



**THE  
JAPAN  
SOCIETY**



Events **2016**

## Annual & Special Events

25 Jan	Japan Society Annual Dinner
2 Feb	Lecture by Tim Hitchens, British Ambassador to Japan. <i>At Nomura International</i>
28 May	Trooping the Colour: Special Seats at the Major General's Review
22 Jun	Japan Society Annual General Meeting 2016
22 Jun	Book and Website Launch: Biographical Portraits Vol. X and Japan Society eLibrary
3/4 Aug	Tanabata: Family Activity Day at Kew Gardens, with the Embassy of Japan
25 Sep	Japan Matsuri 2016 at Trafalgar Square, with Japan Association, JCCI, Embassy of Japan and the Nippon Club
28 Sep	The History of Manchuria: Book Launch and Talk with Ian Nish
27 Oct	Japanese Studies in Britain: Book Launch and Talk at the School of Oriental & African Studies
2 Nov	Japan Society 125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner with Special Guest The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG CH
1 Dec	Japan Society Christmas Party at the Japanese Embassy
5 Dec	Book Launch: Carmen Blacker – Scholar of Japanese Religion, Myth and Folklore, with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts & Cultures

## Arts & Culture

24 Mar	Suzuki Method and its International Significance, with Professor Koji Toyoda
8 Apr	Vickers Bovey Guitar Duo with Clive Bell (shakuhachi): Thirty Six Views of Mount Fuji
1 May	Kimono and calligraphy workshops at Victoria & Albert Museum's Japan Festival for Families
7 July	Hamlet and Japan: an evening of talks and performances with Shakespeare's Globe
15 Sep	Edo Kiriko: Two Perspectives on the World of Japanese Cut Glass
20 Sep	Asobi: Japanese and Korean Post-War Art Tour with Christie's
12 Dec	Noh Masks: Behind the Scenes at the Pitt Rivers Museum, introduced by Rachel Payne

## Business

### Lectures & Seminars

19 Jan	The World in 2050: Long-term forecasts for the UK and Japan – Robert Ward, Editorial Director of the Economist Intelligence Unit. <i>At Mitsubishi Corporation</i>
25 May	The Media and Politics: A Conversation with Tadakazu Kimura

### Chairman's Lunches and Dinners

*Private, off the record meetings with an informal talk by the guest of honour*

6 Dec	The Current State of Russian-EU Relations – Bridget Kendall MBE, Master of Peterhouse, University of Cambridge. <i>At King &amp; Wood Mallesons LLP</i>
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## In Partnership with Other Organisations

### Joint Lunches with the JCCI

6 Apr	The Future Shape of London – Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Policy and Planning, GLA. <i>At the National Liberal Club</i>
17 May	Lunch with His Excellency The Japanese Ambassador, Mr Keiichi Hayashi. <i>At the Cavalry &amp; Guards Club</i>
8 Jun	Lord Mandelson on the EU Referendum. <i>At Furniture Makers' Hall</i>

### Others

20 Jan	A Japanese View on World Energy Future: The Impacts of Lower Oil Prices – Ken Koyama, Chief Economist and Managing Director of the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. <i>With JETRO and JOGMEC</i>
22 Mar	The EU-Japan EPA Free Trade Agreement: Is it a Game Changer? – Kenichi Kawasaki, Senior Fellow, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. <i>With JETRO and BIS</i>
15 Nov	A Japanese View on World Energy Future: The "3E" Challenges Under the Emerging Energy Landscape – Ken Koyama, Chief Economist and Managing Director of the Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. <i>With JETRO and JOGMEC</i>

