



「打醮」是大規模的社區活動，亦稱為太平清醮。「父老」（60歲以上的男士）都會穿上傳統長衫參加活動。新界元朗厦村的打醮每十年舉行一次，宗族成員及友好送出祝賀花牌，成為場地的主要裝飾。花牌上的捐贈者名稱，顯示著地方社會的網絡關係。（2004年）

Also known as Taiping Qingjiao (festival of peace and renewal), Ta Chiu is a large-scale communal event. The "elders" (men aged over 60) dress in their traditional long gowns for this festival. In Ha Tsuen of Yuen Long in the New Territories, where Ta Chiu is held once every 10 years, lineage members and friends of the village decorated the ritual site with garland placards. The donor names on these placards vividly show the integral network among the local communities. (2004)



長洲每年都在農曆四月舉行太平清醮，為期三天，醮場中有大小不同的包山。

The Cheung Chau Bun Festival is celebrated every year over a three-day period in the fourth lunar month. Towers, decorated with steamed buns, of different heights were offerings to the wandering ghosts.



新界上水鄉的打醮，六十年才舉行一次，這是2006年村民舞金龍慶祝的情況。

The Ta Chiu Festival in Sheung Shui of the New Territories is held once every 60 years. A dragon dance was performed in the 2006 festival.



太平清醮期間，居民都要齋戒沐浴，參與雖然是自願性質，但這是表現社區認同的一個重要形式。

During the Ta Chiu Festival, participants are required to consume only vegetarian food which does not have to be killed. Although being vegetarian is voluntary, vegetarianism is a strong expression of the community identity.



「飄色」是長洲太平清醮「會景巡遊」中的特色項目。各街坊團體組成飄色隊伍參加巡遊，各展所長。

The main attractions of the Cheung Chau Bun Festival are the float processions. Neighbourhood associations form their own floats to participate in the ritual parade. The child actors and actresses are meticulously made up and dressed for the part.



每台飄色都有一個主題故事，由小孩表演。小孩被固定在平台的支架上，從前巡遊時，以人力挑起平台。現今飄色平台下都置有車輪，巡遊時更為穩定。

Each float in the procession portrays some messages of a topical or historical nature. Children are supported on frames and carried shoulder high throughout the procession. In the past, the tableaux of these float processions were carried on shoulders with bamboo poles and ropes. Most of the tableaux are now pushed on the trolleys.



每台飄色由「色心」和「色櫃」兩部份組成。色心是支撐固定小孩的鋼鐵支架，色櫃是固定色心的平台。照片中人員正在安裝色心。

Each float is made up of two parts, namely the mechanism that holds the child suspended in the air and the tableau underneath. The working staff are meticulously installing the former.



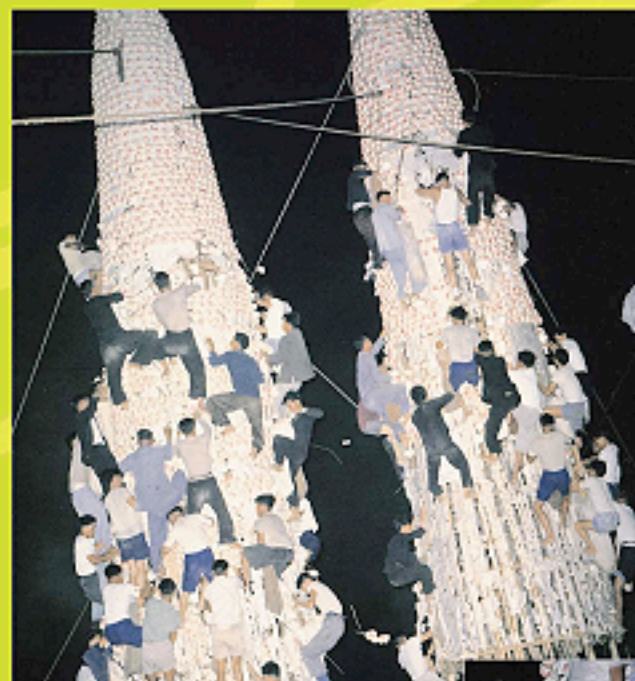
每年長洲舉辦太平清醮，都會以竹棚搭建三座大型包山，獻給幽魂。

Held annually on Cheung Chau Island, the Bun Festival has three huge conical bamboo towers, each covered with layer upon layer of steamed buns as offerings to the wandering ghosts.



