



POSTAL

四十一報



美荷樓  
HERITAGE OF MEI HO HOUSE  
生活館

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## 序

不經不覺間，我們踏進2018年，隨即踏進狗年。過「年」代表全新的開始，亦有去舊迎新、合家團圓的意義，所以每逢過年，各家各戶都「嚴陣以待」，十分重視這個節日。

作為2018年的第一期，今期我們以「年」為題，迎接新春。在專題故事中，我們回到過去，重新認識城中一大盛事。有些習俗你也許略有耳聞，但更可能發現有些聞所未聞，在時間的流逝中，原來有很多傳統習俗與文化也一併改變，而我們往往抓不住流失的痕跡。

在「歷史的聲音」專欄中，何淑卿女士與何頌康先生向大家分享在50至70年代石硤尾邨的雜貨舖軼事，為我們娓娓道來當年忙得不可開交的開舖日常。在訪問中，淑卿與頌康兩姊妹憶述當年，常常互相調侃，逗趣又可愛。何氏一家同心協力，互相扶持地走過這些年，讓人感受到他們家人之間深厚的感情與羈絆。

我們冀透過今期《四十一報》回顧舊日生活的同時，提醒大家隨著年月的過去，要珍惜與親朋好友相處的歲月。美荷樓生活館謹祝各位每一年都要過一個好「年」！

封面上圖為美荷樓活化前所拍攝的照片，其中123室門前貼上了福字揮春。

## PROLOGUE

Without noticing it, we have moved into 2018 and the Year of the Dog. A new year means a fresh start. Celebrating the New Year represents “out with the old, in with the new” and also family reunion. The Lunar New Year is of great importance to the Chinese and they make many preparations for it.

As the first issue in 2018, the “Post 41” is themed on “Year” to welcome the New Year. In the feature, we take you back to the past and gain a fresh understanding of the festival. You may have heard about some customs but it is likely that many will be unheard of. With the passage of time, many traditional customs and culture have been changed and it is often difficult to find how and where their traces are lost.

In the “Voices of History”, Ms Ho Sook-hing and Mr Ho Chung-hong share with us the anecdotes of the grocery store in Shek Kip Mei they once ran in the 50s-70s and the day-to-day busyness of the operation. In the interview, elder sister Sook-hing and younger brother Chung-hong recalled old memories and always made fun of each other. It was a funny and lovely interview with them. The Ho family worked with one heart and supported one another in these years. It shows us the profound emotional bonds between family members.

Through “Post 41”, we hope you can look back at the good old days and be reminded to cherish the years ahead together with your family and friends because time and tide wait for no man. May we wish you all that every new year is filled with joy!

The upper part of the cover photo was taken in Mei Ho House before revitalization. There was a “Fai Chun” stuck on the door of room 123.



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## 年又過年——重返五十年前過「年」

TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO 50 YEARS AGO  
TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

由2017年踏進2018年，新一年也有一番新景象。對華人社會來說，農曆新年可謂年始的一大盛事，每逢佳節將近，市民定必到處張羅，務求過一個團團圓圓的「好年」。以往過年與現在又有什麼不同之處呢？就讓我們重返50年前，看看當時的新年到底是怎麼樣的。

## 財神到，財神到

你可有想過，新年的時候會小孩敲你家的門，大叫「財神到」？難道他們化身為財神了嗎？原來這是在昔日香港稱為「派財神」的習俗。小孩會預先製作一些財神紙，在約一吋乘二吋的紅紙上用毛筆寫上「財神」兩個字，在新春期間，逐家逐戶「派財神」。他們首先在門外大叫「財神到」，屋主如果想來年有財神保佑的話，便會打開門，接過財神紙，這又稱為「接財神」。然後他們會給這些小孩一封紅包，利是內多是一元幾角，小孩就這樣收紅包，賺一下零花錢。派的又開心，接的又有好意頭，真是雙贏。不過有時候派財神的小孩太多，一天可能有不同的小孩來敲門，屋主就只會接頭幾位小孩派的財神。

Entering 2018, we have a fresh start in the New Year. For traditional Chinese society, the highlights of the beginning of New Year lie on Lunar New Year. When it approaches, people prepare themselves for family reunions and wish for a good year. What are the differences between the past and present Chinese New Year celebrations? Let us take you back 50 years to see the differences.

## God of Fortune Is Coming to Town

Can you imagine one day a child knocks on your door and shouts, "the God of Fortune is coming!" in Lunar New Year? Did they incarnate themselves into the god and try to bring luck? It was a traditional custom in Hong Kong called "distributing the God of Fortune". Children would prepare the God of Fortune paper in advance. They used red paper (around 2.5cm x 5cm) and wrote "God of Fortune" in Chinese with a writing brush. Then they would do door-to-door distribution and shout "the God of Fortune is coming!" House owners who wanted to be blessed by the god would open the door to take the paper and it was called "receiving the God of Fortune". In return they would give the children a red packet containing a small amount of change (anything from several tens of cents to one dollar). Thus, children could earn some pocket money by this distribution. You could say it was a win-win tradition because the one who distributed was happy and the one who received could be blessed by the god. Yet sometimes there were too many God of Fortunes distributed by different children and the house owner might only take the first few papers.



