

HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS

YOUNG PLANNERS GROUP

Newsletter Issue 2022



香港規劃師學會
THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS



Cover Story

Understanding Urban Planning from Streets

WHO WE ARE

Young Planners Group, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP-YPG) was founded in 2001 by a group of energetic and ambitious young planners aiming to promote sustainable urban development of Hong Kong. As a group of devoted and passionate young planners, we aim to bring our members a series of activities and events in professional development, community outreach, and leisure events.



Review of Past Events

With the dedicated contribution and support from our committee members, a challenging yet fruitful year of the Young Planners Group (YPG) came to an end. In the past year, the volatile COVID situation inevitably disrupted our planning of numerous events, but we adapted to organise events in a virtual format. We successfully organised webinars and online gatherings, such as Membership Talk, Career Talk, and Mentorship Programme, to promote the professional development of our fellow young members. Besides, we engaged professionals and the wider community in discussing issues related to urban planning at the street level and community planning through a series of social media posts and interactive webinars respectively.

Future Events

We will endeavour to continue organising a wide array of events and activities to promote networking among our fellow members and foster professional development and social awareness of members. In addition, we will strive to explore cross-sector collaborations, strengthen connections with international counterparts, and discover new ideas for the community. We look forward to your continuous support to YPG's events in the future.

COVER STORY

In the Cover Story, fun facts about streets in Hong Kong, naming patterns, stories behind thematic street names, and functions and hierarchy of the street and road system were reviewed. A series of six thematic stories were posted on Facebook to share with our followers and to exchange knowledge.

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02

Our Ideas

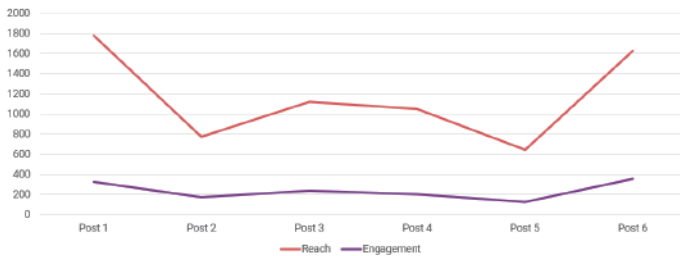
We injected delicacy into the creation and organisation of the content. The whole process started with brainstorming. We chose "transport" to be the subject of our series and further narrowed it down to "street". Have you ever thought about what "street" refers to in essence? Probably not. A daily-life entity, street is something that every one of us may find familiar with, but in reality it is a broad topic itself and we believe there is so much knowledge to share with the public from the planning perspective. The value of our project lies not only in the educational content per se, but also its bringing of a new angle to the public to appreciate this everyday object that surrounds us.

While the posts cover diversified planning issues (naming and history of streets, and the relationship between streets and land use, traffic safety, mental health, and city layout), we organised them in a way that a clear linkage between them and a hierarchy of depth for the post order was formed. The first post, which focuses more on concrete facts, was followed by posts that require thinking and reflection by readers. Another consideration in determining which to be the first post is the need for introductory level content to secure a base reader pool, so we brought trivia and statistics that are easy to understand to the front. A small psychological trick: Readers will stay tuned for the upcoming posts if the first one captures their attention. In other words, the first post would be a key pull factor – or push factor – for our series.

Post 2 continues to present some fun facts to readers, this time on naming patterns. More jargons are used in Post 3 as we introduce the more technical side of town planning: the zoning system. Post 4 is a transition between the hard facts and the soft side of urban planning, bringing out the psychological dimension of road design and road safety. Post 5 is a continuation of the psychological discussion by Post 4, where we attempt to illustrate the mental implications of street naming and street environment. The series is concluded by Post 6, which raises higher-level questions that are rather theoretical and philosophical in nature. It investigates how street design influences city layout and urban life. Post 6 echoes with Post 1, as it guides readers to rethink about the fundamental question of what street is.

