

LIST OF SARAWAK HISTORICAL SITES, BUILDINGS & MONUMENTS

(Information is provided by Jabatan Muzium Sarawak)

A. Bangunan Bersejarah yang telah diwartakan pada Februari 1971 di bawah The Antiquities Ordinance

1. Istana, Kuching, 1870
2. Bangunan Mahkamah, Kuching, 1874
3. Kubu Margherita, Kuching, 1879
4. Square Tower, Pangkalan Batu, Kuching.
5. Muzium Sarawak, Kuching, 1891
6. Pejabat Pos, Kuching, 1931
7. Kubu Lily, Betong, 1885
8. Kubu Alice, Bandar Sri Aman, 1864
9. Kubu Sylvia, Kapit, 1880
10. Kubu Hose, Marudi

B. Tapak Bersejarah yang telah diwartakan pada Jun 1972 di bawah The Antiquities Ordinance

11. Guah Niah, Miri

C. Bangunan Bersejarah yang telah diwartakan pada Julai 1985 di bawah The Antiquities Ordinance

12. Maderasah Melayu, Kuching, 1931
13. Bangunan Pejabat Pelajaran(Pavillion), Kuching, 1909
14. Bangunan Menara Bulat, Kuching, 1886
15. Jambatan Gantung Satok, Kuching, 1926
16. Kubu Lama, Limbang, 1897
17. Kubu Emma, Kanowit, 1951

Tapak-Tapak Bersejarah di Sarawak yang telah diwartakan pada Julai 1985 di bawah The Antiquities Ordinance

18. Miri Oil Well No.1 Site, Miri

D. Senarai Bangunan, Monumen and Tapak Bersejarah yang telah diluluskan untuk

diwartakan di bawah Ordinan Warisan Budaya Sarawak 1993 pada Jun 2007.

Bangunan-Bangunan Bersejarah di Sarawak

19. Tempat Kediaman Hakim (chief Justice's Residence), Kuching, 1899
20. Majlis Perbandaran Kuching, 1908
21. Chinese Chamber Of Commerce, Kuching, 1912
22. Balai Polis Sentral, Kuching, 1931
23. Banglo Segu, Kuching, 1936
24. Tua Pek Kong, Kuching, 1770
25. Rumah Bishop (S.P.G), Kuching, 1848
26. Gereja St. James, Quop, Kuching, 1865
27. Sekolah Menengah St Thomas, Kuching, 1885
28. Sekolah Menengah St Joseph, Kuching, 1894
29. Kuil Lim Fah San, Kuching, 1896
30. Baruk, Kampung Opar, Bau, 1952
31. Darul Kurnia (Sekolah Chung Hua No.4), Kuching, 1930

Monumen-Monumen Bersejarah di Sarawak

32. Makam Sultan Tengah, Santubong

Tapak-Tapak Bersejarah di Sarawak

33. Bongkissam
34. Sungai Jaong
35. Bukit Maras
36. Tanjong Kubor
37. Tanjong Tegok

Proposed in 2008 to be gazetted as Sarawak cultural heritage under Sarawak Culture Heritage Ordinance 1993

Three (3) sites, eleven (11) buildings and eight (8) monuments at different locations within Sarawak had been proposed to be gazetted, subject to further assessment of the conditions of these historical items.

[source : <http://www.mudtour.sarawak.gov.my/>]

We thank the following for their contributions in this edition of SHS Newsletter :

- * Photographs by Wixin Photography & Mike Boon, unless otherwise stated;
- * Articles & editing by Karen Shepherd & Mike Boon;
- * Information for articles by Joseph Ingai, Irene Shepherd, Karen Shepherd, Chiong Sik Ing, Mike Boon;
- * Compilation by Teo Hui Kun, Chai Shwu Fun, Evone Ho & Daniel Boon;
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March 2010 - December 2010

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This year, Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) has continued in its goal to raise awareness on Sarawak's heritage, and its efforts have seen encouraging forward momentum in this pursuit, both at an official and a grassroots level.

An invitation to address the PATA conference on the Roadmap for Kuching to become a Heritage City heralded a wave of increasing involvement by the Society in the activities of the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage (MinTH). Members have been called upon to lend their expertise to a number of briefings, culminating in a Ministry-sponsored visit to Melaka and Georgetown.

To follow up, SHS initiated a briefing by Badan Warisan Malaysia, the heritage NGO group which has been taken on by MinTH as the basis for the new terms of reference for management of heritage in Sarawak.

Amidst all this came a further boost for the profile of heritage status in the form of an award win from the Institute of Architects (PAM) for Arkitek JFN Sdn Bhd's conservation work on the Square Tower.