小孩看燒炮仗的樣子。 / 1962年 / 政府檔案處歷史檔案館提供

Children were watching the setting off of firecrackers. / 1962 / Provided by Public Records Office, Government Records Service

年又過年——重返五十年前過「年」  
TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO 50 YEARS AGO  
TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

## 真真假假爆竹聲

雖然在新年常聽見「爆竹一聲除舊歲」，但是如今在香港已經立法禁止任何人擁有爆竹。在50、60年前，用炮仗賀新年可謂常態，一燒炮仗，不論大人、小孩，人人都會上前湊熱鬧。街上燒炮仗聲此起彼落，過年氣氛濃厚，好不歡樂。惟燒炮仗易引致火警發生，有市民亦因此被炸傷，所以政府每到過年時會提醒市民小心放炮仗，並規定時限燃燒炮仗。

在六七暴動平息後，政府收緊火藥管制，立法嚴禁市民擁有爆竹、煙花等爆炸品。而當年有電台為了增添新年熱鬧的氣氛，甚至會播放爆竹的錄音帶。

此後，香港人在新春均沒有爆竹可燒，只可爆竹「無聲」除舊歲。

## Distinguish the Sound of Firecrackers

Chinese always say “Firecrackers are let off to usher in the New Year”, but controls on the discharge of firecrackers have been imposed in Hong Kong for several decades. In the 50s-60s, it was common to set off firecrackers to celebrate Chinese New Year. Whenever firecrackers were discharged, everyone, adults and children, joined in the fun and shared the happiness. Filled with the sound of firecrackers, a strong Chinese New Year atmosphere was created. However, sometimes the letting off of firecrackers could cause fire and injury, therefore the government issued warnings to be careful during Lunar New Year celebrations and set specific timeslots for the letting off of firecrackers.

After Hong Kong's 1967 riots, the government imposed strict controls over the discharge of firecrackers and the display of fireworks. At that time, a radio station broadcasted a sound recording of firecrackers so that a livelier Chinese New Year could still be experienced.

From that time onwards, no more discharge of firecrackers was allowed and only “muted” firecrackers are with us to celebrate New Year.

用金字寫成的揮春特別流行。 / 1956年2月1日 / 《工商晚報》  
The Fai Chun written in gold were especially popular. / 1 February 1956 / The Kung Sheung Evening News



## 「寡佬」熱門揮春？

每逢新春，家家戶戶都貼上揮春，增加喜慶氣氛之餘，亦代表了新一年的祝願。現在的揮春多用電腦印刷，想要什麼字型、圖案、字樣均可，既方便又精緻。回看在50、60年代，當時的人大多目不識丁，得要依賴「寫信佬」代筆寫信給在內地的家人，而他們相信手寫揮春可以擋煞祈福，所以到了新年，都紛紛去買手寫揮春。

在1956年的報紙可見當時開始興起用金色寫揮春，而普通五吋高的四字揮春每張索價五仙。

當時的揮春會寫什麼內容呢？不要以為光是「恭喜發財」、「心想事成」，在報導中可見原來還有「戀愛成功」，而光顧的全是「寡佬」。如此看來，倒是這個年頭的我們更內斂呢。

## Top “Fai Chun” of Single Men

During Chinese New Year, every Chinese family decorates their home with red paper, also known as “Fai Chun”. It represents the blessings of the New Year. Nowadays, instead of being written by hand, Fai Chun are usually printed with the possibilities of any style of font, shape and wording. Back in the 1950s & 1960s, most people were illiterate. When they wanted to send a letter to their families in the Mainland, they would pay the “letter writers” to help them. They also bought hand-written Fai Chun from the letter writers as they believed that the Fai Chun could help ward off misfortune and bring good luck.

The newspaper from 1956 shows that the hand-written Fai Chun with gold characters were starting to become very popular. In general, the price of 5-inch Fai Chun with 4 characters was 5 cents.

What blessings did people like to have on their Fai Chun? Apart from the common blessings such as “Kung Hei Fat Choi” (meaning “Wishing you prosperity”) and “May all your wishes come true”, there were other options. There was a newspaper report that one of the blessings on the hand-written Fai Chun was “May your love life be successful” and the buyers were all unmarried men. By comparison, it seems that people of today are relatively introverted.

**農曆新年燃放炮竹**  
可能縮減為六小時

政府規定時限燃燒炮仗。 / 1963年8月6日 / 《工商晚報》  
Specific timeslot for firecrackers lighting was set by government. / 6 August 1963 / The Kung Sheung Evening News

**新年仍有爆竹聲**  
商台為增加新年熱鬧  
分四次播放爆竹錄音帶

【本報訊】為了使本港市民在新年期間仍能聽到爆竹聲，商台決定在新年期間分四次播放爆竹錄音帶。商台表示，由於本港市民在新年期間不能燃放爆竹，因此商台決定在新年期間分四次播放爆竹錄音帶，以增添新年熱鬧的氣氛。商台表示，播放時間分別為：(一)正月初一(廿七日)下午七時至九時；(二)正月初二(廿八日)下午七時至九時；(三)正月初三(廿九日)下午七時至九時；(四)正月初四(三十日)下午七時至九時。



年又過年——重返五十年前過「年」  
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揮春字畫滿街飛  
宋朝玉璽高掛起  
▲揮春滿街飛，其中有篇「戀愛成功」、「百無禁忌」者，光顧的真是雲集。



在石硤尾擺檔的「寫信佬」在臨近新春時寫揮春。 / 1959年 / 政府檔案處歷史檔案館提供

A letter writer was writing Fai Chun in Shek Kip Mei at Chinese New Year. / 1959 / Provided by Public Records Office, Government Records Service

50年代的新年祝福語有「戀愛成功」。 / 1955年1月23日 / 《大公報》  
The New Year blessings in 50s included "May your love life be successful". / 23 January 1955 / Ta Kung Pao

看到這裡，相信大家也發現隨著社會轉變、科技進步，幾十年間的新年習俗已經大有變化。現在我們視為理所當然的習俗，不知道在幾十年後的新年又變得怎樣呢？

In the face of societal changes and technological development, the customs of the Lunar New Year have changed over the decades. Can you imagine how customs which we currently take for granted will change over the next few decades?

### 小趣聞：法官與市民的新年願望

除了在揮春上寫上祝願外，50、60年代的人在新一年有什麼願望呢？原來他們的願望也很簡單。

### Fun Facts: The New Year Wishes of a Judge and a Citizen

In addition to writing the blessings on Fai Chun, what did the people of 50-60s wish for the New Year? Actually, their wishes were simple but lovely.



