



A Buddhist Pine, one of the trees under threat from illegal treecutters.



FREE
OF
CHARGE



Sponsored by the Sai Kung District Council
For the Working Group on Liaison with Persons of all Cultures, HCCAC

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Contents	Page 2
Editorial	Page 3
District Council Information	Page 4-13
Notebook	Page 4-15
Map	Page 16-17
Christmas Shopping in Sai Kung	Page 18-23
Restaurant News	Page 24-25
Chines Christmas	Page 26
Charity – Heifer International	Page 27
Illegal Tree Cutting	Page 28-29
Thank You	Page 30
Useful Numbers	Page 31

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The Link is sponsored by the SKDC as a means of providing persons of all cultures with news of developments within the area. The views expressed within the Link are not necessarily those of the SKDC. www.travelinsaikung.org.hk

EDITORIAL

It does not seem that long ago that I was sitting here preparing the last issue. This time of year seems to fly by so fast! I ran into a mother the other day that was already stressed about Christmas coming up and wished she was a kid again so she could just enjoy it. Hear! Hear!

In this issue you will find a fairly comprehensive list of what Sai Kung has to offer for your Christmas shopping needs. And as Christmas time is always a period for giving, read the article about Heifer International, a unique charity that gives animals to those in need. One of our local men in blue has contributed an article about the illegal tree cutting of Incense Trees and the Buddhist Pines taking place in the New Territories, particularly in our back yard!

By the time you get this, The Link will have held its annual charity quiz at Hebe Haven Yacht Club, the success of which is due to the generosity of Sai Kung's businesses. This year was our sixth year and has become one of the highlights on our social calendar. We had a record attendance with over 140 and raised over \$20,000 for Operation Santa Claus. Another event that is soon becoming an established must-do in Sai Kung, is the Carol Singing by Candlelight. Both of these occasions rely heavily on volunteers and we owe them a huge thanks (you know who you are) for making it happen!

We are coming to the end of the Year of the Rooster, considered by the Chinese as the worst of the lot! Looking back, there have been a lot of disasters in one form or another, and degrees of severity. I just hope it does not end with a Bird Flu pandemic! Next year is the Year of the Dog and from the predictions I read, the year is not much better.

The LINK is in need of help, one of the ladies is discontinuing. We need a core of 4 people, if you're interested contact Sonja Welker via her email.

I hope you get what you want for Christmas!

Summary of SKDC Minutes

Proposed 3rd Golf Course on Kau Sai Chau

William Yiu, from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, and Kevin Yuen, General Manager of the Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course (KSCPGC) held a presentation on the long-term development plan for a third golf course. The three main concerns expressed by the committee were the environmental, economical & social impacts this venture will have on Sai Kung.

Environmentally, the design of the golf course would follow the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Brief issued in 2001. Measures during construction would include surveys on coral and seaweed and monitoring the water quality along the coastline. In order to solve irrigation and erosion problems on the new golf course, the following suggestions were proposed:

- install a desalination system to extract seawater during dry seasons;
- channel rainwater from the golf course to the existing reservoir and build additional small lakes and storage tanks;
- provide a drainage system where rainwater can be collected and re-directed to the existing reservoir instead of the man-made wetlands;
- protect the streams by building bridges and placing buffer zones to safeguard marine quality;
- repair slopes to prevent further erosion during heavy rainfall.

All efforts will be made to preserve the existing trees on the island. Paspalum is being looked at for the grass turf. It has proven to be durable and can sustain frequent usage and its antibiotic and alkaline characteristics will reduce the use of fertilizers and chemicals in irrigation.

Economically and socially, the extension would create more employment opportunities in Sai Kung. It would aid in developing the industry and encourage golfers to stay in Hong Kong. HKJC expressed an interest in setting-up a development fund for Kau Sai Chau after completion of the third golf course. The fund would help establish a golf school to provide formal training for all ages. KSCPGC are also looking at golfing activities for the disabled.

There are 20 graves within the boundary of the proposed site, currently three graves might have to be relocated. KSCPGC are working closely with the SK District Lands Office to reduce the number of graves affected.

Public views on the EIA report would be sought in due course.

TKO Town Centre Area 56

Sharon LIU, from the MTRC briefed a meeting on the MTRC's proposed plans for Area 56 following a government feasibility study for further development of TKO. Members would like to see a reduction in residential facilities and more provision for cultural and entertainment facilities for community activities. A representative from the SKDC suggested the MTRC revise and re-submit the development proposal following comments made at the meeting.

MTRC's "10 Trips Earn 1 Free Ride" Concession

From July 2005 the "10 Trips earn 1 Free Ride" concession was withdrawn. SKDC would write to the MTR Corporation requesting it to restore the concession.

Promenade Walk Waterfront TKO

A plan was submitted showing a waterfront promenade on the south bank of TKO Town Centre linking the park and the town square. Sai Kung's waterfront promenade was sited as an example. Members suggested amending the proposal allowing sufficient width and green areas. The plan would then be submitted to SKDC and the public for consultation.

TKO Area 74

Existing cultural and recreational facilities in TKO South were seriously inadequate. Area 74 would be used for building an indoor recreation centre as part of the Tiu Keng Leng Park which would not be completed until 2011. Members suggested developing the park into a permanent park as soon as possible.

Traffic and Transport Committee

Tong Tak & Tong Yin Streets

Tong Tak Street is part of the school bus route where students are picked up and dropped off. Illegally parked cars along this street are creating an obstruction thereby causing school buses to stop in the middle of the road posing a danger to students. Police to follow up and action. A section along Tong Yin Street (near the Tang Ying Hei College) have a large number of lorries and waste collection vehicles parked overnight causing hygiene problems. Relevant government department to follow up and action.

Additional Bus Service

The TTC suggested the Transport Department (TD) consider extending the bus service to TKO by branching off the route between Lam Tin and Hang Hau.

Public Light Bus Route No. 16

Members requested an increase of frequency and hours of service for Public Light Bus Route No. 16. TD to follow-up.

Temporary Carpark for Lorries in TKO

Temporary parking has been set up in areas 73A, 73B with further spaces being provided in areas 109 and 45. TD and the Housing Department to look at number of parking spaces for lorries versus private car parks in the district. TD may consider converting private car spaces into lorry car parks to meet the current demand.

Southward Extension of MTR Tseung Kwan O Line & completion of North Hong Kong Island Line

The Tseung Kwan O South Line was expected to begin construction in 2006. The proposed TKO South station would be located inside a building adjoining the depot serving the "Dream City", a major future development. Plans are still in initial stage. The TTC noted that the government would not review the development of the North Hong Kong Island Line until 2016.

