



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

SELLAMUTTU KRISHNASAMY

24th August 1936 – 10th November 2024

FUNERAL SERVICE HELD ON:
Wednesday 4th December 2024

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Climate change gives town's banana man a fruitful crop

Gardening professionals praise Maidonian's efforts in producing a fruit which is notoriously difficult to grow in the UK



By Laura Esfield
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AS TEMPERATURES in Maidenhead soared last week, people began peeling off their winter layers to catch some sun – but one man has been going bananas over peel of a different kind.

Avid gardener Sellamuttu Krishnasamy spends hours nurturing the plants at his home in St Marks Crescent and has created a tropical paradise including palm trees and exotic flowers.

He was astonished when the recent heat caused one of his plants to burst into life and yield a bright yellow banana.

The 71-year-old said: "I love bananas and this is the first one I have had. I was really happy because I haven't seen one anywhere else."

He became a real-life banana man after using his super gardening powers to grow the fruit, which thrives on humidity and normally cannot cope with the cold English weather.

The retired electrical engineer started off with one plant six years ago, which has thrived under his care, and he now has about 10.

A-PEELING: Krishnasamy Sellamuttu shows off the tropical paradise, complete with banana, that he has grown in his back garden. Ref:96264-2

Mr Krishnasamy said: "They are still coming up and it's a little tropical paradise. I have got palms and ferns."

He does not use any special equipment to grow the yellow fruit but is an experienced gardener and enjoys the challenge of growing tropical plants.

The father of two said: "I don't do anything special. I just put a bit of ground feed down."

"Luckily it's at the end of the house and cold wind doesn't blow straight on it because the other house blocks it."

The plants get tucked up under a cover every winter to protect them and this spring when he unwrapped them he noticed an unusual swelling on one plant.

He said: "I couldn't believe there was going to be fruit but it got bigger and bigger and then a few weeks ago it really came out and I knew it was going to be a banana."

"I am really proud of all my hard work."

Berkshire College of Agriculture has a wide variety of unusual plants including bananas, but these are grown in a green house.

Deborah Smirfitt, team leader for horticulture at the college, said: "It's extremely unusual with our climate to grow them outside because bananas like humidity."

She said they

■ The word banana comes from the Arabic word 'banan' meaning finger

■ A total of 35,000 bananas will be eaten by players, line-men and ball boys and girls at this year's Wimbledon

■ Banana skins can reduce swelling and irritation on mosquito bites

■ There were more than 300 banana-related accidents in Britain, most involving people slipping on skins, in 2011

■ The average American consumes over 84 bananas each year

MailOnline

Bananas and pineapples grow in tropical Britain

Meanwhile, a seventy-old gardener originally from Sri Lanka, was thrilled when he managed to produce fruit from a group of banana trees in Maidenhead, more commonly found in his homeland.

"I love bananas," Sellamuttu Krishnasamy said.

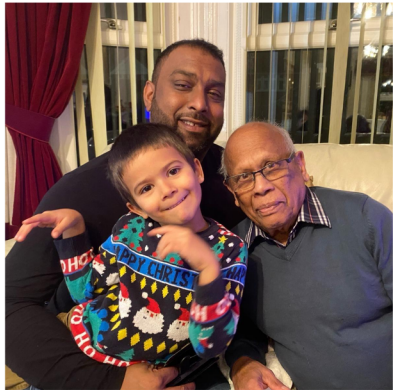
"This is the first one I've had and I was really happy because I haven't seen one anywhere else.

It is opening up but it takes quite some time."

After ordering the plant seeds several years ago he placed them in a sheltered spot by a south-facing wall at the end of the garden at his semi-detached home in Maidenhead. From just one seedling, a bit of loving care has expanded his crop to 10 plants.

Each winter, as the leaves dropped off, he has covered each plant to protect it from the cold, opening it up again to the sun's rays in the spring.





APPRECIATION

The family would like to thank you all for your
kind support during this time of sadness



Refreshments will be served after the service at
The Craufurd Arms
15 Gringer Hill
Maidenhead
SL6 7LY

DONATIONS

Donations, if desired, may be made in Sellamuttu's memory to
The Alzheimer's Society