Our Ideas, Continued

We planners have to deal with the balance between technical contents and readers' interest and acceptance. When writing, we had reflections on our personal experience as a reader: What posts do we think are interesting and what are boring to read? What contributes to effective communication to get messages across? We then tried to avoid any unwanted elements. While it is often said that people in the digital era are characterised by a short attention span, we went against this common belief when we drafted our posts, as we found that with short texts, a complete message could not be delivered for educational purposes and content quality would unavoidably be sacrificed. With the use of vivid and lively language to create interesting contents that readers find enjoyable to read, we believe that text length would not be a concern. We created engaging contents that were written in a way as if a friend is talking in reality – simple magic to ensure our deliverables are nothing like dull report-style texts. To boost the effect, we also prepared well-designed infographics, which are a perfect match with the nature of our posts. Last but not least, it is needless to say that our language team endeavoured to make sure consistency in word choice and tone.



Reach

1,160

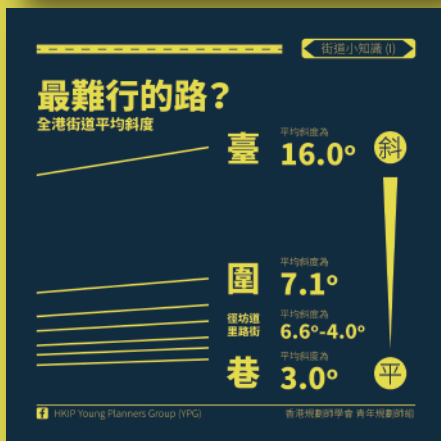
Engagement

235

We see the need to increase our online presence, as much as the importance of passing on planning knowledge to the public, and we are happy to see that our work came to fruition. On average, the reach and engagement of our posts are 1,160 and 235 respectively. As young planners who grew up in the digital era, we understand the need to modernise the public engagement practice and endeavour to keep up with the trend. After all, it is planners' ultimate responsibility to keep an eye on the development of the ever-changing world.

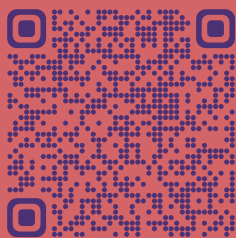
Post 1: Suffixes of Street Names

The first post introduces the relationship between street and urban planning by analysing the suffixes of street names. Street name suffixes are the “surnames” of streets, which are always used for indicating the hierarchy of roads and streets in Hong Kong. The most common suffixes are road, street, path, and lane, which describe the characteristics of streets such as shape, slope, and density. The street name suffix system is a tool to reflect the urban spatial structure, making it easier for us to understand and appreciate the connotation of the city.



Post 2: Roots of Street Names

Post 2 reviews the planning history reflected by the roots of street names. We have divided the urban development of Hong Kong into four stages, and discussed how street naming is closely related to Hong Kong's urban planning history and development direction. We can understand the past, the present, and even the future of a place by its name. It is definitely an interesting angle for us to explore the pictures behind.



街頭小知識 (四)

街名詞根由何來?

- 命名來源?
英國官員、海陸官員、地方特色、世界名勝、中華色彩、物件、動植物、數字陣列、社會發展、名人等等
- 與城市規劃及發展之關係?
香港發展歷史、策略規劃、花園城市、街道排列等等

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街頭小知識 (四)

命名起源: 主要幹道由英國軍政官員、香港總督及官員、及地標等等組成

規劃特色: 主幹道沿維港海岸及當時地勢以設，並設有不同分支及內街

皇祐街：
英國皇家命名之主幹道

19-20世紀初
港島北部

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街頭小知識 (四)

命名起源: 仍有不少英國及港英色彩，開始有較地道的命名，如佐敦一帶之中國系列街道

規劃特色: 開拓土地作住宅發展，新街道通常以網格方式排列

崇正：
有中國及香港色彩之內街

20世紀初
九龍南部

YHP Young Planners Group (YPG) 香港規劃的學會 青年規劃師組

街頭小知識 (四)

命名起源: 街名因城市規劃變得更有規律性，如深水埗中國系列街道，九龍塘花園城市之英式命名

規劃特色: 高密度戰後住宅及低密度花園城市發展

金巴德街：
低密度花園城市街道

20世紀中
九龍中部

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Post 3: Streets and Urban Development

Post 3 offers a fun fact of Ice House Street. It was a place where ice blocks were sold in the past, and the factories have been replaced by commercial buildings and hotels. Its story reflects the evolution of Hong Kong's economic structure, from an entrepot to an international financial centre. From the street name, we can imagine the contrast between the past and the present of Central.



