of China and Hong Kong, to name two, are flocking to Ipoh in droves to enjoy what The Haven has to offer. Not the ordinary fare as expected by tourists but to experience and enjoy something new and unexpected.

"I started with nothing. Many people doubted me but I managed to beat the odds. When you embark on something, you continue. Persevere until you have achieved what you want," Peter Chan, CEO of The Haven, responded when asked about how he felt after receiving the 'Man of the Year Award'. He and The Haven had faced numerous obstacles, but with perseverance with the goal to create an iconic, world-class family resort in Ipoh, he has finally succeeded where none dares to tread.

The awards received were very much appreciated by one and all. With this in mind, new ideas have to be projected. One of these is that The Haven has plans for projects in foreign shores. Such undertakings will not only help promote his home base Ipoh in a positive way but the country as a whole.

Because of his achievements and sterling performance in Ipoh, it has caught the attention of the Salim Group from Indonesia. Peter Chan has been invited to develop similar facilities on Lagoi Bay, Bintan Island in Indonesia. This fast-developing island is off the

Republic of Singapore. This is to create an alternative tourist destination to enjoy a different environment in comparison to the concrete jungle. Eco-tourism is a part of The Haven on Bintan Island. Fresh air and sunshine will be the theme.

The Haven, Lagoi Bay Bintan has begun impressively at the site where the 18,000 square feet show gallery has been completed. The Malaysian flag has been firmly implanted in this showpiece and those in Ipoh will find it to their benefit to assist and promote The Haven, Lagoi Bay Bintan internationally.

The future augurs well for this project by The Haven. It will be another feather in Peter Chan's cap. With his Midas touch, his Bintan Island project will enjoy equal success as the one in Ipoh.

Amy Chan





## News

## Kinta Properties Shoots for the Moon

The Kinta Properties annual dinner saw the iconic LABpark in Bandar Baru Sri Klebang setting the scene for an evening of al fresco dining under a canopy of stars and sparkling fairy lights on Friday, February 9.

The over 300 attendees were in for a treat as they had the first look inside the experimental container park of lights, art and music with a Lunar New Year spin before it was unveiled to the public the following night. Plus, the space was spread out with food galore, crafted by the Dome Restaurant of Meru Valley Resort.

Running on the theme 'Let's Shoot for the Moon', the lively affair kicked off with a traditional lion dance and mass prosperity toss.

"Cypress, one of our recent home launches, was sold out within two months. Over Christmas, LABpark drew over 50,000 visitors. We continue to create value for our customers. Land in Klebang is now worth RM60 per square foot. In Meru, bungalow lots have been going at over RM100 a square foot. Our recent development, EcoVillage, set a benchmark price for condos at just over RM600 per square foot," highlighted Dato' Lim Si Boon, the chairman of Kinta Properties and Bonanza Venture Holdings Sdn Bhd.

"Last year, we also entered a new venture by continuing the very proud legacy of Ban Hoe Seng's Honda dealership and service. We set a new sales record of 116 cars in the month of December and remain an elite dealer amongst the 90 Honda dealers in Malaysia," he pointed out.

"Besides that, we achieved many successes in our corporate social businesses. Ipoh Echo continues to be the community's leading news portal under the leadership of SeeFoon and Fathol. IpohWorld under the leadership of Ian Anderson remains the top attraction in Ipoh and has even been featured in the South China Morning Post," Lim explained.



"Last but not least, Meru Valley hosted heads of states, including the former president of Ecuador, and named the most improved golf course in Malaysia. All this was done under the leadership of the late Christian Bock and his team. One of the things that he lived by was if you do something, you do it well. We will not forget him," he added following a minute of silence in memory of Christian.

Mei Kuan

## Business

## FMM 50th Anniversary Night

The FMM Perak Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary on February 9 at the Kinta Riverfront Hotel.

An overwhelming number of 700 participants comprising its members, employees and guests graced this fun-filled dinner. The guests were entertained to dances, songs and music by renowned local artistes.

Among the attendees who took time off to attend this fun-filled evening were the newly-elected FMM National President, Dato' Soh Thian Lai and Vice Presidents, Dato' Dr Ir Andy Seo and Datuk Noraini binti Soltan.

"FMM was established in 1968. It is now the leading private sector organisation representing the interests of over 3000 leading industrial establishments in the country." This was mentioned by the Branch Chairman, Dato' Gan Tack Kong in his welcoming speech.

He further added that the FMM is the focal point for companies seeking links with Malaysian manufacturers and to serve as providers in the fields of investment, trade and services.

The FMM Perak Branch is proud to have a membership strength of over 300 since its inception in 1969.

Amy Chan



## Sport

## Annual Cross-country Run



The annual cross country run leads the sports calendar for all secondary schools. Saturday, January 27 was the annual cross country for the Seri Keledang Secondary School students in Menglembu. There to officiate the event was Batu Gajah Municipal Councillor, Wong Kam Seng.

"The event is part of the Ministry of Education's '1 Student, 1 Sport' (*1 Murid, 1 Sukan*) initiative. It encourages students to have a holistic education and to lead a healthy lifestyle, befitting the nation's aspirations," said the school principal, Sit Wai Yin, in his welcoming speech.

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Chairman, Ng Ah Chye and the PTA committee members were present. Teachers, parents and students took a major part in planning and organising the sporting event.

Teachers donned matching sports attire while the students were adorned in bright and attractive red, neon green, white, blue, and yellow T-shirts. Attending parents mingled with teachers and staff to cheer and give encouragement to the participants.

Students competed in the various categories according to their gender and age. Among them were the L15 (boys under 15 years old) and P15 (girls under 15 years old) as well as L18 (boys under 18 years old) and P18 (girls under 18 years old).

As parting advice, the winners were admonished to bask in glory but losers should not give up. There will always be a time in the future for them to shine.

Amy Chan



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### CNY Round-up

# Meru Valley Resort Celebrates CNY

The year of the dog bounded in the morning of Sunday, February 18 with lions and gods of prosperity forming the annual spectacle at Meru Valley Resort, Ipoh.

More than a hundred residents and members gathered for the drum act and lion dance along with Shahzan Bahari bin Shamsul Bahari, Director of Meru Valley Resort Berhad and Florence Foo, General Manager of Meru Valley Resort Berhad. It was performed by Persatuan Naga & Singa Chiau Hooi Bee, Kuala Kangsar for the second year.