有市民向報社投稿，述說自己的三個願望：「自己多讀點書，太太學會縫衣裳，孩子丟了玩具槍。」 / 1956年1月1日 / 《大公報》

A citizen submitted a drawing about his three wishes for the New Year. He wished that he could read more books, his wife could learn how to sew and his child could throw away the toy gun. / 1 January 1956 / Ta Kung Pao

而一位法官的新年願望居然被登上報紙，他的願望只是希望大家不要再隨地吐痰。因為當時很多市民會「放飛劍」，影響公共衛生，而飛劍客亦會因此被囚或罰款。他特許被告在兩星期內清繳罰款，以免要在獄中跨年。

A New Year wish of a judge was also published in the newspaper. Because many people in those days always spat on the ground, thus affecting public health, he wished that people would no longer spit. The guilty would need to go to prison or pay fines. The judge specially agreed to allow the defendants to settle the fines within two weeks so as not to start the new year in prison.

願一年新官法勝顯羅  
吐隨不市但  
痰地要民願  
罰判別分女男名十二

法官的新年願望 / 1960年1月1日 / 《華僑日報》  
The New Year wish of the judge / 1 January 1960 / Overseas Chinese Daily News

在2018年，大家又許了什麼新年願望呢？

What are your wishes for 2018?

## 初四啟市的雜貨舖 —— 「尖篤座」的「德記祥」 THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE GROCERY STORE – THE STORIES OF “TAK KEI CHEUNG” IN BLOCK “TSIM TUK” (BLOCK V)

「呢個家可以喺香港而全家人團聚，根本係奇蹟！」何頌康這話說得不假。何淑卿與何頌康是兩姊妹，淑卿在八兄弟姊妹中排行第二，頌康則排行第六。他們的祖父在內地屬地主階層，本應衣食無憂，可惜在新中國成立初期不幸喪生，於是父親只能逃亡到香港。年幼的頌康經歷過坐牢，後來家中各人分批到香港，輾轉之下終於全家團聚，這一切只能說是奇蹟。

### 令人哭笑不得的年宵賣鞋記

何氏一家來到香港後，曾在李鄭屋村木屋區經歷大火，隨後搬到角咀木屋區居住。後來地方被收回作油麻地小輪員工宿舍用途，他們因而在1958年舉家搬去石硤尾，並且有資格擁有一個舖位。至於為何會被分配一個舖位，頌康表示當時政府原已打算在空地興建一個街市，不過並沒有直接向居民公開計劃，只問「你在徙置大廈打算幹什麼活呢？」，再根據居民的回答從而分配舖位。何家雖然本來不是做雜貨舖，但何父當時突然靈機一觸，回道他是做雜貨舖生意的，便獲分配V座的舖位，而他們亦獲配X座的居住單位。由於當時的人不諳英語，他們將V座稱作「尖篤座」，X座則是「交叉座」。

“It was a miracle that our whole family can reunite in Hong Kong!” Ho Chung-hong said. There are eight siblings in the Ho family. Ho Sook-hing is the second eldest sister and Ho Chung-hong is the sixth brother in the family. Their grandfather was a landlord in mainland China and they were supposed to have a worry-free life. Yet their grandfather unfortunately lost his life when new China was established and then their father had no choice but to flee to Hong Kong. Little Chung-hong experienced prison and all family members had to escape to Hong Kong one by one. Having been through many hardships, finally their family was reunited in Hong Kong and all they could say was “it was a miracle”.

### The Funny Shoe-Selling in Flower Market

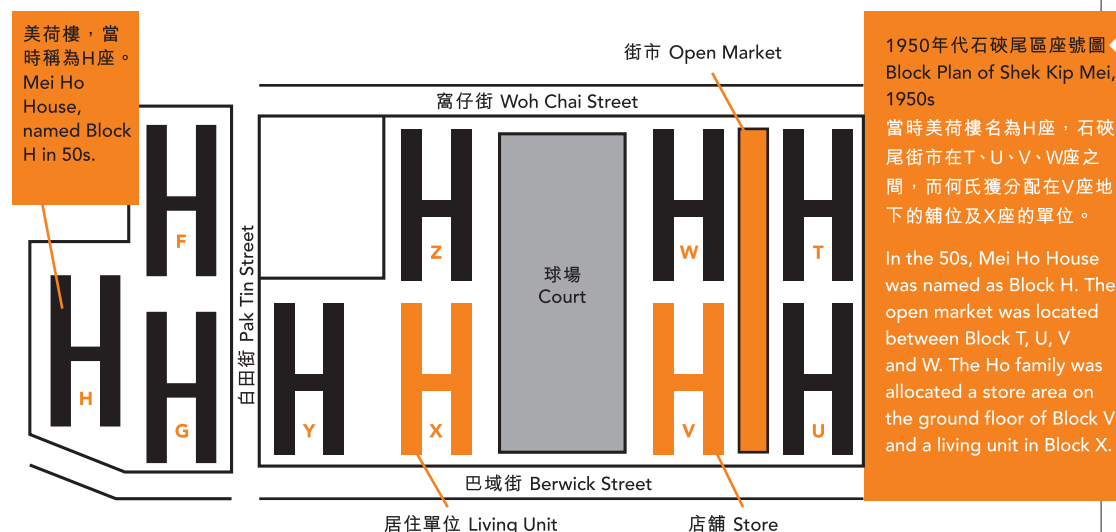
After coming to Hong Kong, the Ho family experienced a squatter fire at Lei Cheng Uk before moving to the Tai Kok Tsui squatter area. But then the area where they lived in Tai Kok Tsui was taken back for a staff dormitory for The Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Co. Ltd, so they moved to Shek Kip Mei in 1958 and were assigned a designated store area. Chung-hong explained the government was going to build an open market at that time but they did not announce the plan. They asked the residents what they would do in the resettlement block and then according to the answers, different store areas were assigned. Their father suddenly had some inspiration and answered they had run a grocery store even though the Ho family had never operated one before. As a result they were assigned a store on the ground floor of Block V and a living unit in Block X. Since most people were illiterate in English, people called Block V “tsim tuk” which means “sharp-pointed” in Cantonese and Block X as “cross”.



