

英国北西部日英協会 Japan Society North West

NEWSLETTER EXTRA

“Yose Moji”?! What are you talking about?

Umon Tachibana, who has been sent to England by the Japanese Cultural Agency as a cultural ambassador just to answer the question(?), gave a talk and a demonstration to JSNW members on 29 November 2008. He gave us an introductory course on Yose moji, using his well-prepared powerpoint presentation. Yose moji (“yose” is a Japanese traditional stage where a number of comedians perform, and “moji” means letters) is one of the four kinds of Edo moji (see below right corner), which is exclusively used for writing performers’ names on a sign for a yose. The technique is very different from that for conventional calligraphy. After his presentation, members had an opportunity to try their hand at yose moji, to see if they might have a chance of becoming a professional yose moji writer, like Umon. In fact, one of our members, Robert Bierman, did such a good job Umon was really surprised!! (For a little more detail of yosemoji, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edomoji>)



Post Event Report **BONENKAI 2008!**

The bonenkai (Forget-a-year party) in 2008 was held on Sat. 13 December. Over 40 members gathered to celebrate the end of the year. The main attractions this time were, besides the mouth-watering food by Taka, an Origami demonstration and a photo contest. We present a photo-journal of the event below.



As everybody looked on, Chairwoman Angela Davies started the party with a toast of Japanese sake.



Food, food, food!!! Thanks to Taka's hard work, members enjoyed Japanese food (above). Origami master, Ian Harrison (inset) went around the tables to teach members how to do origami (below left). Each contestant had a chance to explain about their photos at the photo contest (next page). Members went through the photos to vote their choices (below right).





Future Events

Talk about Kimono by Sheila Cliffe

Saturday 21 February 2009 1:30 pm to 3 pm

Venue: the Manchester Lecture Theatre, First Floor, All Saints Building, MMU (note: Venue has been changed!)

Qualified kimono dresser Sheila Cliffe will be giving an illustrated talk on various kinds of patterning and dyeing for Japanese kimono. This will be followed by a demonstration of kimono dressing and a small exhibition of her kimono collection. She will be offering some of her kimonos for sale. Cost: free to JSNW members, £5 to non-members.

All about Japanese Embroidery by Jane Smith

Sunday 19 April 2009, 2 to 4 pm at Padgate Community Centre



Jane Smith, who did a demonstration on Japanese embroidery on Japan Day 2008, will take you to the world of Japanese embroidery. She will bring various works of hers and do a demonstration after her talk. Cost is free for JSNW members. To learn more about Japanese embroidery, see: www.japaneseembroideryuk.com



Japanese Conversation Session is coming from April!

Due to popular demand, we are setting up Japanese conversation sessions on a regular basis (probably every other month) at a Japanese restaurant (to be decided). The idea is to provide an opportunity for members to talk in and practice Japanese in a relaxed atmosphere, as well as to socialize with other members. Don't worry if you are not a fluent speaker; learners are welcome. We will announce the details on our website soon, so keep checking!

Editor's Comment

Yuko Howes

編集後記

This issue was created as an "extra," because it's been less than 2 months since the last issue was published, hence reduced page numbers. A full issue comes back at the beginning of April, as a Spring issue. From this year, we start a new feature, "Focus on Members," and hope you will enjoy reading it. Remember, JSNW is YOUR society, so come out to our events, and talk to me. I will be waiting with a recorder and a camera, to report what YOU have got to say. Best wishes for the New Year. Photos: Kevin Howes, Graham Worth, Jane Smith. Contacts: for newsletter-related, editor@jsnw.org.uk; for events-related, events@jsnw.org.uk

New!

FOCUS ON MEMBERS

メンバーに聞きました!

This new column, starting from this year, introduces members who were at various JSNW events. We interviewed each member focusing on the following three questions: 1. How long have you been a member? 2. Why or how did you become a member? 3. Do you have any request to the Society as to future events? Do you relate to their answers? Or do you have very different things to say? Why don't you come out to our events, and have your say?! (Note: メンバーに聞きました! means "We asked the members!") Vendel, Jenny, and Nick were interviewed at Umon's event, the rest at the Bonenkai.)



Vendel Szeremi

1. 2 years
2. I'm interested in Japan. I lived in Japan (Yokohama) as a graduate student for half a year, and I loved it.
3. Bonsai

and tea ceremony demonstration.



Jenny Abrams & Nick Stygall

1. Just became members at this event
2. Lived in Shimane prefecture for a few years, from 2005 to 2008, just came back in July, and would like to continue speaking Japanese and doing Japanese things.
3. Can we have "Japanese conversation" sessions? Like

they have "eikaiwa" (English conversation) in Japan? Any format is OK, just to practice Japanese conversation. Bonenkai is a good idea.

Rosemary Irving

1. 3 years
2. Went to Japan, and am interested in things Japanese, then discovered this society. It seemed a good idea to join.
3. Nothing in particular. There have been a wide variety of events and they were all very good. Japan Day was very good.



Ruth and Malcolm Millar

1. 3 years
2. Three years ago, we took a trip to Japan for the first time, and enjoyed it so much. Then my husband found a JSNW leaflet where he worked, so we thought we'd join to meet other like-minded people.
3. Want to go to

Japanese restaurants. More Japanese food, like here at Bonenkai.



Peter Dibben

1. 2 years. Joined on the Japan Day in Manchester.
2. My company sent me to Japan on business for the first time a long time ago, and I went there about 13 times on business. I fell in love with Japanese railways, and created the Japanese Railway Society (which participated in Japan Day). Planning to go to Japan six times next year. (From the editor: Peter is going to write an article on his Japan Railway Society in a future issue!)



Joan Horley

1. I'm new; I just joined on Japan Day in July this year.
2. My daughter is married to a Japanese boy, and she lives in Japan. So I have a big Japanese connection. I have visited Japan 5 or 6 times now, and I love it. I love the people and food. I love the country.
3. I love to see Taiko Drummers. I saw them on Japan Day, and they were fantastic.



Sandra and Angus McFarlane

1. 2 years
2. I do Japanese embroidery, and other Japanese textiles, also am a member of a local embroidery group.
3. I'm coming to the February Kimono event! I'm curious what Japanese ladies wear underneath kimono!



Jean Hussain

1. About a year ago.
2. Went to Japan last year, and started to learn Japanese. Just interested in anything Japanese.
3. Things to do with language and writing.