The crowd was decked out in new clothes of red hues as they thronged the resort. The young ones received blessings with gifts of *hongbao* (red packets with money) as a symbol of luck from the director of the resort while the rest were given oranges. The lively affair was aimed to strengthen the relationship between people of different ethnic groups by bringing them together.



## Connexion

By Joachim Ng

# Community self-governance without politics



Before you raise your hand to swipe that killer Aedes buzzing at your ear, stop and think: are you legally empowered to kill the mosquito? Have you been duly elected? Malaysians have become so vote-dependent that they must cast a ballot to decide who should rightfully look after them.

A massive industry has developed that solemnly vows to take care of us. That industry is called Politics and its practitioners assure voters that they have a solution for everything that's bothering us. So... isn't it puzzling why many roads are still punctured with accident-causing potholes, drains stay clogged till the next flood, sidewalks are decorated with unpicked litter, and mosquitoes send our loved ones to hospital or mortuary? But politicians aren't going to swipe mosquitoes for you or pick up litter: you have to govern your physical environment and not leave it to them.

As voters, our role in politics is to perform a 5-minute drill at the polling station once every five years. Of course, the queue time may drag an hour, but that doesn't count. Having cast our ballot we go home and... that's it. Job done. But politics and governance aren't the same thing: politics is about taking power in society, whereas governance is about taking care of society. The connection between politics and governance is often broken.

Is democratic governance a British or Greek invention? Neither. Explorers have long observed primitive folks living in the wild (including our Orang Asli and Orang Asal) holding consultative sessions in which many adults participate, and this widespread practice suggests that democracy has been the norm for most of human existence. It's natural for adults to voice their opinions, because human beings are talkative and want a say in decision-making. Democracy is a result of the human ability to speak.

Primeval democracy, lasting a good 200,000 years, ended with the rise of civilisation almost 10,000 years ago as swelling populations, social inequity, gender discrimination, and military dominance tilted societies towards autocratic rule. However, Athens revived democracy around 500 BCE and it lasted for almost 200 years. These Athenians gave us the compound word 'democracy'. It comes from 'demos' in Greek language that means 'the people' and 'kratia' that means 'rule'. But 'demos' also means 'district' giving the idea that the people living in a district should rule that district. In modern times, what the Athenians called 'district' would mean the neighbourhood.

A semblance of this original democracy has come to Malaysian cities including Ipoh through the Strata Management Act 2013 (Act 757) & Regulations. The Act governs strata-titled property developments that are a mix of private holdings and common areas. It requires all owners in the development to govern the common areas such as recreational facilities, roads, and drains through a management corporation. Owners fulfil this responsibility by electing a management committee that engages a professional management company to run daily operations.

Act 757 (and its earlier superseded versions) is a revival of primeval self-governance reconnecting the people to one another, as all must share responsibility to maintain a common fund and upkeep the area. Thanks to Act 757 we have oases of good management nestled within larger neighbourhoods. There is an irony though: you can have several dengue-free, litter-free, crime-free, and pothole-free gated and guarded developments within an often dirty, littered, crime-hit neighbourhood.

To remove this anomaly, there should be a Neighbourhood Management Act 2018 as a logical extension of the Strata Management Act 2013. Establishing a legal basis for neighbourhood management will restore the primeval art of governance by all the people for all the people in a locality.



## Launch of Grand Summit

In conjunction with the launching of Grand Summit by Excellent Realty Sdn Bhd, a Chinese New Year celebration was held on Sunday, February 18. Grand Summit is a premier hilltop living located at the heart of Waterfront City, Lahat. The morning event was attended by over 200 guests.

Company Director, Dato' Seri Lee Yau Sing graced the event. It began with a lion dance followed by a dragon dance. The lively performances brought cheer to the crowd.

The presentation of prizes to winners of the Fun Run Photography Contest held last year came next. While enjoying the lunch spread and performances, many took the opportunity to inspect the cluster and semi-detached show houses.

"I'd like to wish everyone a prosperous Chinese New Year. May the Year of the Dog be filled with joy and all things good for each and every one of us. I too wish to thank you all for taking the time to celebrate with us today," expressed Lee.

The highlight of the day was the F1 powerboat race which took place at the lake. Jet-skiing was also on the cards. It was an eye opener for Ipohites who had yet to see such spectacle.



**Khaleeja**



## CNY Round-up

## Annual Gathering of Races

President of Ipoh City Watch (ICW) and Chairman of Koperasi Hijau (KOHIAU), Dr Richard Ng, hosted a Chinese New Year open house at his residence at Persiaran Bandar Baru Tambun on Friday, February 16.

Over a hundred guests comprising members of his non-governmental organisations were present to usher in the Chinese New Year of the Dog. They consisted of all ethnicities – Malays, Chinese, Indians and some foreigners.

Among the dignitaries were Dato' Samsudin Abu Hassan, Executive Councillor for Consumer Affairs, Cooperatives, Non-Governmental Organisation and Civil Society and Dato' Hajjah Rusnah Kassim, Executive Councillor for Women and Family Development, Community Care and Housing and Local Government. Also present were Kampar Umno Division Chief, Dato' Radzi Manan and his wife Datin Normah Hanum.

Richard has been hosting the event every Chinese New Year since 2015 and this was his fourth open house.

"I welcome everyone regardless of their race and belief, as my objective is to share the New Year joy with all my friends. I take this opportunity to wish all Malaysians a Prosperous and Happy Chinese New Year. Let's celebrate together and get to know the Chinese culture better," he told Ipoh Echo.

The traditional *Lou Sang* or Prosperity Toss signalled the start of the joyous occasion followed by cake cutting. The sumptuous spread was very Malaysian in look and they included *nasi minyak*, *ayam masak merah*, *kurma kambing*, *mee rebus*, fruits and soft drinks.



Richard and his wife Tina gave away angpows, in traditional red packets, to children. The host and hostess bid farewell to all guests and reminded them that a similar gathering will take place next year.

**Luqman Hakim**



## Welcoming Year of the Dog

On Saturday, February 17, Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a Chinese New Year celebration at the grand ballroom of WEIL Hotel. The event which began around 10.30am was attended by over 500 guests as

they welcomed the Year of the Dog. The guest of honour was Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir.

Among the guests were Second Minister of International Trade and Industry Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan, Deputy Finance Minister Dato' Lee Chee Leong, PCCCI Honorary Life President Dato' Lim Kok Cheong and Honorary President Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian, Executive Councillor for Health, Public Transport, Non-Islamic Affairs, National Integration and New Villages Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon, State Executive Councillors, Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen.

Apart from expressing his utmost gratitude, Dato' Liew Sew Yee recalled the activities the chambers had organised throughout its existence and in 2017. He too touched on some general issues.

