



火後同行 嘉咸市集「重生」添新姿

Backing Up Hawkers with New Stalls Giving a Fresh Look at Graham Market After Fire

八月十五日凌晨，在百年歷史的中環嘉咸街市集，檔販已收檔歇息，惟一場突如其來的火警，令一列露天排檔陷入火海，熊熊火焰劃破市集寂靜的夜空。在嘉咸街經營水果生意約三十年的文叔，回想起當晚火警仍猶有餘悸：

「記得是半夜兩點，市集的看更打電話跟我說攤檔失火，我即時感到愕然，於是立刻『飛的』趕來現場，看見整個鐵皮攤檔燒到彎曲變形，好似被轟炸過一樣，自己都不敢相信眼前發生的事情。」

今次嘉咸街市集的火警中，共有六個攤檔被大火燒毀、兩個受到破壞，其中三個便是文叔的水果攤檔。文叔慨嘆，看見被燒毀的攤檔如同一片廢墟，心裏百般滋味，「一把火將三個攤檔燒成灰燼，當刻覺得人生好似跌到谷底，非常『心噏』。」當晚文叔沒有回家，在現場附近靜候警方及消防的消息交代。文叔的「鄰居」、在市集經營兩個蔬菜檔的花姐，其攤檔亦在今次大火中付諸一炬。花姐憶述，火警在凌晨發生時，她正在內地探親，她得悉市集火警已立即趕回

It was early morning on the 15th of August. Stall owners at Graham Market, Central had already closed their shops. Just at this quiet moment, a fire broke out. Raging flames burned up a row of stalls, ripping through the quietness of the night.

Uncle Man, one of the stall owners who has sold fruit at Graham Market for 30 years, recalled the fire as his fear still lingered, "It was about 2 o'clock in the morning, the market's night watchman phoned me to say my stall was on fire. I was stunned and then jumped in a taxi to rush back to the market, arriving only to see all the metal sheets covering my stall were burnt and bent. It looked like a bomb had just gone off. I couldn't believe my eyes."

The fire at Graham Market destroyed six stalls and damaged two others. Among them, three stalls belonged to Uncle Man from where he sold fruit. "When the fire turned my three stalls to dust, at that moment, I felt as if I had reached life's bottom. My heart just felt so bad," he sighed with a heavy heart. That night, he didn't go home and instead stayed on the street waiting for the report from the police and fire services.

來，到達市集已是晚上，火警現場已經清理，「我來到看見空蕩蕩，只剩下燒焦了的攤檔支架未清拆。我存放在攤檔的物品，例如秤磅、筲箕、洋葱、蒜頭等，全部燒清光。」

嘉咸街市集毗鄰市建局卑利街／嘉咸街重建項目（H18），雖然不屬於項目範圍，但市建局多年來一直與市集的攤檔及商戶保持友好睦鄰關係。參與發展H18項目的市建局規劃及設計經理黃家偉，在協助推動嘉咸市集保育活化的工作上，與檔販並肩同行接近十年，建立了深厚情誼，他坦言：「雖然露天攤檔位於H18項目的範圍外，但我們理解到這場火警對檔販影響好大，所以我們隨即在當天早上到場，探望受影響的檔主。我們了解到他們因攤檔被燒毀而影響日常營業，感到很徬徨，需要急切支援。」

為協助受影響的攤檔盡快恢復營業，市建局在火警後，同日便決定為有關檔主提供緊急財政支援，資助他們維修或重建攤檔，以及重新接駁電力供應。於火警翌日，市建局亦聯同相關政府部門，包括食物環境衛生署、中西區民政事務處，與受影響的檔販會面，講解有關資助和申請手續，期望通過多方協作，能夠盡快協助檔販度過難關。

文叔坦言，對檔販來說，重置新攤檔的費用不菲，但市建局團隊迅速伸出援手，讓他感到窩心，「火警當日早上，我打電話給黃生，到下午他就回覆指可資助我們重置新攤檔，當時他更安慰我說不用擔心，定會盡快想辦法協助我們解決困難。當刻我真的感受到人間有情；而那幾天，就連街坊行過，都問我們有無地方需要幫忙，這個社會是有人情味的。」

