

# ST DAVID'S SOCIETY JAPAN

PRESIDENTS NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

**Hello there!** Thankfully we are all surviving and having an easier time of it than our families and friends at home in Wales for sure. Nevertheless wear your masks!



I am sure you will all join with me in wishing our much appreciated Social Secretary Filip Pusnik a **successful move to the USA** to join his long time girlfriend Kim and to begin a new and promising career move into the USA.



We are sad to see him go as he was so instrumental in the success of many of our events particularly the Craic for the RWC last year. **We wish him every success and will welcome him when he next visits.**



An image of Conway castle recently twinned with Japan's Himeji castle sum up the history and beauty of our Wales. It's also a reminder of the links that are being forged binding our two countries together with social, cultural and business links.

An example of the links that join our two countries was sent in by Bet Davis, who actively works towards Welsh Japan relations, and shows the deep historical links of Japan and Wales. As a Ginko Tree planted by a Japanese Admiral in the Media-Victorian era in Pembroke has shared its saplings with his birth town of Kagoshima, which is also known for its Welsh Rugby team welcome in 2019.

## A ginkgo tree closely related to Admiral Togo Heihachiro

This tree is an offspring of the Japanese ginkgo sapling planted at the beginning of Meiji era (1868–1912) in Pembroke, South West Wales, where Togo Heihachiro stayed during his studies in Britain. The sapling was presented as a token of gratitude for the construction of the Japanese warship Hiei the first by Ueno Kagenori, the then Japanese Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom, who was from the former Satsuma Domain.

The tree was cared for with great affection by the locals, flourished, and in the course of time came to be known as Admiral Togo's ginkgo tree after Togo's outstanding performance at the Naval Battle of the Sea of Japan during the Russo-Japanese War (1904–5).

Recently interested members of the community launched a project to ship the tree's saplings back to Japan in the hope that they would serve as a bond to deepen the long-standing friendly ties between the UK and Japan.

With the cooperation of those involved in the project in the UK and Japan and the City of Kagoshima, the birthplace of Togo, we have planted this sapling here in Tagayama Park where Togo's statue and gravestone stand. It is our sincere hope that this tree will be tenderly looked after and grow as a symbol of the deepening friendship between the UK and Japan.

November 2020

The Japan-British Society of Kagoshima



Keeping with this relationship theme as our society raised 200,000 yen I was asked by the Welsh Government Representative Robin Walker to Kumamoto and present the donation to Kimura-san, the Vice Governor. I am glad I went as they were so appreciative of our act of friendship.



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The St. David's Society was mentioned by NHK for our donation towards helping those affected by the floods in Kumamoto! Thank you to all those helped by donating and sharing our cause.



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## WELSH HELP FOR FLOOD-HIT KUMAMOTO

The relationship between Wales and Kumamoto Prefecture has remained strong following last year's Rugby World Cup (page 25). NHK reported that, on 10 November, Ursula Bartlett-Imadegawa (second left), president of the St David's Society Japan, along with Robin Walker and Yoko Kobori (left) from the Welsh Government, visited the prefectural office to present Vice Governor Takeshi Kimura with a donation of ¥200,000. The money—collected with help from Gareth Lewis of the Welsh social media platform St David's World—is meant to assist with recovery efforts

following this year's heavy rainfall, which killed at least 77 people and destroyed more than 15,000 buildings.

Bartlett-Imadegawa thanked the many people and groups who donated, including Brits at Lunch and the St David's Society committee and members. Messages of support for Kumamoto also came from Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language Eluned Morgan, members of the Welsh Diet, rugby players, three former presidents of the St David's Society and the Friends of Wales congressional caucus in the United States.

Recent news from Wales

Did you hear about the Newport man who protested the ban on selling clothes due to Covid if not checkout this link...goes to show you can change policy!



Chris Noden tries to enter the Tesco supermarket in Spytty, Newport, in his pants to protest against the 'non-essential' items ban. Picture: From video by Dawn Noden

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/18820688.man-visits-tesco-newport-pants-protest-essential-item-rule/>



<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-540998107>

7 essential rules  
for a good  
Christmas in  
*Wales.*

**ABOUT CHRISTMAS** sadly due to the increasing Covid Cases your committee has decided it is best to host a fun online Christmas shared Zoom Welsh Movie screening event followed by a zoom Party so please look out for more information

**Stay safe and have a great Japanese Welsh Christmas.**

**Ursula-Bethany-Chris.**