Yet, there has been some worrying backslide. At the end of last year, members noticed that the Chinese-style pavilion in the Museum Gardens, fondly known as

the Summerhouse, had been renovated with callous disregard to preserving the character of this historical site. SHS has officially expressed its concern and is seeking clarification on how this came about.

This event was closely followed by the news that the old prison building too was earmarked for demolition, despite being over a century old, clearly bringing it under the remit of the antiquities ordinance, and despite its location on the fringe of the heritage core. Once again, SHS has sent a letter of concern about this 'development'.

Elsewhere, SHS has continued its work in education on heritage. The guided site visits continue regularly with members receiving a huge amount of information on a diverse collection of sites from Brooke Dockyard to Kampung Kuap. Many thanks goes to those members and the hosts at the sites who have conducted these tours.

As for the year to come, SHS remains committed to the same goals – public awareness and education on the diverse heritage of Sarawak. This year, we are working closely with the new Ministry on issues pertaining to conservation of our cultural heritage. It will strive to help put in place the framework needed to preserve the heritage core and beyond for future generations.



Image of the old Chinese Summerhouse.
(source : "Kuching In 1991" Ho Ah Chan)



The Chinese Summerhouse after recent renovations.
(December 2010)

SHS can be contacted at **082-453344** or through email at sarawakheritagesociety@gmail.com. We are looking forward to your encouragement and continual support.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2010-2012

<i>Past President</i>
Datu Abang Janalak @ Aloysius b. Abang Dris
<i>Immediate Past President</i>
Ar. Mike Boon Chee Khian
<i>President</i>
Joseph Ingai Gasing
<i>Vice President</i>
Philip Chang Foh Phing (resigned on 29th Oct 2010)
Irene Shepherd (appointed by Executive Committee on 29th Nov 2010)
<i>Secretary</i>
Chiong Sik Ing
<i>Treasurer</i>
Peggy Wong Bik Kay
<i>Committee members</i>
Hong Boon Kheng
Ian Thomas Parker
Rahah Haji Hassan
Teo Hui Kun
Karen Shepherd (appointed by Executive Committee on 29th Nov 2010)

MEMBERSHIP

Since the inception of the Sarawak Heritage Society (SHS) on 14 February 2006 the Society has **36** registered members to date.

SHS'S 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SHS's 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 5th March 2010 at M+M House, followed by an Annual Dinner which was attended by members, supporters & volunteers of the Society, as well as the invited media partners, professional associations and other associated organizations. The event featured an educational talk on "Gardens & Recreational Facilities in Old Kuching" by our Secretary, Chiong Sik Ing, who is a practicing Landscape Architect.

As this was an election year, the new committee members for the term 2010/2012 were elected.



SHS members attending the AGM. L-R: Ian Parker, Karen & Irene Shepherd, Desmond Kuek, Hong Boon Kheng, Peggy Wong, Mike Boon, Joseph Ingai, Bong Siak Khiun, Teo HuiKun, Rahah, Chiong Sik Ing, Michael Ngu, Philip Chang, Rose Au

GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC LIAISONS

In an effort to continue the close working relationship with the government, SHS has participated in various meetings/ conferences/ activities organized by the Ministry and other agencies as follows :

- **15th March 2010** - Invited to attend "Tourism Transformation Lab" organized by MinTH.
- **5th April 2010** - Invited to attend the "Borneo World War II : Sarawak Liberation and Reconciliation Exhibition" organized by Sarawak Museum Department.
- **17th April 2010** - Attended a Memorial Service at the Heroes' Grave Monument, organized by Sarawak Tourism Federation.
- **23rd April 2010** - SHS was invited to present a paper on 'A roadmap for Kuching to become a Heritage City' at the Pacific Asia Tourism Association (PATA) Conference held in Kuching.
- **13th May 2010** - Newly elected committee members (2010-2012) paid a courtesy visit to the Director of Jabatan Muzium Sarawak, Encik Ipoi Datum.
- **24th and 25th June 2010** - Invited to attend the "Transforming Tourism Frontline Performance 2010" Conference organized by MinTH.
- **15th July, 27th August and 23rd November 2010** - Meeting on State Tourism Coordination organized by MinTH.
- **10th August 2010** - Dialogue session on Sarawak Tour guide Training Syllabus organized by MinTH.
- **25th August 2010** - Briefing YB Mong Dagang, Assistant Minister in-charge of heritage in the newly established Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Sarawak (MinTH).
- **23rd September 2010** - Meeting on Conservation of Historic Buildings and Sites organized by Sarawak Museum.
- **26th to 29th October 2010** - Heritage Visit to Melaka and Penang organized by MinTH.
- **15th November 2010** - Initiated a briefing by Badan Warisan Malaysia (BWM) to MinTH. BWM shared their experiences on heritage Conservation. and made suggestions to MinTH pertaining issues related to the management of heritage in Sarawak.
- **22nd November 2010** - Official Launching of Transforming Sarawak Tourism Performance Conference 2010 by MinTH.
- **14th December 2010** - Invited by MinTH to brainstorm on the Terms of Reference to set up a State Heritage Unit.

