

日
本
國
蘇
格蘭
協
會
印

The
Japan Society
of
Scotland

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020



[HTTP://JAPANSOCIETYOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK/](http://japansocietyofscotland.org.uk/)

The Japan Society of Scotland is a Charity, registered in Scotland – Charity Number SC037309

As we reach the end of another year The Japan Society of Scotland wishes all its members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

What a year it has been! So many events and activities around the world cancelled or postponed including the Tokyo Olympics. It was great to see many of you at our AGM in Edinburgh in February and at some of our events prior to lockdown. We do hope that you enjoyed some of the online illustrated talks during the summer and we have plans to continue delivering online until the summer of 2021. Our AGM will be held online on Saturday 6th February 2021 and we would really appreciate you joining us then.

We trust that you'll enjoy reading about the work of the Society and that you can join with us during 2021 (our 35th Anniversary) for some of our events and activities, both online until next summer and then face-to-face if Scottish Government rules allow (and with the help of the vaccine).

CONTENTS

Message from the Consul General of Japan	Page 4 - 5
A History of the Society by Jim Roy	Pages 6 - 10
Thomas Blake Glover Student Scholarship	Page 11
Primary School Educational Visits	Page 12
JTH Charitable Trust – Support to Schools	Page 13
Award for Best Student studying Japanese	Page 14
Online NOH Workshops	Pages 14 -16

Follow us



www.facebook.com/JapanSocietyofScotland

Message from Nozomu Takaoka, Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh



As the year of 2020 is coming to an end, I hope that members of the Japan Society of Scotland are keeping well.

As we negotiate these difficult times, I wholeheartedly commend the Society for continuing to promote the friendship between Japan and Scotland. By moving talks online and adjusting quickly to the “new normal”, the society successfully maintained its central aim of enhancing exchanges and goodwill between our two countries.

I am delighted to inform you that governments are fulfilling their responsibility too, by strengthening international framework to promote trade. As of 1st January 2021, the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-UK EPA) will come into force.

This agreement is expected to promote the export of iconic Scottish food and drink products to Japan and to provide for more access for the thriving Scottish financial services and data industry.

I am also working to enrich our bilateral relationship. On the 6th August at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE), I joined an outdoor and socially distanced ceremony to plant Ginkgo trees grown from the seeds which survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima 75 years ago. It was also an opportunity to commemorate the 350 years anniversary of the garden and spread the spirit of regeneration and world peace.



If you are interested, please visit RBGE or Benmore Botanic Garden where I also planted another Ginkgo tree, or refer to the Herald article:

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18777914.tree-planted-benmore-botanic-garden-mark-75th-anniversary-hiroshima-bomb/>

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very wonderful festive season and the hope that 2021 will bring renewed vitality to the bond of friendship between Japan and Scotland.

When did we start?

A short history by Jim Roy

The Society actually started life as The Japan Scottish Friendship Society in November 1985, when, at a public meeting held at the Centre of Japanese Studies at Stirling University, the enthusiastic response of those attending resulted in an organising committee being formed. Over the winter months that followed, a constitution was drafted and a number of prominent individuals were approached with a view to becoming ex officio honorary office bearers. The Society was formally inaugurated in March 1986. The first Chairman was Stuart Picken, at that time Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies at Stirling. Among corporate participants were representatives from Standard Life (Ken Forman), Bank of Scotland (Jim Roy), Royal Bank of Scotland (Jim Wardrop), Clydesdale Bank, Morrison Bowmore Distillers (Jim Howat), Allied Distillers as well as individuals. The main aim, as the original name would suggest, was to promote friendship and understanding between Scotland and Japan, both at corporate level and on a personal basis. The Secretary of the Society was Marion Moir and the Treasurer, Jim Roy.

At that time, Japan was in an expansionist mood, and many of her banks had established representative offices, or indeed full branches, in London. Other Japanese corporates were also looking at establishing themselves in United Kingdom, using the country as a potential entry to mainland Europe. The UK government was also anxious to promote the UK in Japan, and entities such as 'Locate in Britain' and 'Locate in Scotland' had set up offices in Tokyo. The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) also promoted 'Scotland' and led business groups to Japan to promote Scottish goods and services. In 1987, the JET programme was established (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme), an official Japanese government programme aiming, among other things, to improve foreign language in Japanese schools. All in all, there was much going on by way of promoting business, education and culture between Japan and United Kingdom, and, as regards the Society, Scotland.

Our Chairman, Stuart Picken, left his position at Stirling University and took up a fresh post at the International Christian University in Tokyo. He was succeeded by Professor Ian Gow, both as Chairman of the Society and as Director of Japanese Studies at Stirling University.