Covers for Terminals of Public Light Bus Routes 15M & 17M TKO

Operators of the two public light bus routes have submitted roof cover design for consideration and are waiting for approval from the Advisory Committee on Bridges and Associated Structures under the Highways Department (HyD). Members proposed that the TD should provide a standard design of roof covers for public light bus termini.

New World First Bus (NWFB) Route No. N796

A request for fare reduction, increase in frequency and an interchange concession to Tsim Sha Tsui has been refused. Two additional stops would be provided on Kwun Tong Road outside Choi Hung Estate and Choi Shek Lane. Members proposed a trial period during which time the bus fare would be reduced to attract more passengers. Members also proposed to introduce an interchange concession at the above locations as there were no late night transport services linking Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan and Yau Ma Tei with TKO.

Late Night Bus Route No. N691

The TTC said that the provision of a terminus running via Tiu Keng Leng was not feasible because the street was not designed to accommodate so many heavy goods vehicles and would result in frequent repairs of road surface.

Bus Depots in Tseung Kwan

Only Area 26 was available for a permanent bus depot for the time being. TD would continue to identify sites for relocating the bus depots for permanent use.

Public Parking Meters in Sai Kung and TKO during Holidays

The TD said that as it was necessary to have a unified charging session for public parking meters in Hong Kong. Members could choose either 8am to 8pm or 10am to 10pm. The TTC would write to the Commissioner for Transport to consider changing the public parking meter times from 8am to 10pm.

Sai Kung North Road

Another road section would be constructed to link Wai Man Road and a temporary car park under short-term tenancy to accommodate large vehicles. Members concerned about illegal parking problems.

Car park at War Memorial in Tsam Chuk Wan

Members suggested the car park be constructed on the opposite side of the road. TD to re-consider other possible locations for the car park.

DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

Hang Hau Transport Interchange

The number of goods vehicles parked at the Hang Hau Transport Interchange has increased during peak hours causing serious traffic congestion. The TD informed the Police of the situation and suggested that the Management Office of Residence Oasis allow goods vehicles to enter its car park to alleviate road congestion.

Healthy City and Community Affairs Committee

Helping the Poor

A representative from the Social Welfare Department (SWD) briefed members on a community inclusion service and strategy concerning helping the poor in Sai Kung District. Members decided to refer the work to the Working Group on Poverty Issues for follow-up.

Wong Tai Sin & Sai Kung District Social Welfare Office

A representative from the SWD reported on the progress of setting up an integrated family services centre in TKO South and the handover of the centre. The Hong Kong Family Welfare Society introduced an integrated family service in TKO South. Members enquired about services provided by the centre and requested operations be finalized.

Youth Affairs

The Working Group to co-organize a community seminar with the Jackie Chan Whole Person Development Centre of the Christian Family Service Centre.

Rehabilitation Services

The Working Group to co-organize a "Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied Inclusion" scheme with the Haven of Hope Christian Service. Rehabilitation organizations/disabled persons and able-bodied (including students, elderly, women and youngsters, etc.) in the district would be invited to form a road team to perform in local schools to promote "Arts with the Disabled".

Healthy City Activities

The Working Group to organize a "Sports Ambassador" scheme under the "Let's Exercise" project and a three-a-side Basketball Tournament in Sai Kung in cooperation with the "TKO - Healthy City" Project under the Haven of Hope Christian Service. Members discussed different ways to publish the "TKO - Healthy City" newsletter.

DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

Food and Environmental Hygiene

Illegal Cooked Food Hawkers

The hawker problems at exits of Tiu Keng Leng MTR Station and Sheung Tak area have improved.

Tree Planting

A total of 101 trees were planted along the roadsides in Sai Kung District.

Traffic Noise in TKO

Re-surfacing was conducted on TKO Tunnel Road, Wan Po Road near Oscar by the Sea and sections of Chiu Shun Road between Po Ning Road and Ngan O Road. Noise barriers were installed at sections of Po Shun Road and the open space at Chiu Shun Road near Wan Po Road. There are no plans for noise reduction installations at the section of Po Lam Road North near TKO Village.

Housing and Development Committee

Housing Affairs, TKO

A representative of the Housing Department reported on the following issues:

- i. review loading / unloading area outside Kin Ching House;
- ii. HD / Towngas Company to provide free maintenance service to tenants of Kwong Ming Court, for rusty gas pipes
- iii. repaving or reinstating the pavement surface of Po Hong Road outside Beverly Garden.

Village Houses

Members requested the Working Group to continue to follow up applications and assessments for building small houses.

Economic Development Committee

Sai Kung Third Pier

Construction work for new pier to commence April 2006. Members suggested not to use wood as it is not very durable. They also suggested the stairway access for loading and unloading of passengers be illuminated at night to prevent accidents.

Tourism in Sai Kung

Mr. HUNG Chung-hing briefed the meeting on a study for Potential Tourism in Sai Kung District. Mr. NG Sze-fuk, Chairman of the EDC, was elected convener of this working group. Representatives from relevant government departments will be invited to attend meetings and give advice on various studies. Other matters discussed were: Sai Kung Teen Talent Show, exploring deserted islands for tourism development; and a programme to use abandoned fish ponds for leisure fishing.

Promotion of Employment

The following were discussed: An exhibition of "Skill Upgrading Scheme"; A Summer Virtual Enterprise Training Programme; Hiring unemployed for a domestic cleaning service for the elderly; developing the Environmental Protection Industry in Tseung Kwan O Industrial Estate and establishing a Second-hand Market in Tseung Kwan O.

New Regulations on Open Pleasure Boats (Speedboats)

To minimize inconsistencies and misunderstandings, the EDC suggested joint meetings be attended by relevant government departments and organizations to discuss details of the new regulations.

Cultural, Recreation and Sports

Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) Youth League 2005-06

The LFT Football Team, the Sai Kung District Sports Association and the Sai Kung & TKO Cultural, Recreation & Sports Association indicated their interest in the league. Members agreed to form an interview panel and met with the three groups before submitting report to the SKDC for consideration and decision.

Cycling Track in Sai Kung

The Civil Engineering & Development Department (CEDD) to follow up the project.

Local Swimming Clubs

LCSD to review the rental of swimming lanes to local clubs using Public Swimming Facilities.

