



THE  
JAPAN  
SOCIETY



Events 2021

## Annual & Special Events (Online)

- 5 Mar Online Lecture by Paul Madden, British Ambassador to Japan 2017-2021
- 29 Sep Japan Society Annual General Meeting 2021
- 17 Nov The UK-Japan Relationship amid a Troubled World: a Conversation with Ambassador Hayashi

## Arts & Culture Events (Online & In-person)

- 20 Feb Katazome (Stencil Dyeing) Workshop
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- 21 Jul 'The Witches of the Orient': An Online Discussion with Film Director Julien Faraut
- 1 Aug Soundscapes of Contemporary Japan with Mat Eric Hart and Nick Luscombe
- 21 Oct A Curator's Journey through Objects: In Conversation with Rosina Buckland
- 28 Oct Tokyo Rose: the Fascinating Life of Iva Toguri
- 10 Dec Tokyo: Art & Photography - Private View with Curators *at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*

## Business Events (Online)

### Webinar Series (chaired by Japan Society chairman Bill Emmott)

- 20 Jan The Path to Net Carbon Zero in the UK and Japan, with Naoko Ishii and Adair Turner
- 30 Jan The Japan Affair: 40 Years of Engagement in UK - Japan Relations, in Conversation with David Howell
- 4 Feb The Brexit Agreement, One Month On, with David Henig and Pernille Rudlin
- 18 Feb The Business of Pop Culture in Japan, with Matt Alt
- 4 Mar 3/11 and Fukushima Dai-ichi 10 years on, with Yoichi Funabashi and David Warren
- 1 Apr US – China Relations and the Implications for Japan, with Yuka Koshino and Clyde Prestowitz
- 15 Apr The Independence Debate: What are the Future Prospects for Scotland?, with John Curtice, Iain Martin and Andrew Wilson
- 20 Apr The Current State of US – Japan Relations, with Kunihiko Miyake and James P Zumwalt
- 11 May UK Japan Collaboration in Medical Research: Regenerative Medicine, with Georg Holländer, Paul Riley and Shin'ichi Takeda
- 19 May The Prospects for Green Finance in the UK and Japan, with Roger Gifford and Mari Yoshitaka
- 10 Jun The 'Revolving Doors' of Government in the UK and Japan, with Koichi Nakano and Alex Thomas
- 24 Jun Authority, Confidence and Gender in the Post-Pandemic World, with Ian Robertson and Mary Ann Sieghart
- 30 Jun Is the West Back?: The G7 Summit and beyond, with Hiroyuki Akita and Gideon Rachman
- 6 Jul Britain, Japan and the World in between – A Conversation with Richard Needham and Philip Stephens
- 9 Sep After Tokyo 2020: Discussing Post-Games Japan, with Robert Whiting
- 30 Sep And Now What? The Countdown to Japan's General Election, with Keiko Iizuka and Seiji Inada
- 20 Oct Delivering on Climate Targets in Japan and the UK, with Kimiko Hirata and Chris Huhne
- 3 Nov The AUKUS Security Pact and its Implications, with Kiichi Fujiwara and Alessio Patalano
- 2 Dec Keeping Ourselves Safe in Cyberspace, with Mihoko Matsubara and Marcus Willett

### Chairman's Events (private, off the record online meetings with an informal talk by the guest of honour)

- 16 Feb Julia Longbottom, British Ambassador to Japan
- 31 Mar John Glen, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister
- 20 Jul Mervyn King, former Governor of the Bank of England, and Masaaki Shirakawa, former Governor of the Bank of Japan

### Bilingual Public Speaking Club (held online on the last Wednesday of each month)

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.

# Online Lectures

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| 18 Jan | British Engagement with Japan, 1854-1922 - with Antony Best   |
| 15 Mar | How did Elizabeth Anderson learn Japanese in 1943? Wartime language courses & the race against time - with Peter Kornicki |
| 26 Mar | Life in Fukushima after 3/11, Online Discussion and Film Screening - with Filmmaker Toko Shiiki                           |
| 24 Apr | Japanese Disaster Narratives: Conservatism and Revisionism - with Christopher Hood  |
| 17 May | The Japanese Maps Collection of the University of Manchester Library: Digitalising a Mapped Society - with Sonia Favi     |
| 19 Jul | How British experience in Japan influenced Parkes' approach to extraterritoriality in Korea - with Chris Roberts          |
| 16 Aug | In Search of Herbert Ponting in Japan - with author Anne Strathie   |
| 16 Sep | Postwar Japanese Calligraphy and the Challenge of Abstract Painting - with Eugenia Bogdanova-Kummer                       |
| 18 Oct | Craft Culture in Early Modern Japan: Materials, Makers, Mastery - with Christine Guth                                     |
| 15 Nov | The Comic Storytelling of Western Japan - with M.W. Shores  |
| 15 Dec | Murakami Haruki and Our Years of Pilgrimage - with Gitte Marianne Hansen and Michael Tsang                                |

