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The  
Japan Society  
of  
Scotland

# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018



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



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.

We hope that you enjoy reading about the work of the Society and hope that you can join with us during 2019 for some of our events and activities.

## CONTENTS

Inaugural Greeting from new Consul-General	Pages 4 – 5
Thomas Blake Glover Student Scholarship	Pages 6 – 13
JTH Charitable Trust – Support to Schools	Pages 14 – 18
UK/JAPAN Season of Culture 2019/20	Page 19
NE Scotland visit to Japan, October 2018	Pages 20 – 21
Paper Across the Sea	Pages 22 – 23
Japanese Garden at Cowden Castle	Pages 24 – 25
Japan Foreign Minister’s Commendation	Pages 26 – 27
Scout Exchange between Iwate and Fife	Pages 28 – 29
Japanese Naval Contribution to WW1	Page 30

**If you have a Standing Order with the Society for your Annual Membership Subscription can you please change the date that it comes out of your bank account from September to January in line with our new Financial Year which is now the Calendar Year. This year’s subscription has been paid so please change it to start in January 2020. Thank you for your help with this.**

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The Following is an inaugural greeting from Mr. Nozomu Takaoka, the new Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh.

On October 9th 2018, I assumed the post as the Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh. It is a great honour and pleasure for me to serve to protect Japanese interest and to promote bilateral relations with Scotland and Northern England.

In addition to working at the Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, I have served in six countries for a total of eighteen years, eight and half years in Europe, four and half years in the United States and five years in the Middle-East.

I last visited Edinburgh when I was a student at the University of Oxford—coming back after thirty-four years and to serve as the Consul General is an incredible honour to me.

Scotland, home to Adam Smith; James Watt; and Conan Doyle, played an integral part in bringing about the overture to the modern world. It is the Scots who brought whisky, beer, shipbuilding to Japan—even the melody for the Japanese song for Hotaru no Hikari, comes from Auld Lang Syne.

Over 2,400 Japanese nationals and over 100 Japanese companies are contributing to the local economies in Scotland and North England.

I believe that the world is now entering a critical turning point—with the trend of globalism and a growing opposition to it. The BREXIT referendum is surely one of the phenomena brought about by this historical tide. It is the responsibility of this Consulate General to ensure, maintain and further develop the wellbeing of Japanese nationals and bilateral relations between the UK and Japan in close coordination with the Embassy of Japan in the UK.

As we approach the end of 2018, Japan is looking forward to hosting the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2020. This is the perfect opportunity for the UK- the birthplace of rugby and the Paralympics- to develop an even greater interest in Japan.

To mark the period linking these two major events, the UK-Japan Season of Culture will take place based on the agreement by the two Prime Ministers. I would like to encourage your interest and participation in the various events to be planned during this Season of Culture.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my determination to spare no efforts carrying out my duties mentioned above.

Wishing you good health and success in all your endeavours,



Consul General Nozomu Takaoka  
who took up post in Edinburgh on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## 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. Reports from the students who have won the past two scholarships are given below to highlight how much they have gained from their experiences in Japan.



Alexander Donald celebrating his Birthday whilst on the scholarship at ICU in Tokyo and sightseeing at fushimi-inari-taisha in Kyoto, 2018



## **Alexander Donald – 2018 Report**

At ICU I made lots of new friends from different countries including Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States. The placement test originally put me in C2, one above the beginner class C1. This was because my Japanese language comprehension was at this level from self-study that I have carried out for several years. However, during the first week I struggled to keep up with my classmates in language production, especially speaking. Thus, they recommended me to move down to C1. In that class I was able to practice speaking, go over all the basics and create a strong foundation for learning more Japanese. This course was very helpful in organising all my existing knowledge and as a result, my Japanese has improved considerably, and I ended up receiving an A for the course. The friends I made in this class found out that it was my birthday on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July and they decided to throw a party. They took me to an Okinawan restaurant. This was the first time I tried Okinawan food and it was amazing, although I think goya (ゴーヤー) is an acquired taste. It was wonderful to make so many friends from different parts of the world who are also interested in Japan, and to try so many things with them.

I participated in the summer course culture program where I had the opportunity to experience the culture and history of Japan. The first event I attended was a Noh (能) play, a very old style of Japanese theatre like, but also very distinct from, Kabuki. The play was called Kazuraki (葛城) and was about two mountain priests who come across a woman who states that she has been cursed. Another taste of Japanese history came from my visit to the Edo-Tokyo Museum in Ryougoku. Here I learned a lot about the history of Tokyo from what things were like in the 1960s to the water supply system of Edo. Finally, I participated in Zen Buddhist meditation with a Buddhist meal.