ROADMAP FOR KUCHING TO BECOME A HERITAGE CITY

An encouraging shift in public policy appears to be under-way, placing heritage concerns more firmly at the forefront.

Date	Timeline of Events
Apr 2010	SHS presented "Roadmap for Kuching to become a Heritage City" during PATA conference
Aug 2010	Courtesy Visit to Ministry of Tourism and Heritage
Oct 2010	Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Visit to Penang and Melaka
Nov 2010	Badan Warisan briefing to Ministry of Tourism and Heritage
Dec 2010	Ministry of Tourism and Heritage meeting to determine terms of reference of State Heritage Committee

PATA Conference

On 23rd April 2010, Philip Chang, gave a presentation by invitation to the PATA (Asia Pacific) Seminar held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching entitled *Roadmap for Kuching to become a Heritage City*. The paper was prepared by Mike Boon who was away on travelling at that time.

In that presentation he mapped a way forward for pursuing Heritage city status for Kuching, building on the Heritage Trail project already in place. He detailed the existing various agencies and ordinances for dealing with heritage concerns and called for a master chart to map out these agencies with a view to reclassifying and categorizing the duties and responsibilities of each.



Mapping of the heritage buildings/sites (represented by yellow dots) in Kuching radiating from the centre of Historical Precinct of Old Kuching (circled area). [compiled by SHS]

Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Sarawak (MinTH) Courtesy Visit

Joseph Ingai arranged a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage on 25th August 2010 to meet the newly appointed Assistant Minister, YB Mong Dagang, and to explain the society's aims and future activities.

After Joseph Ingai had given a brief introduction explaining what the Sarawak Heritage Society sought to achieve, Mike Boon gave a presentation in which he had the chance to highlight a number of key heritage on-going projects and past successes.

The Minister, YB Mong Dagang, agreed that his Ministry would assist in nudging SEDC into drawing up a conservation management plan and appoint a conservation committee for the Square Tower, which had recently being conserved. He thanked Joseph Ingai and Mike Boon for opening his eyes to the need for and intricacies of heritage and conservation.



SHS President handing over SHS Newsletter to YB Mong Dagang.

It was also mentioned by the Permanent Secretary and the Head of Heritage Unit, that the government will try to revive the State Heritage Committee, in which SHS is an elected committee member.

Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Visit to Penang and Melaka

Following up on this new drive, SHS was invited by MinTH to send three representatives on a fact-finding visit to Melaka and Georgetown, jointly listed in July 2008 as World Heritage Sites under UNESCO.

The visit, in October 2010, included representatives from a number of agencies: SHS, MinTH, the Ministry of Town Planning and Urban Development, the Sarawak Tourism Federation and the Sarawak Museum.

The group was briefed in each city on the process of listing and the framework set up to manage heritage interests. There were also visits to each heritage core and a number of key sites of interest.

Badan Warisan Malaysia Briefing

After an informal meeting over dinner in Georgetown during the heritage visit in October 2010, Elizabeth Cardoso, CEO of Badan Warisan Malaysia held a briefing here in Kuching for the Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Sarawak.

The briefing was well-attended by representatives from a number of interested agencies. The goal was to seek suggestions on how to strengthen the Heritage Unit under the Ministry and how to ensure effective collaboration between agencies, given the existing ordinances.

Ministry of Tourism and Heritage Meeting

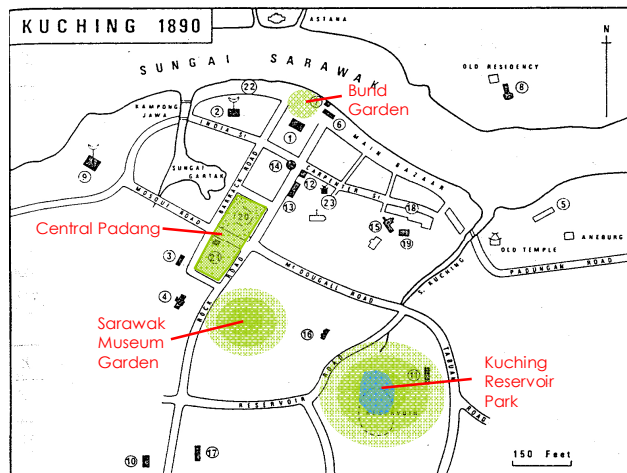
The year's forward momentum culminated in a final briefing meeting headed by MinTH in 14th December 2010. The aim of the meeting was to provide feedback on how to strengthen the Heritage Department.