# Lectures

## Japan Society Lectures

*At the Swedenborg Society unless otherwise stated*

- 18 Jan What do Anthropologists do in Japan? The Value of their Increasing Numbers – Joy Hendry
- 15 Feb Japan's Role in the Great War 1914-18: A Reassessment from a Military History Perspective – Ian Gow
- 21 Mar The Importance of Being Visible: Media and Religion in Contemporary Japan – Erica Baffelli
- 18 Apr Girls' Aesthetics in Japanese Theatre – Nobuko Anan
- 16 May Henry Dyer: The Japanese Art of a Scottish Engineer – Rosina Buckland
- 20 Jun The Film Compendium on the Japanese Mingei Movement: A Presentation by Canadian Film Maker Marty Gross
- 30 Jun Hawaiian History with Britain and Japan – Pauline Chakmakjian. *With Japan Room, The Freemasons' Hall*
- 18 Jul Carmen Blacker Lecture 2016. Confucius in Tokugawa Japan: Unofficial Ceremonies of Worship – James McMullen (21 July at Cathedral Hostry, Norwich). *With the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts & Cultures*
- 15 Aug A Ruin Nation: Excavating Japan's Haikyo Boom – Mark Pendleton
- 8 Sep Tales of Ise with Translator Peter MacMillan
- 19 Sep Treaty Port Life, 1859-99, Seen from the British Consular Court – Chris Roberts
- 17 Oct Murdered for their Art? Censorship and the Dark Side of Edo-period Cultural Endeavours – Jenny Preston
- 10 Nov 'Aliens Invade!' The Barbarians and the Shogun with Lesley Downer
- 21 Nov The Abe Government, Freedom of Speech and the Issue of War Apology – Arthur Stockwin
- 19 Dec Madness and Moral Panic in Japan, Meiji to the Present Day – Christopher Harding

## Lifestyle

- 23 Feb My Shanghai, 1942-1946: A Novel, with author Keiko Itoh
- 1 Mar Sake Tasting at Hox Cup Sake Bar with Museum of Sake
- 20 Apr Generation to Generation: Window on Ise, Japan's Most Sacred Place
- 3 May Eddie Jones: In Conversation with England rugby's head coach and former coach of the Japanese national team
- 23 Apr Hanami in Kensington Gardens
- 7 Jun Japanese Vegetarian Cuisine, with Mari Fujii
- 30 Jun Japan Society Golf Tournament
- 3 Jul 5-a-side Football Tournament. *Hosted by Samurai Football Academy*
- 29 Sep Japanese in Britain: Wasurenagusa Oral History Project Film Screening
- 8 Oct Family Cookery Day: Make a Hallowe'en Bento. *With Clearspring*
- 15 Oct Collar Cup Golf Tournament

**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.**

## Book Club

*Held on the second Monday of each month*

- 11 Jan *The Tokyo Zodiac Murders* by Soji Shimada
- 8 Feb *Grotesque* by Natsuo Kirino
- 14 Mar *Rouse Up O Young Men of the New Age!* by Kenzaburo Oe
- 11 Apr *The Makioka Sisters* by Junichiro Tanizaki
- 9 May *In Search of a Distant Voice* by Taichi Yamada
- 13 Jun *Confessions* by Kanae Minato
- 11 Jul *Spring Snow* by Yukio Mishima
- 8 Aug *Apparitions – Ghosts of Old Edo* by Miyuki Miyabe
- 12 Sep *The Twilight Years* by Sawako Ariyoshi
- 10 Oct *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shonagon
- 14 Nov *N.P* by Banana Yoshimoto
- 12 Dec *And Then* by Natsume Soseki