When the ICU course finished, I headed down to Kobe on the very impressive Tōkaidō Shinkansen. Interestingly, I noticed immediately that people in Kansai are more relaxed than in Tokyo. From the window of the Shinkansen it seemed as if the people outside Kyoto station were walking slower than in Tōkyō. It was also much more difficult to understand the Kansai dialect. This was despite my attempts to learn it from a book known as, 「関西弁を英語で言えますか？」 in which words from the Kansai dialect are shown alongside English and pictures.

The first of the three universities I visited was the Tokyo Institute of Technology where I met with Dr Yagi whose lab was amazing. It is an engineering lab that specialises on neuroscientific applications and, in his words, “We are makers” as they build most of their own equipment and he even requires that new postgraduate students build their own desks. Over dinner with students in his lab, I was very surprised to learn that they grow their own spices and even plums for making umeshu (plum wine) in addition to the amazing technology that his lab is working on. His students showed me a device that uses Electromyography, essentially the electrical impulses when your muscles move, to control a video game. Similarly, a device which can understand where you look based on a method that he did not disclose. Although I suspect it has something to do with relative activity of muscles that control the eyes. It was wonderful to see such applications of the subject I have studied for many years.

At Tohoku Gakuin University, I visited Professor Kenzo Sakurai who is a specialist in the neuroscience of motion perception. He showed me his current research and specialist equipment, such as a simple device that simulates motion parallax while the participant is not actually moving. Another interesting device was a chair that had been fitted with a cradle and the movement can be controlled by a computer. With this, the participant wears a VR headset and you can manipulate the movement information reaching the eyes and the actual bodily movement separately.

The Research Institute of Electrical Communication (RIEC) in Tohoku University was my final visit. I was given a tour of the neuroscience lab. Professor Shioiri, its head had previously asked me to make a presentation of my Undergraduate thesis. The pressure mounted once I discovered that Dr Esther Lau, a specialist in sleep psychology from the Education University of Hong Kong, and Prof. Dr Heiner Deubel, a perceptual neuroscientist from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, would both be giving talks right after my own. However, my presentation went well.

All in all, this scholarship was the greatest experience I’ve ever had. I will be eternally grateful for being given the privilege. In whatever career or country I end-up working in, I want to deepen the relationship between Scotland and Japan. Many people I met in Japan knew who Thomas Glover was, but they did not know he was from Scotland. I think we have a lot to do in promoting Scotland in Japan. I would love to do what I can.

## **Mark Livingstone – 2017 Report**

I had the best time of my life, and words couldn't express how grateful I am for having had the opportunity to go on this scholarship and experience life in Japan for 2 months. The scholarship, having sent me to study on one of ICU's Summer Courses in Japanese Programs, built in me the confidence and gave me the knowledge required to have short conversations in Japanese. This was enough to be able to have basic conversations with people I didn't know, and gave me the knowledge to be helpful in establishments where language barriers presented themselves. For example, I was able to answer questions Japanese people would ask me on the train, about where the train is going, where I've come from, describe Scotland a little and to describe what I'd like to do in the future! I was also able to be helpful as a result of my gained knowledge in Amsterdam, on my way home, when flight attendants at the gate asked a Japanese citizen if he was born in Tokyo. However, the man couldn't understand their English, and so I stepped in to ask the man: 「東京で生まれましたか。」 and he was able to understand me and replied 「はい、そうです。」. This really validated the trip for me, as I could use my Japanese in a professional context, and be able to be helpful to people.

I enjoyed getting to do cultural exchange with all the students there, asking them what life is like in their country, and being able to tell them about things in Scotland, ranging from the food to the culture, as well as a fair amount of the accent, leaving many people saying “Dinnae dae this tae me lad” as I set off back home. As for the career side of things, the scholarship has also helped me. It has given me a contact that I can keep in touch with during the future, and who is also friends with people who work at one of the companies I'd like to work with in the future. Through this, I am able to have a grasp on what it will be like working in Japan in the future, and can continue to have a link in Japan to its world of creative industries.

The scholarship has changed my life for the better in many ways, not least of which being the motivation it has given me to strive in my chosen career's field, so that I may yet be able to go to Japan again in the future, and further on, live and work there. Finally, thank you again to the people who made this trip possible. Because of it, I am a better person, and will continue to study and work hard so that I can achieve my dream of living and working in Japan.



