

HK NHS REPORT ON JULIE'S BACKYARD MA ON SHAN QUIZ WALK

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 2017



Eleven members and one guest eagerly and correctly turned up at the Big Water Pit MTR station (Tai Shui Hang for the non-cognoscenti), chomping at the bit for more clues to find answers to. And after a briefing from Julie to read carefully and that “numbers are important” off we scattered, most in the wrong direction as we swallowed our first red herring. Then it was out of the MTR station and find a red man on a bike, then head to the mouth of

the Shing Mun river (how important that “mouth” turned out to be!) and then, and then, and then, all along the extremely scenic Ma On Shan Promenade (*above*).

Perhaps it was the stunning sea views that distracted us from sometimes seeing the obvious, like the hybrid Solar Wind Lamp (*right*), or the Bougainvillea Garden; perhaps it was Julie’s never-pedantic-but-always-precise answer requirements that lost us a point here and there. Whatever, those that knew this path well saw it with new eyes and those that did not appreciated the many and varied interesting and attractive aspects that Julie’s quiz



Such a lot of warning signs!!!

brought out, as we investigated tree names, counted lamp posts, searched for dolphins in the lovely grassy park, learned about the mining history of this place, used our grey matter re those numbers in the shopping plaza, and were amused by the Chinglish language sign concerning certain dog leg-lifting activities at an up-market apartment block!



Dolphins sculpted in bronze and painted white, by Norman Ko, Ma On Shan Park



Were we competitive? Yes! (some more than others – no names mentioned). Did we help each other? Occasionally (or Rob would still be rambling round the shopping mall). Did we disagree and argue and pontificate? Not arf! But was all explained and forgiven over a beer at the last stop? Certainly.

And with a score of 40 (out of 46!) Team Susan, Judy & Anne were the winners, with Anne being first on the buzzer with the answer to the deciding question, as there was only one prize that could not be divided: a lovely little book entitled *Landscapes Lost and Found* by Ken Nicolson, published by HKU.

I would like to repeat the group's thanks to Julie for the work she put into this quiz; it was a fun and interesting day. These activities are truly worthwhile in getting us to open our eyes and really look at our environment in Hong Kong.

So who's doing the next one?

Report by Jan Campbell / Photos by Julie Moffat and Anne Rodden