In 1989, The Right Honourable Malcolm Rifkind MP visited Japan as Secretary of State for Scotland and visited a number of Japanese companies while he was there. During a conversation with the Japanese Foreign Minister, he was told that it had been decided to establish a Consulate Office in Edinburgh. There were a number of Japanese firms either established or looking at locating in Scotland, so this decision reflected the increasing links between the two countries. Although the decision had been made, it would be another couple of years before the Consulate Office in Edinburgh opened.

In 1990, it was decided to change the name of the Society to its present one, and it was relaunched as such at a reception held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh in March of that year, with the guests of honour being His Excellency the Japanese Ambassador Kazuo Chiba and Madame Chiba.

March 1991 saw the appointment of Seiichiro Otsuka as the first Consul General to take up the post in Edinburgh. He would be here for just under eighteen months or so. All succeeding Consul Generals have been resident for, normally, two to three years before moving on to another posting.

The Society has always had an excellent relationship with the Consulate Office. The current Consulate General, Nozomu Takaoka, is the eleventh to take up residence here, and a list of past holders of that office can be seen at the end of this article.

1993 saw Professor Gow leave Stirling University to take up a fresh appointment at the University of Sheffield, and he was succeeded by Jim Howat as Chairman of the Society. Jim continued in that post until June 1996, when Paul Pia took over the reins of the Society. In turn, he was succeeded by Sandy Cameron, then Ian Harkness, who was Chairman until his untimely death in 2007. A list of past Chairmen of the Society is given at the end of this article.

Events.

The Society has always tried to hold interesting events to help satisfy part of its original 'raison d'être' - namely to promote friendship and understanding between Scotland and Japan. In the early days a considerable amount of time and effort was spent on providing 'education' to the business community and to individuals intent on visiting Japan. This might be on what to expect on arrival in Japan, customs, business 'etiquette' etc. and generally explaining the cultural differences between both countries.

There were also a limited number of Japanese companies operating in Scotland, and much effort was taken to encourage them to participate in the activities of the Society.

There were many presentations and talks, mainly at the campuses of either Stirling or Edinburgh University. There were annual dinners and St. Andrews nights, for example, a memorable one celebrating our 20th Anniversary was held at the Dunblane Hydro; there were visits to The Burrell Collection in Glasgow; Paisley Abbey; many a visit to Auchentoshan Distillery in Glasgow and to Morrison Bowmore bottling plant at Springburn in Glasgow. Even more memorable were the Burns Suppers with participation at them from Consul Generals'; for example, one which springs to mind was the participation by Matsushiro Horiguchi, when it was held at the Hilton Hotel in Livingston in February 1997. Horiguchi-san, dressed formally in kilt, gave an almost faultless rendering of Tam o' Shanter to the diners. Mention should also be made of the first Consul General, Seiichiro Otsuka, who became quite renowned for his bagpipe playing at Society events during his relatively short stay in Scotland.

Continuing on the lighter side, we've had social evenings and dances at the Royal Scots Cub in Edinburgh, and we've even had a McGonagall Evening at a restaurant in Leith. Numerous events have also been held at the Consul General's residence in Murrayfield, Edinburgh. One mustn't forget Aberdeen; the Glover House is there, and the occasional event has taken place in the north east over the years, promoted by the Society.

James (Jim) Howat. (1926- 2008)

It would be remiss not to elaborate on this past Chairman. Jim was a supporter and founder member, not only of the Japan Society of Scotland, but also of The Japan-Scotland Society, based in Tokyo. Business links took him to Japan initially, but thereafter, he supported both Societies financially throughout many years. A true benefactor in all senses of the word. In recognition of his contribution in promoting Japan/Scotland relationships, the Japanese Government awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold rays with Rosette and this was presented to him by Consul General Hiraoka at a ceremony in Edinburgh in June 2003.

Jim also established a trust (The JTH Charitable Trust), the income from which flows through to the Society and helps to encourage more knowledge and understanding of Japan and Japanese culture amongst young people in Scotland.

The Thomas Blake Glover ASI Scholarship

This scholarship was created in recognition of the work of Thomas Blake Glover, the entrepreneur credited with opening Japan up to the West. The Scholarship aims to recognise Glovers success in Japan and provide young Scots with the opportunity to learn about business and culture in the hope of further improving Scotland's historic links with Japan. The fund is named after Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI), the major sponsor of the Scholarship, and Thomas Blake Glover (1836- 1911).