Mark Livingstone, our 2017 Scholarship Student with the teachers at the University and out and about exploring the Meiji Shrine in Tokyo

## **Caroline Marshall – 2015 Report**

As the recipient of the 2015 scholarship I spent ten wonderful weeks in Japan. Classes at the International Christian University in suburban Tokyo were by far the most challenging yet rewarding experience of my life. Through the work of two wonderful teachers and my supportive classmates, I returned to Scotland having studied one year of written, university level Japanese and with the skills to self-teach new material. To be the only European woman on the course was an honour and I cherish the time I spent teaching my friends and classmates about Scotland. ICU was a unique environment where I met new people from other cultures, with whom I could instantly relate to because of our mutual love of Japan. I remain in regular contact with a number of fellow summer course participants who I believe have become life-long friends of mine. We all think of our time at ICU so fondly, but it wasn't all spent in the library. Various cultural events organised by the university meant that we could experience a variety of Japanese activities with ICU staff to guide us. To list only a few, these included flower arranging classes, trips to the theatre, visiting museums and shrines and the chance to see a fireworks festival. I also had the magical experience of turning 21 in Tokyo, just two weeks into the course. I can't imagine ever having a better birthday than one involving karaoke in Shinjuku and more sushi and matcha ice cream than I should admit to having eaten! Luckily the sadness at having to leave ICU was softened by the excitement I felt as an intern at a commercial law firm in the glamorous Roppongi Hills.

Even from the perspective of an intern, TMI Associates appeared to have been taken straight from the page of a film script. The hours were long, the work was fast paced and I loved every moment of it. I spent two weeks working on copyright disputes, which gave me an opportunity to apply what I had learned at university and gain experience in the area that I hope to work in someday. I was inspired by everyone at TMI and strive to emulate their kind, yet hardworking and professional attitude. Being mentored by a successful, multilingual, female partner gave me a greater appreciation of the impact made by women in the legal field, who have paved the path for my own success by ensuring that my generation could face fewer gender specific obstacles when forging their career.

The scholarship has given me so much more than a wonderful experience in Japan, as it has helped me to achieve other goals. A few months after I returned, I was successful in gaining a training contract with a multi-national commercial law firm, who saw these experiences as an asset to their UK based Japan legal team. To know that in the future I may have the opportunity to combine my passion for Japan and for the law is the greatest gift I could have been given. For this, I will remain truly grateful to Aberdeen Asset Management and the Japan Society of Scotland, who I hope to continue to work with for years to come.



Some pictures of Caroline enjoying her Scholarship experience in 2015

## 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 income from the JTH Charitable Trust, 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. Some examples of funded projects are given below.

### **Gairloch Primary School Gaelic Medium composite class. There are 13 in P5-7.**

We will be look at both Scotland and Japan and comparing them. As the children know very little about Japan, I was wanting to introduce them to the food, language, clothes, arts etc. A little taster of everything I can fit into a term.

**£150 awarded**

### **Edinburgh College**

14 university students who study music in Japan will visit Scotland for cultural exchange with students at Edinburgh College. We have arranged a reception with the Lord Provost of Edinburgh but numbers for this are very limited. We would like to also arrange an evening event for Edinburgh College students and professors, Japanese students and professors and others who have arranged the exchange to network and relate in an informal setting at Leith Depot in Edinburgh.

**£500 awarded**

### **Hill of Beath Primary School, Fife – Primary 7 Class**

The class has been focussing on Japan for their project and some funding will also some Japanese sweets, snacks and soft drinks to be tasted as part of a workshop involving photos, dressing up and traditional games.

**£100 awarded**

**Gourdon Primary School, Aberdeenshire, Primary 5 comprises 11 children aged 9 and 10.**

My Primary Five class is currently studying all aspects of Japanese culture. The children are extremely enthusiastic about learning about Japan and have so far experienced wearing kimonos, have learned some simple Japanese phrases and ways of greeting people. As a former JET Programme participant who spent a fantastic year in a Senior High School in Akita City, I have been able to teach basic Japanese classroom etiquette and share my love of Japan and my experiences of living in Japan. Our plans include learning about Japan's geography, climate, history, writing systems, festivals, family life and food. We will be studying the many close links which exist between Scotland and Japan and looking in particular at Thomas Blake Glover. We also plan to have an open afternoon for parents in order to showcase our learning.

My reason for applying is that the children would really like to learn how to make sushi. I have sourced a children's Sushi Making Course run by the "Yo Sushi" restaurant in Aberdeen. It involves hands-on instruction in preparing Japanese food such as maki and aims to interest children in Japanese food and culture. It is pitched at children's level, teaching them to prepare and experience Japanese food, learn mealtime etiquette and use chopsticks through a mixture of hands on instruction and participation in games. I feel that this course would be a fantastic hands on experience which would really bring Japan alive to the children and is something which they would benefit greatly from.