Community Art in Sai Kung (TKO)

Mr. FAN Kwok-wai to meet with the Curator of the APO to discuss the promotion of community and public art in Sai Kung District. Subject to approval Mr. FAN will meet with relevant departments including the Highways Department and the Drainage Services Department.

Area 40A, TKO

The Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) invited tenders to provide detailed designs for Area 40A. LCSD, the ArchSD and CRSC will meet to discuss the design of the open space.

DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

Areas 44b and 44c, TKO

The ArchSD applied for funding to develop Area 44c into a permanent rest garden. The work would commence within six months upon approval. LCSD and the CEDD confirmed to provide temporary community nurseries and sitting-out facilities in the area (the site of the TKO Complex).

Recreational Facilities in Area 45, TKO

The secretariat would write to the Secretary for Home Affairs to construct a Ice Sports Centre, a Bowling Centre and a Town Park.

Construction of Rest Garden in Area 56

The MTRC have not yet finalized its Comprehensive Development Scheme for Area 56. As the scheme was adjacent to the open space in Area 56, it might affect the development plan of the LCSD. LCSD to closely monitor the progress and assess the overall development need of TKO South and Tiu Keng Leng.

DISTRICT COUNCIL INFORMATION

Finance and Administration - Applications for Funds

78 funding applications totalling \$1,442,078.80: 36 belonged to Cultural, Recreation & Sports Activities totalling \$452,769; 5 Festive Celebrations totalling \$200,670; 30 Community Affairs Activities (ear-marked fund) totalling \$552,114; 7 Community Affairs Activities (non-earmarked fund) totalling 236,525. A total of 261 applications were received. Details are as follows:

Activities	Received	Approved	Rejected	Withdrawn after Approval	Funds Approved (\$)
(1) Cultural, Recreation and Sports	159	152	7	1	1,262,348.0
(2) Festive Celebrations	11	11	0	0	1,073,460.0
(3) Summer Youth Programme	4	4	0	0	90,005.0
(4) Community Affairs (Ear-marked Fund)					
(a) Elderly Festival	0	0	0	0	0.0
(b) Healthy City	7	3	4	0	185,669.0
(c) Area Committee	3	3	0	0	65,956.0
(d) Fight Crime	14	14	0	0	185,034.0
(e) Civic Education	5	5	0	0	48,349.0
(f) District Corruption Fighting	1	1	0	0	46,000.0
(g) Road Safety	1	1	0	0	12,750.0
(h) Fire Safety	7	7	0	0	129,140.0
(i) Helping New Arrivals in HK	0	0	0	0	0.0
(j) WGs of HCCAC	3	3	0	0	100,000.0
(k) Joint Community Involvement Projects	0	0	0	0	0.0
(5) Other Community Affairs	39	35	4	1	1,105,879.0
(6) Publicity and Miscellaneous	7	7	0	0	239,260.0
Total	261	246	15	2	4,543,850.0

Ballroom & Latin dancing starting in Sai Kung! Due to the favorable response from our last issue Sunshine & Keith are pleased to announce that they will be teaching classes at the Sai KungTown Hall from February 2006 as follows: "Social Dancing for Beginners"(waltz & cha cha cha) every Sunday from February 19 to 26 March, (total 10hrs) at: 10am to 12noon - \$990 per person. "Introduction to Argentine Tango" every Saturday from March 4 (4hrs) at: 2 - 4pm. \$390 per person. Please call Keith on 9104 4984 or email keith@tangohk.com or you can visit their website on www.tangouk.com

Christian Action Charity Shop at 16 Wai King Path in the square. Selling clothing, small electrical appliances, household goods, books from \$3.00 upward.

"Feel like you're paying too much for stuff? Visit www.ExpatsPayTooMuch.com"

The Gallery has expanded its operation to Tai Mong Tsai Road (near the Sai Kung Police station). The new outlet, called the National Factory Ltd, is more like a warehouse selling antique furniture and some ceramics. Opening hours are 1 to 6pm. Closed Weds.

The Golf School of HK, owned and operated by PGA Golf Professionals Mark Smith, Vaughan Mason and Lee Parker, has recently opened at the Whitehead Golf Driving Range in Ma On Shan. The School is unique in that it is the only one in Hong Kong offering driving range based instruction on a fully grassed practice and teaching facility. It has golf course standard greens, short game chipping and pitching areas, sand bunkers and grass hitting bays together with 12 regular driving range bays, all flood lit. The school offers a full range of golf instruction programs, either individually or in groups to all levels and ages of golfers and want-to-be golfers. For enquires email info@thegolfschool.hk or look at their website www.thegolfschool.hk

If you are like me and need help with your commuter programmes, website or just a tidy-up, Iota Technology is there it help. Call 6446 2527 or email info@iota.hk.

Leisure Book Store is offering 50% off on all large fiction books this winter. They have decided to expand their teenage section and welcome all books for ages between 12 and 19. As a token for your support, those who have traded over 20 books in this category will be given a cash coupon of \$20. This offer will last until the end of December. Gift coupons are also available for \$20, \$50 or HK\$100. Opening hours are 10.30 to 7.30, 7 days. Tel: 27919629 email: leisuresk@yahoo.com.hk.

PANTOMINE: Banish those January blues with an evening of riotous laughter with the

Hong Kong Players' annual panto which is being staged in mid-January, due to the machinations of the WTO ("boo, hiss!"). Sleeping Beauty brings with it one exhausted princess, two complete nincompoops and no fewer than three dames. There's also a children's chorus of 30, some very glamorous dancing girls and more belly laughs for everyone than you can shake a magic wand at. "Will the stage be big enough?" we hear you cry. Come and see for yourselves! Sleeping Beauty will be at the Shouson Theatre, The Arts Centre, Wanchai from January 12-22, (evenings 7.30pm, weekend matinees 2.30pm). Cost: \$220 for adults / \$200 for kids. Tickets on sale at all URB TIX outlets (2734-9009 for enquiries & reservations or 2111-5999 for URB TIX Express).