"As General Election is just around the corner, we'd like to urge politicians to spare time to address and work on improving the economy like reducing government expenditure and household debt. The government should push for automation and be less dependent on foreign labour. Lower the cost of production and hence the cost of goods and services. They should also provide incentives for value-added processes in both public and private sectors," exclaimed Liew.

The event began with a lion dance performance at the hotel lobby before guests proceeded to the ballroom for the yee sang ritual. Lunch was accompanied by singing performances. Children of welfare homes Nurul Iman and Vision Home were given angpows.

"I've always admired the Chinese tradition of reunion dinners which has been an enviable custom for centuries. Despite global economic and political uncertainties, the depreciation ringgit and competition from neighbouring states, Perak's economy has maintained an impressive growth trajectory. And I agree with Dato' Liew that political heckling must stop. There must be a limit thus mutual understanding is promoted," concluded Zambry.

**Khaleeja**

## City Council Chinese New Year Gathering

Some 1000 council staff and members of the public attended Ipoh City Council's annual Chinese New Year gathering held in front of the Council building on Thursday, February 8.

It was different from last year as it was celebrated outdoor. City Council's compound was turned into a beautiful garden, decorated with lanterns and potted citrus trees.

The event began at 8am with a dazzling lion dance performance symbolising good luck and good tidings for the New Year. Aimed at strengthening the bond between officers and men, Mayor Dato' Zamri Man said the gathering was to allow his staff to enjoy the spirit of Chinese Lunar New Year together.

Some of the staff were clad in red Chinese traditional costumes.

Zamri distributed mandarin oranges and hampers to the council's staff, members of the public and media practitioners. The council's musical cum dance troupe, Gema Warisan Budaya, kept the Chinese New Year mood alive with their performances of traditional dances and songs.

**Nabilah Hamudin**



## CNY Celebration @ Tadika Methodist Ipoh

As the festive season of Chinese New Year approaches, many are scrambling to host a celebration of the ages – one of them being Tadika Methodist Ipoh.

The kindergarten hosted a CNY Celebration for parents on Tuesday, February 13. The high-spirited event was held at the school hall, with their young students helming the performances.

The programme started off with an introduction of the legendary 'Nian', which in Chinese mythology is a beast that lives under the sea or in the mountains that comes out every New Year to devour anything it can salvage. Classic songs – Gong Xi Gong Xi, Live Out Yourself and Gong Xi Fa Chai – were sang together by students soon after.

As they wrap-up the singing session, children and teachers got into a formation of the Chinese character, "福", which means bliss – cleanly created and surely a spectacle for anyone watching. This character can be commonly found embedded in CNY decorative posters and paraphernalia.

This was followed by a lion dance performance with students performing in miniature lion outfits – manoeuvring through the crowd and "eating" and "tossing" lettuce as a symbol of good luck and prosperity. Thereafter, a tea-serving ceremony was enacted.

The event was drawn to a dramatic close with a fashion show; children dressed in traditional Chinese outfits such as cheongsams and mandarin-collar shirts graced the stage, adding the final cherry on the cake.

The event left an indelible mark on parents and teachers, reminding them that they too were young once.

**Jack Foo**





## Community

## Econsave Cares

The story of 17-year-old Mohammad Aqil Khairan, which was published in the Ipoh Echo (issue 273), caught Econsave's attention.

Econsave North 2 Operations Manager, Chua Yong Chiang said that help has been channeled to Mohammad Aqil Khairan via the Econsave Care (Econsave Prihatin) Programme aimed at helping families in need.

"Upon reading Mohammad Shakirin Abdul Rahman's (Aqil's father) heart-wrenching story published in Ipoh Echo recently, we decided to contribute daily necessities such as Ensure milk powder, Pampers products and groceries. The items are worth over RM1000.

"We hope this will lighten the burden of Mohammad Shakirin in taking care of his son who is in pain," Chua told Ipoh Echo.

Mohammad Aqil Khairan is a Form 5 student sitting for SPM examination this year. Unfortunately, he was diagnosed with bacterial infection in the brain six months ago and has since undergone seven surgeries at General Hospital Ipoh.

Mohammad Shakirin said the contribution would help reduce the monthly expenses of his family.

"I'm grateful to Econsave and all those who have donated money to my bank account," he expressed.

Contributions can be channeled to **MayBank account 1582 7503 7879 Fairull Hayati Khairul Anuwar** (wife of Mohamad Shakirin) or to their home at: 15 Lalan Sentosa 3, Halaman Pengkalan Sentosa, 31500 Lahat, Perak.

Rosli Mansor



## Use Toilet The Right Way

I go to Buntong Clinic monthly to collect medicine. One morning when I was waiting for my turn, I walked around the waiting hall and noticed there were a number of pamphlets stacked at a corner of the hall. The access to the place was partially blocked. There were pamphlets on different health issues. I picked up one titled, "Gunakan TANDAS dengan cara yang betul" (Use toilet the right way). The pamphlet was published by the Health Ministry. During our Editorial Meeting at Ipoh Echo, I showed the pamphlet to the attendees but no one had seen this pamphlet before.

On the internet I came across a website "The Travel Manual" by a group of South Africans who ranked Malaysia as having the world's worst toilets and gave justifications for it.

Other than publishing pamphlets which are not widely circulated, I am not sure whether the Health Ministry conducts any public awareness programmes on how to use toilets the right way. Pamphlets alone would not make a difference. Firstly, officials of the ministry must go to schools and kindergartens and explain to students why they must keep toilets clean. We should start teaching kids early. The toilets in schools and kindergartens must be inspected. This cannot be done by the ministry alone, PTAs and NGOs must be involved. Schools must set up a committee consisting of teachers, students and representatives from PTA to look after the cleanliness of toilets.

In Japan students are made to clean their schools including toilets; which are generally clean. Malaysian parents may not agree to this.

Toilet training starts at home and the Ministry must also conduct programmes for members of PTAs. We cannot assume that all parents know about cleanliness and hygiene. Children must be taught to keep the toilet clean after answering the call of nature.

Malaysians love shopping and take their families for outings to hypermarkets. The ministry can work with hypermarkets and ask them to start a campaign "Keep public toilets clean" as one of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes. This



would reach a large section of the public. Hypermarkets can initiate campaign on keeping toilets in their premises clean. The cleaners of public toilets must be trained how to do their jobs.

Cameras must be installed at the entrance of toilets. This would make people aware that they are being watched and will automatically behave. Malaysians behave when they know that they are being watched.

