



THE
JAPAN
SOCIETY



Events 2019

Annual & Special Events

- 26 Feb Lecture by Paul Madden CMG, British Ambassador to Japan, at *Nomura International*
- 19 Jun Japan Society Annual General Meeting 2019
- 28 Jun Japan Society Annual Dinner – with Eddie Jones at *Twickenham Stadium*, supported by JTI
- 29 Sep Japan Matsuri 2019 at *Trafalgar Square*, with Japan Association, JCCI, Embassy of Japan, and the Nippon Club
- 10 Dec Japan Society Christmas Party, at *the Embassy of Japan*

Arts & Culture

- 20 Jan Private View: Karen Knorr, *Once Only Once* at *White Conduit Projects*
- 24 Feb Japan Society Choral Workshop, with UK Japan Choir at *Grosvenor Chapel*
- 27 Mar Private View: Jake Tilson, *Finding Tsukiji* at *White Conduit Projects*
- 3 Apr Private View: Explore the Japanese collection at *the British Library*
- 17 May Artist Talk: Ryohei Kan in conversation with Andrew Nishiyama Taylor at *Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix*
- 15 Jun Dorozome (mud dyeing) Talk & Workshop with Dye Garden Tour at *the Horniman Museum*
- 6/8 Aug Ainu Othello – Special Talk & Dinner plus Theatre Performance at *Thenga Café and Tara Theatre*
- 22 Aug Private View: The Citi exhibition *Manga マンガ* – exhibition at *British Museum*
- 30/31 Aug Rakugo Performances and Workshop with the Canary English Rakugo Company with *Japan House London*
- 10/11 Sep Saori Freestyle Weaving Workshops at *Craft Central* (workshops also held on 20/21 Oct and 8/9 Dec)
- 11 Nov Minyo Crusaders Pre-show Talk at *Jazz Café*
- 12 Nov Panel Discussion: Art and Political Censorship in Japan at *Thenga Café with Art Action UK*

Business

Lectures & Seminars

- 9 Apr Threats and Opportunities in Today's Middle East – with Lt Gen (Retd) Sir Tom Beckett, *hosted by IISS*
- 19 Jun Britain and Europe. Post-European Union Elections Analysis – with Professor Anand Menon, *hosted by Mizuho*
- 27 Aug An Analysis of the Abe Administration's Policy on Russia – with Dr James D.J. Brown, *hosted by Mizuho*

Chairman's Lunches and Breakfasts (private, off the record meetings with an informal talk by the guest of honour)

- 4 Apr Zanny Minton Beddoes, Editor-in-Chief, *The Economist*, at *the Oriental Club with Nikko AM*
- 16 Sep Labour Peer, The RT Hon. The Lord Adonis, *hosted by PWC LLP*
- 8 Oct Yutaka Harada, Policy Board Member, The Bank of Japan, *hosted by BDO LLP with Bank of Japan*
- 25 Nov Glen S. Fukushima, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, *hosted by Deloitte LLP*

In Partnership with Other Organisations

Joint Lunches with the JCCI

- 6 Mar Sir Simon Fraser, Former Head of the UK Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service, at *Drapers' Hall*
- 5 Sep The UK-Japan 21st Century Group's 36th Annual Meeting, at *the National Liberal Club*

Others

- 4 Mar Japan Securities Summit, *hosted by the JSDA with ICMA*
- 12 Jun Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Role of the Private Sector, *hosted by Mitsubishi Corporation International (Europe) Plc*

Bilingual Public Speaking Club – held on a regular basis in collaboration with Association of Speakers Clubs (ASC).

The first bilingual Japanese-English public speaking club in the UK, open to all people who would like to improve their skills at speaking in public in Japanese and English. Pilot session was held on 28 Aug at *Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation* and autumn sessions were held at *Civil Service Club* (2 Oct) and at *Nomura International plc* (13 Nov).