何頌康/何淑卿  
Ho Chung-hong / Ho Sook-hing

石硤尾街市當時尚未成形，只得一片空地，不知道究竟人流如何，所以他們家最初沒有開雜貨舖，而是先經營租借公仔書。當時一毫子便可以租書一次，在店內閱讀，每次三至六本書——小孩付錢後得抽籤賭手氣，看看自己可以租多少本書。而淑卿則在家裏做鞋，鞋子之後會交給鞋舖售賣，頌康笑言「個啲鞋著兩日就爛」，非常易破掉，原因是鞋底只用兩塊紙皮加上一塊薄膠製

Shek Kip Mei market was not yet equipped and only an open area at that time. On account of the unknown flow of customers, they did not want to risk opening a grocery store and instead operated a comic rental store. It cost ten cents to rent the comics one time, 3-6 books at a time and children had to read inside the store. They had to draw lots after paying money to see how many books they could read. Meanwhile, Sook-hing made shoes at home and the shoes would be passed to shoe shops for selling afterwards. “Those shoes just took you two days to be worn out,” Chung-hong said jokingly. The shoes were very





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作而已。雖然造工粗糙，但由於都是兒童鞋款，小孩很快便長大，鞋也剛好破掉，故此頌康笑說「冇人會懷疑我哋手工差」。有一年年底尚有鞋子仍未賣出，於是何母便到年宵市場擺地攤，一對大概兩、三元。結果鞋子在年宵順利賣光，甚至誇張得連一對兩隻左邊鞋也賣出，使他們一家人啼笑皆非。

眾志成城「德記祥」

政府興建街市的目的是為了讓居民能購買基本生活物資，因此政府規定何家經營的店舖必須和原定計劃一樣。何家於是在1959年開始經營雜貨舖，並起名為「德記祥」。恰巧何父有朋友經營雜貨舖，才可以學習入貨及商品陳設的方法。他們一家上下齊心協力的在雜貨舖幫忙，淑卿和爸爸負責開店，頌康負責關店。貨品五花八門，有不同種類的蛋、米粉、豬皮、柴魚等，貨品甚至會堆到店舖外面。他們也會售賣鹹菜，每天早上，何父便會切好一片片售賣，大約「斗零」（五仙）一片，可以用來蒸魚、調味等。

要說到雜貨舖最忙碌的時候，就一定是在過年前，居民在數星期前要開始入年貨，所以生意特別好。大家分工協作，可謂「全家總動員」出馬：何父買貨，何母煮飯，年長的兄弟姊妹賣貨，頌康負責送貨。年三十晚更是特別忙碌，因為他們會進行「年結」，每一樣貨品都要清點一次存貨，才知

easily worn out because only two pieces of cardboard and one thin piece of rubber were used for the sole. Despite the rough quality, Chung-hong laughed and said, “no one doubted our workmanship”. It is because all the shoes they made were kids’ shoes. Kids grew up quickly and shoes wore out at the same time. One time there were still unsold shoes and so their mother went to the Chinese New Year Flower Market to sell them. Each pair was around 2-3 dollars. The shoes were all sold successfully and there was even one pair with two left shoes. They found this strange, but funny.

“Tak Kei Cheung” – Working with One Heart

The purpose of the open market was to let residents buy the basic materials for daily life. Therefore the government forced the Ho family to follow the original plan. So, the Ho family started a grocery store called “Tak Kei Cheung” in 1959. By coincidence their father had a friend who also ran a grocery store, so they got to learn how to purchase inventory and display the goods. Their whole family worked with one heart in the grocery store: Sook-hing and their father opened the store and Chung-hong closed the store. Countless and multifarious goods were inside the store and were even put outside the store, including various kinds of egg, rice noodles, pigskin and stockfish, you name it. They also sold Chinese pickles. Every morning their father cut the pickles into pieces for selling and the price was around 5 cents per piece. Usually it was used on steamed fish and seasoning.

The peak season for the grocery store was definitely the period before Lunar New Year since the residents had to prepare many things for this important festival. There was division of duties and cooperation among every member of the Ho family. Father was responsible for purchasing



雜貨店正門，由右至左是何父、員工開叔及三哥頌堯，貨品會堆到門外。 / 1960-1961年 / 何頌康先生提供  
The front of the grocery store. Standing in front from right to left is their dad, the hired hand Uncle Hoi and 3rd brother Chung-yiu. The store carried a wide variety of items that were even put outside the store. / 1960-1961 / Provided by Mr Ho Chung-hong

道賺多少錢，在當天他們要工作至翌日凌晨五點。而店舖差不多全年無休，只有在初一至初三休息，初四啟市。頌康很深刻的是在中學的時候，有一年過年，考完試後同學們都說一起去看電影，他雖然也很想去，不過一想到家人正在雜貨舖馬不停蹄地工作，便自動自覺回雜貨舖幫忙。他們就是這樣在工作之中迎來農曆新年。

何氏一家平常甚少外出吃東西，也沒有什麼消遣活動，頌康最喜歡的活動是與父親到上環的海味店入貨，非因喜歡入貨的過程，而是喜歡之後一起去茶樓「歎茶」。他和弟弟會輪流和

goods while mother cooked. The older children would help in selling goods and Chung-hong took responsibility for delivering them. Lunar New Year Eve was always very busy because they needed to do stock-taking for every kind of goods so as to know how much they had earned. On that day, they worked through until 5am the next morning. Apart from the first three days of Lunar New Year, there were no other rest days for the store. Chung-hong still remembers the days when he was a secondary student. One day near the Lunar New Year, his classmates invited him to watch a movie together after an examination. He was eager to join; however, when he thought of all his family members working non-stop in the store, he decided to go back to help. This is the way the Ho’s welcomed the Lunar New Year.