There are many annual commemorative days such as Father's Day and Mother's Day. How many of us know that among all the days there is one called "World Toilet Day"? It falls on November 19. It is aimed at solving the global sanitation crisis which affects more than 4.5 billion people all over the world. This day must be publicised and public functions held.

Malaysians marvel at the clean toilets when travelling abroad. We aspire to become a First World nation, but our toilets are still stuck in a Third World setting.

*Our Public Toilets are a Reflection of our Country's Image*

A. Jeyaraj

## New Boats for Gunung Lang Lake



With up to 3000 visitors on weekdays and over 6000 on weekends, Ipoh City Council bought a new 40-seater boat for use at the Gunung Lang Recreational Park lake. A launching ceremony was held on February 20 and was officiated by Dato' Rusnah Kassim Executive Councillor for Women, Family and Community Development, Housing and Local Government. In attendance was Mayor Dato' Zamri Man.

"Gunung Lang is well known among Ipohites but we now see tourist buses and vans coming here. Clearly, this has become another popular spot. Hopefully, with this new and better equipped boat, more tourists will come to Gunung Lang," said Zamri. City Council plans to add two more 40-seater boats by the end of this year.

Presently, there are three boats with a capacity of 10-15 persons per boat operating at the lakeside. With the addition of this new boat, the load factor is thus addressed. Rusnah thanked City Council for its efforts to improve services at the park.

"During a meeting I had with the Menteri Besar, he complimented the council for its untiring efforts to make the city clean. The council has done an excellent job," said Rusnah.

She added that the public must realise that creating and sustaining a cleaner city is the responsibility of all residents. A recent gotong royong to clean a council flat was a huge let-down, as no sooner as the cleaning was over the occupants began to litter the place once more.

"The flat is back to its original condition with rubbish and dirt scattered all over," Rusnah sighed.

Ili Aqilah



## Community

## Valentina Balli @ Meru Valley Resort

Meru Valley Resort, Ipoh hosted a three-day obedience seminar with an Italian World Dog Obedience champion, Valentina Balli from February 2 to 4. The workshop organised by Tigerland K-9 Academy Malaysia saw 64 dog owners participating in the seminar while 15 of them brought their dogs along for practicals.

This unique high-level obedience workshop covered active free heeling, distance control, dumbbell directional retrieve, directional send away, drop on recall and scent discrimination. Moreover, it improved the relationship between owners and their dogs and demonstrated how trained dogs can enrich lives through training behaviour modification.

Here for the first time, Valentina is an Italian national training instructor who specialises in dog obedience, clicker training, agility and herding. She is a national judge for Obedience CSEN, an Italian obedience team member from 2008 to the present (in 2011-12 with two different dogs), and breeds Border Collies.

Moreover, she has been awarded with several titles such as "Detania Barefoot in



the Park: Border Collie World Championship" from 2008 to 2012; Obedience Italian Champion, Italian Absolute Obedience Champion 2009-10, Joop de Reus Cup champion 2011 and Olympic Games silver medal 2011 amongst others.

Dog owners can learn more about dog obedience training by contacting Michael Lee at 012 268 8726. Readers can also email him at [Michaellee@tigerlandk9.com](mailto:Michaellee@tigerlandk9.com) or log on to [www.tigerlandk9.com](http://www.tigerlandk9.com).

## Connecting with Nature

Lions Club of Ipoh Host, in collaboration with Lost World of Tambun, organised a Paediatrics Cancer Awareness Programme on Saturday, January 20.

Aimed at connecting children with nature and to provide them some outdoor experience, a total of 20 patients partook in the event. They visited Ipoh's only theme park, the Lost World of Tambun.

It was an enjoyable weekend for the children and their family members despite suffering from terminal illnesses.

Club president Emily Kong said the theme park was chosen as the venue to help the children release their stress via interaction with nature, after spending time in hospital wards.

"It's magic. They forget about their illness once they're in the park. It's laughter and merriment all the way.

"We empathise with them. We want to see them grow up as happy as other healthy children," said Emily to Ipoh Echo.

Cancer patient, Mohd Khairul Amin Khairi Karim, 17, said he never had so much fun in his life.

"I forgot completely about the gland cancer I've been battling for the past three years. This is a very exciting activity. I feel an urge in me to overcome this disease one day," he said. Mohd Khairul has undergone chemotherapy session six times.

Rozimah Mohd Yunus, 40, said her son, Mohd Razin Mazlan, 4, was so excited when he was informed about the programme.

"My son was diagnosed with leukaemia when he was a year old. I was pleased to see him playing with animals in the petting zoo. Although he's unaware of his condition, it's good to see him happy, for a brief moment," she remarked.

Rosli Mansor



## Completion of Fishery Course

The closing ceremony of the Perak Fishery Department In Situ Freshwater Fish Management Course was held on Wednesday, February 21 at the Kampung Ulu Chepor Community Hall.

This closing ceremony was graced by Dato' Dr Zabri bin Abdul Wahid, the state assemblyman for Trong.

Perak produced over 40,000 metric tonnes of fish from aquaculture farms annually. This was revealed by Zabri in his opening speech. The function continued with the presentation of certificates of participation and appreciation to the course participants.

Assistance in the form of fish pallets worth RM57,000 was given to 57 people in the Kinta District. Dubbed "Touch Point Aid 2017," over 600 people from Perak had benefited from the aid.

As a fitting finale, 50,000 *ikan lampam*, a freshwater fish, were released into the waters of the Ulu Chepor River.

Hopefully, there will be more programmes of this kind in the future. Not only does it benefit fish farmers, it will also benefit the ecosystem in the long run. This is one way to prevent rivers from 'dying' in the state.

The trained fish farm operators could in return provide job opportunities for Perakeans and help improve the state's economy.

Amy Chan

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## Nosh News

### Is that a Pizza?

Leonardo da Vinci would cringe – if they had pizzas in his day that is.

What Anchor Professional Foods' PizzArt Campaign has done is to bring more excitement to foodies by bringing the traditional pizza to a whole new level. Or not...

The campaign began in December 2017 and will conclude in June 2018, covering both Peninsular and East Malaysia. This second PizzArt Campaign follows the highly successful first PizzArt Campaign held nationwide between May and October 2017.

"We cover both Peninsular and East Malaysia so it's spread evenly. It gives consumers a chance to try new recipes," said Director of Anchor Food Professionals, Linda Tan. In order to make good quality pizzas, the dough must be made fresh by the staff with proper culinary skills and knowledge. And the outlet must have the proper facilities.