Lectures

Japan Society Lectures (at the Swedenborg Society unless otherwise stated)

- 21 Jan The Importance of Cultural Diversity. A Long-term Comparative Perspective between Prehistoric Japan and Britain – with Junzo Uchiyama
- 18 Feb Translating Yukio Mishima's *The Frolic of the Beasts* – with Andrew Clare
- 28 Feb Rosetsu's One-Inch Square Picture and the Culture of Exhibitions in 18th Century Kyoto – with Matthew McKelway at *Rudolf Steiner House*, with the Columbia University Club of London
- 18 Mar Can a 'Religion' Be Translated through 'Culture'? Tenrikyō's Cultural Approach in France – with Masato Kato
- 15 Apr "Like Bombs": Narrative, Memory, and Linguistic Terrorism in Contemporary Okinawan Fiction – with Vicky Young
- 23 May The Emperor System in Japan. Origins, Evolution and the New Imperial Era – with William Horsley
- 28 May Japan Room Lecture: A Glimpse into East-West Relations in the Antiquarian Book Trade at *Japan Room, The Freemasons' Hall*
- 17 Jun Family Firms as Institutions. Cultural Reproduction and Status Maintenance among Multicentenary *Shinise* in Kyoto – with Innan Sasaki and Davide Ravasi
- 22 Jul Carmen Blacker Lecture 2019: Dragon Bones, Sacred Pillars and Holy Tombs: Some Archaeological Observations on Traditional Japanese Religion – with Simon Kaner (18 July, with SISJAC at *Cathedral Hostry, Norwich*)
- 19 Aug MANGA in a Global Society. The Origins and Development of a Genre – Special Lecture with Fusanosuke Natsume, Manga Critic and Columnist, with the British Museum and the Japan Foundation
- 16 Sep The Art of Culinary Diplomacy in the Mid-19th Century. Britain and Japan at the Table – with Yoshiko Goto
- 29 Oct Japan Room Lecture: Nazani Tea Time from Ancient Greece to Mugicha at *Japan Room, The Freemasons' Hall*
- 18 Nov Why does Japan still Use 'Orphanages' rather than Family-based Foster Care and Adoption? – with Michael Rivera King
- 16 Dec Colin Alexander McVean, a Scottish Engineer in early Meiji Japan – with Colin Houston

Lifestyle

- 8 Feb Afternoon Tea and Film Screening with Director Keisuke Yoshida, with Japan Foundation
- 11 May Japanese Garden Community Picnic at *Hammersmith Park*, with the Embassy of Japan
- 26 Jun Japan Society Golf Tournament 2019
- 7/8 Aug Tanabata: Celebrate the Japanese Star Festival at Kew Gardens, with the Embassy of Japan
- 5 Oct Collar Cup Golf Tournament 2019

Book Club (held on the second Monday of each month)

- 14 Jan *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata
- 11 Feb *The Gossamer Years: The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan* by Michitsuna no Haha
- 11 Mar *The Early Cases of Akechi Kogoro* by Edogawa Ranpo
- 8 Apr *No Longer Human* by Osamu Dazai
- 13 May *The Hunting Gun* by Yasushi Inoue
- 10 Jun *Floating Clouds* by Fumiko Hayashi
- 8 Jul *Beasts Head for Home* by Kobo Abe
- 12 Aug *In the Woods of Memory* by Shun Medoruma
- 9 Sep *Go* by Kazuki Kaneshiro
- 14 Oct *The Girl I Left Behind* by Shusaku Endo
- 11 Nov *The Nakano Thrift Shop* by Hiromi Kawakami
- 9 Dec *Sweet Bean Paste* by Durian Sukegawa

Japanese Conversation Group – held on the first Tuesday of every month at The Brewmaster:

An opportunity for Japanese speakers of all nationalities to come together and speak Japanese.

