

## HKNHS April 09 Outing Report to Tai Lam Country Park

It was the day after the yellow rainstorm warning on Saturday. As expected, many called to cancel their bookings with the trip and some just got up from bed at our meeting time.

Seven brave souls set off in Tsuen Wan and started to ascend the flight of stairs and steep slope for one hour in the shower. Following the Yuen Tsuen Ancient Trail to the top of the hill, we could just over look Tsing Ma Bridge in the mist while taking our coffee break. We then moved on in spite of heavier showers to Tin Tsing Bridge where we planned to take our lunch break. However, when we got there, the pavilion that could keep us dry had turned into a kitchen with gas stoves, pots, pans and a few 'serious chefs'. Fortunately, Jacqui quickly 'barged' in and we took a place within to sit down and started munching our sandwiches in our territory.

The drizzle stopped for a while and we soon moved on to Kat Hing Bridge near the reservoir. We took a long tea break and engaged ourselves in a long and interesting conversation at the next pavilion. After having seen a bit of the over 100 year-old bridge renovated in the Qing Dynasty, we then left the ancient trail and turned to take the Section 10 of the Maclehose Trail along the reservoir at about 3:00 pm. The bamboo forests were jade green with the rain. Although after some heavy rain the day before, we could still see the stilts and foundation stones of the village houses left in the middle of the reservoir after the village was evacuated for the construction of this Tai Lam Chung Reservoir. On the way, we also found a few different species of fungi but no trace of the mountain bikers though this trail was designed for them. Hearing the Majong blocks tapping, we arrived at So Kwun Wat at about 5:00 where we all had tea and beer!

Well done Chrissie, Colin, Christine, Ulla and Jacqui! Remember, with Ulla's gear, we can go about in any raining conditions with no worries. Anyway, the dream like forests in the greyish sentiment was not to be missed.



Ming and Chung Chan