The deputy Attorney General outlined the ordinances already in place to tend to Heritage concerns and all the various agencies were invited to provide feedback on how to move forward from the current position.

So, the year has seen encouraging progress in the roadmap for Kuching as a Heritage city. With the restructuring at the Ministry fore-fronting Heritage ideals, there is reason to be positive for the future.

THE GARDENS OF OLD KUCHING

Kuching has always been known as a Garden City ever since its development during the Brookes' reign. However, its many gardens have undergone transformations over the years. The following summaries reminisce about these old gardens, some of which we may still find traces of today.



Map of Kuching in 1890. (source : "Kuching 1839-1970", Elizabeth Pollard)

The **Bund Garden (1905-1993)** sat right on the waterfront, in front of the Old Court House. This small green space featured a Chinese pavilion and a fountain, set within a geometric layout. The garden was demolished to make way for the Kuching Waterfront in 1993. Its Chinese pavilion was subsequently relocated to the waterfront as a heritage icon.

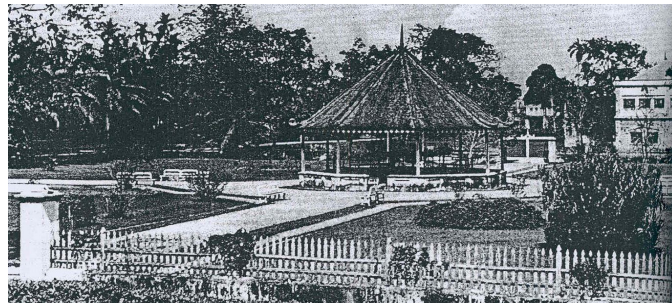


Old photograph of the Bund Garden (source : "Kuching in Picture 1841-1946". Ho Ah Chon).

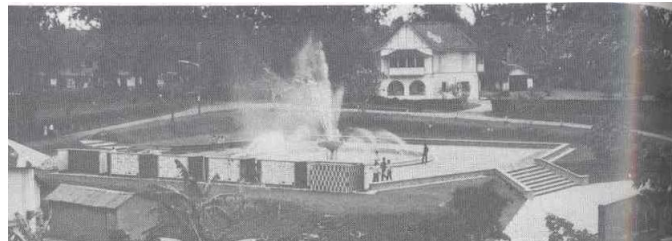
A short stroll away from the river along the South-west axis, past the Old Courthouse, lies the **Central Padang (1890s)**. This enormous parade ground, which once had a road passing through it, has been the site of numerous significant historical events associated with the lives of Kuching people.

Rajah Charles Brooke built a **Bandstand** in the padang and hand-picked a Filipino band from Manila to play there. After a time, the bandmen were recruited locally with public performances 2 evenings a week. However, this structure was removed in 1922. A new bandstand was built in the Museum Garden.

In 1961, a **War Memorial Garden** was built on the south side of the padang. The **Centenary Fountain (1967)** followed. The fountain had flickering and colourful lights that illuminated the water jets. It was demolished in the 1990s to make way for a pedestrian underpass.



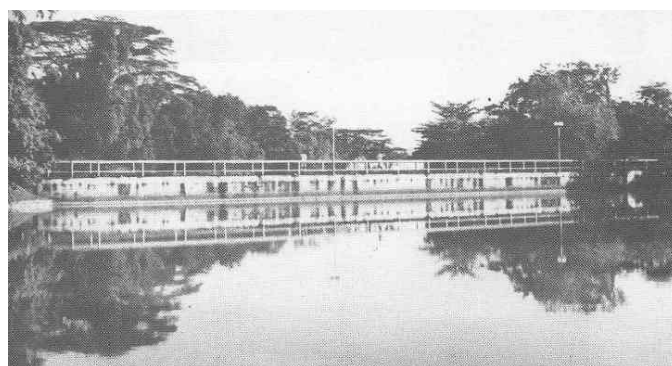
Bandstand built by Charles Brooke (source : "Kuching 1839-1970", Elizabeth Pollard)



The War Memorial Garden with the fountain (center) and war monument (bottom right). (source : "Kuching in Picture 1841-1991". Ho Ah Chon).

Diagonally across the Central Padang in the south eastern direction, stands the Sarawak Museum. The **Museum Gardens (1891)**, approximately 6 acres, was originally a Chinese cemetery, evidenced by the few last remaining tombs dating back to 1860s. It houses the charming Chinese Summerhouse which remains a popular spot for Kuchingites to enjoy a leisurely bowl of ice kacang and belacan bihun. The Heroes Monument was also built on the museum grounds in the mid-1990s.

The **Kuching Reservoir Park (1895)** was originally built by Charles Brooke as a reservoir for Kuching residents. When the completion of a dam at Matang Mountain rendered its function obsolete in 1934, the Kuching Reservoir was then converted into a recreational park. Surrounded by old government quarters, this green lung of Kuching city is well-utilized to this day by locals for social and recreational activities.