All Year	<p>Japan in Your Classroom School Visits: during 2019, over 40 visits were made to primary and secondary schools in the UK giving pupils an introduction to Japanese, culture, and language.</p> <p>School Links: establishing new partnerships whilst providing targeted support to help strengthen existing links through bilateral exchange trips, conferences, and curriculum-support projects.</p> <p>Loan Resources: a variety of materials and authentic cultural artefacts representing both traditional and modern aspects of Japan on loan to primary and secondary schools throughout the year to support teachers with their Japan-related topics.</p> <p>Cherry Trees for Schools: over 400 applications have been received from schools since last November for Cherry Trees for Schools, a part of The Sakura Cherry Tree Project which celebrates the friendship between Japan and UK by donating cherry trees to schools.</p> <p>Coventry Young Ambassadors: The education team continues to support the 'Cities of Peace Noh Theatre Project' with the Coventry Young Ambassadors Programme.</p> <p>New Resource Development: the education team has collaborated with a number of teachers and specialists to develop a range of new Japanese-related teaching resources to be released throughout the 2019-2020 school year.</p>
February	<p>Peace Poems written by the students from the Coventry Young Ambassadors Programme were displayed at the Japanese Embassy on 6 February.</p> <p>The education team was invited to a discussion panel at Japan in the World Conference at University of East Anglia on 16 February to share the type of work the Japan Society does in terms of supporting the teaching and learning of Japan and its culture here in the UK.</p>
March	<p>Visit from Takamatsu Daiichi High School to Newstead Wood School and Bury St Edmunds County Upper School.</p>
17 May	<p>An all-day Kamishibai Workshop with performance with a small group of pupils from Granton Primary School in Edinburgh, led by Fergus McNicol and supported by Mio Shudo. This workshop culminated in the creation of kamishibai video resources to be disseminated to schools early in the 2019-2020 school year.</p>
18 June	<p>Launch of Travel to Tokyo. Japan Society supported the launch event and continues to advise on Japan-related content for this nationwide Olympics focused programme.</p>
3 July	<p>Leicestershire Young Ambassadors Japan Conference. 180 pupils from 10 schools in Leicestershire took part in the Leicestershire Young Ambassador Japan Conference held at the University of Leicester to mark the run-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as to celebrate the links between sports and culture.</p>
7 Nov	<p>Sixth Form Japan Day 2019 organised with Ritsumeikan University and hosted by SOAS, attended by over 1000 students interested in learning more about Japan and exploring opportunities for further study of Japan post school.</p>
18-19 Nov	<p>A group of teachers and students from Komaki Elementary School, Nagano, visit Cropwell Bishop Primary School and Heymann Primary School, Nottingham.</p>

Small Grants

In 2019, the Japan Society Small Grants scheme gave **£20,286 of funding in support of 33 projects** taking place in various parts of the UK. In particular, our Small Grants Scheme focuses its support on education and community projects, where a small amount of additional funding can make a big difference and in many cases, where our grant will enable event organisers to reach a wider audience or provide opportunities for the public to engage directly with performances or exhibitions.

Eighteen of the grants awarded were for **projects taking place in schools or for activity involving young people**. This included a **Japanese tea bowl making workshop** at the Skip Garden where local children from schools in Islington and Camden were invited to create their own tea bowl and learn about the tradition of the tea ceremony. Tibberton Community Primary School in Gloucestershire held their own celebration of Children's Day and Royal Harbour Academy's Japan and Art Day introduced students to a wide range of Japan related activities like **manga drawing, martial arts and sushi tasting**.

The 14th Andover (Stockbridge) Scout Group enjoyed a Japan themed summer camp, **crafting their own samurai armour out of cardboard and trying their hand at taiko drumming in the open air**, and Newport Girls' High School invited a class of Year 5 students for a 'Taste of High School' session with the school's own Japanese Society, who taught the students some Japanese and provided a little insight into Japanese life, as well as allowing them to try their hand at **sushi making and origami workshops**.

Once again the Society supported Ohisama Ahaha Brighton's Japanese Cultural Festival which saw **local people come together to enjoy Japanese food, music and crafts** in a warm, family friendly setting.

In August, Tara Arts presented **Ainu Othello, a stage adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy Othello**, set in Hokkaido in 1860. Support from the Japan Society allowed the project to broaden its reach by including subtitles during the performances, giving the audience a greater insight into the story and the diversity of both modern and historical Japanese culture.

Charlotte Linton and craftspeople from the Kanai Kougei workshop of Amami Oshima gave a **lecture and mud-dyeing (dorozome) workshop** at South London's Horniman Museum, offering a unique insight into the traditional craft technique of mud dyeing. Following the lecture a select few participants were given the rare opportunity to try first hand dyeing a cloth using mud brought over to the UK especially from the island.

In Glasgow, the **exhibition 'The Kimono: A Portrait of a Japanese Family'** presented a personal collection of kimono dating back from the 1950s to more recent pieces, including day-wear as well as traditional ceremonial wear. The exhibition shared a particular social history of one Japanese family, in the setting of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's House for An Art Lover.