**£215 awarded**

**Royal Blind School, Edinburgh – Karate Taster Session**

We estimate about 20 students will be directly involved in learning. In addition, we aim to involve other Scottish schools through Glow TV, the TV channel of Education Scotland. This is the first event of its kind and will be an experiment. This event will be in partnership with the Japan Karate Federation.

**£200 awarded**

### **Carnegie Primary School, Dunfermline, Fife**

I run a Japanese club each Tuesday afternoon to a group of children from age 5-12. (Other teachers run other clubs.) It is called the Japanese Language and Culture club. It started in September with thirty children. In January a new group started, and we are now up to sixty children. A new group of children will commence the club in April, and then each term after that.

We wish to buy some traditional Japanese Clothing, Kimonos etc; some tea ceremony kits and green matcha tea. We are also looking for some foodstuffs - soy sauce, sushi seaweed wrap, sushi rice, vegetables, other sauces, other food etc and some paper for painting in Japanese writing/ creating art work/ origami. We are hoping to purchase some traditional toys and musical instruments.

Whatever grant we get would be put to extremely good use, and many children will benefit learning about Japanese Language and Culture in our Japanese language and Culture club. We would really appreciate any funding that you are prepared to kindly give us. We do not have any budget of our own. The experiences that can be provided through the club are very unlikely for the children in our school to experience in their own lives. My personal interest stems from having had the opportunity of living in Japan when I was nine years old, and attending camps, school and participating in the Children's festival over there.

**£500 Awarded**

### **Castleview Primary School, Craigmillar, Edinburgh**

P4 students will be invited to a main hall event in May, featuring stalls that showcase different features of Japanese culture and language. A Japanese educational event for Scottish Primary school children, featuring sports, crafts, cookery and music.

Now in its third year, this year the event will be based in an area of high multiple deprivation (according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) and, as in previous years, televised via Glow TV and broadcast to other primary schools in Scotland.

**£500 awarded**

## **Orkney Islands Primary and Secondary Schools – Children’s Day Activities**

This project is an extension of the Orkney Japanese Language and Culture teaching project, which has been going for about three years. The project started in the secondary schools and we are now trying to extend it into the primary schools. The Children’s Day event at the Kirkwall Public Library is aimed mainly at primary school children, with a view of creating interest and demand for more Japan related activities in the classroom. We will also be working with primary school teachers ahead of the event, to explain about Children’s Day, and do some activities, for instance making your own KOI NOBORI.

We are running timetabled Japanese language and culture classes (short course format) at Kirkwall Grammar School and looking at ways to create school exchanges and further links between the schools, local businesses, especially in science related areas. Orkney is very strong in the alternative energy sector. The May events add another cultural element to allow for a more rounded appreciation of Japan.

There will be two public (free) performances by HIBIKI SHAMSEN, one for the general public, one aimed at children; plus, school visits to secondary (Stromness Academy) and primary (TBC) schools, plus a masterclass type event for some of the music festival or professional musicians in Orkney. The events will take place over two days in May, including Children’s Day – KODOMO NO HI – and we will have an all-day event at the public library in Kirkwall which will include HIBIKI SHAMISEN, a karate demonstration, dressing up in Japanese clothing, calligraphy, Japanese food, origami, Japanese stamp board and memory games, and possibly a film. This event will be supported by the Kirkwall Grammar School Manga Club members as well as by a small team of Japanese language teaching volunteers.

Total costs of the May events will be in the region of £3,000 (the main costs relate to HIBIKI SHAMISEN -- we are bringing the musicians from London, paying their professional fees, and housing and feeding them).

**£500 awarded**

### **Law Primary School, North Berwick, East Lothian**

We estimate about 400 students in P1-P7 will be directly involved in learning. In addition, we aim to involve other Scottish schools through Glow TV, the TV channel of Education Scotland. A total of six sessions are planned to be televised and broadcast to Scottish schools.

Teachers, Education Scotland and the Japanese Consulate are proposing a six month programme of Japanese educational activities. Each month would focus on one year and one topic, so for example, Primary 7 will learn Origami and calligraphy because the school wishes to focus on fine motor skills in preparation for keyboard study later on. Topics will include Karate, Taiko, Origami and Calligraphy, Food and Language. There would be three volunteer visits per month for each topic, plus on the last Friday of each month there would be a Glow TV recording in the morning and a presentation to parents in the afternoon. Finally, all years and parents would be invited to the main hall in June for a whole school event, featuring stalls that showcase different features of Japanese culture.

