

HK NHS Report on The Urban Mystery Tour Sunday 12th January 2014

Twenty-six members and guests rose to the challenge of 'Don't be Square – Just be There'. And what an amazing day was had by those who joined in our first event for 2014! Thank you to Linda Wilson for the many hours of organisation, putting together such an interesting and challenging activity. People old and new to Hong Kong found something unknown or unexpected along the way.

There was great excitement as we made our way to the first clue, a memorial to the armed forces and a replica of the one in Whitehall, London. At this point, I noticed much sharing and assistance between groups, but I think our competitive spirits kicked in as the tour progressed and answers were kept closer to our chests. I also noticed that some group members worked harder than others!



We covered much ground past many landmarks of natural, historic and cultural interest, following the often cryptic clues. We meandered our way from Central, through Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens – trying to find Laughing (or were they Twittering?) Thrushes, down through Hong Kong Park's beautiful Aviary and Conservatory, back up onto Kennedy Road, before making our way down again, to Wan Chai past the now derelict, but interesting, No 55 Ship Street (locally known as The Wan Chai Haunted House and used as a brothel by Japanese troops during the war).



Teams all did well with their answers and deciding on a winner came down to guessing how many stairs we had climbed and descended on the walk. I ended up winning a lovely book on walks in the New Territories - I just didn't read the fine print on entering, which said the winner was responsible for the report! Another dear member (whose identity shall be protected by anonymity in these licentious times) won the booby prize of an obviously much-needed map and magnifying glass!

Report by Judy Roe
Photos by Ulla Littlewood