

**RAS (HKB) Annual General Meeting
April 2005
Volunteers Report**

- Introduction

The Volunteers were formed in 1992 to assist the Antiquities & Monuments Office (a.k.a. the “AMO”) to record historical buildings in Hong Kong, and to undertake any other suitable tasks that might come along. As most members are working, their free time is limited, nevertheless we do manage to accomplish something and some of our activities are mentioned further in this report.

- Membership

Membership now stands at 26. Any member of the RAS can join the group. It is free – there is no additional membership fee. No special qualifications are needed, just a broad interest in local history and Hong Kong’s built heritage.

New members are asked to state their special interests when joining. Besides the two aspects just mentioned, we have members interested in archaeology, architecture, military history, education history, cemeteries and environmental issues.

Besides Bill Greaves and Bob Horsnell who are building surveyors, we also have in the group an architect, a civil engineer, a solicitor, an archaeological conservator, teachers, journalists, broadcasters and university graduates.

- Newsletter

Every Volunteer receives a free copy of a special newsletter on conservation and heritage news. It is sent out bi-monthly and six newsletters have been issued since the last AGM. It is compiled and edited by Bob Horsnell but anyone can contribute to it if they have anything they wish to share. Topics covered in the newsletters have included news on restoration projects, book reviews, conservation news from other countries, heritage legislation, conferences, exhibitions and items of general interest on local history and culture.

- Activities

Some of the things the Volunteers have been doing in the past year include cemetery surveys, historical research, vetting of AMO building survey files on selected historical buildings, radio interviews for Anne-Marie Evans’ RTHK programme “Hong Kong Heritage”, and talks to the AMO Friends of Heritage.

Two field trips were undertaken – one to Fat Tau Chau (a.k.a. Junk Island) to the site of the old Imperial Maritime Customs Headquarters where Dr. Solly Bard was directing an archaeological dig, and another trip to the Crown Wine Cellars at Shouson Hill to look at adaptive re-use of old war-time bunkers into wine cellars. Further joint field trips with the AMO are planned for this year.

- Conclusion

We hope that has given you a brief insight into the Volunteers. We are not actually looking for new recruits at present, but if you are interested in joining there is an application form on the RAS website.