**£500 awarded**

### **Old Rayne Primary, Inch, Aberdeenshire – 17 Primary 4/5**

During this topic of Japan, I hope that the pupils will have an understanding of what life is like in Japan. I hope that the pupils will be able to compare their lifestyles, education and religion with that in Japan. Developing on this further, pupils will be developing and inventing their own animation similar to that of Pokemon and researching the history behind this. The pupils will also look at the natural disasters which have affected Japan and how communities have come together to overcome these difficulties. I hope that the pupils will become aware of cultural diversities and how natural disaster can be devastating but have positive outcomes.

The resources I will require to undertake this project are for pupils to experience first-hand the Japanese culture by trying a variety of Japanese foods, learning basic Japanese, designing and inventing their own pokemon animation. I would like to take the pupils to Yo Sushi in Aberdeen to see how Japanese food is made, the ingredients used and also let them try Japanese cuisine to enable pupils to share their knowledge and understanding.

**£400 awarded**



Announced in August 2017 by Prime Ministers May and Abe during the former's visit to Tokyo, a major season of culture will take place in Japan between autumn 2019 (Rugby World Cup) and summer 2020 (Olympics and Paralympics). The British Council, working together with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Department for International Trade, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and other partners, will lead the activities in Japan. At the same time, the Japanese government will lead on Japanese activities in the UK. We aim to promote the UK as an attractive destination in which to invest, to study and to travel and to build greater levels of trust between Japan and the UK through the arts and the creative industries. Plans are already well under way. The Season's themes have been decided (inclusion & well-being, technology & innovation, and art in public spaces).

The Japan Season of Culture in the UK will showcase Japan's multi-faceted appeal, from its culture and art to innovation and cutting-edge technology in areas such as medicine, science and industry. By building on various areas of grassroots exchange and local community activities that already exist, we hope to use the momentum of the Japan Season of Culture to create a legacy that will endure in its aftermath. Details of planned events are on the Japanese Embassy website.

<https://www.uk.emb-japan.go.jp/SeasonCulture/index.html>

## **ABERDEEN GROUP MEETS JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER**

In October 2018 a delegation of Aberdeen businessmen and women, charity representatives and academics headed to Japan to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the restoration of the Meiji Emperor in 1868.

Led by martial arts sensei Ronnie Watt and accompanied by Lord Charles Edward Bruce, the group, which is part of the Order of the Scottish Samurai (OSS), followed in the footsteps of 19th century travellers and pioneers such as Thomas Blake Glover and Lord Elgin.

The delegation spent 10 days recreating a reverse pilgrimage to six cities during which it visited both the Japanese Parliament and British Embassy in Tokyo as well as the British Chamber of Commerce's office.

Events were held with: Prime Minister Shinzo; Mr Natsuo Yamaguchi, head of the Komeito party; Mr Noda Nakamura, Governor of Nagasaki; Mr Tomihisa Taue, Nagasaki's mayor; and Mr Daisaki Ikeda, the figurehead of the Sola Gakki movement comprising more than 12 million Buddhists worldwide.

It was in Nagasaki that Fraserburgh-born Glover made his home in 1859. He spent over 50 years in Japan, playing a critical role in the restoration of the Meiji Emperor. As a result he enjoys a unique place in Japanese history and is still revered as the Scottish Samurai.

Commenting on the trip, Mr Watt said: "The extraordinary warmth, friendship and attention we received from everyone we met was both remarkable and humbling. We were made so welcome, which undoubtedly helped build upon the significant historical and cultural links which exist between Japan and the North-east of Scotland."

"There are so many exciting opportunities that exist between Aberdeen and Japan, not least the chance to enhance Glover House in Aberdeen in order to attract more visitors from the East. With Brexit upon us it is my hope that as a city we have the foresight, motivation and confidence to embrace the value of relationships forged in Japan and make things happen for the benefit of our region."

The team are already seeking to build on their success.

Mr Watt said: “Already arising from this trip, there are arrangements for a delegation of Japanese to visit Aberdeen in 2019 and four professors from the ICLA in Kofu will visit Dr Irene Watt and Dr Tom McKean at Aberdeen University on joint initiatives.”

“There are knowledge exchanges already underway between Scott Baxter of Cornerstone Community Care and Japan on the management of the care of the elderly in the community, and this is hugely important as both our countries share similar demographic challenges.”