街趣小知識 (III)

點解雪廠街冇雪廠？

1845年 德忌利士
宜室雅居酒店

究竟雪廠街個名點嚟？

HKIP Young Planners Group (YPG) 香港規劃學會 青年規劃師組

街趣小知識 (III)

戴上規劃眼鏡睇雪廠街！

中區(港島規劃區第4區)分區計劃大綱圖

C: 商業用途 Commercial Use
O: 休憩用地 Open Space
GIC: 政府、機構或社區 Government, Institution or Community

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街趣小知識 (III)

戴上規劃眼鏡睇雪廠街！

中區(港島規劃區第4區)分區計劃大綱圖

商業 Commercial
住宅(甲類) Residential (Group A)
休憩用地 Open Space
其他指定用途 Other Specified Use
政府、機構或社區 Government, Institution or Community
最高建築高度 Maximum Building Height

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街趣小知識 (III)

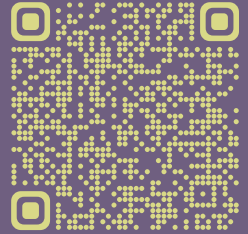
香港嘅規劃系統係點嚟？

- 1 諮詢公眾
Public Consultation
- 2 諮詢區議會
Public Open Space
諮詢區議會
Public Open Space
諮詢區議會
- 3 城市規劃決定機構
審批
City Planning Commission
- 4 達成規劃目標
高品質發展科技
靈活適應社會環境
Achieving Planning Objectives
High Quality Development with
Technology
Flexibly Adapting to Social Environment

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Post 4: Streets and Road Safety

Foreign planning practices on road design and road safety from the psychological point of view are introduced in Post 4. In principle, drivers would slow down and be more conscious when there are obstructions such as trees and barriers on streets. However, the idea to create such obstructions may not be applicable to the high-density urban context of Hong Kong. Ultimately, drivers' behaviour, instead of the provision of supporting hardware, is the key to road safety.



街邊小知識 (VI)

馬路上嘅心理學： 咩情況下你會減慢車速？

A B C

右車 兩旁有車 路邊有樹

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街邊小知識 (VI)

外國情況嘅例子

冇任何障礙物
路邊有車輛停泊
路邊種植樹木

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街邊小知識 (VI)

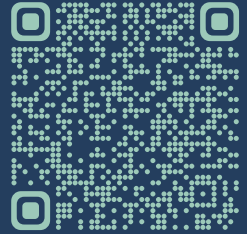
人多車多嘅香港？

冇任何障礙物
路邊有車輛停泊
路邊種植樹木

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Post 5: Streets and Spatial Environment

Post 5 shares the mental implications of street naming and the design of the street environment. In the past, a street was only for traffic access, but today, it has become a space where people connect, and a place that carries history and culture. Taking Kai Tak as an example. A cognitive sense of place could be found because of its high-quality spatial design. However, we question how much the naming of streets in Kai Tak, which draws on its history as an airport, aligns with the modern yet somehow “sterile” design of its spatial environment.



街道小知識 (M)

我哋對社區嘅歸屬感係邊度嚟？

名「啟德坊」行人專用街道參與比畫

街名展現到社區特色？

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This infographic features a photograph of a street with a sign for 'Ko Fei Lane North' (高飛里北). A callout box highlights the '名「啟德坊」' (Name 'Kai Tak Plaza') pedestrian-only street project. The main title asks '我哋對社區嘅歸屬感係邊度嚟？' (Where is our sense of belonging to the community?). A bottom banner asks '街名展現到社區特色？' (Does the street name show community characteristics?).