Kuching Reservoir Park with the dam structure which was demolished later. (source : "Kuching in 1991". Ho Ah Chon).

The parks and gardens of Kuching have breathed life into the city for over a century, leaving us with a glorious expanse of nature right in the centre of our urban landscape. While the uses of the gardens of Kuching have changed over the decades, their importance as recreation areas remains undiminished. To this day, housing estates are still required to maintain 10% green belt within their grid development. As such, they must be maintained and preserved. After all, in a state of such natural wonder, gardens and parks must also be part of our heritage.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SHS continues to raise public awareness on heritage conservation through its education programs. These programs and activities are conducted by Mike Boon.

- 15th to 17th March 2010** - A seminar was conducted for the Malaysia Chinese Private Secondary School Board by local Chinese historians for 56 teachers from both East and West Malaysia. The program included a series of lectures on Sarawak's history and heritage as well as Heritage Walks to Old Kuching and Siniawan. This was organized by the School Board as part of their process of revising the history syllabus, which will give more detailed emphasis to Sarawak history.
- 24th May 2010** - SHS was invited by H.I.P. (an outlet in the Spring shopping mall) to conduct a heritage talk to the public.
- 8th October 2010** - SHS conducted the yearly Heritage walk of Old Kuching for students of Chung Hua Middle School (CHMS) No.1 with our regular partner, The Talent & Arts Performing Group (Wujiaoji) led by Celine Ling and Stanley Jong.



Above : Students of CHMS No.1 attentively listening to a briefing before the heritage walk.
Below : The students being greeted by the Muslim elders while they walk past the Old Indian Mosque.

- 18th to 19th September 2010** - The Simanggang Soon Heng Society of Sri Aman organized a performing arts workshop for the local school children, which was conducted by Wujiaoji. In conjunction with this event, SHS was invited to give a talk entitled "From Siniawan to Sri Aman" to their members. The talk covered the background of the Siniawan Community Cultural Heritage Project and shared SHS's experience of collaborating with the local community in their activities.



Taman Panorama Benak (centre) situated adjacent to Fort Alice (right), with the historical Chinese tomb on the left under the big tree.



Fort Alice in c.1900s (left) & in Sept 2010 (right).

The talk also gave an insight into the background and design concept of the development of Taman Panorama Benak, situated adjacent to Fort Alice. The project demonstrated a sensitive approach to construction in an area surrounding a heritage building. It won the PAM Awards 2010 for Arkitek JFN. The talk was accompanied by beautiful images capturing the essence of the design taken by Wixin Photography.

The following day, SHS members visited Fort Alice in its sadly dilapidated condition. The members were then invited, together with the Sri Aman Chinese community leaders and their affiliated associations from Kuching, to pay respect to a Chinese pioneer of Sri Aman, Mr Sim Taishun, who was buried at the bottom of the hill in 1862. The historical tomb still remains as part of the original park setting.



Praying ceremony at the tomb of Mr Sim Taishun.

HERITAGE SITE VISITS

SHS organizes educational visits to heritage sites in Kuching for its members and the interested public. This program is organized and conducted by Joseph Ingai.

- 18th April 2010** - Jointly organized an expedition to Mount Seremba at Peninjau with MNS to survey the archaeological site of the Brookes' rest house.
- 4th September 2010** - Visited Old St. James Church (1865) at Kampung Kuap.
- 12th December 2010** - Visited Brooke Dockyard (1912) guided by Puan Salmiah.

SITE VISIT TO OLD ST. JAMES' CHURCH, KUAP

(Old photographs of the churches were sourced from "150 Years of the Anglican Church In Borneo 1848-1998" by Bishop of Kuching.)



An undated old photograph currently hanging in the church itself.

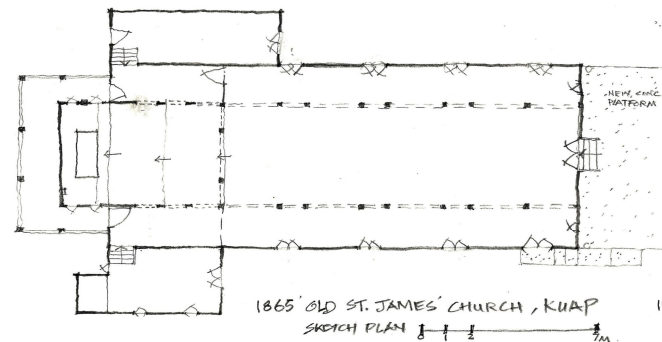


Photograph of the church, before the addition of any porches.