初四啟市的雜貨舖 —— 「尖窩座」 的「德記祥」  
THE LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE GROCERY STORE –  
THE STORIES OF “TAK KEI CHEUNG” IN BLOCK “TSIM TUK” (BLOCK V)

爸爸買貨，貨物會在深夜送來，哥哥就在店舖睡覺等待貨物送到。雖然工作忙碌，但如頌康所言，父母十多年來靠著經營這間雜貨舖養活了八兄弟姊妹，「德記祥」對於他們一家人來說是極為重要的。

The Ho family rarely went dining out or had leisure activities. Chung-hong's favourite pastime was going to stores in Sheung Wan to restock goods with his father. He did not enjoy the normal course of restocking but liked to “tan cha” (relax and enjoy Chinese tea and “dim sum” in the Chinese restaurants). Chung-hong and his younger brother would take turns to purchase goods with their father. The ordered items would be delivered at midnight so his elder brother had to sleep at the store to wait for the delivery. Although the family was very busy at work, as Chung-hong said, “Tak Kei Cheung” had been of utmost importance as his parents relied on the grocery store to support raising 8 children.



雜貨舖背面是一個廚房，空間小得只能容納幾個火水爐及水缸。由於這類缸亦會用來運送皮蛋，故又稱「皮蛋缸」，另外名「龍缸」。由右到左是何母、最年幼的弟弟頌江及四姊淑娟。/ 1963年 / 何頌康先生提供  
The back of the grocery store served as the kitchen. The area was so tiny that it only had room for a couple of kerosene stoves and a large pot for storing water. This kind of pot was also used for delivering “pi dan” (preserved egg) and was called a “Pi Dan Pot”. It was also sometimes known as a “Dragon Pot”. From right to left is their mom, youngest brother Chung-kong and 4th sister Sook-kuen. / 1963 / Provided by Mr Ho Chung-hong

人心叵測要小心

何父忠厚又易信人，而淑卿和頌康當初年紀小，非常純真，不知道人心險惡，當員工都是「自己人」。由於很難統計每一天賣出的貨物數量，所以店舖的錢都放在一個籬內，何父平日只會點算籬裡的金額。直至1965年左右，當時已經經營雜貨舖將近十年，全靠一位匿名的好心人，他們才知道原來員工偷了很多錢。該名好心人寫信告訴他們有員工和「客人」是同黨，「客人」付十元時，員工竟找贖九十元！一天內更可能發生數次，二人從中拿取差額，偷走不少金錢。淑卿指，一開始他們還以為告密者和員工結怨而刻意中傷員工，故此並不相信來信人，後來那名好心人再多次寫信提醒，他們始知真相。

淑卿和頌康還記得兩名員工叫阿朝和阿成，兩人應該是同夥。可惜當時沒有證據，在他們起疑之時，二人立即辭職不幹，因此何氏一家根本無法追討損失。頌康估計被盜的金額不少，因為在60年代中期生意很好，日常賺得約二、三百元，臨近年尾，一天更有高達三千元的生意。現在想起來，可能當時都是「白做」了。不過他們記得後期其他街市開張，加上居民搬走，導致「德記祥」生意變差，最終雜貨舖約在1972年結束營業。約一年後，他們亦遷出石硤尾徙置區，各兄弟姊妹亦有自己的工作。

Be Aware of Treacherous Mind

Their father was honest and trusting, and Sook-hing and Chung-ho were young and pure at that time, so they didn't learn the evil of men. They regarded the staff of the store as their own buddies. Since it was very difficult to count the quantity of the goods sold every day, the daily take was just put in a basket and the father only counted the amount of money inside the basket. The Ho family was unaware of the dishonest practices of the staff until around 1965 when the store had been running for almost 10 years. A kind-hearted person wrote letters anonymously to report that some of the staff and “customers” were accomplices in stealing from the store. For instance, the “customer” paid \$10 but the staff gave change of \$90! Worse still, it could happen several times a day with the thieves pocketing the difference and stealing a lot of money. Sook-hing stated, they still did not trust the anonymous informer as they thought he/she disliked the staff and wanted to malign them deliberately. The informer sent them the letters again and again until they finally realized the truth.

Sook-hing and Chung-hong still recall those staff were named Chiu and Shing. They were most likely to be accomplices. Unfortunately there was no evidence to prove they had stolen. When they were suspected they immediately quit and so the Ho's were unable to recover their losses. Chung-hong estimated the amount of stolen money was large as the business of the store was very good in the mid-1960s. The Ho family could earn \$200-300 per day and even \$3,000 a day when the Lunar New Year was just around the corner. Looking back, Chung-hong reckons all the work during that time may have been done for nothing. However, due to the opening of the other markets and the relocation of many residents, the business of “Tak Kei Cheung” deteriorated and eventually closed down in 1972. A year later, they moved out from the resettlement area of Shek Kip Mei and the siblings got their own jobs.



初四啟市的雜貨舖 —— 「尖窩座」 的「德記祥」  
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何母與七弟頌顯。後方為另一家雜貨舖，後期的街市裡差不多有十家雜貨舖，競爭非常激烈。

/ 1957年 / 何頌康先生提供

Their mom with 7th brother Chung-hin. The store on top was another grocery store. There were a total of 10 grocery stores when the open market was at its peak, so the competition was quite severe. / 1957 / Provided by Mr Ho Chung-hong



在新年，每家每戶都希望可以全家團圓，齊齊整整地過一個好年。何氏一家人由內地逃難到香港，經歷李鄭屋村木屋區大火，搬進石硤尾，租借公仔書，經營雜貨店，新年忙得不可開交，被信任的員工偷竊……這些年來，一家人經歷種種事情，即使面對難關，他們並沒有放棄，即使現在家人在世界各地生活，各人感情依然深厚。其實只要與家人的心緊緊在一起，關關難過關關過。

During the Lunar New Year, every family wishes to be reunited to spend a good year together. The Ho family suffered many difficulties: fleeing the mainland for Hong Kong, surviving a squatter fire at Lei Cheng Uk, moving to Shek Kip Mei, running a comic rental business, opening the grocery store, overwhelmed by the busyness at Chinese New Year, betrayed by the staff they trusted...Throughout all these tough years, they experienced a lot but overcame all the hardships. Although different family members live in faraway places now, what never changes is their strong bond. As long as their hearts are closely connected, they can break down all the barriers one by one.