“I believe that Aberdeen, with its strong connections to Japan can really show Scotland the way, but it needs strong leadership and a desire to succeed, but we have demonstrated it can be done, and are happy to help and advise.”

全国空手道連盟

**Ronald Stewart Watt,(Hanshi 9<sup>th</sup> Dan)**

**OBE,ORS (*Order of the Rising Sun*),**

**OSS 大將軍,KCRP,KCHT.**

**Founder蘇侍 Order of The Scottish Samurai**

**ISKS Director for Europe**

**WKC Director of Shotokan Karate**

**Burgess of Guild of the City of Aberdeen**



The party from Aberdeen at the British Embassy in Tokyo

**Washi | Umi O Koete: Paper from Across the Sea** is a creative collaboration between Fife Dunfermline Printmakers and Mino Art Info in Japan. The cultural collaboration brings together the ancient Japanese tradition of paper-making (Washi) and the very best of contemporary Scottish printmaking.

“It’s been an amazing experience for our artist printmakers to work on Japanese hand-made paper,” said Sheila Carnduff, head of Fife Dunfermline Printmakers Workshop. “The prints are all very different and really show off the unique qualities of these very special hand-crafted papers as well as being a creative springboard for our artists.”

The project came about as a result of a papermaking residency in Japan by workshop member Chrissie Heughan which she undertook several years ago. She kept in touch with the papermakers and in early 2016 they invited her to develop a collaborative creative project with them. And so **Washi | Umi O Koete: Paper from Across the sea** started to take shape.

Thirteen artist printmakers responded to the art challenge. Over a period of three months each artist produced an edition of 10 prints. Five different types of hand-made paper were used, each selected for their unique fibres and tactile quality as well as their suitability for different types of printing – screen printing, etching, collagraph, linocut and woodblock. The washi paper is made from the fibre of mulberry bushes rather than cotton fibres which western paper is traditionally made from textile fibres.

The artists taking part are: Sheila Carnduff, Thora Clyne, Chrissie Heughan, Catherine King, Peter Kirley, Linda Lincoln, Robert Maclaurin, Bill McKechnie, Babs Pease, Clive Ramage, Stephen Ratomski, Aine Scannell, and Clare Yarrington. The papermakers are: Masashi Sawamura, Takanori Senda and Yukiyo Terada.

During the run of the exhibition The Japan Society of Scotland supported a talk by Lord Charles Bruce on his family’s trading links with Japan; a Japanese tea ceremony; and an Ikebana floral arrangement.

The exhibition tour included Edinburgh and Glasgow and is currently at Dunfermline Carnegie Library and Galleries until 6 January 2019. It will open in Kirkintilloch Town Hall Rita Taketsuru’s home town, in March.



The Exhibition in Dunfermline Museum and Galleries with the Christmas themed Ikebana. The popular Japanese Tea Ceremony during the exhibition shown below.





Opened after extensive renovation in 2018, this Garden located on Upper Hillfoot Road, just outside Dollar, is well worth a visit.

For full details [www.cowdengarden.com](http://www.cowdengarden.com)

Professor Suzuki, 18th Hereditary Head of the Soami School of Imperial Garden Design, came regularly to prune the many imported shrubs and trees. He declared the garden ‘The best garden in the Western World’.

### **Background to the original formation of the garden**

Isabella ‘Ella’ Christie of Cowden (1861 –1949) a formidable character whose achievements included being the first western lady to travel from Samarkand to Khiva and to meet the Dalai Lama. Between 1904–05 she travelled to India and then on to Kashmir, Tibet, Malaya, and Borneo. Although at times travelling in hostile conditions, her trunks contained dresses for parties (including a banquet given by the Maharaja of Kashmir and dinner with Lord Kitchener then Commander in Chief, India). She camped in the snow at Chorbat Pass, sailed in a cargo ship full of pigs, travelled by pack horse and cart in the Kashmir wilderness, and trekked by foot for 60 miles in the Desoi Mountains. Aged 50, while waiting for the train at Dollar station, Ella was asked if she were travelling to Edinburgh; her short reply, ‘No, Samarkand’, perfectly encapsulates the fearless spinster who was fluent in four languages including Finnish.

On returning from Uzbekistan, where she travelled by train, steamer and droshky, she was in the first cohort of women to be elected Fellows of The Royal Geographical Society. During a trip to China, Korea (for her maid to be treated for a head injury in an American hospital), and Japan between 1907 and 1908, Ella became inspired to create a Japanese garden at Cowden and to employ Taki Handa to fulfil her dream. On her return to Cowden in 1908, Ella had the burn dammed in a seven acre hollow, creating a loch. Taki Handa, originally from the Royal School of Garden Design at Nagoya but then studying at Studley College in England, was employed for two months helping to create Shāh-Rak-Uen, ‘the place of pleasure and delight’.



