

# St. David's Society of Japan

## President's Newsletter

**A warm welcome back** to those fortunate enough to have travelled and congratulations to the rest of us who enjoyed a quieter hotter time in Japan. Long term members Rose and Masa Iwata and Catherine and Koichi Nagashima say hello, and the CDS committee Bethany Chris and I echo the longing for in-person get togethers at the Craic Pub as soon as is sensible to do that. We look forward to plotting and planning fun future events.

**For** many of you, memories of the wonderful time we had celebrating the Rugby World Cup 2019 and not being able to repeat that for the Olympics was, as they say in rugby, hard to bear. The TV did its best and we did send an animated Gif to the UK Olympic team, the Welsh government and posted it on our website and social media thanks to Bethany. We also arranged for it to be published in various media outlets, including the British Chamber of Commerce Acumen magazine. Just in case you missed it...



**UK** Athletes were amazing at the Olympics and Para Olympics, with Welsh Athletes doing Wales proud performing so well and winning medals!

**We** established a team called the Red Dragons!!! We are now regulars at both online Zoom quizzes run by TELL and FootNIK. If you are interested in joining the team or creating your own Welsh themed team - contact Chris Barnet, our Treasurer, for more details (address below).

**Interested** in learning Welsh? if yes, then Chris is your man, contact him about his Welsh lessons!  
[ChrisBruceJoben@gmail.com](mailto:ChrisBruceJoben@gmail.com)

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I just received this announcement from the Honourary Consul to Japan, Keith Dunne. This news made me feel really happy, as the news of the destruction of the trees in Bute Park a few days ago made me feel so sad. I am sure you will all enjoy reading this....

### Cherry Trees to be donated to Cardiff Park

**The Honourary Consul for Japan in Wales, Keith Dunn, OBE**, has confirmed today, Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021, that 100 Sakura Cherry Trees are to be donated by the people of Japan to the people of Cardiff, symbolising the friendship between Wales and Japan, and are to be planted in Cardiff's Parks in November. He has suggested that fifty of these trees could be planted in Bute Park to replace those that were vandalised last week in a recent attack at the Park.

The trees are to be gifted to the City from a project linked with the Japan - UK Season of Culture, which is being celebrated here in the UK and in Japan.

Keith Dunn said “These trees are a strong symbol of our friendship that can be supported and enjoyed by future generations and I hope these new plantings will be embraced by our communities for the future. Our mission is to create a legacy for future generations and to bring a sign of the relationship between Japan and to our communities here in Wales. As we enjoy the cherry blossom each spring, they will remind us of a new season of potential collaborations and growing friendship.”

The St David's Society of Japan made a donation in the societies name to the city of Kita Kyushu, the host city for our Rugby team during the RWC19, to aid in the recovery of COVID related issues and the recent severe flooding. We wanted to show our Welsh Friendship and appreciation for what they did for us Welsh during the World Cup. (Last year we raised funds and donated to Kumamoto City after they had experienced severe flooding). We want Kyushu to know that the Welsh help their friends.

The St David's Society are sponsoring the AIE November Educational Conference.

For your information I am hosting the launch of a series of online presentations introducing Welsh Universities and the benefits of study in Wales to the International School community in Japan and to Japanese Universities and schools interested in short- and long-term study abroad experiences for their students. The initial session will feature Giles Jacobs talking about Aberystwyth University and Wales on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.

## NEWS from HOME

1. Major changes to cut number of Welsh MPs published:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-58476636>

2. Interesting article on the Manic Street Preachers:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-58460903>



3. Fake or Fortune about a Welsh landscape artist Kyffyn Williams Art program with a detective twist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QJ94VHunio&list=PLffkD3LSRIZezsiCU7Csn4gni0i3wSWzq&index=29>

4. Ann Jenkins recommended this podcast on Wales and its turbulent 20<sup>th</sup> Century:

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/wales-welsh-history-simon-jenkins-podcast-interview/> I also listened and enjoyed!

5. Let's have a zoom session to chat about our summer experiences and catch up!

Date and time: Thursday 7th October from 8 pm (JST)

Zoom Meeting ID: 881 4042 8551 Passcode: 116079

(URL: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88140428551?pwd=MDFTTGUVUZFZ6TWRzQ2piKys2ZTFRdz09>)

Looking forward to hearing from you and when we can all meet again.

Stay safe,

Ursula, Bethany, and Chris.

