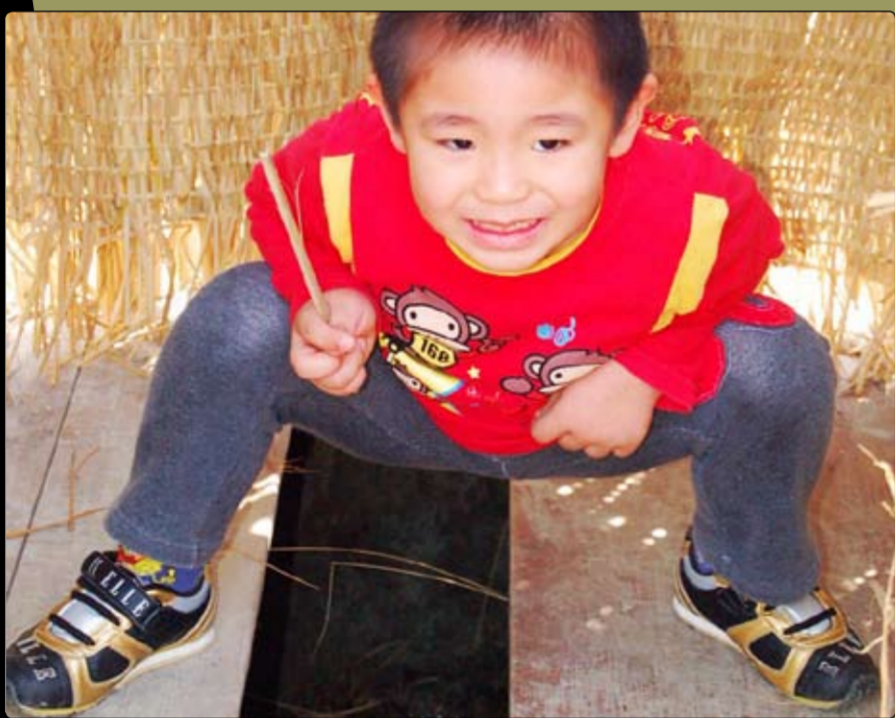




Bamboo toilet paper among exhibits at toilet exhibition



Top: The interior and exterior of a traditional countryside toilet is shown in these pictures at an exhibition of old-fashioned toilets in Yilan County on April 1.

Above: A child squats over a traditional toilet on April 1, in Yilan County.

Right: A stone, tree branches and leftover corn on the cob are shown at an exhibition on April 1, in Yilan County.

PHOTOS: YANG I-MIN, LIBERTY TIMES

最上圖：四月一日，宜蘭縣廁所展中搭建的傳統「屎礮仔」。
上圖：四月一日，在宜蘭縣舉辦的廁所展上，一名幼童蹲在傳統的「屎礮仔」裡。
右圖：四月一日，宜蘭縣廁所展上展出的石頭、樹枝及吃剩的玉米。這些東西都是早期如廁後用來清潔的用品。

照片：自由時報記者楊宜敏攝

「屎礮仔」大展 上廁所請便

Have you ever seen a traditional toilet, of the kind used by people hundreds of years ago? Do you know what people used to wipe their bottoms with in days gone by? Your curiosity will be satisfied after visiting the toilet exhibition in Yilan County's Dong Shan Township. The exhibition was organized by Jenju Village's development association, which asked the village elders to build traditional toilets, and display an array of **utensils** that once served as toilet paper, such as pieces of bamboo. The exhibition lasts until the end of June.

In a time when toilet paper hadn't yet been invented, all kinds of things were used in its place, including ropes, tree leaves, tree branches, stones, and even the **leftovers** of corn on the cob! Four interns from the social work program at the Chinese Culture University's School of Continuing Education, as well as five others from National Yilan University did their homework and asked elders of the Jenju Village to make small pieces of bamboo sticks, another kind of "ancient toilet paper."

In an era without toilet paper, naturally there also wasn't any modern sanitary equipment. In the countryside, it was customary to dig a hole in the ground, then two wide wooden boards would be put over the top leaving some space between. Those who needed to go just stood across the space with a foot on either side of the wooden boards and let nature take her course. Of course, the toilet was hidden behind "walls" made of **rudimentary** materials, such as bamboo sticks, wooden boards, and covered with thatching.

The community published the results of their **survey** and invited village elders such as Chuang Jin-tien and Chen Cheng-kuei to build traditional toilets in the vegetable farm the community has "adopted." They spent five days building a square toilet 2.36m high and 1.27m on each side. The walls of this new old-fashioned Taiwanese countryside toilet are made of bamboo and the roof is covered with thatching.

Visitors are not only allowed to "visit" this toilet, but they can also use it. However, there isn't any toilet paper so visitors have to content themselves with the small pieces of bamboo sticks, just as their forebearers did.

When the exhibition first opened, a group of school kids had a quick look at the toilet. While they all wondered how people could possibly use a bamboo stick to wipe their bottom, they had fun getting to grips with the squat toilet.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY TAIJING WU)

古早時代的廁所，你看過嗎？以前的人上完廁所，拿什麼擦屁股，你知道嗎？你的疑問在參觀了宜蘭縣冬山鄉珍珠社區發展協會舉辦的廁所展覽之後，便會得到答案。發展協會請耆老們搭建了傳統的「屎礮仔」，並重現了早年如廁用、竹片製成的「屎棍篾仔」。展覽即日起展到六月底。

沒有衛生紙的年代，要擦屁股，草繩、樹葉、樹枝、石頭、甚至吃剩的玉米都派上用場！別懷疑，文化大學推廣中心社工學分班四名實習生與宜蘭大學五名見習生合力完成調查，還找來珍珠社區耆老，示範製作了另一種「古早衛生紙」：屎棍篾仔。

沒有衛生紙，當然也不會有現代的新穎衛浴設備，鄉下地方通常都是地上挖個洞，洞上架兩條寬木板，兩腳跨開踏上去，蹲下來就「大」起來了。四周圍則用簡單的竹子、木板圍起來，茅草蓋頂，稍加遮蔽。

社區展出調查成果，請耆老莊進添、陳呈魁二人，花了五天，在社區的認養菜園裡，蓋了高二點三公尺、一點二七公尺的正方形「屎礮仔」，四周圍牆面是用竹子搭成，屋頂覆蓋茅草，便所茅廁，原貌重現。

這座「屎礮仔」，遊客可以參觀，更可以「上」，不過，沒衛生紙，只提供傳統的「屎棍篾仔」，歡迎使用。

日前開放時，一批到社區參觀的幼童先睹為快。小小小朋友看到以前的人用一片竹子擦屁股，都露出百思不得其解的表情，倒是大家都有興趣進去「屎礮仔」，試蹲一下。

(自由時報記者楊宜敏)

TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **utensil** /ju'tensl/ n.

用具 (yong4 ju4)

例：Victor received a set of cooking utensils for his birthday. (韋特收到一組炊具當生日禮物。)

2. **leftover** /'left,ovə/ n.

殘餘物 (can2 yu2 wu4)

例：We put the leftovers in the fridge, to be eaten at a later date. (我們把剩下的東西冰到冰箱，準備改天再吃。)

3. **rudimentary** /,rudə'mentəri/ adj.

基本的 (ji1 ben3 de5)

例：Despite his rudimentary skills, Terry wasn't shy about playing piano in public. (泰瑞彈琴的技巧雖然生澀，但在公開場合演奏卻毫不羞澀。)

4. **survey** /sə've/ n.

調查 (diao4 cha2)

例：According to the survey, the majority of our staff are happy with their working conditions. (根據調查，多數同仁對工作現況感到滿意。)