On Saturday, January 27, two outlets, Food & Desire and Mustard Sandwich House presented three new recipes. They were their versions of the PizzBurger, UltiMeat Pizza and the Deep Cheese Pizza.

Food & Desire dished out the PizzBurger. The chicken patty stuffed with molten cheese was wrapped in pastry and served with curly fries together with some greens and cherry tomatoes. Though Food & Desire's PizzBurger looked plain, we were proven wrong when we cut it open. The first bite was heavenly. The patty was juicy and the cheese not too overwhelming but just enough flavour to blend nicely with the meat.

Then came the UltiMeat Pizza. Unlike the traditional pizza, this version does not make use of dough. Instead, the crust and base is made of meat and is garnished with a salad and cherry tomatoes. This pizza is definitely a meat-lover's ideal feast.

After having our fill, we adjourned to Mustard Sandwich House for a second round. Mustard Sandwich House is famous for their sandwiches and pasta. Here, a second pizza eating challenge took place with customers as participating contestants, wolfing



Mustard Sandwich House Deep Cheese



Food&Desire PizzBurger

down the UltiMeat Pizza a la Mustard Sandwich House.

Unlike Food & Desire, their take on UltiMeat Pizza included bonito flakes as a topping. Though bonito flakes are mostly associated with Japanese street food like takoyaki (octopus balls) and okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake), it would be safe to say that the UltiMeat Pizza should be included in the list as well. A creative blend of East and West.

The bonito flakes blended well with the vegetables. The different textures, as we bit into a slice of the pizza, was truly gastronomic.

The Deep Cheese Pizza had a thin and crunchy layer of pastry with chicken and some vegetables as toppings. Every bite we took was oozing with cheesy goodness. Usually, a cheese only pizza would cause most people to feel overwhelmed but not this.

In addition to the pizzas, Mustard Sandwich House prepared their signature dishes – the Spicy Prawn Aglio Ooglio and the Awesome Pig sandwich. The Spicy Prawn Aglio Ooglio followed the traditional recipe but served with large prawns sautéed in butter, a twist added to make it extra special for the palate.

Amy Chan

## Sip, Shop and Savour at So-mn

Established in March last year, *So-mn* (pronounced 'soh muhn') is a teahouse cum antique store which doubles as an arts and culture hub. Its name is derived from two Chinese characters depicting "upstairs" and "arts and culture" respectively.

This vegetarian spot is nestled upstairs in one of the shophouses brimming with old-world charm along Jalan Sultan Iskandar. Upon entrance, one would be greeted by sunlight flooding in through the trio of glass panel windows. The design of the unassuming place embraces simplicity at its best creating an immediate sense of spaciousness. Every nook in the cosy space has been thoughtfully placed with literary works of various authors enabling one to browse uninterrupted.

"For our food, we lean towards the healthy so we do cut down the sugar and salt level because besides young adults, most of our customers are of above 30 years of age. We do not use colourants at all in our cakes," Keith Woo, a graphic designer based in KL, explained to Ipoh Echo. He runs *So-mn* together with two Ipohites, Fu Lee Ming and Loh Kok Hoong, who share his passion in oriental arts and culture.

"The highlight of our menu is our signature Chinese tea. We have curated seven types, all of which are imported from China," Loh enthused.

For one to two pax, the Chinese tea is served in teapots and comes with a small portion of mixed nuts. According to Loh, the all-time favourite is the glutinous rice scented *pu-erh* (RM13). The other six aromatic indulgence are white peony white tea (RM13), silver needle white tea (RM15), *an hua* black tea (RM13), snowy mountain raw *pu-erh* (RM13), phoenix *oolong* (RM17) and west lake *longjing* (RM17).



"The second favourite is the white peony white tea which is high in antioxidants and has a soothing aroma," Loh pointed out.

Those who prefer herbal tea can opt for either rosebud longan tea (RM7.50) or chrysanthemum longan tea (RM7.50) while the only cold brew available is cinnamon *tie guan yin* (RM7.50).

After finding that perfect cup of tea, you can elevate your tea experience by matching it with a dessert (cake of the day) and snack (sago pudding with *gula melaka* or 5 pieces of black sesame agar) of your choice at only RM29 per set for up to 2 pax. We especially adore how the tea and treats complemented one another well thus making the flavours pop.

For a heavier meal, try their braised mushrooms and vegetables set (RM18) served with pickle, grated fresh radish, multigrain rice and agar of the day. Did I mention that their agar comes in the prettiest flower shape?

"Most of these antique pieces (furniture and porcelain items) hailing from 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s are from my collection which I started since I was seventeen," Loh shared.

With a capacity of up to 30 people, *So-mn* also rents out their space for private event, arts exhibition and culture showcase. "We have international tourists dropping by too," Loh added.

**Address:** 101A, Jalan Sultan Iskandar, 30000 Ipoh, Perak.

**Contact:** 012 458 6117

**Facebook:** facebook.com/somnipoh

**Instagram:** somn\_ipoh

**Operating days and hours:** Thursdays and Fridays – 2pm to 7pm, Saturdays and Sundays – 11am to 7pm

Mei Kuan





## Tourism

### Educational Tourism

Some 150 students from Guangzhou, China visited popular tourism spots in Perak following a four-day tour aimed at exposing them to ongoing environmental conservation programmes in the state.

Dato' Nolee Ashilin Mohammed Radzi, the Executive Councillor for Tourism, Arts, Culture, Multimedia and Communications said that the exposure will enlighten the students on efforts in conserving the environment and showcasing Perak as an international educational tourism hub.

"This is the third time we play host to students from Guangzhou. Aged 13 to 17, they are brought to various touristic locations such as Pangkor Island, Kuala Sepetang and Orang Asli settlements in Gopeng.

"We'll continue with such programmes in the future introducing new locations to highlight Perak especially to international students," she said when welcoming the said students at Lost World of Tambun on Wednesday, January 24.

Present were CEO of Tourism Perak Management Berhad, Zuraida Md Taib and Managing Director of GIT Tours & Travels Sdn Bhd, Cindy Seow Chooi Ling.

According to Nolee, the state plans to increase the number of participants for educational tourism from Western Asia and Europe this year.

"Right now, we receive many visitors under the educational tourism platform. They're from countries such as China, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia. We'll increase the number by getting tourists from Europe and Western Asia as well."

Some 8.8 million tourists are expected to visit Perak this year, an increase of 10 percent compared to last year.

