

Report of NHS Outing 14 December 2019: Ocean Park to Stanley

On a lovely sunny morning, nine members joined our Christmas walk from Ocean Park Station. We walked alongside the Marriott Hotel to Island Road and then took the Mills and Chung path. The origin of the name of the path is sadly not as interesting as it promises:

*The elevated walkway in Deep Water Bay area covers HK electric 132kV cables from Wong Chuk Hang to Chung Hum Kok and was built in the mid 1980's. The land grant was negotiated between our Patrick **Chung** and Lands Department's Tim **Mills**.*



At Deepwater Bay, members then walked along a short stretch of road before joining the Boardwalk to Repulse Bay. This is one of the most scenic coast-lines of Hong Kong, with many trees and flowers along the way. We overlooked Middle Island (Hong Kong Royal Yacht Club) and Ocean Park (and its cable cars).

We stopped for a while to look at the facilities at the Pulse, but as we were going for lunch, were not tempted to try any of the restaurants. Instead we spent a little time wandering around the Tin Hau temple.

It was first in 1956 by the Hong Kong Life-Saving Society and also houses their club rooms. Queen Elizabeth once visited the temple and the Society room in 1978, when it was the venue for the first Asian-Pacific lifesaving conference, also attended by Sir Murray MacLehose.

It is also known as the Longevity Temple- because the location in Chinese is Tsin Shui Wan, which translates as “shallow water”, but the pronunciation, also means living a thousand years, and



hence the name longevity. Longevity is a common word during Lunar New Year for blessing someone with a long life. At the temple, there is a Longevity Bridge and other statues offering this blessing.

Some visitors rub a figure at the entrance with cash as they believe it is a god that brings in money if you rub it with cash. At the exit there is a beautiful banyan tree.



After ascending to South Bay Road we saw plants in bloom accompanied by signs instructing ‘no urination’ hopefully regarding dogs but sadly most could not read so ignored the sign.



Shortly after, we climbed a staircase to the old military path at South Bay. Some members found it a little lonely, but others remembered it from earlier days.

On reaching the road at Chung Hum Kok, we continued on downhill again to Stanley, where, after visiting the French market, we enjoyed a long, leisurely, late lunch at Henry's in Stanley. Many members will remember this place as Lucy's, owned by Lucy Humbert. After she returned to UK a few years ago, it was taken over by one of her early chefs, Henry. The \$200 set lunch was the choice of most attendees. Then some went Christmas shopping, while the rest set off on their bus home.

Report: Maureen Boost