

Event 1 – Japanese Culture Night (6 November, 2010)

This event aimed to spread the traditional as well as modern cultural aspects of Japan. With the support of Anglo-Japanese Society, the event provided participants with the opportunity to try several Japanese culture – Food (including Sushi), Origami (paper crafts), Yukata (traditional costume) and Manga/Anime illustration. They also tried using chopsticks and had a chance to get their name written in Japanese. At the end of the event, the documentary film ‘Flashes of Hope – Hibakusha travelling the world’ (Bagnarello, 2009) was screened, which reminded people of the two not-to-be-forgotten atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This interactive and informative event ended with success, with nearly 50 people’s attendance.



Event 2 - Tea Ceremony (12 November, 2010)

The second event was held at the Kaetsu Educational & Cultural Centre, which generously agreed on holding the Tea Ceremony for NICP. Five students attended an hour-long tea ceremony in the authentic Japanese Room in the Centre. Participants enjoyed watching how the tea is prepared, learning about the philosophy behind those practices and tasting tea and some Japanese traditional sweets. The calm atmosphere of the room for sure gave participants a sense of purification and relaxation.



Event 3 - Speaker's event "Just Pop?: Japanese pop culture and Miyazaki Hayao's animation"

The term ended by a Pudding Seminar-style Speaker's event, by Gitte Marianne Hansen, a PhD student in Japanese Studies. She introduced the audience to the intriguing characteristics of Japanese pop culture, which cannot be divided as high and low culture like in other countries. She also talked about the growing popularity of Japanese pop culture and how they are enjoyed by people in various countries. Using the examples of Miyazaki Hayao's films, she also explored the potential interpretation of popular film as a message pointing to the increasing tendency of eating disorder among Japanese youth. Audience ranged from Newnham students to non-Newnham researchers.