**Rosli Mansor**



## Gua Tempurung Prayer Room – Part 2



A year ago, we paid a visit to the Gua Tempurung prayer room and was shocked to see its condition. A year has passed by, has the management taken any action?

Not really, although there is a slight improvement, the condition has not changed much. While the curtain has been replaced by a wooden blind, the room is still in need of repairs. Not only are the female prayer attires (*telekong*) dirty and smelly, the carpet is damp and it smells. The ablution room is filled with dirt and grime.

Although Visit Perak Year 2017 ended last year, Gua Tempurung is still a favourite with visitors, offering adventurous caving experiences for adrenaline junkies and more.

We called Tourism Perak after our visit. According to the officer, Gua Tempurung is not their responsibility. It has its own board members who are responsible for the cleanliness of the place. We called tour agents who organise trips to Gua Tempurung and according to them, the issue was raised more than a year ago.

"Many are aware about the condition of the prayer room in Gua Tempurung. Visitors had expressed their disappointment with the room," said an agent.

There is no response from the Gua Tempurung management. We asked the Kampar District Office for details regarding the responsible party. Unfortunately, the district office has none.

Perhaps Tourism Perak and the Kampar District Office should consider taking over, as complaints are piling up. The lackadaisical attitude of the management does not bode well for the well being of iconic Gua Tempurung, per se.

The toilets, however, are clean. There are racks in each cubicle while plastic disposal bags are provided for sanitary pads in the lady toilets. This is commendable.

**Ili Aqilah**



## iSpeak

By A. Jeyaraj

# Let Us Express Our Rights

### Make Politicians Work For Us

During the Annual General Meeting of Lim Garden Residents Association (LGRA), the residents felt that there seemed to be no end to their problems. The residents realised that since the election is around the corner, politicians would come by to solicit for votes and they should make use of the politicians and get things done.

This time around LGRA would prepare its own manifesto and ask potential candidates to make a pledge that they would incorporate this manifesto into theirs. The residents would only vote for candidates who are prepared to fight for their cause.

Three main areas of concern in Lim Garden are:

1. Annual flooding
2. Absence of a sewage system
3. Upgrading of drainage system
4. Abandoned houses.

In the quest for a better Malaysia, people here must be able to compel politicians to serve them. One of the biggest challenges facing Malaysians is their inclination to idolise the politicians once the latter are elected to power. We must change this mentality and make politicians work for us. Until and unless this happens, we will continue to face the same problems.

We, the voters are at fault for the problems we face. We did not let our politicians know what we want. It is time we let the politicians know that they must work for the interest of the voters.

All residents associations (RAs) must prepare their own manifestos and inform those standing for election that the residents will only vote for the candidate who accepts their manifestos. During social functions our elected representatives seem to be friendly and helpful, but, in reality, it is difficult to contact them. I am writing this from my personal experience. They cannot be contacted or are too busy to meet you.

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It is up to us to make politicians realise that they cannot take voters for granted anymore. We must let them know that we know our rights.

In addition to specific issues in their housing estates, RAs must also include issues that are common to all, such as:

1. Second general hospital for Ipoh.
2. Solve acute parking problems and traffic jams.
3. Integrated public transport.
4. Buses must serve the people and not the other way round. It is ridiculous for a person to travel 20km to take an express bus.
5. Annual allocation must be given to all state assemblymen and MPs, regardless of their political affiliation. All of us pay our taxes and must be treated equally.
6. Before every state assembly/parliament sitting, state assemblymen/MPs must ask their constituents whether they have any issues to raise.
7. After every assembly/parliament sitting, state assemblymen/MPs must inform their constituents issues that were discussed and how they affect them.

Our Mayor is appointed by the Menteri Besar (MB) and as such he has no authority to do anything unilaterally. He must get approval from the MB. Complaints regarding Ipoh City Council must also be directed to the state assemblymen for action. Since most of the councillors are political appointees, they are only answerable to their parties and are not interested in the welfare of residents in their zones. Most of the councillors are not familiar with their zones and are unaware of the goings-on.

During Pangkor Dialogue 2017, Michael Earl Cornett Sr, Mayor of Oklahoma City was invited to give a talk. He is the first mayor to be elected for four terms. His most notable achievement is transforming Oklahoma City into a place where obesity should not thrive. Cornet set about rebuilding the city around the pedestrian rather than the car. He made presentation of the improvements he had made to the city with photos of before and after. He could do this because he was elected. Can we dream of this happening in Ipoh?

Meanwhile, there is a campaign calling for voters to boycott the upcoming general elections by deliberately spoiling their votes. The campaign is known as UndiRosak. They choose neither Barisan Nasional or Pakatan Harapan and prefer to spoil their votes on polling day. Spoiling your votes will not solve our problem. If this group is serious, then it must come out and make the change it wants.

Individually we cannot do much, but collectively we can make our elected representatives do what we want. As a responsible citizen it is our duty to vote and make the change. Together we can excel.

In his first address to the nation, after being elected as President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa said, "I'm a servant of the people". Our politicians should do the same.



# History of the Federal Lunatic Asylum (HBUK)

An increase in the number of mental patients in Malaya, notably in many of the Federated Malay States, towards the end of the 19th century, led to the British Government's suggestion to establish a Central Lunatic Asylum for all the Federated Malay States.

In 1906, a piece of land was identified in Tanjong Rambutan, Perak for that purpose. But the reason why Tanjong Rambutan was chosen was never really known. In building the asylum, the chosen location had to fulfil three requirements: First, it needed to be a large area of government land in a healthy district as it was intended, from the beginning, that the asylum would have various forms of agricultural activities and poultry rearing, hence the large area needed. Secondly, it had to be on a main railway line, to be easily accessible by the railway which connected most of the states. Perak, fulfilled these requirements. Last but not least, the site had to be near a big town. Tanjong Rambutan was only a small town far away from the bustling Ipoh and Kinta Valley, but according to the Director of Public Works, was a town with important tin mining business.

Dr William Frederick Samuel, the first Medical Superintendent of the asylum, described the 573 acres of land reserved for the asylum as laden with blukar (thicket) and swamp. The initial plans and budget were estimated to be at around £96,000 and the approved drawings and plans were obtained in July 1906. It took five years to be completed. The setup of the asylum was planned to accept all the 250 patients from the Taiping Lunatic Asylum. It was originally planned to open in July 1911 but due to an outbreak of cholera, which many had succumbed to in the Taiping Lunatic Asylum, it was delayed until November 1, 1911. Dr W.F. Samuel, who was appointed the Medical Superintendent, was assisted by an Assistant Surgeon, two dressers, a clerk and a storekeeper. Dr Samuel was the Medical Superintendent of the asylum for more than 21 years, in two spells, from 1910 to April 1929 and from December 1929 to 1931.

