

What Elizabeth's Candy is famous for



In the city centre of Causeway Bay, among the old flats of the concrete jungle, Elizabeth's Candy has stood for half a century, witnessing the change of Hong Kong. Elizabeth's candy is not only famous for its long history, but also for its special relationship with the Queen Elizabeth II, as you can tell from the name. The queue shows the patrons' love for the sweets there, especially chocolate flavoured ones. The shop also serves jam pennies specially for the Queen, as it is one of Her Majesty's favourite snacks. According to shop owner Zheng, 'Jam pennies here are great! Elizabeth loves them. I guess that made us friends. She's such a nice person.' You can find numerous pictures of the Queen in the shop hanging on the tradition walls of the shop. Some people also flock here for this, to take photos of them, and to try out the Queen's favourite snacks.

The early days of Elizabeth's Candy

During the time of Hong Kong being ruled by the British government, many western cultures were brought in. The idea of traditional candy shops was new to Hong Kong people. That's why when Zheng first ran the shop, it brought a large number of customers and business. Customers varied from kids to elders, everyone was tempted by the sweetness of western sweets. This brought great fortune for Zheng. 'They think it makes them happy. So do I, seeing their smiling face is my greatest pleasure.' One day the Queen visited Zheng's shop, which was called Lucky Candy back then. The Queen found Zheng, a kind person, and start making friends with her. She even taught her how to make jam pennies, which only existed in the palace. Zheng was flattered at that time. In return, she changed the shop's name to her friend's, Elizabeth.



Time for Zheng to choose

Since the 2010s, rent for the shop has been increasing exponentially each time while the income of the shop has been dropping rapidly. 'Modern kids keep their eyes on their phone. They don't care about candies anymore,' said Zhang. The meagre income of the shop now, which is mainly from its old customers, can barely pay the rent and bills. Sometimes Zheng would even need to pay with her own money. 'Sometimes I sat for a day and the only thing coming towards me was mosquitoes. They even gave me a few kisses.'

At the same time, in order to achieve sustainable urban development, the area where Elizabeth's Candy is located at, has been targeted by the Hong Kong Government for land reclamation. Many residents nearby have moved away, further posing a threat to the business of Elizabeth's Candy. Yesterday, unwillingly, Zhang announced that the shop will only last until 1st Oct, which is also precisely its 50th anniversary. Being asked why she'd choose to retire instead of continuing her business elsewhere, she replied, 'I'm 86 already. People don't need old people like me. However, the story of me and Elizabeth, and this shop, will forever remain a part of my memory!'