

# YIM TIN TSAI STORYTELLING

「SAI KUNG YIM TIN TSAI CULTURAL HISTORY CONSERVATION  
AND REGENERATION RESEARCH: COMMUNITY NARRATIVE AND  
PUBLIC EXPERIENCE PARTICIPATION」

NEWSLETTER | JUL TO DEC 2022 | ISSUE NO. 2



鄉郊保育辦公室  
Countryside  
Conservation  
Office



## INTERVIEWED WITH VILLAGERS/CHING PO SCHOOL ALUMNI

We will compile a concise summary of the engaging interactions we've had during previous visits with local and overseas villagers, as well as alumni of Ching Po School.

## INTERACTIONS WITH THE VILLAGERS

We actively took part in a significant festival held in Yim Tin Tsai village, resulting in the creation of numerous remarkable memories derived from our deep and meaningful interactions

## PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

We have successfully organized a number of public events this year, and we sincerely appreciate your active involvement. Stay tuned for future updates on the project.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

In the second half of 2022, from June to December, which lasted for 184 days, the project storytelling team was busy shuttling between different activities and interviews. The project team collected more and more stories about Yim Tin Tsai, which could be related to religion, culture, economic life, legends, and more. Each story is especially precious because it is a memory map that villagers have given us across time and space.

Entering 2023, the project has been going on for a full year. Our team can't wait to deliver these stories to you and the public through a series of Yim Tin Tsai historical and cultural tours in 2023.

Before that, the project also wants to thank everyone who has supported and encouraged us over the past year through quarterly reports and give us the motivation to continue moving forward.

The following is a review of the project's progress in the second half of 2022. Let us reminisce about this happy journey of the past six months together.

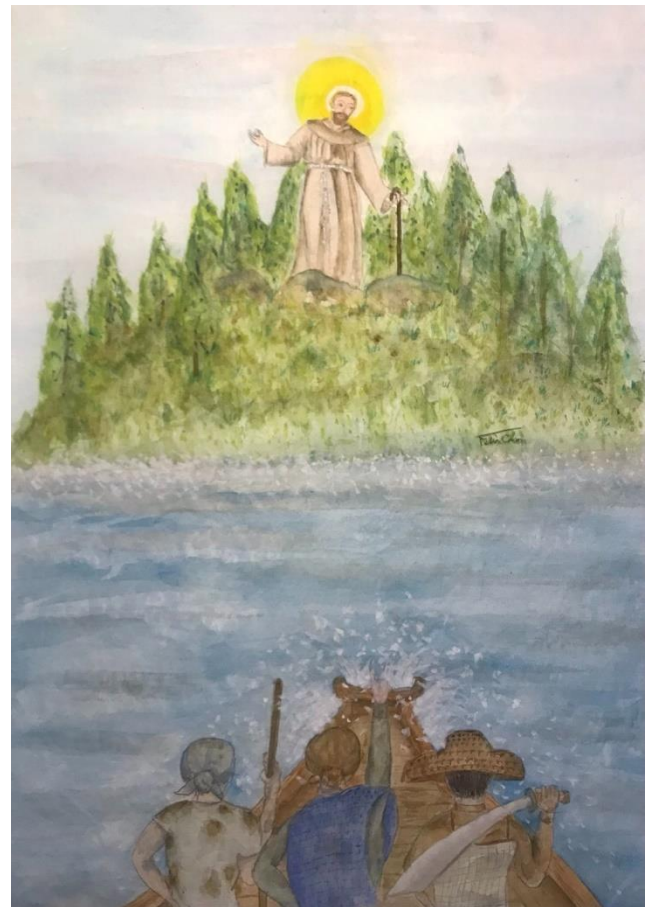
\*Any opinions, research results, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication and project activities do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



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## Story Sharing - Legend of Saint Joseph's Apparition

Many pirates used to "visit" the nearby villages. One time, when pirates were about to go ashore and come to our village, they saw a high hill. On that hill was a tall man with a beard. He was poking around with a stick. The pirates wondered, "How many of them are there?" So they were afraid to come up. Although the pirates did not dare to go ashore, they refused to give in. They intended to approach from another beach. Once they reached the beach, they jumped off the boat one by one. However, they were not familiar with the environment and didn't know that there were oyster shells under water. When they stepped on the oyster shells, they started to panic as their feet bled and they didn't know what else would happen. They felt a bad omen and never came back again. When other villagers heard about this, they were pissed off. Why did the pirates plunder our village but not Yim Tin Tsai? The pirates told this story, which was passed to our village. When we heard the story, we thought that man with a beard and a stick was the spirit of St. Joseph. Therefore, the villagers donated the land to build a church, which was later called "St. Joseph's Church".