街道小知識 (M)

- 開揚通透
- 以人為本
- 街道綠化
- 高可達性

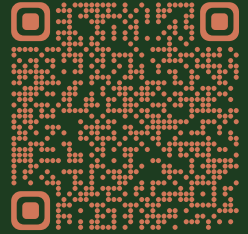
地方感？

HKIP Young Planners Group (YPG) 香港規劃學會 青年規劃師組

This infographic shows a street scene with trees and modern buildings. A list of four points is on the right: '開揚通透' (Open and transparent), '以人為本' (People-oriented), '街道綠化' (Street greening), and '高可達性' (High accessibility). A bottom banner asks '地方感？' (Sense of place?).

Post 6: Streets and Planning

At last, we discuss how different levels of streets, including expressway, road, and street, would affect city layout and urban life. Streets can connect people and embrace social harmony, but with poor planning, they can also divide a community, taking Tsuen Wan as an example. As planners, it is important for us to evaluate the impact of street design on community life when we build our city.



街樓小知識 (VI)

公路
 有速度限制指示牌 只供車輛使用 主要作跨區或重要用途

道路
 兩旁活動較運動 匯集主要交通樞紐 混合用途

街道
 較多行人活動 較多住宅位於兩旁 主要為行人設計

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街樓小知識 (VI)

地區重要性

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街樓小知識 (VI)

公路
道路
街道
圍

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街樓小知識 (VI)

核心和商業活動位於青山公路兩旁

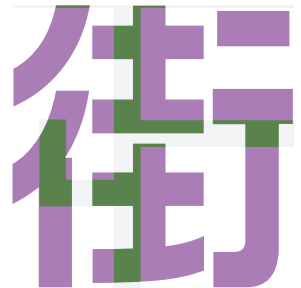
新市鎮範圍包括商業活動擴展至路德圍

荃灣路分割荃灣內陸和荃灣西填海區

HKIP Young Planners Group (YPG) 香港規劃師學會 青年規劃師組

Conclusion

While physical interactions were restricted under COVID, we have stepped out of our comfort zone in the hope of engaging more audiences, including planners, other practitioners relating to the built environment, potential planners, and fellow Hongkongers through social platforms. We took the opportunity to carry out the Cover Study of the Term 2021-2022 to explore the relationship between planning, street, and the street naming system, and share the hidden stories behind their naming. Streets connect places, districts, cities and even regions. They are spaces we would experience every day but are always taken for granted. While some may consider urban planning distant from one physically and temporally because the implications of planning would often be reflected in years, we would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce planning to the public through understanding streets.



SESSION 2021-2022



Section 2021 - 2022: Committee Members

The 2021 - 2022 Committee members of the YPG were:

Co-Chairpersons:

Mr Kelvin Chui
Mr Vincent Lau

Ms Emily Ng

Members:

Ms Angel Cheung
Ms Peggy Tsui
Mr Dicky Chan
Ms Patricia Chan
Mr David Cheng
Mr Don Chu
Ms Moon Kok
Mr Faith Lai
Ms Coby Leong
Ms Cheryl Tsang
Ms Anson Ying

Mr Tommy Chan
Ms Ally Au
Mr Isaac Chan
Mr Tim Chan
Mr Edmond Cheng
Mr Lewis Kam
Ms Anson Kwok
Mr Haywood Lau
Mr Cyrus Tam
Mr Jason Wong
Ms Helen Yip