Sai Kung Port Shelter Regatta Jan 1-2 from 9am to 5pm at the Pak Sha Wan Sea Scout Activity Centre. Entries for Single Handler \$50, 2-man dinghy \$100. Applications can be obtained from the Centre. Deadline for entries is 25 Dec. For enquires ring 2719 8979 or fax 2358 2177

Sai Kung Reflexology Centre: Alex just returned from Nanjing where he attended a course in "Advanced Reflexology" to keep up with his skills. He is also pleased to be introducing two new ladies, both from China, who will be joining their team in Jan 2006. Ms. Takco CHAN and Ms. Wai-wai SHEK will be offering beauty treatments, pedicures and manicures. Tel: 2792 2743

Socatoms: Starting Jan 10 in Sai Kung Town Hall. Tues. 3yrs -10-11am / 2yrs 11-12noon. Fri. 2yrs 2-3pm / 3yrs 3-4pm. Fri. 4yrs - 4.15-5.15pm at Sai Kung Football Pitch (opp pool). Contact Brazilian Soccer School 2358 9677

Stirling English: Shop 11 Level 8, Silverstrand Mart (PnS), Clearwater Bay. Lesley Stirling is a UK qualified Primary & Special Needs teacher with over 30yrs experience. She worked with the ESF as Special Needs Co-ordinator as well as other international schools in Hong Kong. Group lessons available at \$250hr per student, private \$500 per hour. Tel 2719 4555 for more information.

Translation Services: For Legal, Commercial or Technical translations contact English First at 3583 4012 / 8335 0140 or email enquiry@languagefirst.net. Special Offer for English to Chinese \$0.58 a word, other languages \$1.58 per word.

Diary Dates:

Helpers Holidays: 1 January, 1st, 2nd and 3rd days of Chinese N.Y
Rugby 7's March 31 to April 2

KRS/YUE SUN
POUSADA
SANTORINI'S

SYU-SAKU ISLAND
PRESTIGIO ONE GYM COLLECTION

METER CAR PARK

CATHOLIC CHURCH

SABA HOME VINTAGE

PEPPERONI'S
7-11 KINDER-GARTEN

VIOLIN MAKER
PO TUNG ROAD

ANTHONY'S CATCHER

COUNTRY PARK 17
& MAON SHAN
Spahr

TO POLICE STATION

RUSH HOUR
MON-G-KEK
MIU BUS
TEMPLE

REGENTS VILL
OLD TOWN

SCARECROW
KWAN KAE FLOWERS
PETS

BIKE SHOP
LOOS
LAP SAP

ART & SOUL
OLD TOWN
VINS GAUER

TUNG TALAS
FIRENZE
ANNAS
BUECHER
HUNG MESTAL
BUECHER
HUNG MESTAL

WET MARKET
POETS' KONICA
APPETITO BLECTRICS
BALL COURT
STANDARD VETS
THE STUDIO
PHOTO SHOP
KIDS PLAY
GANGUNG
GRAVITIES
SSA
FOD
SAP
POLY
S
LORRY PARK

NO MAN'S LAND
7-11
MORE STAND RESTAURANTS
SEAFOUNT PROMENADE & RESTAURANTS

BOOKS M
HSBC
Wellcome
paper living
PAPER'S SUSANNAH
SUSANNAH
SUSANNAH
VEGETABLE

WET MARKET
DAS JAPAN HOME STORE
PARK or SHOP
GAS
SOCKET CLUBS

MONA FONG GOVT CLINIC

POST OFFICE
GOVT OFFICES

PAPERS DIA
CASHWIRTS
TOYS OF YOUNG
PARTY HOUSE
STATIONARY
CAR
WORKSHOP

KIDS PLAY
KIDS PLAY

GOLD SHOES
OK ELECT-RICS
GAR LAM
KINDY 3-11

THAI MART

WO KEE RESTAURANT
BARELY RANT
THAI BEACH
POOTO FIELDS

MINI BUSES TO
CHOI HUNG
ETC
TAXIS

POOL, TENNIS
COURTS
ID1 BUS

HONGKONG & KOWLOON CITY MIWIBUS

GAI DOS TO TRIO BEACH & SHARP ISLAND

FERRY TO KAI SHAU & CHAU GOLF COURSE

SEAFOUNT PROMENADE & RESTAURANTS

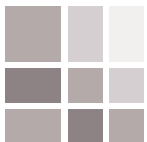
YI CHUN ST.

MAN NIN ST.

TUK MAN ROAD

SAI 2

INSAI



Christmas shopping in Sai Kung

If you haven't completed your Christmas shopping and are looking for last minute items or gift ideas, here is an overview of what is on offer at some of our local retailers and businesses in and around Sai Kung.

Chan Man Street

View – (down the alleyway past Steamers), silver and precious stones jewelry

Wellcome - Christmas trimmings here including artificial trees, bonbons, cards, advent calendars and decorations, eggnog.

Rapee Living - A great store with a variety of items including sheets, blankets, aromatherapy, soaps, oils, crystal, china, quirky games, and Christmas decorations. Check out the store online www.rapeeliving.com.hk.

The Candle Company – Another fantastic shop for finding presents for teachers, friends and neighbours. It contains an amazing array of candles, candle holders, oils, incense sticks, aromatherapy oils, citronella torches, beautiful glass bowls, platters and trays. A recent addition is their range of body and hair care products made from olive oils from Greece called Tact. The range includes pure olive oil soaps, lotions, shampoos and conditioners.

Soho Wines – Stock up on your Christmas cheer with Soho's wide selections of premium wines, beers and spirits. Free delivery on orders over \$500 plus free glass hire and ice. Visit their website www.sohowines.hk for their latest promotions.

The Gallery – If you need a specific piece of furniture to complete your lounge or living room, or you want something custom-made, then this shop has a lot to offer. It is full of Chinese antique furniture and wood carvings, plus smaller items such as Chinese tea, cups and bowls.

Sun Zip Chinese Antique Furniture – For a real taste of the Orient, this holds an interesting collection of beautifully decorated and craved furniture, room dividers, plus quaint little wooden chairs, stools, hat stands, fish baths, lamps, jewelry boxes, chess sets and Chinese portraits.

Dot Gallery – The shop has downsized a little, to fit into smaller premises and is offering 20 percent discount on paintings and gift items. There are some great originals by Hong Kong artists, Jack Lui and Chinese artist, SL Yeung, plus, a selection of mosaic bottles, vases and replica paintings.

Off Man Nin Street (opposite Post Office)

Amazing Inspirations – An interesting blend of gifts from India including lanterns, beaded picture frames, handbags, accessories and jewelry, bean bags, hammocks, bed spreads, rugs and shawls, and even beautifully beaded shoes.



Christmas shopping in Sai Kung

Design Factory – Another shop containing beautifully crafted furniture including a bamboo swing chair perfect for the garden or patio area, Chinese ornaments, and chopstick sets, as well as a pretty selection of jewelry and clothing from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Korea and Japan.