In the early stages of development, the asylum was a psychiatric institution that housed three male wards and one female ward which were separated by a kitchen. In 1922, the name of the asylum was changed to the Central Mental Hospital and was again changed to Hospital Bahagia Ulu Kinta (HBUK) in the early 70s, thus portraying a more positive image regarding the advancement in psychiatric treatment. Today, HBUK is one of the largest among the four psychiatric institutions in Malaysia, the others being, Hospital Mesra Tampoi, Johor; Hospital Sentosa, Sabah and Hospital Umum, Sarawak.

The Tanjong Rambutan buildings provide services ranging from administration to rehabilitation activities such as vegetable and fruit farming, aquaculture and poultry farming. These activities, which the patients still carry out today, covers about 300 acres of the total area. The hospital houses 78 wards, 53 for males and the remaining 25 for females. All the original buildings are still being used by the hospital although some of them do not function as they were originally designed. For example, one of the original male wards has been converted to be one of the two kitchens the hospital now has.

Today, the hospital doesn't only offer psychiatric treatment for both in-patients and



*The Tell Tale Clock*

out-patients but also provides a variety of other services such as physiotherapy, x-ray, dental and also basic healthcare just like any other hospital. Patients are mostly from the Ulu Kinta district and family members of staff. The hospital also has facilities for recreation such as golf and a large field that can cater to sporting events. These are available to the public by application in writing to the hospital administration.

## Psychiatry Museum

Apart from its rich 108-year history, the hospital also has its own psychiatry museum which houses a range of medical apparatuses which illustrates the types of treatment used prior to modern-day psychiatric treatment. These include the Deep Insulin therapy (1946), Electroconvulsive therapy (1947) and Aversion therapy. The museum also includes a wide variety of items ranging from basic to more advanced medical tools. On display are wound dressing tools, different coloured hospital gowns which indicated the category of mental illness of the patients, straight-jackets, an early wheelchair, a dental chair and items used in patients' rehabilitation.

One of the many items that stood out in the collection was the 'Tell Tale Clock' which was used to monitor staff who worked on night shifts. They were required to wind the hourly knob located on the wall in each of the ward which was then recorded by the 'Tell Tale Clock' placed at the Medical Superintendent's Office. This was a measure to prevent attendants from falling asleep or leaving the ward while on duty. If caught sleeping on the job or leaving the ward while on duty, attendants would be fined up to RM5 or alternatively, required to cut the grass at the female ward.

The hospital's psychiatry museum, however, is not open to the public. Potential visitors are required to write in to the hospital stating their reasons. Permission is dependent upon approval from the hospital director.

**Chris Chong**



*Aversion Therapy by electric conductance shock*



*The long corridor leading to the Psychiatry Museum with strong wooden doors*

# Remembering the Dearly Departed

During the **month of June** each year members of the National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association of Australia (NMBVAA), travel to Ipoh to take part in services commemorating those who fell during the Malayan Emergency (1948-1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation (1963-1966), and indeed all wars.

The men and women who come had spent over two years serving in the Australian Armed Forces. They lived in Malaysia in places like Malacca, Ipoh, Singapore and Penang during the 1950s and 60s as part of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation's plan to keep the Malayan people safe from the tyranny of Communism, espoused at the time by rebel leaders such as Chin Peng and Lau Yew.

During World War Two the Japanese enforced the relocation of around one million Malayan Chinese to the jungle fringes as squatters to grow food for their occupation forces. Some of these people provided a logistic and recruit base for the communists, so when the Japanese surrendered in 1945, it merely signalled a new phase of war for the communists in Malaya, one for which they had long been training and recruiting in the jungles from Kedah to Johor.

The killing of planters in 1948 (using arms hidden in caches during WW2), brought the communist plan out into the open along with the hit-and-run raids on

rubber plantations and the smashing of associated equipment. On Saturday, June 16, 1948 shortly before 8am, three young communist terrorists burst into the office of a large Malayan rubber plantation, and shot the manager, Arthur Walker at point blank range. Half an hour later and ten miles away, John Allison, manager of the Sungei Siput Estate and his 21-year-old assistant, Ian Christian, were tied up and murdered by 12 armed men.

On the day of the murders the British High Commissioner, Sir Edward Gent, proclaimed a State of Emergency in Perak and Johor, and expanded it to the whole peninsula the following day.

During the 12-year war 6710 communist terrorists were killed and 2815 were wounded. The security forces suffered 1865 killed, and 2560 wounded. Of the civilian population, 2473 were killed, 1385 wounded, and over 800 went missing.

On April 19, 1960 declaring the imminent end to the Malayan Emergency on July 31, 1960, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong said:

"The debt which the people of this country owe to the Security Forces, both Malayan and Commonwealth, for their sustained and courageous effort over the 12 years of the Emergency cannot be overemphasised."

**Ken McNeill**

**70 Years**  
1948-2018

**Remembering**  
16<sup>th</sup> of June 1948  
"The Malayan Emergency"  
Lasting for 12 Years  
**IPOH REMEMBRANCE WEEK**  
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*Ken McNeill (for Pilgrimage details).*

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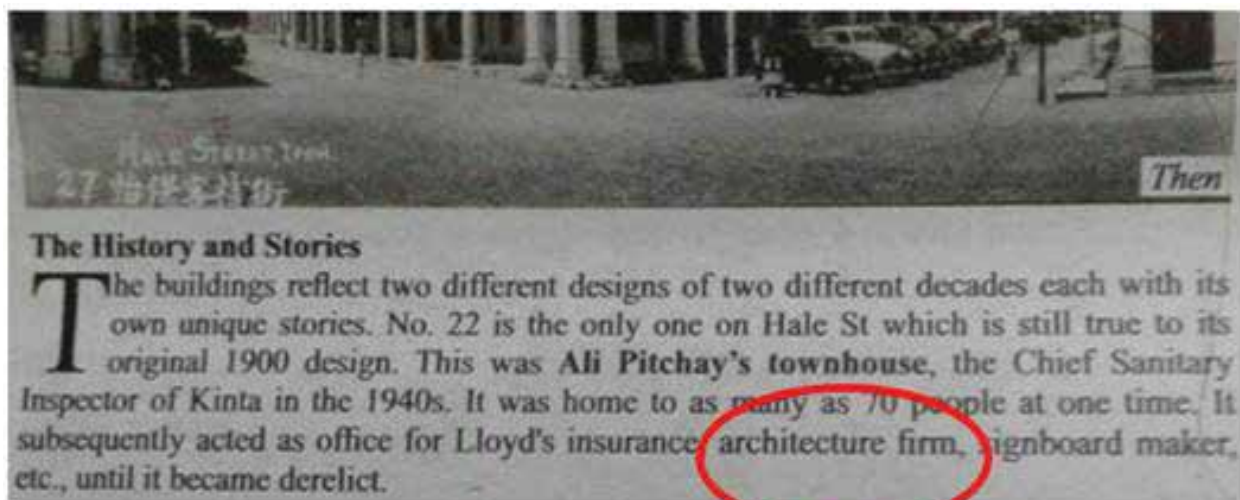
## History

