

## **“Historical and Architectural Traces of Sam Tung Uk” Audio Transcript**

### **Location: Ancestral Hall**

### **Theme: The Lantern Lighting Ceremony**

The Ancestral Hall was not only a place for the Chan clan to honour its ancestors, but also served as a venue for traditional ceremonies such as lantern lighting and wedding.

If you look up to the roof, you’ll see two green tie-beams inscribed with the auspicious Chinese words for “longevity and wealth” and “a hundred sons and a thousand grandsons”, respectively. Do you notice a Hakka-style lantern for newborn sons hung on the tie-beam inscribed with the words for “a hundred sons and a thousand grandsons”? This serves as a reconstructed scene of the lantern lighting ritual that used to be held in the Ancestral Hall.

According to tradition, if the Chan clan had a newborn son in the past year, a lantern representing him would be hung in the Ancestral Hall in the first lunar month to inform the ancestors of the new birth. The name of the newborn son would be entered into the genealogy records while a banquet would also be held to treat the clansmen. Similar to the birth registrations and the hundred-day banquets for newborns today, the lantern lighting ritual served to acknowledge the newborn son as a member of the clan.

The traditional Hakka-style lantern for newborn sons on display here was made by Master Yeung Kau, from Siu Lek Yuen Tsuen in Shatin. The Flower-Lantern Paper Crafting Technique is an ICH item in Hong Kong. If you’re interested in learning more about the decorative features and crafting technique of lanterns for newborn sons, please visit the related exhibits in the Exhibition Hall later.

We’ve now finished visiting the Chan Ancestral Hall, situated on the central axis of Sam Tung Uk. Walking from the main entrance to this Ancestral Hall is like strolling through a time tunnel to explore the history and origins of the Chan clan. Now you can proceed to the interpretation stand located on the right to find out about the architectural layout of the other dwellings in Sam Tung Uk.