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

04

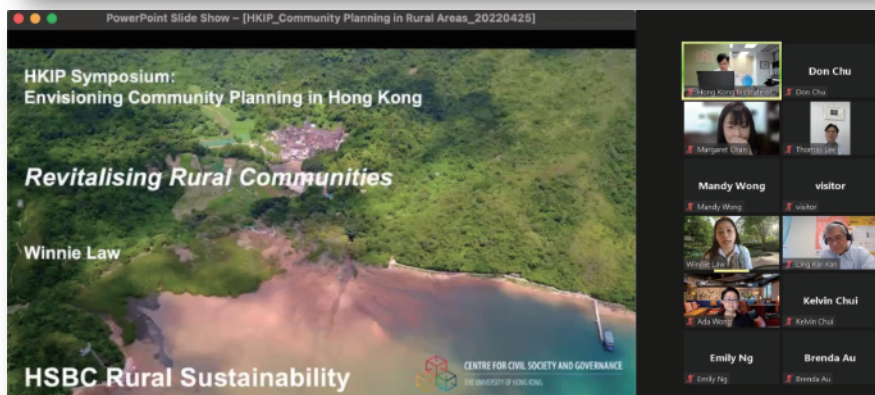
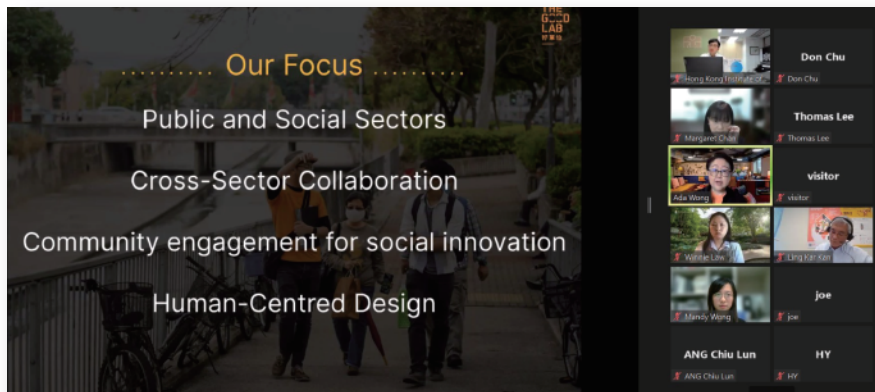


HKIP Community Planning Lab

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, YPG co-organised "HKIP Community Planning Lab" with the Project Planning Committee, the Community Planning Committee, and the Publicity Committee. Through a series of online events, we aim to engage urban planners, NGOs, built environment professionals, and the wider community on issues related to community planning, and to showcase the community planning initiatives undertaken by HKIP in the past.

The Community Planning Lab Organizing Committee invited 11 speakers to share their profound practical experience, research, and thought-provoking vision in community planning in Hong Kong. The series of webinars was successfully held on four Saturdays in April, with more than 200 participants of different backgrounds, such as urban planners, students, developers, and key players from NGOs, other professional bodies (i.e. HKIA, HKIE, HKILA, HKIUD, and RICS), and government bodies (i.e. HKTDC and Development Bureau). Details of the webinars are tabulated below:

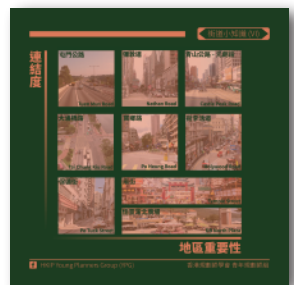
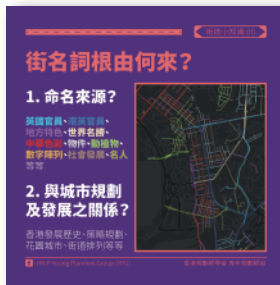
Date	Event	Speakers
2 April 2022	An Overview of Community Planning in Hong Kong	Professor Mee Kam Ng Mr. Louis Cheung
16 April 2022	Placemaking and Community Planning	Mr. Francis Ngai Ms. Florence Cheng Ms. Margaret Chan Mr. Adrian Chiu
23 April 2022	Community Planning - Bottom-up Initiatives	Mr. Chris Law Ms. Karen Lee
30 April 2022	Finale Symposium: Envisioning Community Planning in Hong Kong	Professor Kar Kan Ling, SBS Ms. Ada Wong, JP Dr. Winnie Law



Via the online exhibition on HKIP website, YPG showcased our Wan Chai Kai Fong Planners Programme and our idea of an open space placemaking project near Hung Hom Ferry Pier. With the strong support from the Publicity Committee, we created an interactive online polling platform to collect public opinion on the future planning of the vacant open space near the Pier. In June 2022, we launched the pop-up playground project by capitalising the ideas collected to explore the possibility of bottom-up initiatives in placemaking.