# Another Piece of 'Living History' at 22 Hale Street

Another piece of 'living history' appeared in number 22 Hale Street recently when Michael Lee brought his father, architect Lee Thoo Yeow who started his (first) private architectural practice here. Reminiscence and nostalgia co-mingled as 22 Hale Street was where Lee started to conceptualise Poi Lam School (Suwa).

Whilst following right behind the good work that Tan Sri Lee Loy Seng was doing for Chinese education, Lee put his pen and stencil to work and started on Phase I of Poi Lam School (Suwa). The birthplace of the conceptual design of Poi Lam was virtually borne out of 22 Hale Street.

Long before the ubiquitous keyboard and mouse entered our lives, Lee constructed (and coloured!) all his architectural plans 'manually by hand' on draughtsman boards/desks similar to this one featured here, exploited natural sunlight and applied ammonia fumes to process architectural plans and using freehand stencilling equipment such as these, in the 60s, 70s and 80s.



## Book Launch

## Batu Gajah, My Hometown

Out of pride and love for one's hometown the launch of the book titled, 'Batu Gajah, My Hometown' was held on Wednesday, February 14 at author Chee Hee Seng's residence in Sunway City Ipoh. The choice of the date was obvious as it was Valentine's Day.

The 258-page self-published softcover contains 72 articles written by former-students and residents of Batu Gajah. "Each article is like a piece of the jigsaw puzzle. When all the articles are read, a picture of what life was like in Batu Gajah emerges," said Chee.



"The book is intended to be a legacy of Batu Gajah to be read and cherished by the town's residents for posterity. This is the book to keep and pass on," said the 78-year-old former teacher. The nostalgic recollections and the camaraderie established were the highpoints of the writing process, it took Chee nine months to put everything together.

Most of the 52 contributors are in their sixties, seventies, eighties, and in the case of guest of honour, Dato' Seri Azlanii N.S. Selvamany, nineties.

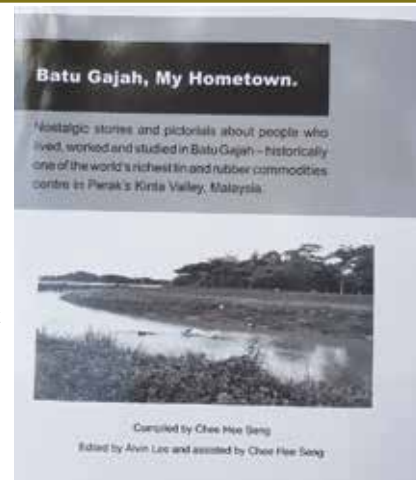
Attended by guests from as far as Canada, the lively event was accompanied by music provided by a string

quartet. "This is a huge family. Some of them haven't met for years," the affable Selvamany told Ipoh Echo during the gathering.

Present was Dr Ho Tak Ming, who penned the foreword for the book. "One of my earliest memories in the early fifties was playing in the *padang* (field) behind our government quarters on Post Office Road. In the mornings it was quiet but in the evenings, especially when there was a football match on, it was packed with people, some having travelled miles on their bicycles to watch the match. The crowd was multiracial, and they intermingled freely," Ho, who has written 'Generations - The Story of Batu Gajah' and 'Ipoh When Tin was King' among others, recalled.

Priced at RM40, contact Mrs Chee at **012 517 5633** for inquiries to purchase the book. It is also available at Royale Hotel along Post Office Road in Batu Gajah.

Mei Kuan



## HAPPENINGS

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## COMMUNITY

**1968 SMJK SAM TET (IPOH) ALUMNI 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION DINNER. MARCH 30 (Friday), 6pm at Tronoh Room, Kinta Riverfront City Hotel & Suites, Ipoh.** For details and reservations, contact Chan Kok Sun **017 579 0217**, email: [chankoksun@gmail.com](mailto:chankoksun@gmail.com) or Phun Taik San: **012 507 6189**, email: [tsphun1@gmail.com](mailto:tsphun1@gmail.com).

**Kechara Earth Project. LET'S RECYCLE FOR GREENER EARTH. EVERY 4TH SUNDAY of the month, 9.30am-11.30am in front of Ipoh Garden Post Office, Jalan Dato Lau Pak Khuan, Ipoh Garden, 31400 Ipoh.** Carton boxes, paper, metal/aluminium, electronic equipment, plastics, light bulbs, batteries and used clothes. Funds are channelled towards Kechara Food Bank that serves the urban poor and underprivileged community in Ipoh. For more details, contact: **016 532 8309** (Mr So) or **012 522 3200** (Ms Yee Mun).

## HERITAGE

**POSTPONED: Heritage Discourse (Bicara Warisan) titled, "Post Industrial Mining**

**"Landscape as Cultural Heritage" by Pn Suriati Ahmad. From February 24 (Saturday) to APRIL 28 (Saturday), 2.30pm at Dewan Sri Banding 3, Hotel Seri Malaysia, Ipoh.** Free admission. For details and reservations call, Mohd Taib **012 5507 747**.

## MEDICAL

**KPJ IPOH SPECIALIST HOSPITAL ANTENATAL CLASSES FOR 2018. Dates: January 20, March 17, May 19 (Mandarin Class), July 21, September 29 and November 17 (Mandarin Class), 1pm-5pm at Dewan Anugerah, 5th Floor KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital.** Contact customer service at **05 240 8777 ext. 8111** for enquiries.

## SPORT

**27TH SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP MEN'S INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT. March 3 to 10 at Azlan Shah Stadium** (March 5 and 8 are rest days). Participating teams: Australia, Argentina, England, India, Ireland and Malaysia. Three matches daily from 4pm onwards. The final day begins at 3.30pm.





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