Patsy House Electrical Co – For all your electrical needs, especially dehumidifiers, air purifiers, indoor & outdoor heaters and barbeques, coffee machines, bread makers, double-grilled convection ovens, visit the electrical Mecca of Sai Kung. Also, for a healthy treat this Christmas try the Easi-Yo yogurt maker complete with yogurt satchels.

Central Toys & Gifts Co. – a range of toys for under 10yrs, including Barbie dolls, puzzles, cars, robots, game boy games, trading cards, and model planes. Plus an interesting collection of Christmas decorations and hanging lights in bells, star and flower shapes made from colourful materials.

Cat Workshop – This is not a pet store although two lovely cats are known to watch you as you make your way through the maze of cat knickknacks – everything from mugs to full statues of our feline friends – a must for cat lovers.

Good Fortune Children's Wear Company – Mostly for younger children this shop has a nice selection of under 8yrs out fits, plus socks, jackets and inexpensive toys. It is a great place to buy dress-up character costumes and traditional Chinese clothes, particularly useful for attending Chinese New Year celebrations.

Man Nin Street

Vantage Terrace – has an interesting collection of lamps, picture frames, mirrors and other gift items.

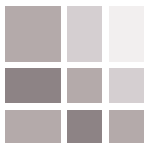
DVD & Photo shop – Buy one of the recent DVD releases (or hire them), while you have your photos developed.

View Gift Shop – This newly opened shop has a beautiful range of silver and precious stones pieces including Kenny & Co. stainless steel rings and bracelets, jade bracelets and pear necklaces, watches from Boyland, earrings and bracelets made from Australian opals. For those admirers of Buddha, there are beautiful wood carvings on offer.

Sai Kung Square - Man Nin Street

Surrounding the newly renovated playground there are an interesting collection of shops mingled among restaurants.

Accents – just in time for the cold weather, Accents sell a large range of handmade woolen and silk carpets, rugs, runners, huge lounge pillows. They also stock Lorette Roberts book of "Hong Kong Sketches and Paintings" as well as some of her prints.



Christmas shopping in Sai Kung

Green Earth Society – Feeling green this Christmas, fill your stockings with a wide range of healthy products from the US and UK. On offer are beautiful gift baskets containing a range of products, organic pure cotton sheets, t-shirts, bathrobes, baby clothes, bamboo and weaved handbags, aromatherapy oils, organic lipsticks, and skin products. You can have a healthy Christmas lunch or dinner by buying organic fruit and vegetables from New Zealand, sauces, and healthy snacks. There is also an extensive range of home care products, water purification and air filter systems, as well as outdoor leisure equipment. For gift ideas visit: www.greeneartsociety.com.

Ali Oli – Always good for stocking up on Christmas goodies including roast turkey, honey-glazed baked ham, puddings, mince pies, gingerbread and shortbread biscuits, homemade jams, and of course a variety of delicious breads.

SPCA – Pet products and charity Christmas cards.

Flow Bookshop – contains an interesting collection of new and pre-loved books including the Harry Potter series.

The Sai Kung Reflexology & Massage Centre – Pamper someone you love this Christmas with a relaxing aromatherapy massage or something more invigorating like Thai or Hot Stone therapy. Gift vouchers are available.

Kong Ming Emporium – A great shop for Christmas and Chinese New Year decorations, wrapping paper, plus photocopy and printing paper, envelopes, cardboard pens, craft items, stickers and small gift items.

Yi Chun Street

Q- Pets – Of course we can't forget presents for our loving animal companions at Christmas. This store has a good range of housing, bedding, cat stands, toys and delicious treats for your pets.

Garden Wall – has a variety of ceramic pots, baskets and garden ornaments, vases and other home decorating products, including Christmas ornaments. For the sport enthusiastic they have a selection of indoor/outdoor pool and soccer tables and hockey games.

Butcher King – Always offering a good range of seasonings and meats for Christmas roasts, mulled wine mix and eggnog.

Mushroom Bakery – scrumptious range of delicacies including traditional Christmas mince pies, puddings, assorted biscuits, gingerbread, plus honey glazed ham and roast turkey.

Shun Kee Houseware (Harrods) – sell a good variety of artificial trees as well as lights and decorations, Christmas biscuit and cake moulds. The shop nick-named



Christmas shopping in Sai Kung

Harrods is equivalent to a mini-department store and holds everything from outdoor furniture to fine white china dinner plates and platters. It is a great shop to find an essential tool, electrical or bathroom items.

Royal Terrace Furniture Shop – An interesting collection of garden memorabilia including cast iron letter boxes, ceramic ducks, elephants etc, outdoor furniture, lamps, hanging baskets, planter boxes and plants.

Cindy's Flowers (near the Temple car park) – As the saying goes "Say-it-with-flowers" Cindy can organize flower arrangements to be sent to friends and families with free delivery offered in Hong Kong and FDT around the world. Of course, no Christmas party is complete without the traditional holly branches.

My Silvers – further along from Cindy's Flowers into Sai Kung old town on Tak Hung Tsin Sreet is a little treasure trove of pretty earrings, pendants, necklaces and bracelets set in silver.

Po Tung Road

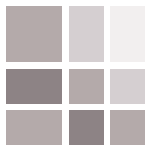
Sabai Day Spa – For the next few months, they will be offering a few promotions to get you feeling relaxed and rejuvenated! HIS and HERS massages offers couples the privacy of their own therapy room to enjoy a relaxing massage together. Try a BODY SCRUB treatment guaranteed to rejuvenate the skin and improve circulation. Or experience the perfect winter treatment to warm, detoxify and tone the body WINTER BODY RUB whilst warming the body and soothing the skin, tones your muscles to make you feel firmer. One exclusive offers is their VISUAL BRILLIANCE. This facial treatment is an amazing skin booster. The perfect pampering for someone you care about this Christmas is a SABAI GIFT VOUCHER.

Prestigo – Take the burden out of Christmas parties and have it catered. This quaint shop has more than just cakes but offers a delicious range of fusion meals for parties, private dinning and even cooking classes.

Island Collection – Go here for elegant Christmas ornaments or home decorating items such as colorful silk pillows or beautiful cutlery sets.

Tala's Hair & Beauty Centre – Going to a special ball? Blow-drys start at \$120. Or Give yourself (or a friend!) a treat with their incredible packages on hair and beauty services. Gift Vouchers make excellent presents: buy services or cash amounts so your friends can choose what they REALLY want. Still stuck for gift ideas? Tala's sell Farfalla from Switzerland Aromatherapy gift boxes, hand-made jewellery and greeting cards.