其他雜貨舖同樣售賣各式各樣的商品。/ 1967年 / 高添強先生提供

Other grocery stores also sold a wide variety of goods. / 1967 / Provided by Mr Ko Tim-keung



不說不知的  
生活館二三事  
INSIDER SECRETS  
OF HERITAGE  
OF MEI HO HOUSE



雪櫃上的貼紙  
The stickers on the refrigerator

「咦？這個是夾萬嗎？」不知道你在參觀生活館的時候，曾否有這個疑問？說的正是這個放在生活館一樓的箱子。「心水清」的朋友當然知道這是一個「雪櫃」，但看上去和現今的雪櫃截然不同——為什麼要鎖上呢？原來是以前的小孩沒有太多零用錢買零食，就會打開雪櫃煮蛋吃。父母為了不讓家中的糧食被偷吃，就會把雪櫃上鎖。這樣看來，也和夾萬有差不多用途呢！

“Is this a safe?” Have you ever wondered about this when you visit Heritage of Mei Ho House? Yes, we are talking about the “box” on the first floor. Of course some of you may know it is an old refrigerator, yet it looks quite different from the modern refrigerators of today – why does it have a lock? Actually, children in the past did not have much pocket money to buy snacks, so they ate eggs instead. That’s why parents locked the refrigerator to prevent limited food at home being eaten. Thus it had the same usage as a safe!

生活館內的展品大多都是由街坊捐贈或是在牛頭角下邨清拆時收集而來，而這個雪櫃其實也有一個故事。一天，一對母女在參觀時突然發現她們家以前的雪櫃竟然在此！原來正是女兒認得上面破舊的貼紙是由她當年親手貼上的。後來她們家換了雪櫃，而雪櫃在輾轉之下就住在我們美荷樓生活館了。下次來參觀時，不妨細看單位內的擺設，搞不好能找回你的舊日回憶呢！

Most of our exhibits are donated by former residents or were collected when Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate was demolished and this refrigerator had undertaken a long journey before moving into Heritage of Mei Ho House. One day, a mother and daughter visited Heritage of Mei Ho House and realized this was their old refrigerator! The daughter remembered because she stuck the stickers on it when she was small. They changed a new refrigerator and their old one found its way to Heritage of Mei Ho House and finally settled down here. Next time, you can look into small details when you visit us and maybe you can find something that helps bring back memories!

## 10-12月季度活動回顧 OCTOBER-DECEMBER QUARTER ACTIVITY REVIEW

### 真·深水埗街坊導賞團 Sham Shui Po Kaifong Guided Tours

美荷樓舊居民網絡透過各項文化活動，讓大眾以不同角度認識本地歷史，其中「真·深水埗街坊導賞團」尤受歡迎，更場場爆滿。在過去一季，我們分別於2017年10月及11月份舉辦「飲食篇」與「歷史建築物篇」，街坊導賞員精選了深水埗食肆小店及建築物介紹。北河同行和北河燒臘飯店的老闆明哥更和我們訴說他行善的故事。有興趣認識深水埗區的朋友，記得密切留意2018年具嶄新主題的街坊導賞團！

Through various cultural activities, the Mei Ho House Alumni Network hopes to let the public learn about local history from different perspectives. The "Sham Shui Po Kaifong Guided Tours" are particularly popular. In the previous quarter, tours themed on "food and drink" and "historic buildings" were held successfully in Oct and Nov 2017. The kaifong docents highlighted some restaurants and historic buildings to share the background stories. The owner of "The Pei Ho", "Brother Ming", also shared stories with us regarding his involvement with charities. If you are interested in knowing more about Sham Shui Po District, please stay tuned for the upcoming Kaifong Tours with brand new themes!



### 藝術通達工作坊 "By All Means: Arts are for Everyone" Accessibility Workshop

藝術是一種不限年齡、國籍、種族、語言、性別的溝通媒介；也可以以不同的感官來接觸、感受及欣賞。在2017年11月4日，美荷樓舊居民網絡與香港展能藝術會合作，透過舉辦「藝術通達工作坊」，協助各參加者學習與不同能力人士相處和溝通時的方式，一起無障礙地參與和享受各項藝術活動。工作坊亦以美荷樓生活館作為例子，了解不同能力人士在參觀展覽館時的角度，以及作為在旁的傳譯者或導賞員的表達方法。

再一次感謝香港展能藝術會，為參加者帶來一個十分有意義和獲益良多的工作坊！

The workshop was a cooperation between the Mei Ho House Alumni Network and Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong (ADAHK) and was held on 4 Nov 2017. The workshop aimed to let the participants learn how to get along and communicate with people with different disabilities. A demonstration was also held in the Heritage of Mei Ho House to show the participants how the guided tour could be presented to people with different disabilities.

Thank you very much for ADAHK in conducting such a meaningful workshop!



### 聖誕特備節目：「詩」情「畫」意——美荷樓的誕生 Christmas Special Event: The Birth of Mei Ho House

二級歷史建築美荷樓的誕生源於1953年聖誕夜的一場大火，如今已經被活化成YHA美荷樓青年旅舍，大家了解當中的故事嗎？由2017年12月16日至12月24日期間兩個周末共四天，我們特別舉辦一系列文化藝術活動，以詩與畫述說美荷樓的誕生。

在公眾節目「『畫畫前地堂』聖誕粉筆畫創作」中，藝術家吳淑燕小姐與鄧樂宜小姐以美荷樓、舊香港與聖誕為靈感，即席運用粉筆，為前地堂添上色彩，亦吸引了大、小朋友齊齊在這張「大畫布」上發揮創意！此外，在「沙畫·沙話美荷樓：沙畫創作工作坊」中，海潮藝術工作室導師鄭穎先生示範如何以沙講述美荷樓所承載的故事，並教導沙畫的基礎技巧，參加者可一嘗沙畫藝術。

