

# GIBBONS

## — SOLICITORS —

### Howard at Galle Face Hotel Sri Lanka



Hello to my readers near and far away. I had not left the Country last year and the opportunity arose for me to see a friend for a week in Sri Lanka during the middle of January. It was some 6,500 miles to travel but I thought that it would be great to have some time away. There is nothing like an Asian country for a hub-bub of activity and an air of mystique and particularly as what used to be Ceylon is the teardrop of India. As always, I called upon Martin of Voyager Travel in Hadleigh (Tel. 07931 418499) to deliver me to Heathrow Airport and return me home which he did with his usual efficiency, care and attention. It was a very sedate service compared to the eventful journeys that I took by tuk tuk in Sri Lanka. My chauffeur Frank and his wife Maria, my housekeeper looked after the Gibbons' residence. Frank had to prune his wisteria and treat the blossom on his peaches. My father did his National Service at Negombo in Sri Lanka in the early 1950s and so it had great meaning to return albeit that I had been back some years ago when a ship stopped there. I spent part of my time at Berjaya near Mount Lavinia and enjoyed the lovely beach, warm seas and the pool of my hotel. I then took a very old steam train for three hours to Kandy which is in the centre of Sri Lanka where there is a large lake and surrounded by mountains. Kandy is famous for The Temple of the Tooth. I stayed at Greenwoods which is a small hotel with clean but plain amenities. The proprietor Kusum was so kindly and looked after us very well. I had wonderful breakfasts which included squeezed mangos, papaya fruit and coconut pancakes with honey drawn from the sap of a tree. I had hoppers which are like a crisp pancake made from an egg white that is run round a very hot pan. One can either put a fried egg in the middle or have with bananas and honey. The picture shows me at the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo. The hotel overlooks the Indian Ocean and being founded in 1864 is the oldest hotel of its type East of Suez. It was very grand and is said to be one of the 1000 places to see whilst one is on this earth. A bottle of bubbly for the best caption for my look of surprise - let your imagination run wild.

After some ten years of excellent service, my Secretary Janet Harrop has decided to make a move. If you know of anyone that would like to be considered as my Secretary being one of the most interesting jobs in this part of East Anglia, then do let me know. There is some movement in the property market and so as always please approach us so that we can give you personal service throughout at a reasonable price.

*Howard Gibbons*

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