

## JULIAN'S BACKYARD WALK Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013

We met on Kotewell Road at about 2.00pm for what would be an interesting and pleasurable walk. Here is Rose England's report:

"I have lived in Pok Fu Lam for over 20 years but am ashamed to say that I have never visited the part of Pok Fu Lam that Julian took us to last Sunday on his Backyard Walk. The Vice Chancellor's Lodge HKU on Kotewell Road was our meeting place but, much to Julian's annoyance, our view of this rather magnificent building, completed in 1950 was blocked by the presence of tall evergreen trees. After descending some steps the sandy Conduit Path took us past the old waterworks quarters now converted to Lung Fu Shan Nature Education Centre. It was very obvious that there was to be no education for the NHS members today as we waited in vain to be let in, while the mosquitoes enjoyed an unexpected feast! Continuing down some concrete



steps to Pok Fu Lam Road we took the subway to another flight of steps to Ching Lin Terrace, just above Kennedy Town, that could have featured heavily in Alex Law's wonderful



nostalgic film "Echoes of the Rainbow." Here, we visited the charming Lo Pan Temple built in 1884 to worship Lo Pan, the Patron Saint of Chinese Builders and Contractors. By this time we were all feeling a bit peckish, so Julian led us into Kennedy Town Park where we could sit (on a grassy patch luckily devoid of dog poo as dogs aren't allowed inside this park!) and eat our snacks quickly before moving on to Mount Davis Path via Victoria Road. (While we were looking at the site of the 1910 Tung Wah Hospital in Victoria Road we were nearly caught up in election fever by the many Filipina/ Indonesian (?) helpers that were handing out leaflets



encouraging passers-by to vote for their candidate!)

The steep path to Mount Davis Youth Hostel passes a well preserved World War Two Ablution Block and we were all amazed to find that it



was in such good condition, not that anyone felt like testing it! We walked back along a jungle path to Mount Davis Road, took notice of one of the 6 boundary stones that mark the limits of the City of Victoria and looked admiringly at the colonial residential Felix Villas that were built in 1922 and are being lovingly restored - their rents are quoted at being \$200,000 per calendar month!

Julian had been shepherding us very quickly throughout the afternoon so that we could enjoy the sites and also enjoy tea at his very welcoming home which we had passed earlier on our way to the Lo Pan Temple! Had we known then that that is where he and Emily lived, we might have been tempted to have finished the walk much earlier, but the tea and cakes were a great ending to a highly enjoyable afternoon! "



**Rose England**