Kyoto Friendship Garden

It would be a mistake not to mention the above garden. It was created to celebrate the twinning of Edinburgh and Kyoto and was opened in 2002. Designed by Japanese garden designer Takashi Sawano, it is located in the grounds of Lauriston Castle, at Davidsons Mains in Edinburgh. Entrance to the garden is free and there are great views over the Firth of Forth to Fife. A number of Society events have also been held in the grounds of Lauriston Castle, which in itself is well worthy of a visit.

Past Chairmen of the Society.

Rev. Prof. Stuart D.B. Picken

Prof. Ian Gow

Mr Jim Howat

Mr Paul Pia

Mr Sandy Cameron

Mr Ian Harkness

Rev. Prof. Stuart D.B Picken

Prof. Trevor Runcie

Prof. Ian Gow (current)

Past Consul Generals

Mr Seiichiro Otsuka

March 1991 – August 1992

Mr Yoshikazu Kaneko

August 1992 - September 1995

Mr Matsushiro Horiguchi

February 1996 - January 1998

Mr Tatsuaki Iwata

January 1998 – June 2001

Mr Tsutomu Hiraoka

June 2001 – September 2004

Mr Shuhei Takahashi

September 2004 – August 2007

Mr Kenichi Suganuma

August 2007 – August 2009

Mr Masataka Tarahara

September 2009 – July 2013

Mr Hajime Kitaoka

September 2013 - April 2016

Mr Daisuke Matsunaga

May 2016 - July 2018

Mr Nozomu Takaoka

October 2018 - (current)



THOMAS BLAKE GLOVER ASI SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship was created in recognition of the work of Thomas Blake Glover, the Aberdeenshire-born entrepreneur credited with opening Japan up to the West. The scholarship aims to recognise Glover's success in Japan and provide young Scots with the opportunity to learn about business and culture in the hope of further improving Scotland's historic links with Japan. The fund is named after Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) the major sponsor of the Scholarship and Thomas Blake Glover (1836-1911), the Scottish born entrepreneur. His career in Asia began with Jardine, Matheson & Co in Hong Kong from where he went to Japan. He created Glover and Co. in Nagasaki in 1859, and was most successful in helping the modernisation process ushered in by the Meiji Period (1868-1912). He also left some tangible results in the form of a brewery that later became the Kirin Beer brand and he is associated with the Mitsubishi group of corporations. For decades, Kirin was the best-selling beer in Japan and still remains a leading force in the market. Glover House in Nagasaki draws thousands of visitors every year, which makes Glover a powerful symbol of the Scottish presence in Japan in the second half of the nineteenth century. Other Scots made various important contributions in the fields of civil engineering, education and public administration, but Glover remains the symbol of commercial involvement and enterprise.



The Japan Society of Scotland with financial support from Aberdeen Standard Investments, advertise and recruit one student from Scotland each year to study at the Japanese Language Summer School at the International Christian University in Tokyo and then to carry out some visits or job-shadowing in connection with their chosen career path. Demand for places is always very high. Daniel Goldie-Furlong was selected as recipient of the scholarship in 2020, but unfortunately the global pandemic delayed his travel to Japan by a year, and he's very much looking forward to getting out there in 2021.

PRIMARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The Japan Society of Scotland has been organising workshops in schools throughout Scotland who have decided to study Japan as part of their curriculum because of the increased interest brought about by the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the postponed Tokyo Olympics.

Prior to lockdown in March, we visited 7 schools in Lanarkshire at Strathaven, Motherwell, Cleland, Hamilton and Carstairs. After an initial slideshow showing something of different aspects of Japan, we have run bases on dressing-up, origami, use of chopsticks, toys, and food & drink.

Once the schools returned after the summer, we delivered 30-minute presentations on Food & Drink, Transport and Recovery after the Tsunami to six classes in Tillicoultry Primary, a school near Lockerbie and in Oxgangs Primary in Edinburgh. The children were very attentive and asked lots of excellent questions. Hopefully, they learnt something new and they were certainly very interested in finding out all about Japan.

We have also delivered some face-to-face sessions with Beaver Scouts working on their International Activity Badge. They certainly loved the dressing up and the games, but weren't as keen on the Green Tea Kit Kats.



SUPPORT FOR SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

The JTH Charitable Trust was set up by previous president and longtime supporter of the Japan Society of Scotland, James Thom Howat, who had a long association with and a love of Japan and its people during his lifetime. The Trust supports many organisations including the Japan Society of Scotland. Supported by £2K income from the JTH Charitable Trust annually, The Japan Society of Scotland helps schools with the purchase of resources that will bring Japan into the curriculum or support educational visits with a Japanese theme - basically, anything that will help promote a better understanding of Japan and its culture and customs to Scottish young people. This year's funded projects are detailed below.