Study Project: Understanding Urban Planning from Streets

People always think urban planning is distant from themselves owing to the wide spectrum of planning and the long time needed to see the outcomes. Yet, urban planning is so close to us that it actually plays an important role in our lives by shaping the way we live and our travel pattern. From a territorial scale with strategic concepts, to a local community with minimal ideas, urban planning covers most of the contents in the area we live. Among the concepts and theories, we found that the topic of street planning is rather under-discussed. Thus, we would like to explore the implications of urban planning at the street level. Through reviewing the street planning in Hong Kong including naming systems, road hierarchies, and how street planning affects new town development, a series of social media posts were published on Facebook to share thoughts and exchange planning knowledge with the public.



Membership Talk 2021

The "Membership Talk 2021" was organised on 1.11.2021 via ZOOM. Recently chartered young planners and Committee Members from HKIP Membership Board were invited to share their experiences during the accreditation process and the requirements and tips to become a full member of HKIP. More than 40 participants, including students and young planners, participated in the event.

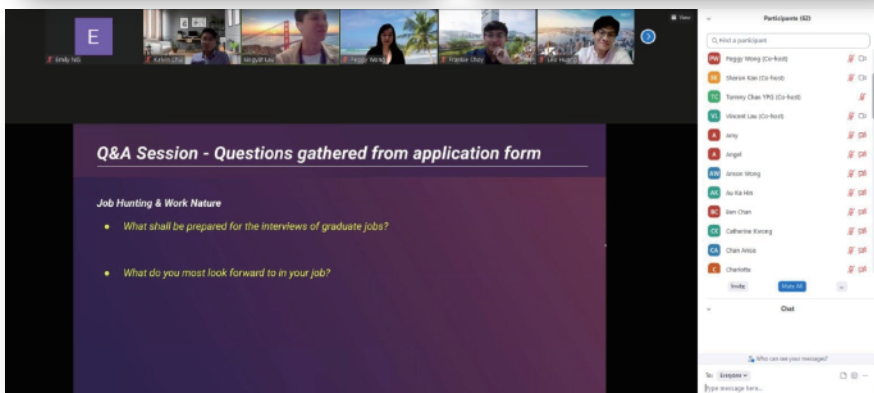
Mentorship Programme 2022

Designed to foster supportive mentoring relationships between young planners and experienced planners, the Mentorship Programme aims to promote professional development of planners and vigorous interactions within the town planning profession. Throughout the one-year programme in which mentors perform as advisors and friends to share their professional and life experiences, mentees can acquire valuable insights from mentors, which can facilitate their career planning and drive their personal growth.

As a kick-off event, a virtual meet-up via Google Meet was held on 19.2.2022. We are delighted to have 10 mentors and about 40 mentees joining the mentors-mentees family this year. We believe mutual learning is the vital step to strengthen the ties within HKIP.

Career Talk 2022

Career talks are organised on a regular basis to allow student members to get a clearer picture of the career opportunities and pathway as a planner. The "Career Talk 2022" was held on 28.3.2022 via ZOOM. Seven young planners from the public and private sectors were invited to give an inspiring sharing on the entry requirements, job duties, career prospects, expectations, and tips that facilitate job hunting and early career development in the planning industry. More than 60 participants, including students and young planners, attended the talk. Participants also had the opportunities to interact with the speakers by asking questions.



Perfume Trees Masterclass

We have organised a visit to Tankyu Distillery, a local producer and tasting room of gin, where a “Perfume Trees Masterclass” was successfully held on 30.9.2021. Participants, whether they are gin-lovers or new to gin, learnt about the history, types, and production process of gin, and the way to taste gin like a pro. Introducing the brand story of Tankyu Distillery and Perfume Trees Gin to the participants, it was a meaningful event that gave a chance to the participants to appreciate and support local agriculture and craftsmanship. It was also a wonderful and relaxing evening for members to talk to one another and the local gin producer.





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