The story illustrations were drawn by Mr. Chan, a retired illustrator who has lived in Sai Kung for many years, based on the images of the old way of life described by the villagers.



## Yim Tin Village residents in Yuen Long/ Pok Fu Lam

Due to historical reasons, some residents of Yim Tin Tsai village have moved to Yuen Long and Pok Fu Lam (Taikoo Shing) to live. We were very honored to be recommended to meet with the Yuen Long branch during their short visit back to Hong Kong from overseas, and everyone benefited greatly!

### Yuen Long branch

Uncle Siu-Hung (少雄叔) and Uncle Siu-Kei (少琦叔) are brothers from the same family. They returned to Hong Kong from abroad a few days before the interview. Uncle Siu-hung (少雄叔), the eldest brother in the family, is a lively and energetic person. He enthusiastically shared with us the stories of catching "sparrow fish" with his childhood friends in the village; Uncle Siu-Kei (少琦叔), the third oldest in the family, said that his most unforgettable dish was "pickled stone snail", which he would bring back to steam with eggs. It was really delicious!



Second and third from the left are overseas villagers, Uncle Siu-Hung (少雄叔) and Uncle Siu-Kei (少琦叔).



From left three is villager Marinda, left four is villager Irene

### Tai Koo Shing branch

Irene and Marinda were not born and raised in Yim Tin Tsai village, but they used to follow their family back to the village to play when they were children. In their memories, Yim Tin Tsai village was a relaxing and enjoyable place. Although it was not easy to return to the village from Tai Koo Shing every time, as they had to take a bus and a ferry, every trip was a memorable experience. For Irene, being able to dig sweet potatoes in the village was a treat, while for Marinda, going back with her brother meant that their aunt had prepared a big chicken drumstick for them. Yim Tin Tsai village had the feeling of home.

Former alumni of Ching Po School are witnesses to the changes in Yim Tin Tsai in different periods. The scenes of taking boats back to school in the village and running and playing in the fields and mountains will be described by every Ching Po alumnus we interviewed, taking us back to the days of returning to school in Yim Tin Tsai.

This time, besides thanking many alumni, we are also very grateful for the opportunity to interview the family of Principal Mr Wu Pak Yeung (鄺伯楊), who once taught at Ching Po School, allowing us to learn a little more about the principal as well as a teacher who has devoted a great deal of effort to Ching Po School.

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## Visiting the former alumni of Ching Po School



"Teacher Yuan, we had a bit of a sense of dread when we heard about him because his ruler is really thick."

### Once a teacher, always a teacher

The three ladies on the left in the photo are all former students of Ching Po School. They have known each other since the 1970s and still maintaining their friendship today. They mentioned the unforgettable teacher-student relationship, "once a teacher, always a teacher". Teachers not only know their students but also understand the family situation of each student. It is so precious that the relationship established between teachers and students has now become a relationship like a family relative.

The person on the far right in the photo is another former student, Mr SezTo (司徒先生). Besides his sharing stories about Ching Po School, he also provided a lot of interesting information about the Sai Kung Market at that time!



The person on the far left in the photo is another very talkative former student, Mr Wong. He was as smart as his older brother when they were in the same school!



## Yim Tin Tsai Annual Festival

Yim Tin Tsai Annual Festival Day is the village's most important event of the year. Due to the church was repaired in 2022, the festival day was originally held on the first Sunday of May every year but was postponed to October 23, 2022.

Our Yim Tin Tsai project storytelling team has also participated in the event, experiencing the annual celebration together with our student project collaborators.

The ceremony was led by Father Rev. Dominic Chan Chi-Ming (陳志明神父), and some villagers recited the scriptures in the Hakka dialect. After the Mass, Father Chan (陳神父) led the blessing of the new pier and new village road.



Father Chan (陳神父) led the blessing of the new pier and new village road.



As a sign of respect, an illustration will be used instead of the photo taken on the day of ancestral worship.