Standing on a hill at the edge of Kampung Kuap, 10 miles from Kuching, St James' Church is virtually unchanged since its construction 145 years ago. It is believed to be one of the oldest out-station churches in Sarawak and, though in need of restoration, still serves the Bidayuh community there to this day.

Consecrated in 1865, the old church was the brainchild of the second resident priest at the kampung, Father Frederic Abe. It followed on the heels of the belian church at Banting, which serviced the first Iban community to become Anglican.

In fact, St James' was a pre-fabricated church, in common with the numerous out-station belian forts of the same period, built by the Rajah. The walls, roof and truss were made in Kuching under master carpenter T A Stahl's supervision. The pieces were then shipped on the Sarawak and the Kuap rivers, and assembled on its current site on a small hill at the edge of the kampung.



The roof of the new church is clearly visible behind the belian shingles of the original structure, perched on a slight hill overlooking the new graveyard and the valley beyond. The old graveyard, as old as the church itself, lies hidden behind the slope. The new porch and concrete platform over the entrance is a later addition.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT

"Reminiscing forgotten treasures ... SINIAWAN"

This is a joint project implemented by Sarawak Heritage Society & The Talent & Art Performing Group, for Swee Gek Kung Siniawan Sarawak & Supported by BlueScope Lysaght (Sarawak) Sdn Bhd.

Date	Activities
2010	
05.04	Ancestor Worship Festival (Ching Ming Festival)
18.04	Exploring Rajah Brooke Retreat at Bukit Peninjau with Malaysia Nature Society (MNS)
05.06-20.06	Students Holiday Camp
06.06	Ong Mansion Site Visit (part of Students Holiday Camp)
30.07	Swee Guk Kung Deity Birthday Procession (Approximately 17 days)
23.08	Hungry Ghost Festival at Jalan Jugah
24.08	Hungry Ghost Festival at Siniawan
27.08	RTM Interview at Siniawan
04.09 - 12.09	Penang Study Trip
22.09	Mooncake Festival Celebration
25.09	Mid-autumn Festival Opening Ceremony
12.10	Start of Siniawan Weekend Night Bazaar
20.11	Expedition with Minister YB Dato' Dr. James Dawos Mamit to Rajah Brooke Retreat at Bukit Peninjau
20.11 - 21.11	Students Holiday Camp



Students participating in various activities during the Ong Mansion site visit.

SHS's Siniawan Community Cultural Heritage Project has hit the year-and-a-half mark and is still going strong. This year, SHS, together with Wujiaoji and Wixin Photography, has been documenting the many key festivals in the second half of the year since its inception .

Amongst the important festivals that have been documented for the year 2010 are the Chap Goh Mei festival (Yuan Xiao Jie), Chinese All Souls' Day (Ching Ming Jie), the Hungry Ghost festival and Mooncake or mid-autumn festival.

Ceremonial offerings in front of Liew Shangpang Temple during the Hungry Ghost festival, put out by the sub-community consists of 25 Chinese families.



This year, SHS has slowly begun to let the local community take lead of the project. This aim has been greeted with open arms by the local community as they strived to carry forward the work initiated with the Society. They started off the calendar of events with a community-run Mooncake festival, building on 2009's festival co-organized by SHS. This proved to be a great success and SHS would like to congratulate Siniawan's local community for its effort.

Under the Penghulu's lead, Siniawan has been given a new lease of life. The success of the Mooncake festival kick-started a weekend night bazaar that has been held since October 2010, organized exclusively by the local community. This night bazaar is still going strong and the local community has benefited greatly from it in terms of economy. According to the Penghulu, the event is bringing substantial revitalizing income into a town that seemed to be facing a bleak economic future before this project came along.



Vibrant festivities run by the locals during the weekend night bazaar in Siniawan town.

This community project could become a template to other communities who wish to follow in the footsteps of Siniawan.

Obituary

Our deepest condolences to Siniawan local elder, Mr Lee Zhiqing, who passed away on the 17th of February 2011, at the age of 83. Mr Lee was born in China and migrated to Siniawan in the 1920's. He actively participated in the oral history recording activity of this project.



We thank him for his contribution in reminiscing the history of Siniawan.

SITE VISITS TO MOUNT SEREMBU, PENINJAU



(Left) View of Mount Serembu from the bottom. (Right) View from the top.

SHS members went on an expedition to Mount Serembu (Gunung Muan) at Peninjau with the Siniawan local community on September 2009. A second trip was co-organised with Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) on 18th April 2010.

Serembu Mountain, is a significant natural heritage site, associated with the works of **Arthur Russell Wallace** who is believed to have contributed to Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species*. It is one of the three major sites in Sarawak where Wallace collected specimens for natural study.