Orkney Japan Association – Children's Day Activity Month - £500

This project had to be postponed due to the pandemic, but had sought support to bring two artists to run calligraphy workshops in schools and produce a play based on the Sadako and a thousand cranes story. Two Japanese potters would also have been running workshops with local potters and talking about the 5,000 year history of pottery in Miyagi.

Mackie Academy, Stonehaven – Resources and Day Trip - £440

They have a Japan Club in the school where they look at language, culture and customs and they applied for a grant to purchase some snacks, tea sets etc and fund the hire of a minibus to take them into Aberdeen to visit the Glover display at the maritime museum, the Japanese related exhibits at the re-opened Museum and Art Gallery and to eat at a Japanese restaurant.

Oxgangs Primary School, Edinburgh – Resources for teaching - £500

The school wished to purchase a number of resources so that they were better able to use Japan as a Curriculum topic. They wanted a lot of good quality books, calligraphy brushes and ink, lino cutting tools and boards for printing and of course some Japanese Food and Drink for their themed lunch at the end of their topic.

AWARD FOR BEST STUDENT STUDYING JAPANESE

The Japan Society of Scotland has decided to introduce an 'Outstanding Student' award of a £100 for the top graduating 4th year, starting from session 2019/20. The University of Edinburgh is the only place currently offering degree courses and they welcomed the new award stating it was a real boost to the recipients in recognition of their hard work, and making the inaugural award this year was an especially welcome “silver lining.”

First to receive the Japan Society of Scotland Outstanding Student Award is Eloise Jacob, who graduated from the MA Honours in Japanese and Linguistics programme this summer with First Class Honours, and with distinction in oral Japanese. In her Honours years, she achieved an average of 72 for year 3 and 76 for year 4, with first class marks for all Japanese courses. Her very best performances were for the courses Japanese Language 4 and Language Communities and Variation in Japanese.

ONLINE NOH WORKSHOPS

Two online workshops, with demonstrations from the play *Takasago*
オンラインワークショップ二つと高砂の一部

JAPANESE NOH PLAY

能

26 November (Thursday): 10.00-10.50 am and 11.10 am - 12 noon
11月26日 (木) : 午前10時-10時50分 11時10分-12時

高砂 TAKASAGO

Takasago by Senji Kyōden (山梨 宗伝の舞劇)

Noh Master	武田宗典	MUNENORI TAKEDA
Performers:	武田祥照	YOSHITERU TAKEDA
能楽師:	武田崇史	TAKAFUMI TAKEDA

Register on Eventbrite:
Session 1: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/japanese-noh-drama-workshop-on-zoom-takasago-session-1-tickets-12884890321>
Session 2: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/japanese-noh-drama-workshop-on-zoom-takasago-session-2-tickets-128775814922>

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

intervalle arts

This poster was the winning entry in a competition for groups of first year students who were set the task to design a bilingual poster for the event. You can see all the posters - <https://www.facebook.com/NohDramaEdinburgh/>

This November, as COVID-19 travel restrictions prevented Edinburgh University from welcoming noh master Munenori Takeda to Scotland in person, instead they worked together to arrange two special Zoom workshops for students and guests of the department, including Japan Society of Scotland members. Takeda Munenori hosted these live with his cousins, Takeda Yoshiteru (the elder of two brothers) and Takeda Takafumi (the younger brother) from the family theatre that belongs to Takeda Naohiro, father to Yoshiteru and Takafumi.

Each session began with a brief background to noh, and a display of masks from the family's collection – a rare opportunity to see close up footage of a far greater variety of masks than they would have been able to bring on tour.

The first session, entitled “Myriads of gods and noh,” highlighted the importance of Shinto deities, and their manifestations as buddhas and bodhisattvas, in the stories performed on the noh stage. It included a *shimai* dance from the play *Arashiyama* which depicted Zao-Gongen, the deity associated with the temple in Mount Yoshino and one of the most important mountain deities of Japan's syncretic Shugendo sects. The movement expressed his power to alleviate suffering, cast out devils and protect the nation.

In the second session, “Exorcising demons and inviting fortune, and noh,” the focus was on the rituals originally performed by court officials to access supernatural powers and restrain evil spirits, and how these have become part of the noh repertoire. There was a *shimai* dance from the play *Kanawa*, depicting a spirit being exorcised by a court diviner.

Both workshops ended with a demonstration from *Takasago* in full mask and costume. This featured a dance and song often performed at weddings or other celebrations, in which the Sumiyoshi deity appears, as an auspicious omen.

Some pictures from the online noh workshops



Photos courtesy of Yoshiteru Takeda via his Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/yoshiteru.takeda.7>