## Yim Tin Tsai Village Ancestral Worship

Yim Tin Tsai Village Ancestral Worship is another important event in the village, besides the main St. Joseph's Feast Day. Unlike other places, the time for ancestral worship is not in April of the Ching Ming Festival or the Cheung Yeung Festival. Instead, it is during the Ancestor Remembrance Festival, which is now in November, when villagers from both local and overseas gather to worship their ancestors. This year, the project team had the privilege of participating in it with the villagers.

Yim Tin Tsai Village Ancestral Worship mainly consists of two parts: worship and mass. Firstly, it is to pay respects to their ancestors, the two founders surnamed Chan, the married couple who migrated from Guan Lan, Guangdong over two hundred years ago and founded the village Kau Sai Chau (濠洲) which existed today. Since the villagers converted to become Catholics in 1875, the worship ceremony is a combination of Chinese and Western traditions. The burning of incense is believed by the villagers to convey their messages to their ancestors in the sky. Later on, the Catholic ritual, including reading the Bible and prayer will be performed. After the entire worship ceremony is completed, the priest will celebrate mass for everyone, followed by a time for individual ancestral worship.



## Energetic and versatile project helpers

The project helpers came from different academic disciplines, with different backgrounds and personalities, each of them exerts their own creativities in the team, bringing fresh blood to this project.

During the workshops, they carried their backpacks and wore their work badges behind the group. During the visitors' storytelling platform, you may have played the mini-games they designed.

A notebook and a laptop are the symbols of their participation in the interviews with the villagers. The carefully prepared manuscripts by them are inseparable from the small stories of Yim Tin Tsai.

**Weeding Prince:** On the day of the Yim Tin Tsai Village Ancestral Worship, project contributors Brian & Enoch saw an elderly villager cleaning the yard of grass alone then they immediately took the initiative to help out.



## Visitor's Storytelling Platform

In order to directly understand the public's perspectives about the multi-sensory tour of Yim Tin Tsai, the project team and project collaborators held a two-weekend "Visito Storytelling Platform" event in Yim Tin Tsai Village in September 2022.

In addition to the fun and interesting nine-square games and answering a series of questions about Yim Tin Tsai Village's culture and history, the team also made elaborate preparations on the "Yim Tin Tsai Little Stories" graduation certificates, each containing memory stories belonging to different villagers.

During the 4-day events, a total of 421 members of the public participated in our small games, answered quiz, and received gifts.

The Visitor's Story Platform will continue to be held in 2023. Please stay tuned to our Facebook and Instagram for details.





## 【 Father Joseph Freinademetz celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival ? 】

The public left their footprints on the Yim Tin Tsai map we provided. Did anyone see Father Joseph Freinademetz? During the Mid-Autumn Festival, a child drew a funny picture of Father Freinademetz holding a mooncake (upper left). Did Father Joseph Freinademetz spend the Mid-Autumn Festival in Yim Tin Tsai many years ago? 😊

In any case, we believe that with Father Freinademetz's love for China, he would definitely wish everyone a "Happy Mid-Autumn Festival, may God bless you!"

In addition, we received many descriptions and illustrations of visitors' tour experiences which created a colourful picture.



香港中文大學主辦  
西貢鹽田梓文化歷史保育及復育研究：  
社區敘事及公眾體驗式參與



## 講故「仔」講故「女」招募

### 實習內容

鄉村故事體驗、嘉賓分享、技巧培訓、實地考察、導師考核等；  
完成培訓之參加者將會負責帶領本項目的公眾故事體驗團。

招募所有本港全日制大專及大學生參與，  
服務時數達標者可獲頒授證書及實習津貼。

### 講者

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### 培訓日期

香港中文大學  
1月6日、1月13日(晚上)

西貢鹽田梓實地培訓

1月14日、1月28日、1月29日(全日)

實地考核

2月4日/2月5日(全日)



### 網上簡介會

日期：2023年1月3日(二)  
時間：下午7時半至9時正



## Future Developments

### Yim Tin Tsai Cultural and Historical Storytelling Tour

We are currently training a new generation of male and female youth storytellers who will design their own storytelling routes and combine with interesting themes. In the coming year, they will bring immersive storytelling experiences to everyone!

### Sharing Sessions/Seminars

The project team cordially invites you to explore interesting topics, including Yim Tin Tsai's past and future, local rural development and the feasibility of multi-sensory tourism. The project team has prepared a series of public seminars and sharing sessions for everyone, so see you then!



Yim Tin Tsai Storytelling 鹽田「故」仔

@yttstorytelling