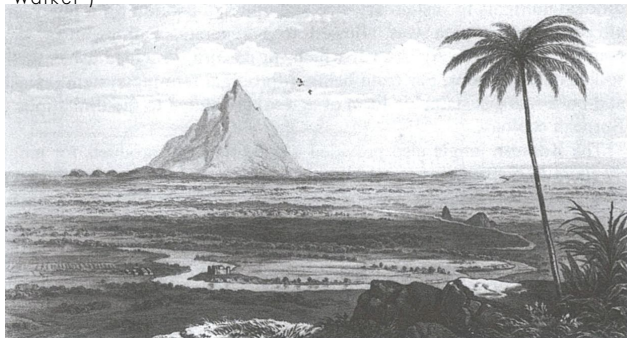
It is also a site of historical importance on which Rajah James Brooke's built a bungalow retreat " ... on a shoulder of the mountain called Si Dampul, here a portion of the Peninjau villagers had formerly a settlement, but the late Rajah purchased their fruit trees and they moved lower down." ("Jottings made During a Tour amongst the Land Dayaks of Upper Sarawak, Borneo. During the Year 1874" by Noel Denison).

Wallace wrote in his book 'The Malay Archipelago' (1862) that he spent 3 weeks (Dec 1854) in James Brooke's retreat "for the purpose of making a collection of land - shells, butterflies and moths, ferns and orchids."



Land Dayak Headhouse, Peninjau (Source : "Old Sarawak : A Pictorial Study", 1972. Lockard & Saunders)

View from the Rajah's retreat with the Rajah's Fort Belidah along the river (source : "Power and Prowess", 2002. J.H. Walker)



Cantilever rock as seen by SHS members. It matches Wallace's description of the site for collecting water to drink and bathe exactly.

Wallace's description of the retreat and its surroundings reads as : " ..A cool spring under an overhanging rock just below the cottage furnished us with refreshing baths and delicious drinking water, ... On one side of the cottage there was a veranda, looking down the whole side of the mountain and to its summit on the right, all densely clothed with forest. The boarded sides of the cottage were whitewashed, and the roof of the veranda was low, and also boarded and whitewashed." However there is no trace left of this retreat that we could find on these trips.

Located in the same area as Siniawan township which has a significant cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), the two complemented one another to make them worthy of becoming a heritage site.

Encouraged by the success of the Siniawan Community Cultural Heritage Project, the local Peninjau community has asked for government funding with the intention to establish the Wallace trail and to rebuild the Rajah's bungalow as a tourist attraction. This prompted a visit by the Deputy Minister of Tourism Malaysia YB Dato' Dr. James Dawos Mamit to launch the project in Peninjau on 20th November 2010.

After the site visit to Peninjau, YB Dato' Dr. James Dawos Mamit was guided by SHS on a heritage walk around the Siniawan Town and later briefed by Mike Boon on the Siniawan Community Cultural Heritage Project. SHS reiterate that the Wallace Trail development project launched should establish a Conservation Management Plan prior to implementation of the project to ensure that the heritage site will be properly managed.

Group picture of the various members of SHS and MNS during the expedition.



Side view of the church.



Close up of the belian mouldings.

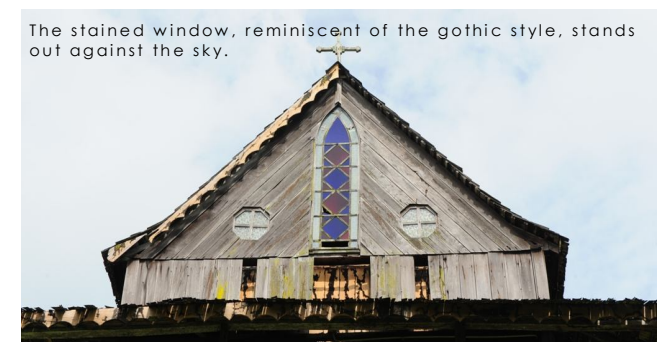
But, it is the style and the materials that are of greatest interest. The church itself is built in the Gothic style so common in ecclesiastical architecture across Europe from Notre Dame to Salisbury Cathedral. It is a style to inspire awe and wonder with its flying buttresses and pointed arches, resting on slender columns, punctuated with enormous stained glass windows. Yet it is a style almost exclusively associated with stone.

However, in Kuap, St James' Church is made entirely of belian — the local substitute for stone worked using the expertise of local craftsmen. So, the building is a blending of two cultures, one European and one Asian. In essence, the style is imported, an image of the cultural roots of the religion that it represents, but the material is home-grown.

Testament to the enduring nature of belian, the structure remains much the same as it was. Even the stained glass window, reminiscent of the great gothic cathedrals, is still intact, along with the belian mouldings. Though, the interior is most striking; a step back in time.



Above : Interior of the church in the olden days. Below : The interior of the church captured during the site visit in September 2010. It remains remarkably unchanged.



View of the church from the old graveyard.



SHS volunteers conduct measured drawings of the church.