在重建攤檔期間，受影響的檔主可在原地擺設臨時攤檔繼續營業，但只靠一把太陽傘遮蔭，每天朝行晚拆，亦沒有電力供應，日常營業多有不便。花姐說，在臨時攤檔開檔和收檔都較往常花多一倍時間，執貨亦十分吃力，因此她惟有減少入貨量，由於售賣的蔬菜款式大減一半，生意收入亦受影響，「以往我賣十多款蕃薯、數款南瓜，現在沒有攤檔存貨，所以我不敢大手入貨。」

Ms Liu's vegetable stall, which was standing next to Uncle Man's at the market, was also wiped out by the fire. As soon as she was told the awful news, she immediately rushed back to Hong Kong from the mainland. By the time she got to the market, it was already late in the evening and the site had been cleaned up. "There was nothing there, except the burnt structure of my stall which had not been taken down. The things that I kept in the stall, like the weighing scales, the strainers, onions, garlic, were all turned into ashes," Liu remembered.

The century-old Graham Market, although located adjacent to the URA's Peel Street/Grantham Street Development Scheme (H18), does not fall within the boundary of the redevelopment site. Nevertheless, members of the URA team who take part in the project have built up close relationships with the stalls owners for nearly 10 years. Glory Wong, the URA's Planning and Design Manager, has been working side-by-side with the vendors there in preserving the community's characteristics and revitalising the market. "The fire had a big impact on the stall owners. That morning, we immediately went to the site to visit the affected storekeepers. With their stores destroyed, they could not run their business. They were in despair and desperate need for immediate assistance," Glory recalled.

To help vendors rebuild their livelihood, the URA decided to provide financial assistance to the affected owners to repair and rebuild their stalls as well as reconnect electricity, so that they could resume business as quick as possible. The next day, the URA along with relevant government departments including the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and the Central and Western District Office of the Home Affairs Department, met the affected stall owners to explain the application procedures for the financial assistance. The URA hoped that through such collaborative effort, the stall owners could quickly get through the difficult times.



在八月的火警中，嘉咸市集不少攤檔被波及，損毀嚴重。
A number of hawker stalls at Graham Market were severely damaged by the fire last August.



為新攤檔選了黃色的花姐說，「黃色給人開心、充滿朝氣的感覺，跟我個人開朗的性格一樣。」

Standing in front of her new stall decorated in yellow, Ms Liu says the vitality and cheerfulness of the colour resemble her pleasant personality.

黃家偉說，看到這些臨時攤檔沒有電燈照明，入夜後檔主執貨時十分不便，所以市建局團隊特別購買一些便攜式的大光燈，給有需要的檔主使用，「同時我們一直緊密跟進新攤檔的重置進度，期望協助檔主盡快安裝新攤檔，可以盡早恢復正常營業。」承辦商已於十月底，先為六個被嚴重焚毀的攤檔完成重置，以及重新接駁電力供應裝置，讓檔主隨即在新攤檔恢復營業，另外兩個受輕微破壞的攤檔，亦已於十一月中重置。

看見攤檔「重生」，文叔說：「現在感覺安心多了！終於不用朝行晚拆、日曬雨淋，用來盛載水果的紙兜、秤磅、筲箕等搵食『架生』，可以重新存放在攤檔內，開檔和收檔方便得多。」花姐亦笑言：「現在可以回復正常營業，整個人都開心了！我可以重新買些美國紫薯、日本蕃薯、澳洲南瓜等不同款式的靚貨返來賣。」

在新攤檔的選色上，市建局團隊亦與檔主溝通，透過為新攤檔髹上新色彩，加強整個嘉咸市集的特色，其中部分新攤檔是深綠色外殼配靚青色內籠；有攤檔則換上黃色「新衣」，外觀變得更鮮明。團隊更花心思為新攤檔「扮靚」，按照每個攤檔的特色，特別設計充滿個性的招牌、價錢牌、圖案貼紙裝飾檔身，大大提升了新攤檔的「魅力」。

The timely assistance from the URA has touched Uncle Man deeply since he no longer had to worry about the considerable expense on reconstructing his stalls. "I phoned Glory that morning after the fire, and he soon called back in the afternoon saying the URA could sponsor us to rebuild our stalls. He even gave me words of comfort that they would promptly look into ways to help us. At that moment I felt that there were people in this world who cared. In fact many people in the neighbourhood have offered help afterwards. There is kindness in this community," Uncle Man said.