The origin of Mei Ho House, a Grade 2 Heritage Building, goes back to a major fire during Christmas 1953. The building has now been transformed into the YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel. How much do you know about the

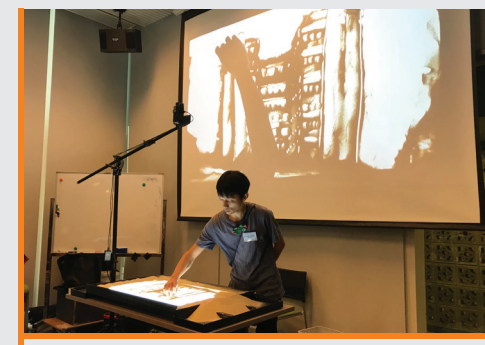
藝術家在前地堂創作。  
Artists were drawing at the Front Courtyard.



stories behind Mei Ho House? A Christmas event themed "The Birth of Mei Ho House" was held over 2 weekends from 16 Dec to 24 December with the objective of commemorating the building's history. Through different kinds of arts and cultural activities, the unique stories of Mei Ho House could be told.

One of the public programmes was the "Merry Christmas Chalk Drawing @ Front Courtyard". Artists Ms Ng Shuk-yin and Tang Lok-yeet were inspired by Mei Ho House, old Hong Kong and Christmas, and they used chalk to brighten up the Front Courtyard with color and fun. Many adults and children joined us to decorate this large "canvas"! Also, in the "Sand Speaks: Mei Ho House Sand Art Workshop", Mr Cheng Wing of Hoichiu Art Gallery demonstrated how to tell the stories of Mei Ho House using sand art as well as teaching the basic skills. Participants could get a real taste of sand art.

以沙展現美荷樓的誕生。  
The stories of the birth of Mei Ho House was presented in the art form of sand.





## 10-12月季度活動回顧 OCTOBER-DECEMBER QUARTER ACTIVITY REVIEW

為讓孩子更容易了解美荷樓的歷史，並激發他們的想像力與創作力，我們舉辦了「《H座大冒險》故事手作坊」及「『童』寫美荷樓：童詩創作坊」。前者以美荷樓生活館出版的《H座大冒險》說故事，小朋友更可在故事時間後製作與故事相關的聖誕樹；後者有文字工作者趙曉彤小姐透過互動教學，讓小詩人能體驗創作童詩的樂趣。來欣賞其中一位小朋友在參觀生活館後寫下的作品吧！

小朋友聚精會神地聽故事。  
Children listened very attentively to the story.



經由童詩，我們不難發現孩子驚人的創作能力。  
Through poetry writing, we can easily find the incredible creativity of children.



To help children learn about Mei Ho House more easily, and to stimulate their imagination and creativity, we held "'An Adventure in Block H' Story Workshop" and "Children's Poem Writing Workshop". In the former, we told the story of "An Adventure in Block H" which was published by the Heritage of Mei Ho House. Participating children could design their own Christmas tree in relation to the story book. In the Poem Workshop, instructed by Ms Chio Hio-tong, little poets experienced the joy of poetry writing through interactive teaching.

### 《美荷樓》／曹海迪（10歲，小五）

展館裡  
飛行棋鬥獸棋橡筋圈……  
看見  
大火與混亂

大火後  
小孩爬鐵架  
又在天台上課  
廚房細小，在走廊  
火水爐和砧板  
下有土地公  
徙廈店舖：米、生油  
啡色的店，麻布袋像枕頭

展館外  
舊的大榕樹  
新的地盤聲轟隆隆  
小遊人在地上跳飛機

歡迎加入我們 Welcome to join us  
<https://www.yha.org.hk/zh/our-services/mei-ho-house-revitalisation-project/become-a-member/>



## 最新活動 UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN FEB MAR

### 木工體驗班 Wood Carving Workshop

想在新一年學新技藝？美荷樓舊居民網絡將會在一月至三月舉辦木工體驗班，大家可以齊齊學習新事物，還可以用自己製造的木作品佈置家居或辦公室，為新一年添上新氣象。

#### 一、公眾節目 Public Programmes

(1) 棄木再生：檯燈工作坊  
Wooden Pallet Table Lamp Workshop

人棄我取，卡板重生成檯燈，讓棄木用另一種方式生活下去。參加者更可將別具意義的檯燈帶回家，或將心意送給親愛的人。

日期 2018年1月26日（星期五）

時間 下午7時30分至9時30分

地點 YHA美荷樓青年旅舍多用途室

導師 ReclaimiNation導師

對象 美荷樓舊居民網絡成員\*  
(參加者年齡須為16歲或以上)

名額 10人

費用 每人150元

網上報名 [goo.gl/M5T2y2](http://goo.gl/M5T2y2)

(2) 木木「讀讀」書櫃共造工作坊  
Let's Make a Special Edition of MHH Book Case Together!

以50年代美荷樓舊居民的走廊廚櫃為藍本，為美荷樓製作一個專用的木書櫃，創造共享閱讀空間。

日期 2018年2月4日（星期日）

時間 上午11時至下午5時

地點 YHA美荷樓青年旅舍多用途室

導師 ReclaimiNation導師

對象 美荷樓舊居民網絡成員\*及旅舍住客  
(建議參加者年齡為10歲或以上，12歲或以下須由家長陪同)

名額 10人

網上報名 [goo.gl/ugNCVL](http://goo.gl/ugNCVL)

參加者如於繳費後取消報名，YHA美荷樓青年旅舍將不作退款。

#### 二、親子節目 Family Programmes

(1) 做個小木匠：親子玩具車工作坊  
Be a Little Carpenter: Wooden Toy Car Family Workshop

在工作坊，導師將與家長和小朋友一同動手，學習創造自己的小玩意，設計出獨一無二的木頭車。

日期 2018年3月11日（星期日）

時間 下午3時至5時

地點 YHA美荷樓青年旅舍多用途室

導師 吳家俊先生及鍾惠恩小姐（MUDwork）

對象 6-12歲小朋友，家長須為美荷樓舊居民網絡成員\*

名額 15對親子

費用 每對200元

網上報名 [goo.gl/v5JLQ9](http://goo.gl/v5JLQ9)