Leisure Book Shop – If you are looking for a treasured book then you might find it here. The shop holds an interesting collections of second hand books on a variety of subjects, plus charity Christmas cards. Gift certificates available.



Christmas shopping in Sai Kung

Waterfront Park – Sai Square

For a pleasant shopping experience, stroll along Sai Square and visit these few little shops containing an interesting collection of gift items from bags, clothes, jewellery, ceramic salad bowls and other knick-knack items. For golfing enthusiasts there is even a golf shop to upgrade those clubs.

Pak Sha Wan

KK Horticultural – This is a good time to restock your annuals with a large selection of colourful daisies and petunias plus a variety of herbs including basil, rosemary, lemon grass, coriander and parsley – great for making that turkey stuffing, Christmas plants too!

Miss Lee's Garden Centre, Fu Yung Tung Lee Garden Centre and Dhalia's – all have a wide choice of potted trees including Spruce, Conifers and Norfolk Pines for Christmas as well as beautiful ceramic pots, hanging baskets, and ceramic baths for establishing your very own miniature fish ponds.

Yue Sun Garden Centre – Located on the top of Pak Kong Rod, this long established garden centre sells a large variety of live Christmas trees, wreaths and Pointesettia.

Chez les Copains French Restaurant – for the culinary lover, Christmas Hampers filled with fresh home-made marinade Norwegian salmon in dill & lemon zest, goose liver terrine in Muscat wine, marinade black truffles (secret recipe from Yunnan), all packed fresh to order. Hampers can also be bought at Bonnie's new delicatessen corner, **BonbonR** in Sai Kung, Shop 17, Ko Shing Bldg. 9 King Man Street. Tel: Bonnie So at 2792 1688 or 2243 1918, near the mini bus terminus.

Silverstrand/Clearwater Bay

Equilibrium – For pampering and a bit of de-stressing before or after Christmas, the centre offers massages, facials and energy healing treatments performed by Marita Betts who holds 7 internationally recognized diplomas. New treatments include Myofacial Release Technique for reducing pain & inflammation and reduces facial & scar tension; Color Puncture (a unique holistic healing system); detoxification treatments. Marita also runs courses for facial and Reiki. Call 2719 6043 or email equilib@biznetvigator.com

Home Shopping

The Meat Club – Get your Christmas turkey, ham, fish and beef delivered straight to your door. The Club offers chilled or frozen meat and fish products imported direct from Australia, NZ, Europe and Asia. Reasonable prices. For more information contact: Brenda Dyson 9471 6341 or email Brenda@saikungmc.com.



Christmas shopping in Sai Kung

Rock On Jewellery is an innovative jewellery company launched by Nicky Loiterton, based at Clearwater Bay. Featuring a high quality crystal, gem and rock jewellery offered in cutting-edge style. Each piece is hand-made and lengths, colours and finishing can be ordered specifically. The stock is constantly updated and generally no more than 10 pieces of each product are produced. All products are finished in 925 silver or 9ct gold and beautifully gift packed. Nicky also runs an incentive scheme for home sales. She offers a 10% purchase certificate of takings AND 10% to your favourite charity if you host a home sale. For more details contact Nicky Loiterton – 91814064/23584133 – emailrockonjewellery@yahoo.com.



Pearls – Rashede Maltz-Jones has been making Freshwater Pearl necklaces, bracelets and earrings for 15 years now, and enjoys the challenge of sourcing and making individual orders for customers. She carries Shell and Mabe Pearls in her collection, as well as a wide selection of Amber jewellery from Eastern Europe, colourful rubber necklaces for charms, silver bracelets, beautiful enamel mirror compacts and semi-precious stones, made-up into jewellery, or loose for

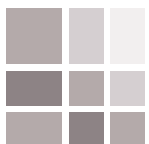
jewellery makers. Rashede has been teaching freshwater pearl stringing classes for 15 years, and offers to home classes for a minimum of 4 ladies. For more information phone 6084 3578.

Phoenix Charity Christmas Cards and Products – A range of products from Judith Topper, call 2791 6444, 9493 8538, Judith_topper@yahoo.co.uk. Phoenix cards are also available at Sai Kung Reflexology Centre.

Farfalla of Switzerland – natural essential oils and skin care products that are healthy for you and the environment. Available through Tala's Hair & Beauty Centre, Sai Kung or Equilibrium, Clearwater Bay or online at www.swiftkg.com.

Lanterns – Silk lanterns of all shapes, sizes and colours from Nikki Parfitt. Call 2791 7776 or email silklanterns@hotmail.com.

Juie Buck is selling hand made designer candles, giftwrap soaps, pot pourrie, call 2719 4546.



RESTAURANT NEWS

La Piazza Restaurant and Bar: G/F House 24, Hang Hau Resite Village, Tseung Kwan O, Tel: 2719 5688

Gary Brar and two other former chefs from Lardos have opened up their own Italian Restaurant in Hang Hau Village. Located right on the main street, there is indoor and outdoor seating. Daily Specials are posted on the board. The staff is friendly and willing to explain drinks, menu items, etc.

We have visited a few times over the last several months including take out pizza and have not been disappointed. For appetizers, the home made deep fried calamari rings that come with either Thousand Island dressing or tomato sauce (\$75) and the deep fried mozzarella cheese rolled in Parma ham with tomato sauce (\$85) are very tasty and nicely presented. The menu offers a variety of pasta dishes as well as meat dishes. We have enjoyed the BBQ roasted pork ribs with a side dish of french fries or home made mashed potatoes and vegetable (\$139). Gary will even do 1/2 rack of ribs if you ask. The ribs are flown in fresh from Australia and have been consistently very tender. To get a taste of the pasta, ask the chef to put together a sample of three pastas. On our last visit, this included Tagliatelle with smoked salmon and mushroom in cream sauce, linguine with white wine sauce and fresh spinach, and spaghetti carbonara. There is variety of wines and beers to choose from or bring your own bottle (corkage fee \$70). Right now La Piazza is offering 1/2 price off for a large take out pizza. Great for Sunday night dinner! Overall, the food is very good and the portions generous.

TANKA: 2792 6667 / 2407 4452 email: tanka@saisquare.com
www.saisquare.com/tanka.htm

Eating out in Sai Kung's many great restaurants is, I reckon, one of the reasons we live here - that is apart from the (comparatively) fresh air, space and green hills, etc. Not many of us though think the food choices are particularly up market in Sai Kung and for that really big night out we'll head to TST or the Island. However, Tanka is a reason for "townees" to make the trip in the opposite direction.