There was a period when the affected owners could operate at their original space temporarily, each with one big umbrella to shelter them from the hot sun. However as the temporary setups had to be dismantled every night, and since there was no electricity supply, Liu said she had to spend double effort and time on setting up and dismantling. As there was also no place for storage, she was forced to keep less vegetables, thereby affecting her business and income.

Having seen that there was no lighting at the temporary setups, which made stock handling difficult for the stall owners, the URA team made a thoughtful purchase of some portable lights for the owners. "We are closely monitoring the progress of re-establishing the stalls. We hope that by assisting owners in setting up new stalls as soon as possible, they could resume normal business quickly," Glory said. By the end of October, the contractor had completed reconstructing the six severely



特別設計的招牌和圖案貼紙，為攤檔增添個性和吸引力。
Signboards and patterned stickers tailor-made for the stalls help highlight their features and boost their attractiveness.

文叔鍾情綠色，他說可以襯托出色彩繽紛的新鮮水果。全新的「文記生果」招牌亦用上文叔的卡通頭像配以鮮黃色的麒麟果圖案襯底。花姐的新攤檔則是萬綠叢中一點「黃」，她笑言自己喜歡獨特的色彩，「黃色好顯眼，亦帶給人開心、充滿朝氣的感覺，跟我個人開朗的性格一樣。」

除了在新攤檔的用色上增添新意，黃家偉說：「我們更額外為攤檔加裝煙霧感應器，並逐一向檔主講解用法，期望進一步提升露天攤檔的安全設備及檔販的防火意識。」

文叔坦言，原以為攤檔只是按舊貌重置，沒想過市建局團隊會額外美化新攤檔、加裝防火安全設備，令人感到驚喜、貼心，「自大火燒毀攤檔後，我變得六神無主，更憂心到整個人消瘦了幾磅，但這兩個多月來市建局同事的關心和行動，令我非常滿意。特別是他們好著緊跟進更換新攤檔的情況，過程中亦不斷慰問我們，真的令人心都甜了！」



damaged stalls. The other two slightly damaged stalls were also rebuilt in mid November.

The “rebirth” of his stalls and business has brought Uncle Man much happiness. “Now I feel so much relieved! At last I don’t have to do setting up and dismantling each day, not to mention having to endure the sunlight and the rain. I can now keep my paper containers, weighing scales and strainers inside the stalls, making it much more convenient at opening and closing times.” With a broad smile, Ms Liu said, “Now that I can resume normal business, I feel so much happier! I can now order more popular stock like purple potatoes from the US, sweet potatoes from Japan, pumpkins from Australia and put them for sale.”

The URA hasn’t just rebuilt the hawker stalls, but also given them new looks by refurbishing them with new colours of the hawkers’ choices. Some of them have their exterior painted in dark green while the interior are in blue green. Other stalls are coated with yellow paint making refreshing new looks. There are other ways to enliven the market too, for example by installing signboards, price tags and patterned stickers tailor-made for each stall to highlight their features and boost their attractiveness.

Uncle Man has a fondness for ‘green’, thinking it would go very well with the myriad colours of his fresh fruit, alongside the brand new “Man Kee Fruit” signboard which has a cartoon image of himself against a background drawing of bright yellow pitahayas. Ms Liu was also excited about her new stalls newly decorated in her favourite colour of yellow, “It is really eye-catching, and it also makes people feel happy. There’s vitality in yellow just like my pleasant personality.”

Apart from splashing colours to the new stalls, the URA went a bit further on the safety front. “We have installed smoke alarm sensors in the stalls and taught each owner how to use. We hope to improve the safety of hawker stalls and raise the fire awareness of the owners,” said Glory.

To Uncle Man, it was really a pleasant and touching surprise that the URA team has gone the extra mile to do up the new stalls and even add fire safety facilities. “After my stalls were destroyed by the fire, I was just bewildered. I even lost a few pounds in weight due to the worry. But in the last two months, with the care from and actions taken by the URA, I felt entirely at ease. The team had paid close attention to restoring the new stalls, and was always concerned about us throughout the process. I just feel so blessed,” Uncle Man said with a warm smile.