**Some photos taken in the garden, check it out yourself next season!**

## **Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation**

On July 17, 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced that Mr. Callum Farquhar, the Treasurer of the Japan Society of Scotland, will receive the Foreign Minister's Commendation for his contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United Kingdom.

As a Board member of the Japan Society of Scotland, Mr. Farquhar has made a significant contribution to cultural exchange between Japan and Scotland. Not least by giving the opportunity for talented young people to study Japanese in Tokyo, and as a volunteer leader in the Scouts he has organised exchange programmes between Japan and Scotland for 30 years and has contributed greatly to the friendly goodwill between Japan and Scotland, especially after the Great East Japan Earthquake. He provided support to the Scouts in Iwate Prefecture that were hit by the Tsunami and also arranged their visit to Scotland. During the World Scout Jamboree 2015 he was responsible for arranging home hospitality for 3,000 UK Scouts with Scout families in all 47 Japanese prefectures.

In recognition of his dedication to promoting strong cultural relations between Scouts in the UK and in Japan he was given a Points of Light Award by the UK Prime Minister in 2015 and in 2017 was awarded the Silver Sakura Medal by The Scout Association of Japan.

The Foreign Minister's Commendation is awarded to individuals and groups for outstanding achievements, to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and the rest of the world. This year, the Commendation has been awarded to 205 individuals and 49 groups worldwide.

The presentation of the award by Consul-General Takaoka will take place during the Japan Society of Scotland's 2019 AGM.



Mr Callum Farquhar is pictured receiving the Scout Association of Japan's Silver Sakura Medal.

The **Scout Association of Japan** (ボーイスカウト日本連盟 *Bōi Sukauto Nippon Renmei*) is the major Scouting organisation of Japan. Starting with boys only, the organization was known as **Boy Scouts of Japan** from 1922 to 1971, and as **Boy Scouts of Nippon** from 1971 to 1995, when it became coeducational in all sections, leading to neutral naming. Its membership at the end of May 2017 was 99,779. Scouting was originally introduced to Japan in the autumn of 1909 by ambassador Akizuki Satsuo and Japanese teacher Hōjō Tokiyuki, who had visited England in 1908, the year that Scouting started there. A Japanese text based on the founder, Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* was published in Japan as early as 1910.

## 30 Years of Exchange between Iwate Scouts and Fife Scouts

It was back in 1988 that Japanese Scouts from Iwate Prefecture first attended the Scottish International Patrol Jamborette at Blair Atholl and in 1990 a group from Fife hosted them again in Scotland before making the return journey to 10<sup>th</sup> Nippon Jamboree and then had homestays in Iwate.

Since then the Japanese have visited Blair Atholl in Scotland every two years with between 12 and 18 youngsters aged 14 to 18 and Fife Scouts have attended each of the Nippon Scout Jamborees – Niigata in 1990; Oita, 1994; Akita, 1998; Osaka, 2002; Ishikawa, 2006; Shizuoka, 2010; Yamaguchi, 2013; and back this year to Ishikawa. The next Nippon Jamboree will be held in Tokyo in 2022.

When visiting the UK, those from Iwate spend a few days in London, ten days camping and cooking on wood fires on the Blair Castle estate and then have a few days home hospitality in Scout families in Fife. When the Fife Scouts visit Japan, they also spend some time sightseeing, hosted by Scouts in Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima as well as participating in their Jamboree for a week and experiencing life with homestay families in Morioka and in the coastal towns of Kamaichi, Yamada and KiriKiri.

Over the 30 years generations of youngsters from Iwate and Fife have participated in the exchange programme and have developed a much deeper understanding of the customs and culture of each country. One of the current Japanese Leaders first met us as a 6-year-old Beaver Scout, tasting Haggis on Oatcakes and shortbread at a welcome party in Morioka and then at the age of 14 and 16 participated in the camp at Blair Castle, realizing after his first visit how important English was in communicating with other nationalities. He has since completed a Masters' Degree at Edinburgh University and is now at Oxford undertaking his PhD. In 2019 the Morioka Scout Group will celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a visit to the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg in Switzerland, where they will be joined by the Fife Scouts who'll bring tents and equipment with them from Scotland. The exchange continues from strength to strength.