(2) 做個小木匠：親子錢箱工作坊  
Be a Little Carpenter: Wooden Moneybox Workshop

從前，許多小朋友都有自己的豬仔錢器，一元一元儲蓄下來。今天，一起來個「小手工大啟發」！大、小木匠合力製作木錢箱，讓爸爸媽媽告訴孩子美好的生活小習慣。

日期 2018年3月18日（星期日）

時間 下午3時至5時

地點 YHA美荷樓青年旅舍多用途室

導師 吳家俊先生及鍾惠恩小姐（MUDwork）

對象 6-12歲小朋友，家長須為美荷樓舊居民網絡成員\*

名額 15對親子

費用 每對200元

網上報名 [goo.gl/phTwSa](http://goo.gl/phTwSa)

\*請在此登記成為舊居民網絡成員，費用全免：

<https://www.yha.org.hk/zh/our-services/mei-ho-house-revitalisation-project/become-a-member/>

FEB 11 SUN

## 賀年活動：「一紙千金」旺財年 Chinese New Year Activity: Welcome the Year of the Dog



新一年，大家的家居都會換上新揮春。大家有沒有想過，紙張除了可以製成揮春、書本等平面的用品外，更可以摺成千變萬化如心型圖案或立體的紙盒？

今年，我們一如以往邀請書法家黃應常老師及劉敬楠先生示範書法，並慷慨送贈揮春，更有摺紙創作人黃大翀老師教導大家利用紙張摺出新春玩意，讓參加者可以在新春時與親戚朋友分享摺紙的樂趣。同場除了有新春照相區外，更有美荷樓期間限定新年印章，大家可以即席發揮創意，親手製作獨一無二的揮春和利是封！

日期 2018年2月11日（星期日）

時間 下午3時至5時

地點 YHA美荷樓青年旅舍多用途室

藝術家 黃應常老師（中國書法家）、劉敬楠先生（中國書法家）、黃大翀老師（摺紙創作人及導師）

對象 美荷樓舊居民網絡成員\*及旅舍住客

報名方法 即場報名參加

\*請在此登記成為舊居民網絡成員，費用全免：

<https://www.yha.org.hk/zh/our-services/mei-ho-house-revitalisation-project/become-a-member/>

## 美荷樓生活館服務 SERVICE OF HERITAGE OF MEI HO HOUSE



### 公眾導賞團 Public Guided Tour

廣東話 Cantonese

每日一團 Daily

(休館日除外 except the closed days)

14:30 -15:15

• 請在 [www.yha.org.hk/hmhh](http://www.yha.org.hk/hmhh) 網上預約

Please register in [www.yha.org.hk/hmhh](http://www.yha.org.hk/hmhh)

服務對象 TARGET

公眾 / 每團名額20人

Public / 20 people per tour

收費 CHARGE

免費 Free

導賞服務 Guided Tour Service



### 團體參觀 Group Visit

逢星期二至五 Tuesdays to Fridays

(公眾假期除外 except public holidays)

11:45 -12:45 / 14:45 -15:45

星期六、日及公眾假期參觀人數眾多，  
不設團體參觀

No group visits are allowed on Saturdays,  
Sundays and public holidays

收費 CHARGE

免費 Free

人數 NO. OF VISTORS

16-30人 16-30 people

不設導賞服務 No Guided Tour Service



### 團體包場參觀 Exclusive Private Group Tour

逢星期一 Mondays

(公眾假期除外 except public holidays)

10:00 -11:00 / 11:15 -12:15

逢星期二至日 Tuesdays to Sundays

17:00 -18:00

語言 LANGUAGE

廣東話 / 英文 / 普通話

Cantonese / English / Mandarin

人數 NO. OF VISTORS

最多50人 Max. 50 people

收費 CHARGE

每位入場費\$20

每位額外導賞服務\$30

每團最低消費\$1000

\$20 / head admission fee

\$30 / head extra guided tour charge

minimum charge \$1000 per group

導賞服務 Guided Tour Service

- 有關團體參觀及團體包場參觀申請，  
請在 [www.yha.org.hk/hmhh](http://www.yha.org.hk/hmhh)  
下載表格並以電郵 ([hmhh@yha.org.hk](mailto:hmhh@yha.org.hk))  
或以傳真方式 (3755 4378) 遞交

Please download the application form in  
[www.yha.org.hk/hmhh](http://www.yha.org.hk/hmhh) and email to  
[hmhh@yha.org.hk](mailto:hmhh@yha.org.hk) or fax to 3755 4378



開放時間 OPENING HOURS

星期二至星期日 — 上午 9 時 30 分至下午 5 時正  
逢星期一 — 休息（公眾假期除外）  
農曆年初一至初三 — 休息  
平安夜及農曆新年除夕 — 下午 3 時 30 分閉館

Tuesdays to Sundays — 9:30am to 5:00pm  
Mondays — Closed (except public holidays)  
First three days of the Chinese New Year — Closed  
Christmas Eve and Chinese New Year's Eve — Closed at 3:30pm

免費入場 **FREE ADMISSION**

地址 ADDRESS

九龍深水埗石硤尾邨 41 座 YHA 美荷樓青年旅舍地下  
（港鐵深水埗站 B2 出口步行約 5 分鐘）  
G/F, YHA Mei Ho House Youth Hostel,  
Block 41, Shek Kip Mei Estate, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon  
(5-min walk from Sham Shui Po MTR Station Exit B2)

☎ (852) 3728 3544 ✉ [hmmh@yha.org.hk](mailto:hmmh@yha.org.hk)  
🌐 [www.yha.org.hk/hmmh](http://www.yha.org.hk/hmmh) 📱 美荷樓生活館 Heritage of Mei Ho House



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