## Lifestyle Events (Online & In-person)

|           |   |        |   |
|-----------|---|--------|---|
| 17 Feb    | Tutored Sake tasting  | 14 Jul | Boro (fabric repairing) Workshopp   |
| 5 Mar     | Tutored Sake tasting  | 25 Sep | One Step at a Time: Exploring the Shikoku Pilgrimage with John Lander   |
| 29 Apr    | Onigirazu Cook Along  | 9 Oct  | Making Senbei Since 1909: The Story of Domoto Seika   |
| 11 May    | Boro (fabric repairing) Workshop  | 16 Oct | Collar Cup Golf Match 2021 at <a href="#">Hendon Golf Club</a>  |
| 13-15 May | Cooking with Seaweed - the mineral-rich sea vegetable with Atsuko Ikeda & Clearspring | 6 Nov  | Film Gathering: <i>Love Letter</i> by Kinuyo Tanaka + post-screening discussion at <a href="#">BFI Soutbank</a> |
| 23 Jun    | Japan Society Golf Tournament 2021 at <a href="#">Essendon Country Club</a>           |        |   |

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

|        |   |        |  |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| 11 Jan | <i>If Cats Disappeared From The World</i> by Genki Kawamura | 12 Jul | <i>Where the Wild Ladies Are</i> by Aoko Matsuda         |
| 8 Feb  | <i>Secret Rendezvous</i> by Kobo Abe                        | 9 Aug  | <i>Pachinko</i> by Min Jin Lee                           |
| 8 Mar  | <i>Territory of Light</i> by Yuko Tsushima                  | 13 Sep | <i>A Man</i> by Keiichiro Hirano                         |
| 12 Apr | <i>The Aosawa Murders</i> by Riku Onda                      | 11 Oct | <i>Essays in Idleness and Hojoki</i> by Kenko and Chomei |
| 10 May | <i>As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams</i> by Lady Sarashina    | 8 Nov  | <i>Bullet Train</i> by Kotaro Isaka                      |
| 14 Jun | <i>Japanese Tales of Lafcadio Hearn</i>                     | 13 Dec | <i>Heaven</i> by Mieko Kawakami                          |

### Film Club (held online on the first Wednesday of each month)

|       |  |       |   |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| 6 Jan | <i>High and Low</i> directed by Akira Kurosawa           | 7 Jul | <i>Dark Water</i> directed by Hideo Nakata              |
| 3 Feb | <i>The Mourning Forest</i> directed by Naomi Kawase      | 4 Aug | <i>Grave of the Fireflies</i> directed by Isao Takahata |
| 3 Mar | <i>An Actor's Revenge</i> directed by Kon Ichikawa       | 1 Sep | <i>Ran</i> directed by Akira Kurosawa                   |
| 7 Apr | <i>Kikujiro</i> directed by Takeshi Kitano               | 6 Oct | <i>Battle Royale</i> directed by Kinji Fukasaku         |
| 5 May | <i>The Ballad of Narayama</i> directed by Shohei Imamura | 4 Nov | <i>Tampopo</i> directed by Juzo Itami                   |
| 2 Jun | <i>Ugetsu</i> directed by Kenji Mizoguchi                | 1 Dec | <i>Spirited Away</i> directed by Hayao Miyazaki         |

Japanese Conversation Group – held on the first Tuesday of every month at the [Shakespeare's Head](#) (from August 2021)