以麵粉製成之齒包，以幼繩串連起來，然後鋪在包山支架上。

These buns are made of flour and they are all strung by strings before laying out on the bun towers.



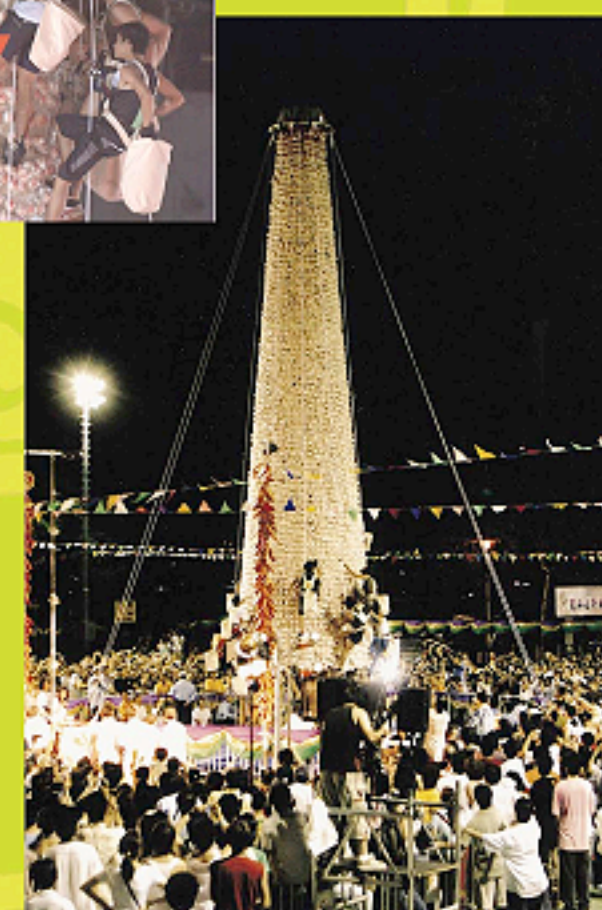
居民相信包子有治病的功能，團體也以成功搶奪包子來顯示力量。在儀式完結後，各方人士蜂湧而上，搶奪包子。1978年，包山在搶奪過程中倒塌，政府也自此禁止搶包山，改將包子分發給居民。現在人們都稱這些包子為「平安包」，吃了會帶來好運。

Cheung Chau people believe that these buns have a sacred power of healing diseases, and, before 1978, local associations on the island take the scramble for buns as a battle—to win their status. At the end of the Bun Festival, people from the participating groups rushed to the bun towers for the sacred buns. In 1978, a bun tower collapsed as the scramble was underway, and since then, the scramble has been officially forbidden. Instead, the buns are distributed to the people the day after the festival.



2005年，搶包山以體育競賽形式復辦，在醮場旁以鐵架建造一個包山，包子為塑料模型。

In 2005, the bun scramble was resumed in the form of a sports competition, in which a metal-framed tower is erected on the festival site and the steamed buns are replaced by plastic models.



色心支架設計巧妙，要支撐懸於半空中的小孩，讓她舒服的坐著，但支架要隱藏在小孩的服飾及裝飾裡面，是結合藝術與工程力學的成果。參與飄色的小孩通常在五歲以上，體重則要在四十磅以下，身高不超過1.3米。

The contrivance of the float processions is managed by running a carefully shaped iron rod up through the children's garments to conceal a semi-circular hoop and a small seat at the top for the upper child. Children for the float are aged above five, weighed below 20 kilograms and standing no taller than 1.3 metres.



居民也會以飄色內容反映社會狀況，1997年香港回歸祖國，在5月太平清醮的巡遊中，便有一台飄色以港督告別香港市民為題。

The float processions occasionally portray topics of current affairs. For example, two months before Hong Kong's handover to China in 1997, the float procession in May that year has a child dressed up as Hong Kong Governor paying farewell to the people of Hong Kong.