# Schools Education

## Reaching over 7,000 school children annually

All Year	Japan in Your Classroom School Visits: During 2016, over sixty visits were made to primary and secondary schools in the UK giving children an introduction to aspects of Japanese life and culture. School Links: Continuing to establish new partnerships while providing targeted support to help strengthen existing links through bilateral exchange trips, conference calls and curriculum-based projects. 'NEW' Japan UK LIVE! The Society's bilingual website was re-designed allowing access to the site via mobile platforms to encourage greater cultural exchange between young people in the UK and Japan. Loan Resources: Cultural artefacts and materials on loan to schools throughout the year.
6-10 Jan	Escomb Primary School in Bishop Auckland, County Durham, hosted their first visit from Japanese partner school Ogawara-Minami Elementary School in Miyagi.
1 Feb	School partners Ysgol Gymuned Y Fall in Anglesey and Kitauchi Elementary School in Nara Prefecture completed <i>Welsh Breeze</i> , a joint music collaboration, written and performed by staff and pupils.
15 Feb	The 14 <sup>th</sup> World Children's Haiku Contest saw Japan Airlines and the Japan Society collaborate with the UK Poetry Society, receiving over 1,400 entries for the contest.
7 Mar	Japan Conference for Schools with the Japan Foundation and the British Council, London: An annual event since 2009, again attended by over fifty teachers taking part in a series of practical workshops alongside discussion groups. This year topics included school linking; preparation for speaking exams; the Online Resource for Japanese Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (ORJAC); and an update from Pearson on the changes to GCSE Japanese. In this year's key note speech Baroness Coussins (Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages, House of Lords) gave an insightful talk on the importance of language education.
21 Apr	The King's School in Worcester established a link with Suma Gakuen High School in Kobe.
19 Jun	William Farr Comprehensive School in Lincolnshire established a partnership with Hosen Gakuen Junior and Senior High School in Tokyo.
21 Sept	Newstead Wood School joined an existing science exchange with County Upper School in Suffolk and Takamatsu Daiichi Senior High School in Kagawa Prefecture.
11-16 Oct	Teachers from Reepham Primary School participated in an exchange visit to Japanese partner school Sakado-Azuma Nursery in Saitama.
22-28 Oct	Pupils, teachers and parents from Escomb Primary School made a reciprocal exchange visit to Ogawara Elementary School.
8 Nov	Kobe University Secondary School continued their annual UK homestay exchange visiting partner schools Cirencester Deer Park School and Alleyn's School in London.

## Small Grants

In 2016, the Japan Society Small Grants scheme gave support to 31 grassroots projects in the UK with some £21,000 in funding. As in previous years, the Society supported a number of school-based extended projects, ranging from whole school Japan days to interdisciplinary learning days and enrichment weeks. With relatively small amounts of additional funding, schools are able to bring in experts to run specialist workshops to complement and enrich curriculum-based studies. The Japan Club at Fraserburgh Academy ran alternate language and craft weeks, giving participating students an introduction to Japanese and its cultural context. Other schools organised cross-curricular events over a shorter period, with a day or week of concentrated activity. The British Cartographic Society continued its Restless Earth workshop series using the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami as a case study to learn about disaster response activities: with authentic materials and real data, participants gain an understanding of Japanese human and physical geography.

The Society also supported projects involving young people outside the school system. On the Sussex coast, a group of 16-25 year olds engaged in a three month programme of workshops exploring different aspects of Japanese culture, while Five Fife Scouts welcomed a group from Iwate for ten days of activities and homestay, and in south Wales, manga workshops formed part of the annual Kotatsu Japanese Animation Festival.

A collaboration between the Royal Armouries in Leeds and the Halifax-based Textile Arts Group created an exhibition of textiles which explored traditional techniques and the construction of Japanese armour, in the context of their contemporary uses. In addition to the exhibition, members of the Group held public sessions to demonstrate techniques used in the artworks and to discuss the inspiration for the contemporary works and their links to the collection and Japanese heritage.

The Society again supported the Wasurenagusa project, a valuable initiative which aims to tell the story of the Japanese community in the UK through personal narratives. A grant in 2016 enabled the project to be extended to include interviews in the North of England, Scotland and further afield. A grant to the Devon Guild of Craftsmen supported music and theatre performances to accompany an exhibition of the work of four Japan-based potters. The ground-breaking Yo no Bi project entered its second phase, with sound artists Oshiro Makoto and Suzueri touring the North of England, producing new sonic works and holding performances and talks. Small grants also supported community-based Japan festivals in Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kent, Lincoln and Sheffield.