# Schools Education

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| All Year  | <b>Japan in Your Classroom School Visits:</b> In 2021, JIYC school visits were largely interrupted due to the pandemic. However, we continue to provide support to teachers and parents with our new online resources and activity packs.<br><b>School Links:</b> providing targeted support to help strengthen existing links although activity has been severely restricted by the pandemic.<br><b>Loan Resources:</b> a variety of materials and cultural artefacts representing traditional and modern aspects of Japan on loan to primary and secondary schools throughout the year to support teachers with their Japan-related topics.<br><b>New Long-term Teaching Soroban Loan Scheme and Workshops:</b> schools in the UK can borrow a teaching soroban to introduce the Japanese abacus to students and use it in the classroom on an ongoing basis.<br><b>New Resource Development:</b> the education team has collaborated with a number of teachers and specialists to develop a range of new Japan-related teaching resources which were released throughout the school year. |
| January   | <i>Resource highlight:</i> <b>New Japanese New Year activity pack.</b>   |
| February  | <i>Resource highlights:</i> <b>New Setsubun activity pack</b> and <b>Valentine's Day themed origami activity pack.</b>   |
| March     | <b>ONLINE TALK - Visualising Numbers: Soroban as a tool for the maths classroom.</b> <i>Resource highlight:</i> <b>New Wellbeing and Japanese Culture teaching resources</b> and <b>Hina Festival activity pack.</b>   |
| April     | <b>Launched our new long-term teaching soroban loan scheme.</b> <i>Resource highlight:</i> <b>New O-Hanami activity pack.</b>  |
| May       | <i>Resource highlights:</i> <b>New Children's Day activity pack.</b>   |
| June      | <b>SOROBAN WORKSHOP with Tomoko Hoult</b> at a secondary school in Essex. <i>Resource highlights:</i> <b>Launched new Geography resources for KS3.</b> Existing resources were added to the TES platform for teachers.   |
| July      | Work made by <b>the Coventry Young Ambassadors during the 'Cities of Peace Noh Theatre Project' in collaboration with the education team</b> was displayed at the opening of the Japanese peace garden in Coventry. <i>Resource highlights:</i> <b>Launched new Japan and the Tokyo Olympics classroom resources</b> and activity pack.  |
| August    | Announced the <b>winners of our Yuru-Chara Mascot Design Contest</b> , inviting the public to design a mascot representing a place in the UK to support the Team GB athletes at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.  |
| September | <i>Resource highlights:</i> <b>Launched new resources Tessellations with Japanese Patterns for KS2/3 and The Spider's Thread kamishibai for KS3</b> as well as our <b>newly updated popular KS2 Japanese language resource Ready Steady NihonGo!</b>   |
| October   | <b>Launch of the JAL Foundation 17th World Children's Haiku Contest</b> which is accepting entries until Feb 2022.   |
| November  | <b>SOROBAN WORKSHOP with Tomoko Hoult at an infant school in London.</b> Made digital content available for an online Japan Sixth Form Day Experience, including a new video on Japanese greetings cards.  |
| December  | <b>ONLINE WORKSHOP - How to Teach Haiku</b> , with Paul Conneally  |

## Small Grants

In 2021, the Japan Society Small Grants Scheme awarded **£16,070 to 22 projects taking place throughout the UK.** Despite the ongoing pandemic, we were pleased that this year saw a wide variety of projects, including **installations and exhibitions, film screenings and panel discussions, workshops and cultural activities** taking place.

It was a busy year for Japanese Cinema; **the Queer East Film Festival showcased a selection of rarely seen films from Japan** celebrating the lives of the LGBTQ+ community; and at the Reading Biscuit Factory Cinema, to expand on their programme of Japanese film screenings, **calligraphy and sumi-e workshops were held, offering local people the chance to experience a little bit of Japan on their doorstep.**

The British Museum's exhibition *Hokusai: The Great Picture Book of Everything* opened in September, and **a small grant helped to support a programme of public events which aimed to engage with local communities.** A grant also supported activities **at the House of the Setting Sun exhibition at Lakeland Arts in Cumbria, during which a fascinating discovery was made** when it was uncovered that a kimono, previously assumed to be either a replica or made for export, was in fact authentic late Edo period made for a member of a well-known samurai family.

**Teachers at schools across the UK, spanning from Glasgow to Sussex, planned engaging projects for students;** children in rural Gloucestershire enjoyed **traditional story-telling and learnt about the significance of the origami crane** in a week of activities; while pupils at schools in Lincolnshire and Glasgow immersed themselves in Japanese culture, **learning across subjects from geography to music to art and design.**

In Oxfordshire, pupils designed and created their own Japanese garden; and in West Sussex, **students took part in an inventive 'mock flight' to Japan as part of their project,** which also included food tasting, language learning, arts and crafts. Meanwhile, pupils in East London **celebrated their passion for manga in a competition to create manga-themed decorations for their classroom door,** where the winners chose books to be added to the school library.

**The Tokyo Olympic Games were celebrated in Northern Ireland** at the Naughton Gallery's 'VAMOS NIPPON!' exhibition; and at the **Queens Park Arena in Glasgow, Japan-themed family workshops and sports demonstrations** took place to coincide with the Games. Funding was also given in support of **several projects due to go ahead in 2022, including workshops for young people, arts projects and cultural events** for local communities.