In case you didn't know, Tanka (no idea what the name means, but it sounds a



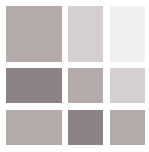
RESTAURANT NEWS

bit Kiwi) is a boat. This splendid, elegantly understated, wooden junk is owned and operated by Sai Square. Usually Tanka is moored off a quiet bay near Outward Bound to which you will be ferried by kai-do. Once on board, pre-dinner drinks are offered under the stars on the roof together with sumptuous appetizers. A party boat this is not. Dining tables are laid out with crisp linen and fresh flowers. The five course dinner is cooked below deck by their own on board chef who follows a set menu with deliberately limited choices guaranteeing top quality and freshness. None of the seafood salad (gravlax if you're posh), pumpkin soup (never tasted better), spring chicken and strawberries lasted long on my plate! On the evening we went, a selection of wines from Ashbrook Wines on the Margaret River accompanied each course. It was truly a fine dining experience. Book it with a group of special friends, but they don't have to come from the Island!

Scarecrow: Yi Chun Street (next door to Q Pets) Tel: 2791 0888

If you are looking for a quiet out of the way place to enjoy a pleasant meal you can not go wrong with Scarecrow, the latest new restaurant to open in Sai Kung. One of its unique features is the fireplace. The menu is Italian. The set lunch is excellent value - for \$58 you get a choice of soup or salad, a main and coffee. I love the minestrone soup with its fresh ingredients and the authentic thin crust, plate size pizza. This place will be popular with non-smokers because there is no smoking allowed inside however there is a spacious terrace to sit outside.

Most restaurants in Sai Kung will be serving special Christmas & New Year's menus so find out what your favorite place is offering and book fast!



Chinese Christmas

What do the Chinese locals do during Christmas time?

On the 22nd December, they will celebrate what is called "Tung Geet" meaning cold or winter festival.

It is not a public holiday although in the old days, and with some who still follow the tradition today, will close businesses at about 4pm and make their way home.

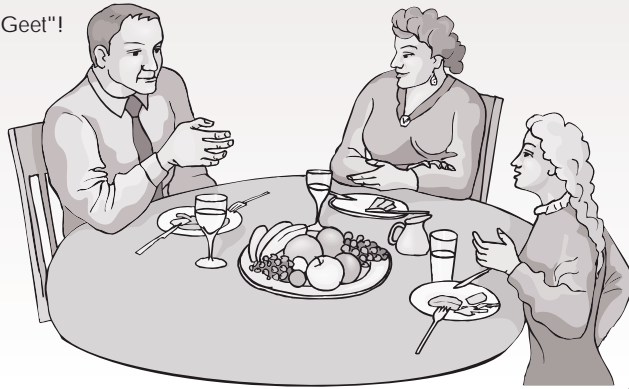
Families will plan a gathering to share a warm festive meal together and celebrate the beginning of winter.

Roast goose, roast chickens, steam chickens, stews with meats, herbs, mushrooms are the favorite foods eaten during this period. Soups also play a large part in the feast and are enjoyed before or after the meal.

Modern families may still follow the same tradition but with their busy lifestyles will find themselves booking tables at restaurants. Restaurants will be geared up to offer these speciality dishes traditionally prepared at home.

Gifts are not exchanged, unlike the western celebration - just families enjoying time together with the young and the old alike.

Happy "Tung Geet"!



CHARITY- HEIFER INTERNATIONAL.

This year do it differently!

It is often said that giving animals at Christmas should be considered wisely but with Heifer International the gift of an animal can bring life changing miracles to families around the world, be it a goat, a yak or, indeed, a heifer.

A Yak provides protein rich meat and milk for butter and yoghurt. They are strong so can lighten the load of a nomadic family. Their hair can be used for shelter and clothing. The gift of a yak can help change the life of a Tibetan family while retaining their traditional way of life.

Goats can thrive in extreme climates and on poor dry land and still supply enough milk for a family to use and sell. And because goats often have two or three kids a year, the herd can grow quickly for families to pay for food, healthcare and education.

Heifer also provides pigs, ducks, geese and other livestock that are transforming lives and rural economies in and around China.

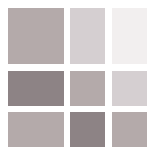
Founded in 2000, Heifer International - Hong Kong is a part of Heifer International, a U.S. non-profit organization that, for the past 60 years, has helped 7 million families in 125 countries.

How does Heifer help impoverished families? With two simple gifts: a farm animal (or two), training on animal husbandry, nutrition, disease prevention and shelter. Disease control and hygiene (e.g. vaccination for livestock, separate housing for humans and animals) have always been a key part in Heifer's training.

During the month of December Heifer International-Hong Kong has organized a charity sale in four shopping malls to raise funds for their China program. Dates and venues are as follows:

Dec 11	Fashion World in Wonderful Worlds of Whampoa Grand Central Plaza, Sha Tin
Dec 17-23	Metro City Plaza III, Level 2, TKO
Dec 18	Times Square, Ground Floor, Causeway Bay

If you would like to learn more about the Gift of An Animal or the other projects Heifer are involved with, call 2368 0227 or visit their website www.heiferhk.org.



Illegal Tree Cutting in Sai Kung

The recent arrest in Sai Kung of five Mainlanders for stealing Buddhist Pines is the latest in a long line of tree cutting incidents that have grabbed the media's attention. What was unique about this case was that it was the first time that the thieves had been caught in a makeshift camp together with not only the trees and cutting equipment but also a concealed getaway sampan.

Illegal tree cutting is a phenomenon that first came to notice in Hong Kong during late 2001. However, many people still remain unclear about the tree species under threat, the motives of the tree cutters or what they as concerned citizens can do to help. I now hope to be able to shed some light on these matters.

There are in fact two separate types of tree targeted by Mainland gangs, namely Buddhist Pines (*podocarpus macrophyllus* or 'oh hon chung' in Cantonese) and Incense Trees (*aquilaria sinensis* or 'cham heung' in Cantonese).

Buddhist Pines are so named because of their supposed resemblance to a reclining Buddha. In Chinese folklore they are regarded as fung shui trees that ward off evil spirits and promote health & longevity. China's economic growth has seen the demand for them skyrocket among the nouveau riche who may conspicuously display their wealth with a strategically positioned pine in the garden. The pines grow wild in Southern China and particularly in Sai Kung where they may be found on the seaboard of Nam She Wan and Tai Long Wan. They are restricted to barren, steep-sided and eastern facing slopes where their deep-seated roots help to prevent soil erosion. Indeed, landslips are common in areas that have been struck heavily by the poachers.