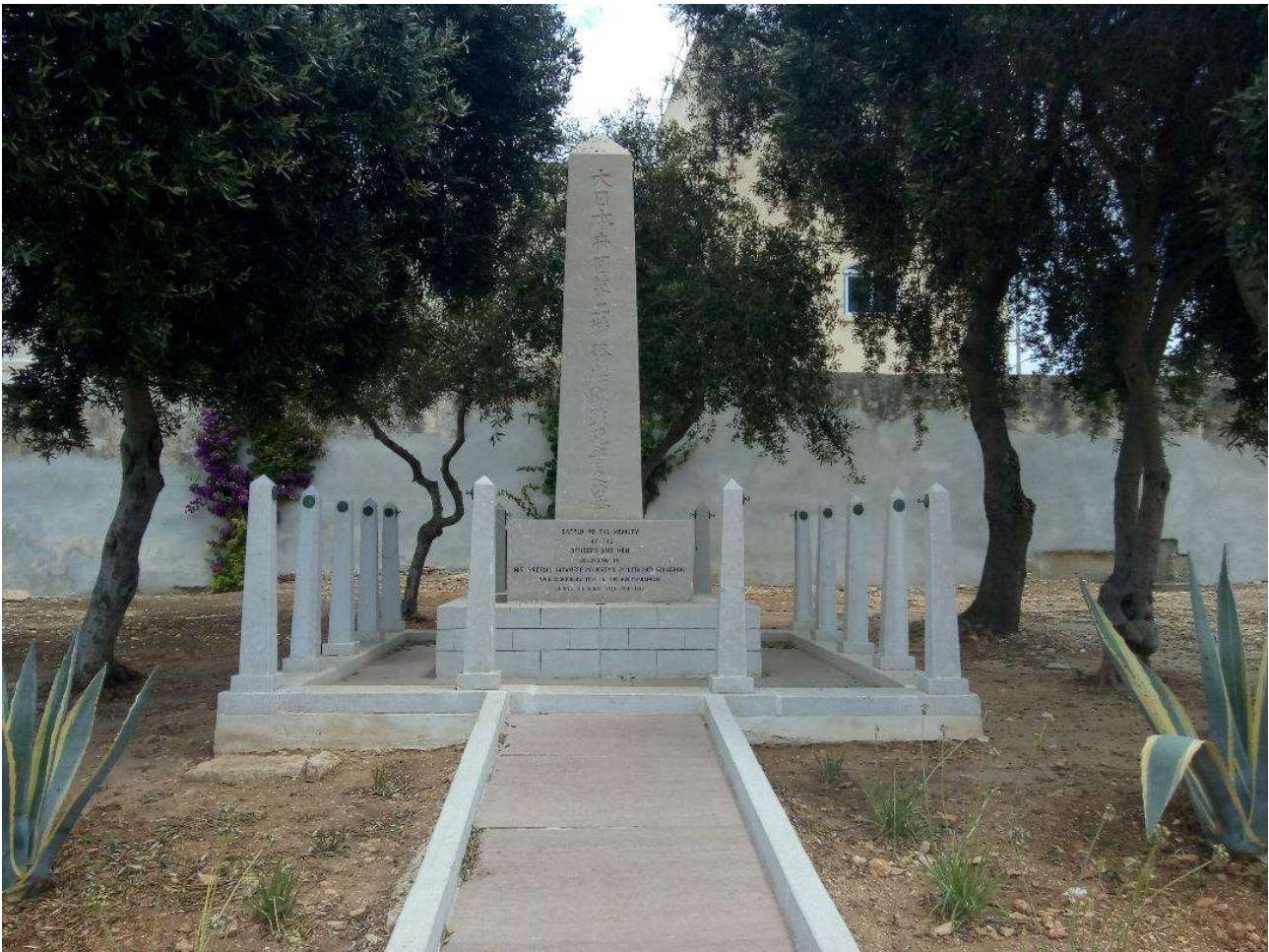


The Scouts from Iwate at Blair Atholl in July 2018 with Ms Yoko Murata from the Japanese Consulate and below the Fife Scouts on Miyajima, 2018



## The Japanese Navy and The Great War 1914-1918

In commemoration of the centenary of the end of the First World War, as part of our programme of activities, Professor Ian Gow OBE of the University of Edinburgh gave a fascinating lecture on the Japanese contribution to the allied efforts, looking at their efforts in both the Far East and in the Mediterranean. The full lecture will be placed on our website (<http://japansocietyofscotland.org.uk/>) so that everyone can learn about this forgotten and often over-looked piece of history.



The memorial in the Naval Cemetery on Malta to the Japanese sailors who died in the Mediterranean during the First World War.





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