Over the years, the kampung has grown up around it. As the population ebbed and flowed, a graveyard was established at its feet and, in 1987, a second, bigger church at its side. This new structure houses the bulk of the kampung's day to day worship.

The original church, understandably given its venerable age, is in need of some restoration and a program of continued maintenance.

At the end of the site visit, SHS members entered a dialogue session with the local church community members during which they sought out opinion on the technicalities and the process of conserving the historical structure.

Following this, a group of volunteers conducted a preliminary measured drawing of the building and took a photographic record of the site.

Image of the Anglican church at Banting. It was consecrated in 1858 to service the first Anglican Iban community. The original belian pillars were replaced with concrete in 1934.



SITE VISIT TO BROOKE DOCKYARD, KUCHING



View of Brooke Dockyard from the entrances at Jalan Market (left) and from the Sarawak River (right).

Traffic flows in an endless stream past the entrance to Brooke Dockyard. The occupants of the cars give little thought to what lies within the enormous steel structure, right in the heritage core of old Kuching. Why should they? From their vantage point, it looks like any number of industrial warehouses. However, inside, it houses a real slice of Kuching's maritime industrial history.

As you enter the gates, the first thing that strikes you is the cavernous dry dock, like a sunken amphitheatre surrounded by tiers of concrete steps. On the day of the visit, the space is empty, the water of the Sarawak River held at bay by the garishly painted gate at its far end.

This fascinating piece of engineering is simple in design. Its hollow interior fills with water, creating enough weight to lock the gate in place and keep the wall of water out. But, empty the water and the gate can be floated out of the way, allowing ships to pass into the dock beyond.

The dry dock, still in service a century on, stands empty and waiting for work. At the far end, is the gate, valiantly holding back the tide.



Ships of all shapes and sizes have been passing through this gate for nearly a hundred years as Brooke Dockyard will celebrate its centenary next year. It was opened on 30 May 1912, the same year as the sinking of the Titanic, by Charles Vyner Brooke, the then Rajah of Sarawak. At that time, it was part of the Government workshop dealing in repairs of Government vessels and machinery.

It was equipped with some astonishing pieces of engineering equipment, many imported from the UK, some of which can still be seen today. Under the vaulted steel structure is the gigantic and aptly-named power hammer and a host of other sturdy ship-building equipment. However, the highlight is the canary yellow steam crane, the only one of its kind in Sarawak, perched overlooking the river.

In fact, the Dockyard has been in continuous service ever since its opening, seeing a parade of crafts ranging from military vessels during confrontation to private ships. Even though the bulk of the Dockyard's operations moved to new premises in Sejingkat in 1996, work still continues on the original site.



The original, delicate steel structure is still in excellent condition.

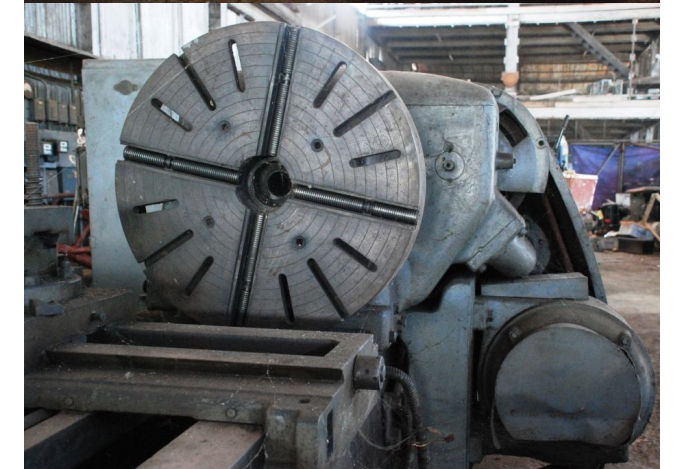


The power hammer—what more can you say.



The power hammer clearly bears the legend of its origins in Yorkshire.

The steam crane — the only one of its kind in Sarawak, still in prime condition.



A remarkable piece of shipbuilding engineering, still going strong.

So, what is the future of maritime treasure? At present, the water taxi ride from Bintangor is slated to take in a stop at the dockyard. So plans are afoot to revitalize the site, standing, as it does, at the end of the newly extended waterfront.

During the visit, SHS members were given a glimpse of one possible future in which the existing structure would be demolished to make way for an exhibition area, housing a marine heritage museum, above yet another shopping centre.

When asked to express an opinion on the proposal, Past President Mike Boon floated an alternative view from a heritage perspective. In his vision, the location could continue in service as a dry dock. The original steel structure would remain with only the cladding changed, though the machines would be re-sited to allow a more coherent walkthrough for visitors. This cost-effective solution would create a living museum, thus preserving the authenticity of this historic site. So, for future developments, watch that space.