Illegal Immigrants sneak into Sai Kung East Country Park by boat and live rough on remote hillsides. By day they uproot the trees and strip the leaves down for easy transport. The activity is seasonal and lasts from September until April. Individual pines will fetch prices ranging from tens of thousands to over one hundred thousand dollars. This year alone has seen the arrest of 36 people in 11 incidents involving 184 trees throughout the whole of Hong Kong. It does not bear thinking about how many other trees have been successfully spirited away.

Incense Trees on the other hand, while also native to Southern China, are far more common around Hong Kong (incidentally, it is from these trees that Hong Kong derives its name). These trees were widely cultivated for use as incense and in Chinese medicine but this local industry has now died out. This explains why many groves exist in close proximity to villages. The Ho Chung valley, Pak Sha O and the slopes of Lui Ta Shek have particularly high densities of such trees. The product remains in high demand on the Mainland hence the illegal trade.



Illegal Tree Cutting in Sai Kung

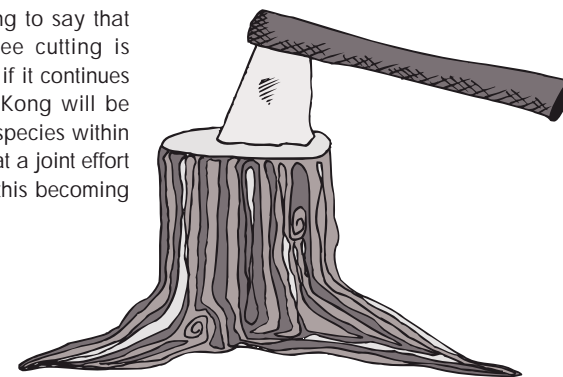
Unlike Buddhist Pines, the tree cutters are mostly legal entrants to Hong Kong (by way of Mainland Two-Way Permits) although some local residents are also involved. They harvest the trees by first making a large v-shaped cut near the base of the trunk. Over a period of weeks the tree 'Bleeds' in an effort to repair the wound. The brown fungus that grows as a result is the prize sought by the cutters when their return. They remove the small quantities of affected wood and leave the rest of the tree to, in most cases, slowly die. The number of cases arrested is increasing every year and by the end of October 2005 cases doubled compared to the whole of 2004. My own experience of patrolling around Sai Kung shows me that this is only the tip of the iceberg; the environmental devastation being caused is galling in the extreme.

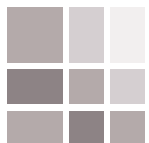
Sai Kung is the largest geographical Police division in the HKSAR and encompasses almost 17% of Hong Kong's landmass. However, the small population and generally low crime rate means that there are only about 100 officers who operate out of the station and these must be distributed on a 24/7 basis. The bulk of the illegal tree cutting occurs in remote areas or deep inside woods out of public sight. While the Police are doing their best they simply cannot be everywhere at once and so we rely heavily on the public for reports of tree cutting in progress or suspicious characters making their way around country trails. **Please do not hesitate to call 999 if you come across such activities and we will respond at once. Alternatively, you may call Sai Kung Police Station directly on 2792 8600.**

While the Police services are mostly operated by bilingual officers, please remember that English is a second language to them and that a slowly spoken, simple-worded message is far more likely to convey the meaning. You may always elaborate further when officers attend the scene in person.

It is not scaremongering to say that the present rate of tree cutting is unsustainable and that if it continues in this fashion, Hong Kong will be denuded of these two species within a generation. I hope that a joint effort by all we can prevent this becoming the case.

Neil J. Burnett
Senior Inspector
OC Rural Patrol Unit
Sai Kung Police Station





Thank You

The District Link would like to acknowledge the support given by Sai Kung and Hong Kong businesses, who have generously donated gifts and services to our Quiz Night held 3rd December at the Hebe Haven Yacht Club. We thank them for their help and encourage all our readers to continue to support these businesses so that Sai Kung may flourish.



- Accents
- Ali Oli Bakery
- Amazing Inspiration Workshop
- Anna's Massage
- Anthony's Catch Restaurant
- Appetito
- Butcher King
- Canaan
- A Chez Les Copains Fench Restaurant
- Cindy's Flowers
- Cru Restaurant
- Dia Indian Restaurant
- Dot's Gallery
- Good Earth Society
- Green Wave Hair Salon
- HP Motors
- Hebe Haven Yacht Club
- Hong Kong Express Airways (Rtn Helicopter Flight to Macau w/overnight accommodation)
- Jaspas Restaurant
- Lorette Roberts (Sai Kung Harbor Print)
- May's Swaddee Thai Restaurant
- Mai Thai Restaurant
- Mushroom Bakery
- Patsy House Electricals Co.
- Peninsula Hotel
- Premier Sports
- Pepperonis
- Rock on Jewellery
- Sabai Day Spa
- Sai Kung Reflexology & Massage Centre
- Sauce Restaurant
- Scarecrow Restaurant
- Shun Kee Housewares "Harrods"
- Steamers
- Soho Wines
- Susanna's Restaurant
- Tala's Hair & Beauty Centre
- The Candle Company
- The Meat Club
- Urban Entertainment
- Vantage Lamps
- Yue Shun Garden Centre



USEFUL NUMBERS



Emergency services

Ambulance	999
Fire Services	2792-1553
Police	2792-1553
Marine Police	2792-8600
	2792-1050

Government Departments & Services

Sai Kung District Office	2163-9415
Lands Office	2791-7019
Drainage	2301-2637
Education Dept	2792-4079
Environmental Protection	2835-1018
Electrical Services	2197-0608
Highways Dept	2926-4222
ICAC	2927-4300
Marine	2792-1212
Food & Environmental Hygiene	2792-3680
Social Welfare	2322-9254
Transport Dept	2399-2532
Leisure and Cultural Department	2792-4149
Library	2792-4149

Utilities Fault/Emergency Numbers

CLP Sai Kung	2798-8333
Water Dept	2824-5000
Telephone	109

Hospitals

Mona Fong Clinic	Sai Kung	2792-2601
Prince of Wales	Shatin	2632-2211
United Christian Hospital	Tseung Kwan O	2379-4000
Tseung Kwan O Hospital	A & E 2208-0306 / Main	2208-0111

Emergency Help

Samaritans (24hrs)	2896-0000
SPCA (24hrs)	2711-1000

Information Service

Community Advice Bureau	2815-5444
Directory Enquiries	1081